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CHRISTMAS COUNTS FEATURE SHORT-EARED OWLS AND MOCKER FOR SCHENECTADY, RING-NECKED DUCK AND THRASHER AT TROY

Five Short-eared Owls and a Mockingbird featured the 46 species of birds found on the 32nd annual Schenectady Christmas Count, held on Monday, December 26. Only the previous year, with 47 species, had a higher species count. The two new birds raised the composite total to 96 species.

A female Ring-necked Duck and a Brown Thrasher similarly featured the Troy Christmas Count of Saturday, December 31. The 45 species established a new record. Here, in Audubon report form, are the details of the counts:

Schenectady (same area and habitat percentages as preceding years). -- Dec. 26; 7:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. 12° to 41°; wind S, 0-5 m.p.h.; 4 to 10 inches of snow on ground; minimum open water. Twenty observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 37 (18 on foot, 19 by car); total party-miles, 193 (21 on foot, 172 by car).

Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 6; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 9; Marsh Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 8; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Ring-necked Pheasant, 9; Common Snipe, 1; Herring Gull, 4; Mourning Dove, 42; Short-eared Owl, 5; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 11; Downy Woodpecker, 38; Horned Lark, 79; Blue Jay, 62; Common Crow, 333; Black-capped Chickadee, 128; White-breasted Nuthatch, 39; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 6; Mockingbird, 1; Robin, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 12; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 993; House Sparrow, 449; Eastern Meadowlark, 31; Redwinged Blackbird, 2; Brown-headed Cowbird, 43; Cardinal, 4; Purple Finch, 3; Common Redpoll, 4; Pine Siskin, 37; American Goldfinch, 73; Slate-colored Junco, 63; Tree Sparrow, 184; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 6; Lapland Longspur, 1; Snow Bunting, 20.

Total, 46 species; about 2771 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Tufted Titmouse.)

Brother E. Austin, Guy Bartlett, Esly Hallenbeck, Betty Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Byron T. Hipple, Jr., Alice Holmes, Mary Johnston, Dr. Walter E. Kaskan, Mary Linch, Samuel R. Madison, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Malone, Mr. and Mrs. Louis C. Novak, Stephanie Podrazik, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Nelle G. Van Vorst, Mrs. Richard Waite, Robert Yunick (compiler) (Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.).

Troy (same area and habitat percentages as preceding years).-- Dec. 31; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 18° to 32°; wind 0; 4 inches old snow; only fast waters open. Twenty-one observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 34 (16 on foot, 18 by car); total party-miles 259 (22 on foot, 237 by car).

Mallard, 167; Black Duck, 809; Pintail, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 1; Common Goldeneye, 30; Common Merganser, 26; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 10; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 7; Ruffed Grouse, 18; Ring-necked Pheasant, 48; Mourning Dove, 47, Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 13; Downy Woodpecker, 45; Horned Lark, 81; Blue Jay, 89; Common Crow, 506; Black-capped Chickadee, 251; Tufted Titmouse, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 30; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 3; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Northern Shrike, 2; Starling, 643; House Sparrow, 534; Eastern Meadowlark, 4; Brown-headed Cowbird, 1; Cardinal, 19; Evening Grosbeak, 79; Purple Finch, 16; America Goldfinch, 91; Slate-colored Junco, 84; Tree Sparrow, 288; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 22; Snow Bunting, 4.

Total, 45 species; about 3986 individuals.

Gustave Angst, Brother E. Austin (compiler), Guy Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Brown, P. H. Clark, P. A. Forni, Esly Hallenbeck, Betty Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Byron T. Hipple, Jr., Dr. Walter E. Kaskan, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Kilcawley, Dr. Robert Korn, Samuel R. Madison, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Malone, C. E. Parker, Walton B. Sabin, Robert Yunick (Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.).

Schenectady Highlights

Birds listed with groups show species seen only in that area. Schenectady trip details:

Group 1 - Misses Alice Holmes, Nelle Van Vorst and Dr. Minnie B. Scotland; 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Scotia, Schermerhorn, Campbell and River Roads. 17 species.

Group 2 - Guy Bartlett; 2 to 5 p.m. Country Club Drives, western Balltown Road, River Road to KAPL, and north shore of Mohawk River. 19 species: Cooper's Hawk, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Shrike.

Group 3 - Mrs. Richard Waite and Esly Hallenbeck; 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Watervliet Reservoir, Meadowdale; Tygert and Picard Roads. 24 species: Wilson's Snipe, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Snow Bunting.

Group 4 - Miss Stephanie Podrazik; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Central Park, Parkview Cemetery, eastern Balltown Road. 13 species: Red-breasted Nuthatch.

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Group 5 - Misses Mary Linch, Mary Johnston, Betty Hicks, Brother E. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Novak, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Malone, Mr. and Mrs. Byron T. Hipple, Jr.; 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Six-mile Waterworks, Albany Airport, Gamefarm Road. 24 species: Short-eared Owl, Mockingbird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Lapland Longspur.

Group 6 - Dr. Walter Kaskan, Robert Yunick; 7:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. Whitney Estate, Roseidale Road, Lock 7, and River Road. 20 species: Ruffed Grouse, Redpoll, Purple Finch, Swamp Sparrow.

Group 7 - Samuel R. Madison; 8 a.m. to noon. Thacher Park, Altamont, Meadowdale, Voorheesville. 21 species: Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Redwinged Blackbird, Pine Siskin.

Troy Highlights

Group 1 - Mr. and Mrs. Byron Hipple, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Malone, Miss Betty Hicks. - Highlands west of Route 40 and east of Hudson River. 25 species: Cooper's Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Snow Bunting.

Group 2 - Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kilcawley, P. A. Forni. Tomhannock and Tamarac; feeding-station reports. 26 species: Flicker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cowbird, White-throated Sparrow.

Group 3 - Esly Hallenbeck, P. H. Clark, Guy Bartlett. Cohoes, Green Island, Mohawk River and environs. 24 species: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Tufted Titmouse.

Group 4 - Walter Kaskan, Robert Korns, Samuel Madison, C. E. Parker, Walton Sabin. Hudson River from Waterford to Stillwater; both sides of river. 21 species: Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser

Group 5 - Gustave Angst. Area between Routes 40 and 7 to Tomhannock. 15 species: Purple Finch, Meadowlark.

Group 6 - Robert Yunick. Melrose. 2 species: Brown Thrasher.

Schenectady Comments

Two added species -- Short-eared Owl and Mockingbird -- were not the only items of interest in Schenectady's 32nd Christmas Count. A Wilson's Snipe was observed also, and this report is only the second for this species; the first occurred in 1958. The Short-eared Owls, a group of five birds, were found by Byron Hipple in the vicinity of the Albany Airport, and were seen by the other members of that group. The Mockingbird was the one that had been resident on Albany outskirts for several weeks, and was still there after the Count. The Snipe was recorded by Mrs. Richard Waite along Picard Road near Meadowdale.

The day of the count was very pleasant weatherwise. Schenectady recorded an official early-morning low of 12° and a daytime high of 41°. However, by the time most everyone concerned was starting the

day's birding, the temperature was in the 20's, the air clear, and a gentle breeze blew out of the south. During the day increasing cloudiness and the warmth of the sun pervaded. It was a comfortable winter day, and a fine day to be outdoors.

The day's hawk count of 28 individuals is certainly noteworthy. The above-average number of hawks in the area is probably the result of an abundance peak in the local mouse-population cycle. This writer has experienced seeing rather high numbers of mice while afield during the past three months. On several occasions as many as 20 mice have been seen in an afternoon's walk. Nevertheless, the local owl population, for the most part, remained elusive on the day of the count.

The count was quantitatively unsuccessful with waterfowl. The abundance of ice-bound waterways certainly was favorable for bringing ducks of one sort or another to the open water below the Lock 7 powerstation. However, two trips to the Lock during the day failed to produce any waterfowl, but they did afford views of foul water.

The numbers of Meadowlarks and Cowbirds seen were unusually high for these species at this time of year. The number of Meadowlarks seen on the count was almost double the total number seen on six previous occasions. Cowbirds have been seen five times previously with a high count of 120; Stephanie Podrazik reported five of them at her feeding station.

-- Robert Yunick



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

BALD EAGLE THREATENED

Alarmed by persistent reports of a downward trend in the population of Bald Eagles, the National Audubon Society has launched a study aimed at determining the status of the species. This project is designed to cover at least five years and to gather data from all parts of North America.

The study will consist of two parts, first an inventory based on the number of active nests located and second an investigation of various aspects of eagle biology. Information is urgently needed on the location of active eagle nests and also on wintering concentrations of eagles.

If you have information on these or any other facets of eagle biology, please communicate with Alexander Sprunt, IV; Box 231; Tavernier, Florida.

SNOWIES

It has not been much of a season for northern finches, but both Rough-legged Hawks and Snowy Owls have come in. And the owls have been seen in unexpected places -- roosting on Schenectady's railroad station, atop various General Electric buildings and even at the peak of the Building 37 sign, and on a helicopter at Duanesburg airport.



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OOKPIKJUAK

Howard L. Malone

In the prosaic, urban setting of a playing field, a government building and a school yard, four observers of the SBC were privileged but uninvited and unfed guests at a feast usually served on the bleak table of an Arctic tundra.

Well confirmed reports of a Snowy Owl "in residence" brought the observers to the spot. As birding events go, it was an appointment rather than a search. The appointed hour: 3:30 p.m. on December 17, 1960; a short drive from the center of the city (Albany), off busy New Scotland Avenue behind the Christian Brothers Academy. There from a small parking area overlooking a snow-covered football field. A winter sun lowered; a few Starlings flew up at the northwestern end of the field, other flocks flew high overhead in the still cold air. Suddenly, to the south, from behind a low hummock about 250 yards away, an apparition rose with a beating of luminous wings -- Oökpikjuak!

The Eskimo name for this great white raptor seemed somehow appropriate as the owl lifted effortlessly and with unerring grace flew to the roof edge of the State Health Department building. From this "highground" the bird peered about, yellow eyes seen plain and fierce in the spotting scope, swiveling its head in a near 360-degree arc. He perched for a few minutes and then without warning retraced his flight in a flat swift glide to the spot where he was first seen. Wings flapped pennant-like above the horizon of the low hill for a brief moment and then up to a roof of a low shed nearer the edge of the field -- a large rat in his talons.

The owl crouched over his catch in the classic posture of a bird of prey. He paused in his feeding and began bobbing and stretching. Apparently unsatisfied with what might have been a vulnerable position on the shed roof, the owl moved again, this time to the center of the field where the level stretches of snow on all sides would reveal the approach of an enemy -- any enemy except man who would have had a perfect rifle shot less than a hundred yards from where the observers stood. The owl seemed assured of his legally "protected" status as he bent to eat in earnest. Facing his watchers and resembling a large white cat, he tore at the rat, eyes closed in rapt attention, and revealed a deceptively large maw.

As dusk fell, a freshening wind ruffled the feathers of the large "boot." He lifted snowshoe-size talons as he tramped on and held the remains of the rat. His round head, rimmed tonsure-like by dark

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feather tips, together with the recurrent bobbing action, robbed him of his dignity and gave a clownish appearance to this bird who is obviously no clown.

Before the owl finished eating he half-hopped, half-walked a short distance from his dismembered prey in what seemed a dance of triumph, and returned to poke in a desultory way at the scraps on his plate. At last, his appetite satisfied and his dignity restored, this Moby Dick of Arctic skies flew off to the northwest, more ghostly than ever in the descending gloom. He wheeled behind some low buildings, turned back and finally settled, barely visible on a high fence post.

From the time of first sighting to the perch on the fence post, a half hour had passed and the owl had traversed not much farther than the length of the football field.

BRIEFING THE RECORD

Walton B. Sabin, Records Committee Chairman

SEPTEMBER weather at Albany Airport was very much wetter but only slightly warmer than normal. Total rainfall for the month was 7.89 inches, 4.74 inches above normal. Rain fell at an excessive rate on the 9th, 12th and 20th. Rainfall on the 11th and 12th from Hurricane Donna was unusually heavy. Rainfall for the month was the heaviest since the 1938 hurricane in September. Downtown Albany recorded 10.41 inches, setting a new record for September. North Greenbush recorded 9.28 inches while other nearby tri-city gauges reported between 8 and 10 inches. The temperature for the month averaged 62.8°, 1.2° above normal. The highest temperature was 89° on the 8th while the lowest was 43° on the 3rd. A wind gust of 54 mph was recorded on the 12th as a result of Hurricane Donna. Sunshine averaged just under normal expectancy.

Most observers agreed that the fall warbler flights were the best they have seen in some time. In all, 130 species were reported on for this month.

Pied-billed Grebes were last reported on the 21st at Stony Creek Reservoir (EH). Great Blue Herons and Common Egrets were generally reported with as many as 11 of the former on the 15th at Vischer Ferry (EH) and 13 of the latter on the 10th on the Lower Hudson SBC trip. The latest September date for Green Heron was the 25th at Vischer Ferry (EH). Six Canada Geese on the Lower Hudson trip were forerunners of the fall waterfowl migration. The only Pintail reported occurred on the joint SBC-ADBC field trip on the 18th at Tut-

tle's Marsh. Two Green-winged Teal were noted on the 25th at Stony Creek Reservoir and one Blue-winged Teal on the 21st at the same place (both EH). The joint SBC-ADBC field trip on the 18th also uncovered four Shovelers as well as five Wood Ducks. The latest September date for this last species was of four birds on the 21st at Stony Creek Reservoir (EH). The only other species of ducks reported, except for the ever-present Mallards and Black Ducks, was of a Hooded Merganser at Canaan during the first week (AG).

A Turkey Vulture was seen on the 18th on the SBC-ADBC trip. Hawks reported during the month included Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Marsh, Osprey, and Sparrow, with the latest Osprey report being of three birds on the 25th at Vischer Ferry and Stony Creek Reservoir (EH). Common Gallinules were reported on the 18th at Tuttle's Marsh (SBC-ADBC trip) and on the 25th at Vischer Ferry (EH). Three Coot were seen on the 17th at Niskayuna Widewaters (EH). The latest Spotted Sandpiper was reported from Stony Creek Reservoir on the 25th (EH). On the 24th at Meadowdale a Pectoral Sandpiper and Dunlin were both seen (HE and EH). Brother Austin reported a semipalmated Sandpiper on the 10th at Tomhannock Reservoir. Black Terns were seen along the Hudson River below Hudson in the first week of the month (EMR).

Both Cuckoos were reported widely until the 25th (EH). Screech and Great Horned Owls were both reported. The last-reported Whip-poor-will was in the first week at Ballston (AWH) while the last Nighthawks, four, were seen at Scotia on the 27th (EH). Chimney Swifts were present until the 14th at Castleton (JC) and Humming-birds until the 27th at Loudonville (MWFr). Of interest was the report of 50-some Flickers on the 18th (SBC-ADBC trip). Sapsuckers were widely reported after the 14th in Columbia County (ADBC) and after the 17th in the Capitol district (MWFr). Phoebe's were present throughout the month. The last Wood Pewee was seen on the 20th at Loudonville (MWFr). No Tree Swallows were reported after the 18th (SBC-ADBC trip) and Barn Swallows after the 10th (SBC trip). Brown Creepers were present after the 20th at Loudonville (MWFr) and Winter Wrens after the 10th at Ghent (EG). House Wrens were still present at the end of the month at Loudonville (MWFr), and Carolina Wrens were at Slingerlands on the 27th and 28th (LG). Wood Thrush were still present on the 30th, and Swainson's Thrush from the 17th on at Loudonville (MWFr). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were first reported on the 12th at Rensselaer (BA), and Golden-crowned at New Concord on the 30th (ER). Water Pipits were first reported on the 21st at Thacher Park (BA).

Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos were still present at month's end, Warbling Vireo until the 23rd at Schenectady (HE), and Red-eyed until the 24th at Loudonville (MWFr). A Philadelphia Vireo was reported on the 30th from Schenectady (HE,GZ).

The following Warblers were seen during the month: Black and White, Tennessee, Nashville, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Green, Myrtle, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Pine, Prairie, Palm, Oven-bird, Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes, Connecticut, Mourning, Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-capped, Canada, and Redstart -- a total of 27 species of warblers. The latest September Baltimore Oriole was recorded on the 14th, a Scarlet Tanager on the

30th, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 20th, all at Loudonville (MWFr). No Indigo Buntings were recorded after the 10th (SBC trip). Purple Finch reports continue to be scarce. The secretive Henslow's Sparrow was spotted at Loudonville on the 17th (MWFr) and the first migrant Junco on the 29th, somewhat later than usual, at Scotia (EH). Chipping Sparrows were still present on the 30th but Tree Sparrows had not yet arrived. Migrant White-throated Sparrows were first noted on the 10th (SBC trip). White-crowned Sparrows were also reported but no first date is available at this writing. Lincoln Sparrows were seen on the 10th at Tomhannock (BA), and at the end of the month at New Concord where one was banded (ER). Swamp and Song Sparrows were present throughout the month.

OCTOBER weather at Albany Airport averaged cooler and drier than normal. It was the first subnormal rainfall month since June but the year so far is 8.8 inches above normal in rainfall. Fine weather the first half of the month was followed by considerable rainy and cold weather the second half. Rainfall totaled 1.58 inches for the month, 0.63 inch below normal. Light frost occurred on the morning of the 2nd, with some valleys reporting heavy frost. Freezing temperatures and heavy frost on the 21st and 22nd terminated the growing season. Several inches of wet snow accumulated briefly on nearby highlands on the 24th. Temperatures for the month averaged 49.4°, or 1.3° below normal.

This month was about average bird-wise for a change. However, two uncommon species were reported upon. The first, the Black Vulture, has never been reported before for the SBC area. The second, the Dickcissel, was reported in 1955 and 1956 but not since, until this month.

Common Loon was seen but once, on the 15th at Stony Creek Reservoir (EH). Two Pied-billed Grebes were recorded as late as the 23rd on the Hudson Highlands SBC field trip. Great Blue Herons continued to be present. A Bittern was recorded on the 5th from Middle Grove (GB). The Canada Goose flight went through mainly between the 8th and 18th. The SBC field trip to Stony Creek Reservoir on the 9th provided most of the dabbling duck records this month. These included the latest or only dates for: Pintail, 6; Green-winged Teal, 14; Blue-winged Teal, 7. Wood Ducks were reported as late as the 20th from Collins Lake (WK). The only Ruddy Ducks reported were seen at Tomhannock on the 26th (BA). Two Hooded Mergansers were seen on the 11th at Canaan (AG). On the 8th H. Thurston saw a Black Vulture in flight over Bell's Pond in southwestern Columbia County. Mr. Thurston is very familiar with this species in the South. A note on this will appear in "The Kingbird". Both Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks as well as Marsh Hawks were present throughout the month. The first of many reports of the Rough-legged Hawk was of three birds seen on the 23rd on the SBC trip. The latest Osprey was on the 13th at Jenny Lake (GB). A single Duck Hawk, or Peregrine Falcon, was reported from Crystal Lake (Albany County) on the 1st (fide WS). Four Coot were at Stony Creek Reservoir the 15th (EH). Ten Woodcock were seen on the 22nd about Sand Lake (RY). Except for Killdeer, reported throughout the month, there were no other shorebirds reported.

Late Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen on the 8th at two places in

Columbia County (ADBC). Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls continued to be reported. A late Hummingbird was seen in Ghent on the 13th (GE). No Flickers were reported after the 30th at Westerlo (fide WS). Sapsuckers were reported on the 1st on Fuller Road (ELT) and on the 11th at Nassau (BS). Latest Phoebe reported was seen on the SBC trip of the 9th. An extremely late Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen on the 12th and 13th at Ghent (GE). Tufted Titmice were seen in Albany on the 22nd (ELT), in Slingerlands on the 27th (LG), and at feeders in three localities in Columbia County (ADBC). A late House Wren was seen at Loudonville on the 4th (MWFr). Winter Wrens were seen after the 9th (SBC trip). A single Carolina Wren was seen at Scotia on the 19th (EH). The latest Long-billed Marsh Wren was at Stockport Station on the 9th (TB). No Catbirds were reported after the 4th at Loudonville (MWFr). Robins were present through the month. A Wood Thrush left after the 29th at Slingerlands (LG). A late Swainson's Thrush was reported on the 27th at Schenectady (HE). Bluebirds were reported from three areas in Columbia County (ADBC). Both kinglets were seen throughout the month. Five Water Pipits were at Stony Creek on the 9th (SBC trip), and 11 on the 16th at Tomhannock (BA). Solitary (Blue-headed) Vireos were in Schenectady on the 1st and 7th (HE), while the last Red-eyed Vireo was seen on the 1st at Castleton (JC).

Fourteen species of Warblers were reported. The last records for all of these are: Black and White on the 7th at Nassau (BS), Nashville on the 9th at Stny Creek (SBC trip), Magnolia on the 19th at Niskayuna (WK), Black-throated Green on the 1st at Loudonville (MWFr), Myrtle on the 22nd at Slingerlands (LG), Black-throated Blue on the 7th at Loudonville (MWFr), Chestnut-sided on the 2nd at Jenny Lake (GB), Bay-breasted on the 13th at Jenny Lake (GB), Black-poll through 2nd week at Albany (ELT), Pine on the 11th at Nassau (BS), Palm on the 27th at Castleton (JC), Connecticut on the 3rd at Ghent (GE), Yellowthroat on the 4th at Loudonville (MWFr) and the 5th at Jenny Lake (GE), and the Redstart on the 5th at Loudonville.

Two late Baltimore Orioles were reported. One was seen until the 28th at Ghent (GE) and the other until the 30th at Loudonville (MWFr). The last Rusty Blackbirds were seen on the 16th at Meadowdale (EH). On the 23rd at Westerlo a flock of 200 Common Grackles was seen (fide WS). Cowbirds were present sparingly through the month. The latest Scarlet Tanager was seen on the 18th at Castleton (JC). Cardinals, Purple Finches and Goldfinches were here through the month. A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen on the 4th at Ghent (GE) and a late Indigo Bunting on the 12th at Castleton (JC).

The Dickcissels, referred to above, were seen at Slingerlands (LG) and Burnt Hills (MWF). The bird at Slingerlands was at a feeder from the 22nd through the 27th and was seen by many observers, while the bird at Burnt Hills, an adult male, was picked up dead on the 27th. Evening Grosbeaks were first reported on the 13th at Slingerlands when three were seen (LG). No other October reports reached me. Pine Siskins were first reported on the 27th at Slingerlands (LG) and at Niskayuna (WK), after which they became quite numerous. There were two late Towhee reports, one on the 2nd at Rensselaer (BA) and one on the 4th at Loudonville (MWFr). About 12 Vesper Sparrows were seen on the 23rd on the Hudson Highlands SBC field trip. Juncos, Chipping, White-crowned, White-throated, Swamp,

and Song Sparrow were all present throughout the month. The first Tree and Fox Sparrows were seen on the 23rd and 22nd respectively; the former was seen at Ghent (GE) and the latter at Slingerlands (LG). A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen at New Concord on the 5th (ER).

For the month of October, reports totaled 106 species.

NOVEMBER weather at Albany Airport was warmer and much drier than normal. It was mild most of the month, and the driest month since December 1958. It was also the driest November (1.17 inches, or 1.52 inches below normal) since 1946 when the total for the month was 0.59 inch. The temperature averaged 41.5°, 2.5° above normal. The highest temperature during the month occurred on the 15th and 16th when it reached 59°. A record minimum temperature of 19° for November 8 broke the old of 21° set in 1952. On exactly half of the days of the month the temperature dipped below the freezing mark. *Aurora borealis* was observed on the 12th and 13th.

This month saw most of the diving ducks go through; the dabblers, except for Mallards and Blacks, being absent. This appears to be a good year for Rough-legged Hawks, Snowy Owls, Saw-whet Owls, and Pine Siskins. Conversely, this does not appear to be a good year for Evening Grosbeaks or Purple Finches.

Loons went through in good numbers with as many as 16 seen on Saratoga Lake on the 20th (SBC trip). Red-necked Grebes were reported but once, from Saratoga Lake on the 5th when four were seen (EH). The only Canada Geese were a flock on the 19th at Stockport Station (TB). The only Ring-necked Duck was at Merwin's Pond on the 12th (ADBC). Lesser Scaup were reported after the 5th (EH) with the most, 22, on the 6th at Tomhannock (SBC trip). Common Goldeneyes were much more numerous, with a high of 150 on the 26th at Saratoga Lake (EH). Bufflehead and Oldsquaw were at Saratoga Lake on the 5th and again on the 12th (EH). The latter species was also seen at Tomhannock Reservoir on the 6th (SBC trip). On this trip, on the 6th, White-winged and American Scoters were also seen. In addition, White-winged Scoters were seen at Saratoga Lake on the 20th (SBC trip) and 26th (EH). Tomhannock Reservoir also yielded a Ruddy Duck, 9 Hooded Mergansers and 5 Red-breasted Mergansers on the 6th (SBC). A lone Hooded Merganser was seen on the 12th at Kinderhook (ADBC), and two Red-breasted Mergansers on the 20th on Saratoga Lake (SBC).

A late Turkey Vulture was reported from Ghent on the 22nd (GE). Rough-legged Hawks were reported from points along the Hudson Valley. Woodcock were seen as late as the 20th at Ghent (GE), and two Common Snipe on the 16th at Meadowdale (EH). A very late Black-billed Cuckoo was observed on the 5th at Ghent (GE). The first Snowy Owl report came from Saratoga Lake on the 6th (fide EH) with many later reports, particularly in the Albany area. Two Saw-whet Owls were reported during the month, one a road-kill on the 8th at Niskayuna (WK) and the other seen at Melrose on the 18th (RY). Kingfishers were present through the month, as were Brown Creepers and Robins, the latter being reported last on the 26th at Guilderland Center (NVV). Three Hermit Thrushes were at Chatham on the 2nd (ER). Tufted Titmice were widely but sparingly reported, including two at Slingerlands which were banded (WS). A Mockingbird was in Hudson from the 17th on; it was first noted fighting its reflection in a window of a house (TB). On Highland Avenue, Albany, a

Mockingbird was seen by numerous SBC members on Election Day after descriptions of the bird as told to Mary Linch sounded like the real thing. Further checking with residents in the area seemed to indicate the bird had been present almost two months. A report came in on the 29th that there were now definitely two Mockingbirds there. This leads one to speculate whether or not the species might not have nested in the area. This situation bears watching inasmuch as this species has nested within the SBC area in 1959 and again in 1960. Golden-crowned kinglets were reported on the 5th and 6th, while the latest Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen on the 23rd at New Concord (ER). Pipits were reported from Ghent on the 1st and 2nd (GE), and a Northern Shrike from the same place on the 1st (also GE). Cedar Waxwings were reported rather widely.

A Myrtle Warbler was reported from Charlton on the 28th and 29th where it visited a feeding station (GRH). On the 16th 10 Meadowlarks were at Meadowdale (EH). At Loudonville on the 7th a female Baltimore Oriole was reported (MWFr). A Grackle and 20+ Cowbirds were seen on the Tomhannock trip of the 6th (SBC), as were 10 Evening Grosbeaks, 30 Pine Siskins, 24 Red Crossbills, a Savannah Sparrow, and 10 Fox Sparrows. Four Evening Grosbeaks were at Meadowdale on the 16th (EH), and from the 5th on at New Concord (ER). The only report so far of Redpolls was of a flock of 50+ at Taborton with 10 Pine Siskins and 20 Purple Finches on the 5th (RY). A late Chipping Sparrow was at Saratoga Lake on the 1st (EH). A White-crowned Sparrow was still at Nassau on the 16th (BS), and two Swamp Sparrows at Meadowdale on the same day (EH). Juncos, White-throats, Tree and Song Sparrows were still present at month's end. A flock of Snow Buntings was at Lake Taghkanic on the 13th (TB), while a flock of 100+ was at Burnt Hills on the 18th (MWF).

KEY TO OBSERVERS: SBC, Schenectady Bird Club field trip; ADBC, Alan Devoe Bird Club record; BAustin, GBartlett, IBrown, JCook, GERlenbach, HEddy, MWfoote, MWFrench, AGorky, LGrace, GRHackett, EHallenbeck, Mrs. AWHalverson, WKaskan, ERadke, Dr. EMReilly, BShineman, WSabin, ELThomas, NVvorst, RYunick, GZimmer.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Gustave Angst and Robert Yunick, Chairmen

COLUMBIA COUNTY

September 18

Alan Devoe Bird Club was host to the seven SBC members who investigated Columbia County on Sunday, September 18. The ADBC Sanctuary, Tuttle's Marsh, and the Erlenbach Farm were among the places visited by the dozen observers. The sky was cloudy and the temperature from 60 to 65 deg. Among the 54 species recorded were Turkey Vulture and Shoveller. The list:

Pied-billed Grebe 1, Mallard 4, Black Duck 12, Pintail 1, Shoveller 4, Wood Duck 5, Turkey Vulture 1, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Osprey 2, Sparrow Hawk 10, Ruffed Grouse 1, Common Gallinule 1, Killdeer 8, Mourning Dove 20, Kingfisher 2, Flicker 50, Downy Woodpecker 1, Phoebe 2, Wood Pewee 1, Tree Swallow 1, Blue Jay,

Crow, Black-capped Chickadee 12, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Winter Wren 1, Catbird 10, Brown Thrasher 1, Robin, Wood Thrush 3, Starling, Solitary Vireo 4, Black and White Warbler 4, Black-throated Green Warbler 4, Chestnut-sided Warbler 1, Pine Warbler 1, Prairie Warbler 1, Yellowthroat 6, Yellow-breasted Chat 1, Redstart 1, House Sparrow, Meadowlark 5, Redwinged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 2, Goldfinch 25, Towhee 5, Savannah Sparrow 4, Vesper Sparrow 2, Chipping Sparrow 2, Field Sparrow 12, White-throated Sparrow 10, Song Sparrow 12. -- Mrs. Gilbert Eddy

SARATOGA-ROUND LAKES

November 20

The warm weather of fall has retarded the waterfowl migration. On the 15th three SBC members spent most of the day at Saratoga, making a careful count. The results of Sunday were about the same, with a slight variation in land birds. The 19 observers found 23 species:

Common Loon 16, Horned Grebe 70, Black Duck 16, Scaup (sp?) 9, Common Goldeneye 100+, White-winged Scoter 6, Red-breasted Merganser 2, Herring Gull 9, Ring-billed Gull 7, Kingfisher 1, Pileated Woodpecker 1, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 12, Crow 4, Black-capped Chickadee 6, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Brown Creeper 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4, Starling, House Sparrow, Goldfinch 2, Tree Sparrow 20, Song Sparrow 1. -- Nelle G. VanVorst

SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD, AND LAKE

December 4

The weather was excellent for observations, and the lack of wind made the 25^o-33^o temperature very tolerable. Red-tailed Hawks, very active and with much screaming and soaring, were enjoyed by all 13 observers. A lone Canvasback on Saratoga Lake was observed by part of the group early in the trip, but not identified until a second sighting later in the day. The 24 species:

Common Loon 2, Horned Grebe 18, Canvasback 1, Common Goldeneye 75, Red-tailed Hawk 5, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Rough-legged Hawk 1, Killdeer 3, Herring Gull 12, Ring-billed Gull 25, Hairy Woodpecker 3, Downy Woodpecker 3, Blue Jay 12, Crow 10, Black-capped Chickadee 10, White-breasted Nuthatch 9, Brown Creeper 1, Robin 1, Starling, House Sparrow, Purple Finch 11, Common Redpoll 29, Goldfinch 18, Tree Sparrow 15. -- E. L. Thomas

UPPER HUDSON

January 15

Only six hardy souls braved the wintry winds for the mid-winter Duck Count, on the upper Hudson from Green Island to Corinth. It was almost a better day for hawks than for ducks, at least the number of species was greater. The numbers of ducks were not too different from other years: Mallard 125, Black Duck 1130, Common Goldeneye 75, Hooded Merganser 2, Common Merganser 50 -- Five species, 1382 count. Twenty-three additional species were:

Goshawk 2, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, Rough-legged Hawk 1, Marsh Hawk 1, Sparrow Hawk 1, Pheasant 15, Mourning Dove 2, Snowy Owl 1, Flicker 1, Hairy Woodpecker 2, Downy Woodpecker 2, Blue Jay 18, Crow 30, Chickadee 4, White-breasted Nuthatch 3, Brown Creeper 1, Starling, House Sparrow, Cowbird 1, Purple Finch 6, Pine Siskin 3, Tree Sparrow 100+. -- Walton B. Sabin



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AN ENGLISH SPRING

Dorothy W. Caldwell

Having long wanted to experience an English Spring and to see something of the birds and wild flowers and the parks and gardens that one reads about, this was achieved in 1960. Spring in England starts much earlier in the year than Spring in New England or New York but it seemed best to plan for April through June. Thanks to suggestions from friends, much help from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and from the British Trust for Ornithology, and some ideas of my own from my reading, tentative plans were made for the English holiday. Four main centers for birding were especially recommended: Minsmere and Havergate in Suffolk, famous bird sanctuaries controlled by the R.S.P.B.; Monks' House Bird Observatory and Field Station in Northumberland, a project of Dr. E. A. R. Ennion; Bass Rock near Edinburgh; and Aviemore, Invernesshire for Highland birds. These became my main objectives though I regretted not being able to visit Skokholm and some of the other coastal observatories.

My April itinerary covered two weeks in London, with a day at the Severn Wildfowl Trust and one at Gilbert White's Selborne, a week in the "Down" country (Lewes) and the New Forest (Beaulieu), and a week in Suffolk with permits to visit Havergate and Minsmere with warden-led groups and using their "hides". The plans for May included a week's cruise around Scotland, arranged by the National Trust for Scotland; a week in the Spey Valley in Invernesshire; a week at Monks' House Bird Observatory in Northumberland, where trips were made with Dr. Ennion and birding guests; a week in the English Lake District for scenery and incidental birding; and a late May return visit to Kew Gardens. The month of June was spent in Devon, plus a brief visit in Cornwall to see Penzance, Land's End, and St. Ives.

Colorful Wild Flowers

An English Spring is a delightful experience. Wild flowers along lanes and railroad banks are so colorful and plentiful, especially primroses, marsh marigolds, sheets of bluebells, masses of furze, and the fresh green verdure of springtime. One of the surprises was finding Hart's Tongue Fern, so rare with us, growing abundantly and in the most unexpected places. Parks and gardens, small and large, country lanes and public walks more beautiful each week, and bird songs everywhere. (How I did long for some of my American friends whose ears are keener and more discriminating than mine.)

Listing the birds started in Scotland during an enforced wait at the Glasgow Airport with the inevitable House or English Sparrows, also gulls too far away to be identified, Carrion Crows and the

first life bird for the visit, the little Hedge Sparrow or Dunnock. From then on, occasional species for the list were picked up almost daily. A ride through beautiful Kent County to wonderful Canterbury Cathedral gave Mute Swans, Rooks, Jackdaws, and Blackbirds (which are really Thrushes and quite unlike any of our New World blackbirds). In Hyde Park and St. James Park, Coot and Moorhen and some land birds were added, but not listed were introduced species of waterfowl, such as the beautiful little Mandarin Ducks and Crested Pochards, and the many fascinating importations at the Severn Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge. Kew Gardens with its beautiful plantings gave Blue Tits, Marsh Tits, Chaffinches, Pied Wagtails, and two "lifers", the English Robin (which is not a thrush) and the Mistle Thrush. A second visit to Kew Gardens, with the blossoming shrubs even more beautiful than the previous week, gave Heron (suggestive of our Great Blue Heron), Jay, Willow Tit, Greenfinch, and their colorful Goldfinch. The first Magpie was seen from the train en route to Selborne and the first Nuthatch at the hangar at Selborne.

The day at the Severn Wildfowl Trust will be long remembered for its vast and beautiful displays of ducks, geese and swans from all over the world. Immature King Eiders have been pointed out to me on occasion from our own North Shore, so it was especially gratifying to me to have a fine close-up of a handsome adult drake in breeding plumage; also to see nesting Black-headed Gulls and a Moorhen (our Common Gallinule but much more abundant and much more friendly than ours) on one of the dykes feeding her fluffy young right in the pathway.

Skylarks in Song

Near Lewes, in Sussex, walking the Downs, even as Hudson used to do, it was a thrill to be surrounded by Skylarks, at least a dozen in full song, "winging up and up". or dropping down into the fields. Saw and heard them beautifully, a wonderful experience that I will cherish always.

"To think that I should hear and know

The song that Shelley heard, and Shakespere, long ago."
(Auslander)

And at Beaulieu, in the New Forest, the Common Gull, Swallow (our Barn Swallow) and Wrens (our Winter Wren), and for lifers the Red-shank and nesting Reed Warblers.

The week in Suffolk County was planned for late April, as the best time for migrant waders, but a cold north wind for a week or so retarded normal migration. The day at the Havergate Reserve, however was a wonderful one. Oystercatchers on the shore near the quay; Swallows, House Martins and a lone Sand Martin (our Bank Swallow) along a little creek nearby; a short boat-trip down with Shelducks, Bar-tailed Godwits and Dunlin along the shore. Up the bank quickly, without disturbing the Avocets, and into the nearest hide, a drab-colored house on stilts above the marsh. Once we had entered and were seated on a long wooden bench, the door at the back was closed and narrow shutters on the marsh side were raised, giving us each a narrow slit on which we could rest binocular or telescope and watch the panorama before us. The English are justifiably proud of

their fine colony of Avocets, a bird that had practically vanished from England and has now been wonderfully restored. The sight of more than 80 of these strikingly beautiful birds nesting, flying about, and feeding in the shallows was well worth a visit. There were also various Terns, Common, Arctic and Sandwich; also my first Wheatear and first Meadow Pipit. My record for the day was only 29 species, including five life birds. Unfortunately, I did not see an official list for the day.

A Day at Minsmere

The day at Minsmere was even more rewarding, though the cold wind meant no songs from the nesting Nightingales. Again we worked from hides and also from "tracks" along the dykes. My list for the day was 53, with 15 of them lifers. The high spots were a wave of (European) Bitterns; watching two Water Rails from a hide; Nightingales calling and in full view but not in song, alas; a Green Woodpecker in flight; Bearded Tits nesting; near the warden's office nesting Long-tailed Tits; and from another hide Little Grebes, Spotted Redshank and Reed Buntings. It was good to see my first Lapwings -- also nesting -- and my first (European) Tree Sparrows which are resident there. Incidentally, the Lapwing is also known in English literature, if not officially in the bird books, as the "Peewit".

My stay was at a charming guest house in Westleton, with excellent meals, a fine library for consultation, and a group of delightful birders as guests. In fact my hostess, herself an excellent birdwatcher, caters especially to such folk.

The next birding thrill came on the wonderful Scottish Cruise as we neared and came in close to Bass Rock with its large Gannetry, plus Shags, Eider Ducks, Kittiwakes, Razorbills, Guillemots (our Common Murre) and even a few Puffins for good measure. Later cruise days added Leach's Petrels, Manx Shearwaters, Black Guillemot and my first Fulmar. I missed the Great Skua reported. I also saw my first (European) Curlew and my first Hooded Crows on a visit ashore.

Inland Oystercatchers

My visit to the Spey Valley was delightful. The beautiful countryside was exquisite with fresh spring foliage and wild flowers but most of the birds I had already seen repeatedly elsewhere though it was interesting to see 20 or more Oystercatchers nesting so far inland and sharing the field with nesting Black-headed Gulls and Lapwings. I did find a very young Tawny Owl by the roadside one day, Willow Warblers, a Red Grouse and finally a little group of Crested Tits, one of the specialties of the area and bringing my list of Tits up to eight and including all of the species one might expect in Britain. (Birding in this area might have proven more fruitful had I been able to go up into the more mountainous country. I missed a number of their specialties).

The week at Monks' House Bird Observatory was another highlight of my holiday -- a fascinating place with interesting birding even from the house windows, Dr. Ennion himself to lead the field trips

and the guests mostly birders and/or botanists. The glorious trip to the Farne Islands added little to my list but the close-ups from the water and from the land of the crags with their hundreds, if not thousands, of nesting Shags, Kittiwakes, Guillemots and Puffins made a wonderful day and gave me memories I shall always cherish.

On another day Dr. Ennion took us to the fabulous Alnick Castle grounds. I saw my first Dipper and first Common Sandpiper at the brook near the entrance. Within the gates we found treasures of various sorts, birds, wild flowers, and cultivated flowers and shrubs gone wild. We walked for miles along a beautiful brook, with Curlews in one field, the nest of a Long-tailed Tit in a bit of shrubbery, a family of young Dippers being fed beside the brook, Swifts overhead, glimpses of both Green and Spotted Woodpeckers, various Tits and Thrushes, a Spotted Flycatcher, a Pied Flycatcher, Pied Wagtails and one Gray Wagtail among the high spots of the day's walk.

This marked the end of my weeks given largely to birding.

Walking an Ancient Wall

My next stop was at Hexham to give me an opportunity to walk a bit on the Roman Wall. (The incredible antiquity of this as of so many of the places visited, made a deep impression upon me.) The birds and roadside flowers plus Laburnum trees in full bloom and the May blossoming in the hedgerows were delightful. My joy in walking a bit of the ancient wall was increased by finding a nesting Partridge in the moor, a Lapwing, a lone Curlew, Skylarks overhead, Meadow Pipits and my first really good views of Wheatears.

On to the famous English Lake District with its beautiful scenery and gardens full of glorious color. From the hotel I could watch Swifts and House Martins coursing over the fields. One gray day when the Swifts were flying very low, I had several glimpses of a larger bird with them, a bird with white in the wings that I felt sure was a Nightjar, sometimes called Fern Owl, related to our Nighthawk. My birding was mostly limited to some charming Public Paths, a delightful English institution, footpaths running for miles between fine estates with interesting ferns and wildflowers growing in the walls and hedges and occasional glimpses into gay gardens. Here, in addition to the ubiquitous Blackbirds, Tits, Chaffinches and Robins, I found my first Marsh Warbler and my first Goldcrest, the latter a bit like our Golden-crowned Kinglet. English warblers are not as colorful as our Wood Warblers, and are identified mostly by song and by habitat. I should not like to have to try to identify them in the fall.

Bronze Age Huts

My final month was spent quietly at a delightful guest house in Devon with an extensive and beautiful garden, located near the edge of the great expanse of Dartmoor. Wonderful walks and drives on the wild sweep of the moors with their Bronze Age hut circles and their characteristic flora gave Buzzards, Curlew, Skylarks, Meadow Pipits,

and once a Red Grouse so close that I could see the red wattle above his eye. The garden gave all the usuals plus Woodpeckers, both Spotted and Green, Jays, Wrens, Greenfinches, Goldfinches and Bullfinches, and my only Tree Creeper (our Brown Creeper). One night at dusk, near the vegetable garden, my hostess and I startled a Nightjar which flew off chattering in protest before I could see it well.

I listed 121 species, 52 of them life birds. Twenty of the total list I had already seen in this country in the early months of 1960 and a few more, as most of the Terns and the Swallow, I saw here on my return. My bird list should have been longer but my English Spring has given me many happy memories. As a friend said, this was a part of my heritage, and now I have made it my own.

THREE MONTHS ON PLUM ISLAND

Dr. A. C. Newman

Last March I bought a camp on Plum Island, near Newburyport, Mass. I had seen the geese and ducks in the spring and fall, and birds by the thousands when I was going fishing and in a hurry to catch a boat. After I got out of the hospital in July I had three months in which to take it easy.

Something happened to my binoculars so I could use only one side, and eventually I could not use them at all. Strange to say, I did not miss them too much because, with good light and an abundance of opportunities, I could follow a description as complicated as Chapman and note the pertinent marks of Peterson.

Some of the thrills were the first pair of Hudsonian Godwits (or Curlews) and watching the Black-bellied Plover change from summer to winter plumage, with the underwing marks clear as crystal in the bright sun light.

In the afternoon before the Electra plane hit the flock of Starlings in Boston we were driving toward Newburyport at about 30 mph, and it was like driving a snowplow through the flock.

I was at the doctor's in Troy the afternoon Hurricane Hannah hit, and as soon as I got through I started for Newburyport. We listened to the Providence, R.I., radio on the way down, and the water was nearly up to the broadcasting booth about the time we hit the eye of the storm near Worcester. We got to Newburyport just as the high tide turned. In a few minutes the rain stopped and the wind blew. We went to bed with puddles on the floor. Next morning was a beautiful day -- no wind, and everything as usual aside from a few wash-outs on the Ipswich end of the island. The birds were, you might say, rejoicing.

We drove the length of the island, about 10-1/2 miles, once or twice a day, and came up with lists about like this one for Septem-

ber 23: Two deer, muskrats, Pied-billed Grebe, 2 flocks Double-crested Cormorants (left Oct.4), 6 Common Egrets (left Oct.4), two Black-crowned Night Herons, Mallard, Black Duck, Scoter, 3 Marsh Hawks, female Ring-necked Pheasant with 14 downy young, 1 Sora, Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Sanderling, Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls, Kingfisher, Flicker, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Thrasher, House Sparrow, female American Goldfinches, possibly Ipswich Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, possibly Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

In mid-August there was a woodchuck; skunks were seen several times. On September 5 we had an albino swallow, and on November 24 an albino junco.

October 16 saw the arrival of several flocks of Canada geese. The first day they were nervous and flew as soon as they saw us. On the next day there were some new arrivals, and on the following day the birds paid no attention to the car, even when we honked the horn. Pheasants ran in and out of the flocks of geese and Black Ducks.

A Snow Goose came on October 18, and a Blue Goose on the 20th. After that, two more Snows showed up. A birdwatcher from Boston claims they are Snow-Blue hybrids, but one Blue checks with Peterson mark for mark. However, the mate may be a hybrid. That leaves two Snow, one Blue, and one hybrid.

On Thanksgiving Day there were two Snowy Owls on the island and one near the top of the last long grade from Brattleboro to Keene, N.H. In January of 1960 we watched a Short-eared Owl at the state park at Salisbury, Mass. We were within 20 feet of it and later in the day put some hamburger on a post and watched him come in and eat it. We saw a seal off the jetty that day.

We swapped finds with Bird Club members from such Massachusetts places as Boston and vicinity, Springfield, Worcester, Newburyport, Ipswich, Lawrence, Amesbury, and from Providence, Hartford, Indianapolis, Bangor, and Portsmouth, N.H. Albany, Schenectady and Greene county licenses were not rare, but I did not see any SBC members that I knew.

ROADSIDE BIRDING IN JAMAICA

James K. Meritt

During very late May and early June of last year my wife and I spent several days in Jamaica. It was the first visit either of us had made to any Caribbean area.

While the trip was not primarily a birding expedition, I did manage to take along a pair of binoculars as well as a copy of James Bond's "Field Guide to Birds of the West Indies," published in 1947. Although the guide was somewhat out of date, it was as invaluable to

me there as a copy of Peterson's guide would be to me here. A revised edition of his field guide has since come off the press.

My wife and I were primarily interested in seeing as much of the island as we could in the brief time allotted to us. Jamaica is probably the most scenic of the Greater Antilles; it is hilly throughout and boasts one substantial mountain range. Blue Mountain peak, just northeast of Kingston, reaches an elevation of over 7400 feet, considerably higher than anything in the Adirondacks. Rose and I rented a Hillman immediately upon our arrival at Montego Bay, and we were able to visit briefly all areas except the extreme northeastern and southwestern regions. With so much to see in so little time, my birding was indeed strictly of a roadside nature.

We arrived at Montego Bay the evening of May 28. Early the following morning I made a brief tour of the hotel grounds and surrounding area. One of the first birds I noted was the Bananaquit, a species which occasionally turns up in Florida. These birds, I subsequently found, were quite common and generally distributed throughout the island. A Saffron Finch, a gorgeous practically all-yellow bird about the size of a tanager, was another new bird which I saw on several subsequent occasions. Small flocks of Antillean Grackles flew back and forth. They appeared quite similar to our own except for a very conspicuous white eye. They uttered raspings and a series of musical notes that left no doubt as to their specific identity. They were quite comical fellows, and at a hotel where we later stayed at Ocho Rios they had no hesitation in stealing a tid-bit off an unguarded dinner plate.

On a countryside picnic that Rose and I took on May 29 I decided that Mockingbirds and Gray Kingbirds were the most conspicuous of the roadside birds, and this was to hold true throughout our trip in the lowland areas. The Gray Kingbirds bore watching, however, for the somewhat similar Loggerhead Flycatcher could also be seen. Turkey Vultures were commonly seen overhead; there are no Black Vultures in Jamaica. Both Yellow-faced and Black-faced Grassquits appeared quite numerous in open country.

In lowland areas of lush growth I saw small noisy bands of Jamaica Paroquets on several occasions. I saw no parrots in Jamaica, although at least two species occur there. The Jamaican Tody, a small gem of a bird resembling a miniature green kingfisher, was not uncommon. I found the Jamaican Woodpecker, a Flicker-sized bird, to be quite common everywhere. This species is endemic to Jamaica and is, in fact, the only species of woodpecker to be found on the island, except for the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker which is a winter visitor only.

Several non-birding friends had told me of the beautiful hummingbirds in Jamaica. All such references, I now believe, were of the Streamer-tail, a name which fits the bird well. This brightly colored long-tailed hummer was locally common and quite tame. If you want to see this beautiful bird in the wild, you will have to go to Jamaica; they occur nowhere else. A photograph of this bird adorns

the cover of the November 1960 National Geographic Magazine. The commonest of the several varieties of this family to be found on the island was the Jamaican Mango Hummingbird, a bird which appeared all black except in good light.

Hérons were quite common, or at least they were among the more conspicuous of the roadside birds. Little Blues seemed to top the list, but I saw the Yellow-crowned Night Heron on two or three occasions. There was a group of 15 Cattle Egrets near Spanish Town on May 31. Among the shorebird group I saw only the familiar Killdeer and one Black-necked Stilt. There was surprisingly little variety among the few coastal birds I happened to see. Brown Pelicans were not as common as they would be in Florida, and I saw only a few Royal Terns and Laughing Gulls. My maximum count on Frigate-birds was 15 in Kingston harbor on May 31.

I enjoyed the best birding in the Grand Ridge of the Blue Mountains on May 31 and again on June 1. The most interesting bird there was the Rufous-throated Solitaire. I had been hearing the slow flute-like almost ethereal song of this bird for about a half hour before I was successful in tracking down the source. The song is a beautiful thing to hear, something which has no counterpart on the North American mainland. Among some of the other fairly common mountain birds which I succeeded in identifying were the White-chinned Thrush (a bird obviously related to our Robin), the Rufous-tailed Flycatcher (similar to our Crested), the Striped-headed Tanager, the Jamaican Euphonia, the Smooth-billed Ani, and the Jamaican White-eyed Vireo. One lone Cloud Swift, a relatively large member of its family, obligingly circled low overhead for me.

The dove family is well represented in Jamaica, and I felt almost completely helpless in my ability to identify some of them. Some of the calls coming from the deep woodlands were obviously dove calls, but I had no inkling as to which species. On my last full day in Jamaica I did spot several groups of Doves along a side road near Ocho Rios and identified both the Zenaida and the White-winged. Ground Doves, a common Florida species, were equally as common throughout Jamaica.

When we left Jamaica on June 3 I had the very definite impression that I had "missed the boat" on many common species, and a subsequent telephone conversation with James Bond at Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences promptly confirmed that impression. Be that as it may, I felt quite happy at locating 53 varieties of birds literally from the roadside, about half of which were new to me and some of which could be seen only in Jamaica.

Then too, if there were some common birds missed, that is all the more reason to go back some day.

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184 SPECIES ON 1960 FIELD TRIPS

Robert Yunick, Co-chairman, Field Trips Committee

The Schenectady Bird Club's 23 local field trips of 1960 accounted for 184 species of birds. Three additional ex-territorial trips were conducted also, but are not included in this summary. They are the NYSFBC convention at Buffalo May 20-22, a trip to Pleasant Valley Sanctuary at Lenox on June 26, and a trip to Slide Mountain in the Catskills on July 10. The latter trip produced a fine variety of nesting species. Three scheduled outings were cancelled. Two of these, the Upper Hudson on February 14 and Thacher Park on March 6, were cancelled because of the weather. The third, a trip to Berne Swamp, was called off because of unfavorable birding conditions now present in this one-time rewarding wildlife area.

For the most part the trips were well attended, with an average of 16 observers per outing. On the average, about 45 species were seen per trip. The most popular trips peoplewise were the Century Run and Central Park Breakfast, as was the case the previous year. These trips attracted 41 and 32 observers respectively. Birdwise, as one might expect, the Century Run was tops with 144 species, with the Indian Ladder - Meadowdale area second with 73 species. This also is the same order as the previous year. On the low side, the two visits to Watervliet Reservoir in May and August accounted for the least number of observers -- six and seven respectively. The January Duck Count amassed the lowest species count of eight, primarily because only waterfowl were sought. The Collins Lake trip was next low, with 13 species.

While the species total of 184 is not terribly impressive, some of the individual items of that list are worthy of note. A Mockingbird on the Schenectady Christmas Count, a Tufted Titmouse on the Troy 1960 Christmas Count, an Iceland Gull on the 1959 Troy Count (held in 1960), and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the Century Run were the most outstanding on the list. A very sporadic and not at all common visitor, the Short-eared Owl, was recorded on the Schenectady Christmas Count. Other species seen which are not commonly recorded in the area or at the time noted included a Bonaparte's Gull on the Hudson in April, the Brown Thrasher on the 1960 Troy Christmas Count, the Gray-cheeked Thrush at Wolf Hollow in May, and the Worm-eating, Cerulean and Connecticut Warblers on the May Century Run.

The areas covered were much the same as in previous years. The Slide Mountain ex-territorial trip was a new one. The April Hudson River trip, Columbia County trip with the Alan Devoe Bird Club, and

the Saratoga Battlefield trip which were introduced recently were continued and found to be popular and productive. The April Hudson River trip is an especially good one for waterfowl.

The Field Trip Committee chairmen wish to thank the committee members -- Nelle Van Vorst, Walt Kaskan and Byron Hipple -- for their help in scheduling the year's trips. We also wish to extend our thanks to the people who acted as trip leaders, and to Mrs. R. E. Arnold for her efforts in getting notices of the field trips published in the Schenectady Gazette.

Trip	Date	Area	Spec. seen	No. of observ.	Page
A	1/2	Troy Christmas Count (1959)	43	18	1
B	1/17	NYSFBC Duck Count	8	8	14
C	3/20	Collins Lake	13	10	38
D	4/9	Lower Hudson	42	21	38
E	4/24	Saratoga and Round Lakes	51	12	39
F	5/1	Watervliet Reservoir	35	6	39
G	5/8	Central Park Breakfast & Lock 7	58	32	40
H	5/14	Century Run	144	41	33
I	5/18	Rosendale and River Roads	45	21	45
J	5/22	Wolf Hollow	45	12	46
K	5/28	Meadowdale - Indian Ladder	73	11	46
L	5/30	Karner Sand Barrens	42	21	47
M	7/24	Niskayuna Wide Waters	51	13	48
N	8/21	Watervliet Reservoir	30	7	48
O	9/10	Lower Hudson	44	17	49
P	9/18	Columbia County	54	12	61-11
Q	10/9	Crescent Reservoir	40	10	63
R	10/23	Hudson Highlands	26	12	63
S	11/6	Tomhannock Reservoir	43	22	64
T	11/20	Saratoga and Round Lakes	23	19	61-12
U	12/4	Saratoga Battlefield	24	13	61-12
V	12/26	Schenectady Christmas Count	46	20	61- 1
W	12/31	Troy Christmas Count	45	19	61- 1

SPECIES	TRIP
Common Loon	e h stu
Horned Grebe	d stu
Pied-billed Grebe	de op r
Double-crested Cormorant	h
Great Blue Heron	h no qr
Common Egret	o
Green Heron	h k mno
American Bittern	gh k m o
Canada Goose	de o q
Mallard	ab de gh k nopq s w
Black Duck	ab de gh k mnopq st w
Pintail	d h pq w
Green-winged Teal	d q
Blue-winged Teal	d h k q
Shoveler	p

Wood Duck				h	k	opq	
Redhead				h			
Ring-necked Duck			de				w
Canvasback		ab	d				u
Greater Scaup		{b	d			{s	t}
Lesser Scaup		{de					
Common Goldeneye		ab	de				stu w
Bufflehead			de				
Oldsquaw			e				s
White-winged Scoter			d				st
Common Scoter							s
Ruddy Duck							s
Hooded Merganser		b	d	g			s
Common Merganser		ab	de	h			w
Red-breasted Merganser		ab	de				st w
Turkey Vulture						p	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				h			w
Cooper's Hawk		a		h			vw
Red-tailed Hawk		a	d	gh	j l	opqrs	uvw
Red-shouldered Hawk		a		h		p r	uvw
Broad-winged Hawk				h			
Rough-legged Hawk		a					rs uvw
Marsh Hawk				h		o rs	v
Osprey			def	h		opq	
Sparrow Hawk		a	c	h	jk m	p	vw
Ruffed Grouse				h		pq s	vw
Ring-necked Pheasant		a	d	gh	k m		vw
Virginia Rail				h			
Sora				h	k		
Common Gallinule				gh	k m	op	
American Coot			d	h			
Semipalmated Plover				h			
Killdeer			e	gh	klm	opqr	u
American Woodcock				hi			
Common Snipe				h			v
Upland Plover				h			
Spotted Sandpiper			ef	h		m	
Solitary Sandpiper			f	h			
Greater Yellowlegs				h			
Lesser Yellowlegs				h			
Pectoral Sandpiper				h			
Least Sandpiper				h			
Iceland Gull		a					
Great Black-backed Gull		a	de				
Herring Gull		a	de	gh		o	rstuv
Ring-billed Gull		a	de	h		o	tu
Bonaparte's Gull			e				
Mourning Dove		a	defghijklm	op	rs	vw	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				hi		no	
Black-billed Cuckoo				h	l	o	
Screech Owl				h			
Great Horned Owl				gh			
Short-eared Owl							v
Whip-poor-will				h			

Common Nighthawk				h	
Chimney Swift		e	gh		m
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			h		no
Belted Kingfisher		defgh		mnop	st v
Flicker		efghi		lmnop	vw
Pileated Woodpecker	a	e	h		o t vw
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			h		
Hairy Woodpecker	a	f	hijk	n	rstuvw
Downy Woodpecker	a	efghi	lmnop	rs	uvw
Eastern Kingbird			hijklm	o	
Great Crested Flycatcher			gh	jklm	
Eastern Phoebe		de	h	jk m	opq
Traill's Flycatcher				k	
Least Flycatcher			ghijk	m	
Eastern Wood Pewee			h	k mn	
Olive-sided Flycatcher			h		
Horned Lark	a		h	k m	q vw
Tree Swallow		efgh	jk	m	
Bank Swallow		ef	h		m
Rough-winged Swallow		efgh	k		
Barn Swallow		efghijklmnop			
Cliff Swallow		e	h		
Purple Martin			h		
Blue Jay	a	cdefghijkl	nopqrstuvw		
Common Crow	a	cdefgh	ijkl	nopqrstuvw	
Black-capped Chickadee	a	efghijklmnopqrstuvw			
Tufted Titmouse					w
White-breasted Nuthatch	a	c e	gh	klm	pq stuvw
Red-breasted Nuthatch	a		gh		s vw
Brown Creeper	a		h		stuvw
House Wren			fghijklmn		
Winter Wren	a		h		p
Carolina Wren			h		
Long-billed Marsh Wren			h	k	o
Mockingbird					v
Catbird			fghi	klmnop	
Brown Thrasher		e	gh	jkl	p vw
Robin	a	defghijklmnopqrs	uvw		
Wood Thrush			fghijk	n	p
Hermit Thrush			h		
Swainson's Thrush			h		
Gray-cheeked Thrush				j	
Veery			ghijkl		
Eastern Bluebird			h	kl	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			h		
Golden-crowned Kinglet					q s vw
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		ef	h		qr t
Water Pipit			h		q
Cedar Waxwing			ghi	kl	q v
Northern Shrike					vw
Starling	a	cdefghijklmnopqrs	stuvw		
Yellow-throated Vireo			gh		mno
Solitary Vireo			gh		p
Red-eyed Vireo			h	jklmn	

Warbling Vireo	gh klmn
Black-and-white Warbler	hijk p
Worm-eating Warbler	h
Golden-winged Warbler	ghi k
Blue-winged Warbler	h
Tennessee Warbler	hij
Nashville Warbler	q
Parula Warbler	h
Yellow Warbler	fghi kl
Magnolia Warbler	hij
Cape May Warbler	h
Black-throated Blue Warbler	hi k
Myrtle Warbler	fgh q
Black-throated Green Warbler	hi p
Cerulean Warbler	h
Blackburnian Warbler	h j
Chestnut-sided Warbler	ghi klm p
Blackpoll Warbler	j
Pine Warbler	h l p
Prairie Warbler	h l p
Ovenbird	ghijk
Louisiana Waterthrush	h j
Connecticut Warbler	h
Yellowthroat	fghijklm op
Yellow-breasted Chat	h p
Canada Warbler	h j
American Redstart	ghijk n p
House Sparrow	a cdefghijklm opqrstuvw
Bobolink	hijk m
Eastern Meadowlark	fghijkl pq vw
Red-winged Blackbird	cdefghijklmnopqr
Baltimore Oriole	ghijklmn
Rusty Blackbird	d q
Common Grackle	a defghijklmnopqrs
Brown-headed Cowbird	a defghijklmn pqrs vw
Scarlet Tanager	ghijkl
Cardinal	a cd ghi m vw
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	ghijkl p
Indigo Bunting	hijklm o
Evening Grosbeak	a h s w
Purple Finch	efghijk r uvw
Common Redpoll	a c uv
Pine Siskin	a s v
American Goldfinch	a d gh klmnopqrs uvw
Red Crossbill	s
Rufous-sided Towhee	efghijklm op
Savannah Sparrow	h k p s
Grasshopper Sparrow	h k
Henslow's Sparrow	h
Vesper Sparrow	h p r
Slate-colored Junco	a de h jk rs vw
Tree Sparrow	a cd stuvw
Chipping Sparrow	efghijklm p
Field Sparrow	efghi klm p

White-crowned Sparrow	f h	q	
White-throated Sparrow	h	opq s	w
Fox Sparrow		s	
Swamp Sparrow	a e h k m		v
Song Sparrow	a cdefghijklmnopqr		st vw
Lapland Longspur			v
Snow Bunting	a	s	vw

184 SPECIES -- 23 FIELD TRIPS -- 1960

BRIEFING THE RECORD

Walton B. Sabin, Records Committee Chairman

DECEMBER weather at Albany Airport was what might be called wintry. It was the sixth coldest December in 45 years, with the average temperature 21.6°, or 4.8° below normal. Extremes for the month were 53° on the 6th and -11° on the 24th. This latter was a new record for that date. Temperatures of zero or lower on six days was three times the normal. Snowfall was some 5 inches above normal at 16.6 inches, despite a 0.82-inch deficiency from the normal total precipitation of 2.17 inches. Sunshine for the month was 19% above normal.

This was a relatively quiet month. About 12 club members submitted field notes and reported on 62 species, none of which was very unusual. After the 10th, when most large bodies of water were frozen over, water birds became generally scarce. The species found on the Christmas counts have been reported (January, page 1).

A Common Loon was at Saratoga Lake until the 10th, as were six Horned Grebes (EH). A late Canada Goose was seen on a New Concord pond on the 2nd (AD). Mallards and Black Ducks were in the area throughout the month. A lone Canvasback was at Saratoga Lake on the SBC field trip on the 4th. Common Goldeneyes were present throughout the month, including some on Saratoga Lake on the 10th (EH). Five Hooded Mergansers were observed at Tomhannock on the 5th (BA) and six Red-breasted Mergansers at Saratoga Lake on the 10th (EH). A late Red-shouldered Hawk was seen on the SBC field trip at Saratoga Battlefield on the 4th. Rough-legged Hawks were widely reported, with up to four in one day, as on the just-mentioned SBC field trip. A fine adult Bald Eagle was seen under ideal conditions near Meadowdale on the 1st (BW).

No Killdeer were reported after the 10th at Saratoga Lake (EH). Mourning Doves were present in moderate numbers in many localities throughout the month. Snowy Owl reports were as follows: one on the 9th at Nassau (AD); one on the 14th at Christian Brothers Academy (BA); and one each on the 20th at Claverack (AD) and Ghent (AD). A Short-eared Owl was observed at Saratoga Battlefield on the 10th (EH). Two straggler Flickers were seen in Columbia County at Canaan on the 3rd (AD) and at Chatham on the 27th (AD). Tufted Titmice continued to be reported from many areas. One was seen in Rensselaer on the 5th (BA), one at West Charlton on the 25th (EmH), and one at Ballston Lake on the 29th (EH). This species was also reported at three different feeders in Columbia County (AD). A

Brown Creeper was again apparently spending the winter in Slingerlands (LG), since it was seen almost daily. A Winter Wren was seen on the 23rd at Raymertown (RY). At least one of the Mockingbirds was present throughout the month on Highland Avenue, Albany (ML). Four hardy Robins were recorded on the Saratoga Battlefield SBC field trip on the 4th. Bluebirds are not yet giving up! Six birds were seen from the 5th through the 8th at Ghent (AD), and five on the 28th at Putnam Road, Rotterdam (EH). Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen during the first week in Schenectady (HE), while one was at Tomhannock on the 5th (BA). A Northern Shrike was seen on three occasions at Nassau (AD).

Meadowlarks were present in several places throughout the month. Red-winged Blackbirds apparently were absent, while Cowbirds were even commoner than Meadowlarks. One flock of Cowbirds seen on the 10th at Saratoga Battlefield was estimated at 50 birds (EH). This year the December Baltimore Oriole was not seen in Loudonville but instead in Latham, where it was seen to feed on dried grapes on the 5th and again on the 7th (BH). The only Common Grackle report is of one seen in Schenectady on the 7th (NVV). This month we had only one report of the Dickcissel. This was of a bird feeding with a flock of House Sparrows and visiting a feeding station in Canaan throughout the month (AD). This habit of associating with House Sparrows has been reported before, and apparently is characteristic when this species finds itself away from its usual haunts. Those persons who feed flocks of House Sparrows should take heed and carefully look them over for any strangers in their midst. Who knows, there may be more Dickcissels about than is realized.

Evening Grosbeaks apparently are commonest in our region in the area east of Troy (RY). Other recent winters when this species was present, it was present everywhere. This has not been the pattern this winter. There was a flock of 12 on the 2nd at West Charlton (EmH). Purple Finches likewise have been rather spotty this winter. The only December report is of a flock of 11 seen on the Saratoga Battlefield SBC field trip. Further, Redpolls have not invaded the region this year as they did last year. However, they have been seen in three locations in December as follows: five on the 2nd at Taberton (RY), a flock on the 18th at Nassau (AD), and 29 on the 4th at Saratoga Battlefield (SBC). The only Pine Siskin reported was one at Scotia on the 2nd (HJ). Two Towhees were reported, both from Columbia County.

Cardinals, Goldfinches, Juncos and Tree Sparrows were commonly reported. A Fox Sparrow was in Slingerlands all month (LG). Another was in New Concord until the 10th (AD), and yet another from the 16th on at Scotia (HJ). Song Sparrows apparently are wintering in greater numbers than usual, judging by reports received. Snow Buntings were reported but twice. The first report is of eight on the 13th at West Charlton (EmH), and the second is of a flock of about 60 seen on the 31st near Delanson (PB).

KEY TO OBSERVERS: SBC, Schenectady Bird Club field trip
AD, Alan Devoe Bird Club record

BA - Brother Austin	BH - Betty Hicks	ML - Mary Linch
PB - Pauline Baker	EH - Esly Hallenbeck	NVV - Nelle VanVorst
HE - Hazel Eddy	EmH - Emily Halverson	BW - Beverly Waite
LG - Lucile Grace	HJ - Harriet Jorgensen	RY - Robert Yunick

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S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Gustave Angst and Robert Yunick, Co-chairmen

UPPER HUDSON

February 12

A Bufflehead was the most interesting of the five species of ducks along the upper Hudson February 12; Common Goldeneyes were the most common kind.

Seven SBC members participated in the trip, on a partly cloudy, slightly breezy, and rather cold day. Their 13 species:

Mallard 2, Black Duck 61, Common Goldeneye 145, Bufflehead 1, Common Merganser 16, Rough-legged Hawk 1, Ring-necked Pheasant 7, Blue Jay 2, Common Crow 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Starling, House Sparrow, and Tree Sparrow 1.

-- Gustave Angst

THATCHER PARK

March 5

Early-morning rain and drizzle didn't deter 9 SBC members from appearing at the Altamont railroad station at 9 a.m. March 5. This trip was the first completed one through the park in early spring, I am told.

The rain stopped, the fog cleared at the Park, and it was really pleasant. The observations were not many, but the Redwings sang of spring as did the two Song Sparrows. The Pine Siskins were a highlight of the trip, being seen on the mountain and in the valley on the return trip. The 18 species:

Red-tailed Hawk 3, Killdeer 1, Pileated Woodpecker 1, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 4, Blue Jay 6, Common Crow 20, Black-capped Chickadee 20, White-breasted Nuthatch 5, Brown Creeper 1, Robin 3, Starling, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird 40, Purple Finch 1, Pine Siskin 15, Slate-colored Junco 6, and Song Sparrow 2.

-- A. W. Pense

SCHERMERHORN ROAD

March 19

A Tufted Titmouse featured the March 19 trip along Schermerhorn Road. It was a cloudy, windless, 32-degree day.

Seventeen species were found:

Killdeer 1, Ring-billed Gull 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee 12, Tufted Titmouse 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Starling, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Cardinal 3, Purple Finch 24, Slate-colored Junco 5, Tree Sparrow, and Song Sparrow 3.

-- C. E. Safford



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GEESE BY THE THOUSANDS

Marjorie Foote

Twenty-one SBC birders and our gracious guide, Mr. Cummings of the Refuge staff, spent a most interesting but cold two hours April 8 on the main dike of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. At the time of our visit the refuge was playing host to about 10,000 Canada Geese. I think we were all thrilled to see them winging into the refuge by the hundreds and thousands. We were able to spot four Snow Geese and 15 species of ducks.

The Lesser Scaup was the most abundant duck, but had the day been less windy and cold we probably would have seen many more of the other species, huddled in the marsh grass out of the bitter wind.

Forty-one species plus two unidentified hawks were counted. Most unusual were Gadwall, Shoveler, Redhead and Ruddy Duck. There were unverified reports of penguins by frozen birdwatchers; but after a break for lunch in our warm cars all agreed they were probably only Scaup or Goldeneyes. Afternoon birding was on an informal basis in the Storage Dike area. The trip list:

Pied-billed Grebe 2, Great Blue Heron 6, Canada Goose 10,000, Snow Goose 4, Mallard 6, Black Duck 12, Gadwall 4, American Widgeon 5, Pintail 15, Green-winged Teal 3, Blue-winged Teal 4, Shoveler 7, Redhead 2, Ring-necked Duck 40, Greater Scaup 6, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye 50, Bufflehead 8, Ruddy Duck 1, Marsh Hawk 2, Sparrow Hawk 1, Hawk (sp?) 2, American Coot 60, Killdeer 1, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Belted Kingfisher 1, Eastern Phoebe 2, Blue Jay 2, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Robin, Starling, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Tree Sparrow 1, Field Sparrow 1, Swamp Sparrow 1, and Song Sparrow.

WEATHER, AND VISITORS

Robert Yunick

Had it been an SBC trip to the Upper Hudson, it surely would have been cancelled. The weather was horrible. First it rained, finally turned to snow, and then could not quite decide whether to rain or snow so actually did both. Then the wind began to blow and the mercury began to drop back to its more usual winter levels, compared to the balmy 40's and 50's of the week previous. The preceding warm days and some rain made the Hudson lap ever higher on its banks. By mid-morning the Mohawk was in flood stage.

Such was February 26 when nine members of the Alan Bird Club of

Springfield, Mass. and the Holyoke Bird Club of Holyoke, led by Rudd Stone, braved a trip to the Upper Hudson. I gladly joined this group to act as "guide." Since these birders had come so far, there was not much sense in turning back. Fortunately, despite the weather, the birding in terms of birds seen was fine. The route started at Green Island and went to Stillwater, then down river including Tomhannock Reservoir and Tamarac Road, thence up the east shore of the river to Lock One of the Champlain Canal.

The raging Hudson did not confine its waterfowl to the usual rifts which normally are the only open water at this time of year. Instead the birds tended to congregate at the slower stretches which were open. Up river some ice persisted, but there was little of it.

The usual lazy looking, sleeping rafts of Mallards and Blacks at Green Island were non-existent. It was not a day for a lazy duck on the Hudson River, for the river was rising constantly. Most waterfowl were restless and doing considerable moving about, and generally did well to hold their own in the ice-choked current. The lazier gulls chose to ride ice floes, or glide high aloft once the wind developed. Up river near Mechanicville, the first concentration of waterfowl was seen. Among the Blacks, Mallards, Mergansers and Goldeneyes were a Ring-necked Duck and two out-of-place barnyard geese. The geese were out in the river occupying an ice-covered shoal with some Black Ducks, and standing very erect and majestic at that, despite their mislocation.

At Stillwater a female Canvasback was seen feeding with a male Goldeneye. The east shore at Lock One of the Champlain had five Great Black-backed Gulls and a raft of Goldeneyes in whose company was a female Bufflehead.

Land birds were not to be had with any ease, because of the weather. We more or less took them as they came in between snow squalls. Three distinctly separated flocks of Red-wings, totalling approximately 160 birds, were seen. One flock included a female. Another flock contained two Grackles. These harbingers will no doubt find themselves prematurely arrived, as winter fulfills its remaining term.

The day's list accounted for 26 species but, more important, accounted for some people who were thrilled at looking over a new territory. The list:

Mallard 54, Black Duck 250, Ring-necked Duck 1, Canvasback 1, Common Goldeneye 70, Bufflehead 1, Common Merganser 37, Red-tailed Hawk 3, Sparrow Hawk 1, Great Black-backed Gull 5, Herring Gull 50, Ring-billed Gull 3, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 3, Horned Lark 4, Blue Jay 5, Common Crow 10, Black-capped Chickadee 5, Starling 100, House Sparrow 50, Red-winged Blackbird 160, Common Grackle 2, Brown-headed Cowbird 5, Evening Grosbeak 18, Tree Sparrow 5, and Song Sparrow 1.

BRIEFING THE RECORD

Walton B. Sabin, Records Committee Chairman

JANUARY weather at Albany Airport was the coldest since 1945. Temperature for the month averaged 15.3° , a whopping 7.2° below normal. The second half of the month was one of the coldest 15 days, if not the coldest, of record. Eleven consecutive days of sub-zero minimum temperatures occurred in this period for the first time in record history. Record low temperatures occurred on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd. The lowest temperature for the month (-17°) occurred on the 22nd and the highest (45°) on the 7th and again on the 14th. Precipitation totalled 1.47", a departure of 0.8" below normal. There was a 9.2" snowfall on the 1st and a 5.2" fall on the 20th. Sunshine was 18% above normal.

The month was about normal bird-wise except for the lack of water birds. However Snowy Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins were widely reported. The most unusual reports this month center around a couple of Virginia Rails, a Catbird, a Dickcissel, and an Oregon Junco. Sixty-one species were reported for the month.

Except for the usual Mallards, Black Ducks, Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers, the only other ducks seen were a couple of female Hooded Mergansers on the Upper Hudson waterfowl count on the 15th. Two Goshawks were seen briefly circling along the Hudson west of Glens Falls on the 15th (WS). A single Goshawk was seen at Castleton on the 15th and again on the 18th (Dv). Also, a Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen at Lock 2 by all on the Upper Hudson field trip, as well as a Marsh Hawk near Cohoes Dam.

Two Virginia Rails were seen together in Canaan from the 22nd on (Dv). These birds were feeding in a small, spring-fed, open brook. While one of the birds appeared normal in all respects, the other was both small and dark. This record was confirmed by Dr. E. M. Reilly of the State Museum. A further note on this will appear in "The Kingbird".

Apparently no one saw, or reported, any Herring, Ring-billed or Black-backed Gulls in January. Mourning Doves were wintering rather generally throughout the region. All expected owls were reported except Barred and Saw-whet. Snowy Owls were reported as follows: one on the 5th at Alcove Reservoir (fide WS), one each on the 15th at Glens Falls (WS) and New Concord (Dv), and one on the 28th at Voorheesville Depot (BW). Long-eared Owls were seen at Hamagrael School, Delmar (2 birds) throughout the month (SM) and one at Stockport Station on the 14th (Dv). One Short-eared Owl was seen at Spring Road, Glenville, on the 26th (EH) and a maximum of three at the Guilderland High School between the 28th and 30th (BW).

Kingfishers apparently were sticking it out at Meadowdale on the 10th (EH) and at Lock 7 on the 29th (WK). Probably the same Flicker was seen in Troy on the 14th and 15th (HL) and the SBC trip of the 15th. A lone Winter Wren was seen in Red Rock on the 27th (Dv). As many as three Tufted Titmice were seen in Rensselaerville between the 3rd and 9th (fide WS) and one seen in Rensselaer from the 8th

on (BA). A Mockingbird was seen in Ghent on the 3rd (Dv) and one continued on Highland Avenue, off Route 20 in Albany, throughout the month. A Catbird was noted one day only, the 27th, at Latham (BH). A few Robins were around. One was seen at Meadowdale on the 10th (EH) and three on the 28th at Altamont (HE). There were no reports of Bluebirds. Two Golden-crowned Kinglet reports, however, were submitted. One was seen near Altamont on the 17th (BW), the other at Gallupville on the 31st (GZ). Only two Gray Shrikes were reported this month: one on the 8th at Ghent (Dv) and one on the 25th at Canaan (Dv).

Meadowlarks, Rusty Blackbirds and Cowbirds were widely reported. The only Grackle report was of a bird seen on Fuller Road, Albany on the 27th (ELT). Apparently Red-winged Blackbirds were not in the area during the month since none was reported. Cardinals, Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins were all reported from most areas during the month. A Dickcissel showed up for one day only, on the 18th, at a feeder in Old Chatham. A Pine Grosbeak was seen in Chatham on the 13th (Dv) and one on the 13th and 31st at New Concord (Dv). Red Crossbills were seen occasionally in Chatham Center (EMR) during the month, and single Towhees were present throughout the month at feeding stations in Red Rock (Dv) and East Chatham (Dv). A Vesper Sparrow, a species that ordinarily does not spend the winter in this region, was caught and banded on the 29th (Dv). An Oregon Junco showed up at a feeder on Fuller Road, Albany on the 28th and was still present at month's end (ELT). This is the first report received of the species this winter. White-throated Sparrows were noted at Loudonville on the 21st and 28th (MWFr), while a Fox Sparrow was present all month in Slingerlands (LG). Snow Buntings were widely reported with as high as 1,000 estimated at Meadowdale on the 10th (EH).

FEBRUARY weather at Albany Airport was mild and well above normal after the cold wave which began January 19 and ended on February 8. The coldest day of the month, -18° , which was a new record for this date, occurred on the 2nd. The month's average temperature was 2.6° above normal at 25.5° , and the warmest day was the 24th when the temperature rose to 55° . Precipitation was only slightly above normal (2.03") at 2.47". Snow was just under normal, while sunshine was 6% above normal. Snow cover, as much as 19" early in the month, was reduced to zero before the end of the month. Snowmelt, plus 1" to 1-3/4" of rain on the 25th-26th, produced a high rate of runoff and bankfull stages with only minor flooding in area streams.

Toward the end of the month waterfowl and gulls started to move, and the first migrant blackbirds arrived. Also several species were reported as "singing". The first of these is usually the Horned Lark. This year was no exception. This species was first reported singing on the 9th. All of the winter visitant hawks, owls, finches, grosbeaks, etc., were still present.

Uncommon birds seen in February included Snow Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Virginia Rail (held over from January) and Oregon Junco (first seen January 28). A total of 68 species were reported in February.

One Canada Goose and one Snow Goose were seen feeding together

at Castleton near the Hudson River on the 10th and again on the 12th (Dv). Black Ducks and Mallards were seen more abundantly toward the end of the month. A male Ring-necked Duck was reported on the 26th at Mechanicville as well as a female Canvasback at Stillwater (RS,RY). Apparently the only report of Barrow's Goldeneye this winter is the one seen on the 2nd above Lock 1 on the Troy side of the Hudson River (BA). At this same spot and on the same day a pair of Buffleheads were seen by the same observer. This pair was still present at month's end. Common Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers were present throughout the month in normal numbers. Single Goshawks were seen on the 2nd at Nassau (Dv) and 15th at Castleton (Dv). A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen from the 26th to the 28th at New Concord (Dv), Cooper's, Red-tailed, Rough-legged, and Sparrow Hawks were also reported. The two Virginia Rails reported last month disappeared at Canaan on the 4th (Dv). Killdeer were reported from several widely scattered areas the last week of the month. Five Black-backed Gulls were observed at Lock 1 on the Hudson on the 26th (RS) as well as 25 Herring Gulls and three Ring-billed Gulls (RS,RY).

Snowy Owls were seen as follows (one bird in each case): At Washington Park, Albany on the 9th (fide WS), at Perth on the 15th, Schenectady on the 22nd; and Fort Johnson on the 27th (all fide NVV). A Short-eared Owl was seen on the 13th at the Guilderland Central High School (BW) and a Saw-whet Owl on the 18th at Broadalbin (fide NVV). Screech and Great Horned Owls were seen in their accustomed haunts. A Kingfisher was apparently holding out at Collins Lake where it was seen on the 24th (WK). Tufted Titmice were widely reported throughout the month. Horned Larks were first reported singing on the 9th at Burnt Hills (MWF). Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported -- one on the 10th at Old Chatham (Dv) and one on the 18th at Tomhannock (BA). The only Brown Creeper reported was one seen at Gallupville on the 10th (GZ). Apparently Carolina Wrens have either been wiped out or driven south by the frigid weather since none has been reported since Fall. Mockingbirds, however, continued all month in Albany, Ghent and Hudson. Robin reports were confined to the first half of the month in Albany and Schenectady counties. The only Bluebird report was of two birds at Ghent on the 11th (Dv). Three solitary Gray Shrikes were seen in Altamont on the 11th (EH,BW), Gallupville on the 15th (GZ), and at Meadowdale on the 21st (HE).

Meadowlarks, Grackles and Cowbirds were reported throughout the month but with a large influx after the 24th along with the first Red-winged Blackbirds migrating along the Hudson River. Only two Rusty Blackbirds were reported, both on the 1st at Livingston (Dv) and Canaan (Dv). Resident Cardinals were commonly reported. Toward the end of the month numbers of Evening Grosbeaks increased markedly as indicated by the many reports. Purple Finches, on the other hand, continue scarce except in Columbia county area where flocks of 15 to 20 were reported (Dv). The only Pine Grosbeaks seen were a couple of small groups at New Concord (Dv) and Red Rock (Dv). Apparently Redpolls this winter have been restricted to the Melrose area of Rensselaer county where 50 were seen on the 18th and 20 on the 25th (RY). Only one Pine Siskin report was received, of 10 on the 10th at Charlton (EmH). A Towhee spent the entire

month visiting a feeder in East Chatham (Dv). A Vesper Sparrow was also seen at East Chatham on the 19th (Dv), and another was observed at Livingston on the 1st and 2nd (Dv). The Oregon Junco first reported January 28 continued off and on through the month (ELT). Two Fox Sparrows were at Slingerlands from the 1st to the 28th (LG) and at Charlton (GH). Juncoes, Tree and Song Sparrows were widely reported. Snow Buntings were common chiefly in the Meadowdale and Niskayuna areas and east and north of Troy.

MARCH weather at Albany Airport was predominantly cloudy and wet. Snowfall was practically double the normal amount at 21.7", although total precipitation was up only 0.78" above normal, or 3.11" for the month. Temperatures averaged only 0.1° below normal, or 33.0°, with the lowest reading for the month just 3° above zero on the 18th and the highest 73° on the 28th. The high of 59° on the 3rd broke the old record of 52 for that day set in 1945.

Movement of waterfowl was the most significant bird activity during the month. In addition some of the early land-bird migrants put in their first appearance.

Unusual species reported were the Whistling Swan, Red Crossbill, and Oregon Junco (held over from February). This is the first time Whistling Swans have ever been recorded in March in the SBC region, although it has been recorded six times in April, the last in 1956. Except for a specimen collected November 4, 1935, it has never before been recorded outside the month of April. Seventy-eight specimens were reported during the month.

The only Great Blue Heron report was of one seen on the 29th about a mile and a half west of Onderdonk Lake, Albany county (fide WS). Three Whistling Swans, two adult and one immature, first came to the attention of Mary Lynch on the 18th at Glass Pond in Guilderland. Apparently they were present from the 15th according to local residents. These three swans then moved over to the Meadowdale Marsh on the 21st and were still there on the 26th (GB, EH). On the 31st only the immature could be found there (WS). Canada Geese were reported from the east side of the Hudson River on the 3rd (7), 25th (10), 27th (35), and 28th (10) by ADBC members. Dabbling ducks first appeared in numbers during the last week of the month. A pair of American Widgeon were seen on the 26th at Niskayuna Wide Waters (WK). Early Pintails were observed at Stockport Station on the 2nd (Dv) and at Meadowdale on the 7th (HE). They were later reported from Niskayuna Wide Waters (WK) and Castleton (Dv) as well as Meadowdale. Both Green- and Blue-winged Teal were noted at Meadowdale on the 31st (WS), 3 pairs and 1 pair respectively. Wood Ducks (two pair) were first reported on the 26th at Meadowdale (GB, EH). Within the next few days they were reported from many places. Except for a single male Ring-necked Duck observed on the 5th on the Hudson above Troy (RY) the main body of migrants arrived during the last week of the month, with 30 at Meadowdale on the 29th (BA). Thirty Greater Scaup on the 29th at Niskayuna (EH) and four Lesser Scaup on the 28th at Cohoes (MWF) were the only observations of these two species. Common Goldeneyes were still present but no Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported. The only Bufflehead seen were the two present since last month on the Hudson above Troy, still present on the 5th (RY). Migrating Hooded Mergansers were seen on

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the 29th (4) at Niskayuna (EH) and on the 31st (10) at Vly Creek Reservoir, New Salem (WS). One hundred and forty Common Mergansers were observed on the Hudson above Troy on the 5th (RY) and fifty at Niskayuna on the 29th (EH), accompanied by a single Red-breasted Merganser.

The first Turkey Vulture report was of three birds seen on the 1st at Red Rock (Dv). This species became more common at month's end, particularly in southern Columbia county. Rough-legged Hawks were still present in the area, as evidenced by the many reports from Meadowdale (7 on the 15th (EH)) and Columbia county (Dv). Marsh Hawks were reported from Meadowdale only, on the 19th and again on the 26th (EH). Sparrow Hawks were very numerous at the end of the month. Two Coots were reported at Niskayuna on the 29th (EH). Killdeer numbers increased considerably during the month. The only Woodcock reports were of singles seen at Raymertown on the 22nd and 28th (RY). Black-backed Gulls became abundant on the 3rd when over 100 were seen on the Hudson in the vicinity of Hudson (Dv). At month's end they were noted as common at Niskayuna when anywhere from 10 to 25 could be seen (EH,WK). Both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls also became common to abundant at the same time.

The only Snowy Owl report was of a bird seen at Basic Creek Reservoir on the 22nd (fide WS). A Short-eared Owl was seen opposite the Guilderland Central School on the 18th (EH). Flickers and Phoebe's started moving into the area the last week of the month. Tree Swallows were first reported on the 28th (Dv). A Red-breasted Nuthatch on the 27th near Berne (fide WS) was the only one reported. The only Brown Creeper reports were the singles seen at Thacher Park on the 5th (SBC trip) and at Niskayuna on the 19th (WK). Robins increased in numbers shortly after the middle of the month. Bluebird reports have been encouraging after the low numbers of the last couple of years; the species evidently had a good winter. All reports cover the last 10 days of the month. The only Ruby-crowned Kinglet seen was at Meadowdale on the 23rd (HE). Cedar Waxwings were sparingly but widely reported, as were Tufted Titmice.

There was a big movement of Red-winged Blackbirds through the area around the 15th when more than 1,000 were at Ghent (Dv). Evening Grosbeaks were much in evidence between the 9th and 20th but practically disappeared after that date. Purple Finches were uncommon at best with only two observations recorded, one of which comprised a flock of 24 on the 19th at Schermerhorn Road (SBC trip). No Redpolls were reported but Pine Siskins were seen in most areas throughout the month, with the majority recorded in the last ten days. Those nomadic wanderers, the Crossbills, did it again. Red Crossbills were seen in Scotia on the 24th (4)(EH) and again on the 28th (20)(fide EH). Savannah Sparrows were reported from Canaan on the 29th (Dv). The Oregon Junco which was present all of last month in Albany was last seen there on the 9th (ELT). Field Sparrows were seen on the 13th and 27th at Latham (BH) and Berne (fide WS)

respectively. Fox Sparrows were going through in numbers as they were widely but sparingly reported. Snow Buntings were reported only from Meadowdale, where 50 were seen on the 11th, but only two on the 15th (EH).

KEY : SBC - Schenectady Bird Club field trip

Dv - Alan Devoe Bird Club record

BA - Brother Austin	EH - Esly Hallenbeck	RS - Rudolph Stone
GB - Guy Bartlett	EmH - Emily Halverson	WS - Walton Sabin
HE - Hazel Eddy	GH - Gladys Hackett	ELT - Lee Thomas
MWF - Marjorie Foote	WK - Walter Kaskan	NVV - Nelle Van Vorst
MWFr - Mabel W. French	ML - Mary Lynch	BW - Beverly Waite
LG - Lucile Grace	SM - Samuel Madison	RY - Robert Yunick
BH - Betty Hicks	EMR - Dr.E.M.Reilly	GZ - Gladys Zimmer



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

WILSON O. S. MEETING

The 42nd annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society will be held June 8 to 11 at Britannia Hotel, between Huntsville, Ontario, and Algonquin Park. Sponsoring organizations are the Audubon Society of Canada, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and the Royal Ontario Museum. The Huntsville Nature Club will be the local hosts. This will be the first W.O.S. meeting in Canada.

OTHER OWLS

Snowy Owls were not the only ones to make the local headlines in the past season. In early February two Schenectady urban or suburban Screech Owls made the paper.

Two Great Horned Owls were killed on the night of February 23 at Spraguetown by electrocution. They alighted on or contacted two 4800-volt wires, and were dropped to the ground, together with the mouse prey of one of them.

A Snowy, incidentally, was seen right on top of the Building 37 G-E sign until 8:28 a.m. March 20. After 9 a.m. it, or another, was atop the Mont Pleasant High School.

BLUEBIRD VICTIMS

A friend of mine, traveling in the Carolinas last fall, was told that when a heavy snowfall struck there in mid-March -- twenty inches lasting ten days -- birds just migrating north were caught without food, and starved to death. They were gathered up by the bushel basket, and were mostly Bluebirds.

-- Ernest Geiser

JANUARY WATERFOWL

The State Federation counted 248,791 waterfowl during January 14 to 22. The count was considerably higher than the previous maximum, 222,408 in 1956.



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BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER AND LONG-EARED OWL ON CENTURY LIST

Robert Yunick

The SBC's sixteenth annual Century Run on May 13, with 143 species, added two species to the composite list. These were the Long-eared Owl and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker. The owl record was of a pair of adults and their three young in the vicinity of Altamont. The Black-backed Woodpecker was an adult male found by Dr. Korns and seen also by Walt Sabin and Dr. Ingraham. The bird was observed from about 20 feet at Thatcher Park.

Two groups of observers were successful in attaining a 100-species list. One group was made up of Viola Mabb, Mary Linch, Mary Johnston, Betty Hicks, Mrs. Robert Arnold, and Mrs. Gilbert Eddy. They accounted for 100 species. A group consisting of Mrs. Lillian Stoner, Pauline Baker, Mrs. Charles Betts, Mrs. Laurence English, Mrs. Mabel French, Mrs. Charles Grace, Mrs. Helen O'Meara, Mrs. F.A.C. Samuels, Mr. and Mrs. Byron T. Hipple, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Clair Safford, and Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Thomas listed 102 species.

Those species seen by one group only numbered 28 and are listed with the observers. The most species seen by one group only numbered five and, oddly enough, four groups listed five such species each. There were no species seen by all groups. Those species seen by all but one group were Black-capped Chickadee, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Chipping Sparrow. The group afield the longest was made up of Sabin, Ingraham and Korns. These observers were at it for 17 hours. This year's list of 49 observers was exceeded only in 1948 when a group of Girl Scouts and the Sassafras Bird Club of Amsterdam helped bring the list to 55 observers.

The two new species put the composite list at 216 species, plus two hybrids. There were two species on this year's list which have been recorded only once previously. The Oldsquaw was previously recorded in 1947, and the Mourning Warbler in 1952. The Semipalmated Sandpiper and Red Crossbill were recorded for the third time. The former was seen in 1952 and 1954, while the latter appeared in 1951 and 1953. The Tree Sparrows recorded by the Farneys were winter left-overs at a feeding station.

The weather was per usual for May. It covered a wide variety of

temperaments. The day started pleasantly cool in the 50's and overcast, but became muggy. In the afternoon the sky cleared and the air was quite warm until a comfortable breeze began to blow. Considering some of our wonderful May weather, we were pretty lucky. Perhaps the Arctic Woodpecker and Tree Sparrows were clues indicating that winter hasn't left us, as yet.

Participants and Areas

- Group A Dr. Walter Kaskan and Gustave Angst; 5:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Rosendale and River Roads, Lock 7, Coal Pocket, Sparrowbush Road, Round Lake, Vischer Ponds, Crescent Reservoir. 75 species. Lesser Scaup, Common Merganser.
- Group B Mr. and Mrs. William R. Foote; 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m. Burnt Hills in morning; Rosendale Road and Lock 7 in afternoon. 51 species. Brown Creeper, Solitary Vireo.
- Group C Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner, Miss Pauline Baker, Mrs. Charles Betts, Mrs. Laurence English, Mrs. Mabel French, Mrs. Charles Grace, Mrs. Helen O'Meara, Mrs. F.A.C. Samuels, Mr. and Mrs. Byron T. Hipple, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Clair Safford, and Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Thomas; 5 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Washington Park, Fuller Road, Karner, Albany Airport, Niskayuna, Meadowdale, Thacher Park, Grace Sanctuary, Ravena, Alcove Reservoir, Hudson River, and Loudonville (this group was not together all day in the same areas). 102 species. Bobwhite, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Cedar Waxwing, Wilson's Warbler.
- Group D Mr. and Mrs. Robert Drown, Ernest Geiser, Mrs. E.J. Kilkawley; 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Poestenkill and Taborton. 64 species. Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Magnolia Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler.
- Group E Mr. and Mrs. Farney and family; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Averill Park Road. 13 species. Tree Sparrow.
- Group F Mrs. Chester Zimmer and Miss Naomi Zimmer; 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Gallupville. 60 species. Cerulean Warbler.
- Group G Mrs. Frederick J. Bordt. West Sand Lake and Averill Park. 27 species.
- Group H Guy Bartlett and Esly Hallenbeck; 4:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Vischer Ponds, Crescent Reservoir, Burnt Hills, Central Park, Karner, Meadowdale. 75 species.
- Group I Brother Austin and two friends; 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Rensselaer, Meadowdale, Lock 7. 75 species.
- Group J Misses Viola Mabb, Mary Linch, Mary Johnston, Betty Hicks, Mrs. Robert Arnold, Mrs. Gilbert Eddy; 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. 100 species. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Philadelphia Vireo, Cape May Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Warbler.
- Group K Walton B. Sabin, Dr. Hollis Ingraham and Dr. Robert Korn; 4 a.m. to 9 p.m. Meadowdale, Indian Ladder, Vly Creek, Alcove and Basic Reservoirs, Cedar Hill Flats, South Albany, Delmar. 96 species. Common Loon, Canada Goose, Oldsquaw, Turkey Vulture, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker.
- Group L Mrs. Richard C. Waite, Jr. Helderberg Trail, Altamont. 11 species. Worm-eating Warbler.

Group M Alice Holmes, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Nelle Van Vorst;
5 a.m. to 3 p.m. Schenectady, Albany and Saratoga Count-
ies. 76 species. Water Pipit.

1961 Century Run - May 13 - 143 Species

Common Loon			k	Pileated Woodpecker	c f h k m
Green Heron	a c	hijk		Yel-bel.Sapsucker	c k
American Bittern	a c	f ijk	m	Hairy Woodpecker	abc f hijk m
Canada Goose			k	Downy Woodpecker	abcdef hijk m
Mallard	a c	hijk	m	Blk-bk.3-t.Wdpkr	k
Black Duck	abcd	hijk	m	Eastern Kingbird	abcd fghijk m
Green-winged Teal			jk	Gr.Crest.Flyctchr	abcd f hijk m
Blue-winged Teal	a c	hij	m	Eastern Phoebe	a cd f hijk m
Wood Duck	abcd	h k		Least Flycatcher	abcd fgh jk m
Redhead			ij	East.Wood Pewee	f ij
Lesser Scaup	a			Horned Lark	abc f h jk
Oldsquaw			k	Tree Swallow	abcdef hijk m
Common Merganser	a			Bank Swallow	a cd hijk
Turkey Vulture			k	Rough-w.Swallow	a c ijk m
Sharp-shinned Hawk			j	Barn Swallow	abcd f hijk m
Red-tailed Hawk	a	f	k	Cliff Swallow	jkml
Red-should. Hawk	c		ij	Purple Martin	c h jk m
Broad-winged Hawk	d		i	Blue Jay	abcd fghijk m
Rough-legged Hawk	a		g	Common Crow	abcd fghijk m
Osprey	c		i	Blk-cap.Chickadee	abcdefghijk m
Sparrow Hawk	a c		ijk	White-br.Nuthatch	abcd fghijk m
Ruffed Grouse	a c		jkl	Brown Creeper	b
Bobwhite	c			House Wren	abcd f hijk m
Ring-neck.Pheasant	abcd	gh	jk m	Long-b.marsh Wren	c hijk m
Virginia Rail			h jkl	Catbird	abcd fghijk m
Sora			jk	Brown Thrasher	a cd f hijk m
Common Gallinule	a c		hijklm	Robin	abcd fghijk m
American Coot			h m	Wood Thrush	abcd fghijk m
Killdeer	abc	f	hijk m	Hermit Thrush	d
Amer. Woodcock	a c		jk m	Swainson's Thrush	bcd jk
Common Snipe	c		ijkl	Veery	abcd f hijk m
Spotted Sandpiper	a c	f	hijk	Eastern Bluebird	c h jklm
Solitary Sandpiper	bcd	f	hijkl	Golden-cr.Kinglet	d
Greater Yellowlegs			h j	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	cd
Least Sandpiper			hi k	Water Pipit	m
Semipalm. Sandpiper	c			Cedar Waxwing	c
Herring Gull	a c		hijk m	Starling	abcdef hijk m
Ring-billed Gull	a c		hij m	Yellow-thr. Vireo	abc f hijk m
Mourning Dove	abcd	f	hijk m	Solitary Vireo	b
Yel-billed Cuckoo	c			Red-eyed Vireo	a c j m
Blk-billed Cuckoo	c		j	Philadelphia Vireo	j
Long-eared Owl			h jklm	Warbling Vireo	a c f h jk
Whip-poor-will	a		j m	Blk.& Wh.Warbler	bcd fg jk
Common Nighthawk	c		h j m	Worm-eating Warbler	l
Chimney Swift	a cd	fghijk	m	Golden-w. Warbler	a c hijk m
Ruby-thr.Hummingbd	c	f hi	m	Blue-winged Warbler	d kl
Belted Kingfisher	a cd	f	jk m	Tennessee Warbler	c i
Yel-shafted Flicker	abcd	fghijk	m	Yellow Warbler	abcd fghijk m

Magnolia Warbler	d	Baltimore Oriole	abcdefghijklm
Cape May Warbler		Common Grackle	abcdefghijklm
Blk-thr. Blue Wrblr	a cd j m	Brown-hd. Cowbird	abcdefghijklm
Myrtle Warbler	a cd f hijk m	Scarlet Tanager	cd jk m
Blk-thr. Grn. Wrblr	a cd f ijk m	Cardinal	a cd ghijk m
Cerulean Warbler	f	Rose-br. Grosbeak	abcdef hijk m
Blackburnian Wrblr	c k	Indigo Bunting	hij
Chestnut-sd. Wrblr	a cd f ijk m	Purple Finch	cd g i
Blackpoll Warbler	j	Amer. Goldfinch	abcd fghijk m
Pine Warbler	j	Red Crossbill	c f i
Prairie Warbler	c hij	Rufous-sd. Towhee	abcd fghijk m
Ovenbird	abcd f ijk m	Savannah Sparrow	bc f hijk m
No. Waterthrush	bc k	Grasshopper Sparrow	jk
La. Waterthrush	d	Henslow's Sparrow	jkl
Mourning Warbler	d	Vesper Sparrow	abc f h jk
Yellowthroat	abcd fghijk m	Slate-col. Junco	cd jk
Yellow-br. Chat	cd	Tree Sparrow	e
Wilson's Warbler	c	Chipping Sparrow	abcdefghijklm
Canada Warbler	c f h i k	Field Sparrow	cd f hijk m
American Redstart	abcd g jk m	White-cr. Sparrow	c h j m
House Sparrow	abcd f hijk m	White-thr. Sparrow	abcde hij m
Bobolink	abcd f hijk m	Swamp Sparrow	abc f hijk m
Eastern Meadowlark	abcd f hijk m	Song Sparrow	abcdefghijklm
Red-wg. Blackbird	abcdefghijklm		

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Brother E. Austin and Robert Yunick, Co-chairmen

SARATOGA and ROUND LAKES

April 23

Seven species of ducks, two of gulls, and loons and grebes were among the 31 species recorded on the annual spring trip to Saratoga and Round Lakes, on April 23.

One of the grackles at Round Lake had partially white wings -- albinism? It was a beautiful day for a ride, with the temperature at 45°, the sky blue, and the wind mild. The list:

Common Loon 2	Ring-billed Gull	Starling
Horned Grebe 7	Belted Kingfisher 3	House Sparrow
Black Duck 14	Yel-shaft. Flicker 4	Red-winged Blackbird
Pintail 2	Tree Swallow	Common Grackle
Lesser Scaup 70	Barn Swallow 1	Brown-headed Cowbird 6
Amer. Goldeneye 26	Blue Jay 2	Amer. Goldfinch 50
Bufflehead 2	Common Crow 6	Chipping Sparrow 2
Common Merganser 22	Blk-cap. Chickadee 1	Field Sparrow 1
Red-br. Merganser 36	White-br. Nuthatch 2	Swamp Sparrow 2
Osprey 1	Robin	Song Sparrow
Herring Gull		-- Brother E. Austin

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SPEAKERS AND DATES ARE SELECTED FOR SEVENTEENTH SCREEN SEASON

Five outstanding speakers have been announced for the 1961-1962 Audubon Screen Tours, jointly sponsored for the 17th season by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. and The National Audubon Society.

All programs will again be presented in the Niskayuna High School auditorium, Balltown Road. Only season tickets will be sold, with prices unchanged from last year. Included will be family season tickets, for two adults and children under 12.

Miss Alice Holmes and Mrs. William R. Foote are co-chairmen of the general committee. Many SBC members are, of course, participating in the activities of the ticket and other sub-committees. Season tickets will be available well in advance of the first wild-life film showing. The season includes:

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sep.26, Tue. | Allan D. Cruickshank | "The Bear River" |
| Dec.13, Wed. | Bristol Foster | "Roaming Three Continents" |
| Feb.21, Wed. | Robert C. Hermes | "Nova Scotia - Land of the Sea" |
| Mar.14, Wed. | Emerson Scott | "Pika Country" |
| Apr.16, Mon. | Roger Tory Peterson | "Wild Europe" |

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Brother E. Austin and Robert Yunick, Chairmen

WATERVLIIET RESERVOIR

April 30

Sunday's weather was a welcome change from the continuous rain of Saturday. High lights of the Watervliet Reservoir trip of April 30 were the Myrtle Warblers, Yellow Warbler and Upland Plover, with the latter a life bird for Lee and Lenny Thomas.

We were fortunate to see a Phoebe on her nest, Tree Swallows near their homes, and the Pileated Woodpecker's nest. A game one-legged White-throated Sparrow was seen in the Watervliet Reservoir area. The 14 participants listed 39 species (page 42):

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Green Heron 1	Rough-wg. Swallow	East. Meadowlark 6
Black Duck 1	Barn Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Osprey 3	Blue Jay 3	Common Grackle
Sparrow Hawk 2	Common Crow 10	Brown-headed Cowbird 8
Upland Plover 1	Blk-cap. Chickadee 6	Purple Finch 2
Mourning Dove 3	House Wren 3	Amer. Goldfinch
Belted Kingfisher 3	Long-b. Marsh Wren 1	Rufous-sided Towhee 1
Yel-shafted Flicker 12	Brown Thrasher 1	Savannah Sparrow 2
Pileated Woodpecker 1	Robin	Chipping Sparrow 2
Downy Woodpecker 4	Starling	Field Sparrow 1
Eastern Phoebe 6	Yellow Warbler 1	White-thr. Sparrow 4
Tree Swallow	Myrtle Warbler 2	Swamp Sparrow 3
Bank Swallow	House Sparrow	Song Sparrow 10
		-- Mary Linch

CENTRAL PARK BREAKFAST

May 7

Five observers participated in the pre-breakfast hike, from 5:45 to 8 a.m. in Schenectady's Central Park, including the Municipal Golf Course, May 7. They participated despite the rain and cold weather, and found 24 species:

Flicker	Wood Thrush	Common Grackle
Blue Jay	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Crow	Starling	Purple Finch
Black-capped Chickadee	Solitary Vireo	Rufous-sided Towhee
White-br. Nuthatch	Myrtle Warbler	Slate-colored Junco
House Wren	Blk-thr. Green Warbler	Chipping Sparrow
Brown Thrasher	Blackburnian Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
Robin	Red-winged Blackbird	Song Sparrow
		-- Walt Sabin

AFTER BREAKFAST

May 7

An after-breakfast trip following the Central Park affair has become an annual affair. There were 11 participants, covering Rosendale Road, Lock 7 and the Wide Waters from 9:15 a.m. to 1:40 p.m. The weather was better -- 50°, overcast, and a 15-mph wind.

White-crowned Sparrows were found near the bridge over Lisha Kill; and Black Terns, Yellowlegs and Gallinule at the Coal Pocket. The 51 species listed included 34 kinds not seen on the dawn walk. The list:

Green Heron 1	Blue-winged Teal 2	Common Gallinule 1
American Bittern 1	Red-should. Hawk 1	Spotted Sandpiper 3
Mallard 2	Osprey 1	Gr. Yellowlegs 3
Black Duck 2	Ring-nk. Pheasant 2	Herring Gull 6
		Black Tern 3

Mourning Dove 3	Blk-cap.Chickadee 4	Common Grackle
Chimney Swift 4	White-br.Nuthatch 1	Brown-headed Cowbird
Belted Kingfisher 1	House Wren 2	Cardinal 3
Flicker 6	Catbird 1	Purple Finch 1
Hairy Woodpecker 1	Robin	Amer. Goldfinch 1
Downy Woodpecker 1	Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1	Rufous-sided Towhee
Least Flycatcher 1	Cedar Waxwing 4	Chipping Sparrow 8
Tree Swallow	Starling	Field Sparrow 1
Bank Swallow	Warbling Vireo 2	White-cr. Sparrow 3
Rough-wing. Swallow	Yellow Warbler 7	White-thr. Sparrow 14
Barn Swallow	House Sparrow	Swamp Sparrow 1
Blue Jay 6	East. Meadowlark 3	Song Sparrow 11
Common Crow	Red-winged Blackbird	-- Gus Angst

POST-DUSK SONGSMay 17

It was pleasant to have a clear, moderately warm evening for the Post-dusk Songs trip along Rosendale Road May 17. Twenty-one members and guests of SBC identified the songs or calls of 39 species. The Woodcock was seen and heard, but the Whip-poor-will was not. Our most unusual record was the Mourning Warbler which was sighted by one observer. The records extended from 7 to 10 p.m.

American Woodcock	Catbird	Yellowthroat
Herring Gull	Brown Thrasher	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Robin	Baltimore Oriole
Flicker	Wood Thrush	Common Grackle
Downy Woodpecker	Veery	Brown-headed Cowbird
Crested Flycatcher	Starling	Scarlet Tanager
Tree Swallow	Yellow-thr. Vireo	Rose-br. Grosbeak
Barn Swallow	Golden-wing.Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Blue Jay	Yellow Warbler	Amer. Goldfinch
Common Crow	Myrtle Warbler	Rufous-sided Towhee
Blk-cap. Chickadee	Chestnut-sided Wblr.	Chipping Sparrow
White-br. Nuthatch	Ovenbird	Field Sparrow
House Wren	Mourning Warbler	Song Sparrow
		-- Mrs. Gilbert Eddy

WOLF HOLLOWMay 21

The Louisiana Waterthrush, expected, was one of 15 species of warblers found by the 14 participants on the Wolf Hollow field trip of May 21. The sky was cloudy, and the temperature 60°. Fifty-nine species were recorded:

Red-tailed Hawk 2	Eastern Kingbird 6	White-br.Nuthatch 2
Mourning Dove 4	Crested Flycatcher 3	House Wren 4
Yellow-b. Cuckoo 1	Eastern Phoebe 8	Catbird 6
Chimney Swift 3	E. Wood Pewee 5	Robin 2
Ruby-thr. Hummingbd 1	Horned Lark 1	Wood Thrush 6
Flicker 4	Barn Swallow 4	Swainson's Thrush 1
Pileated Woodpecker 1	Blue Jay 9	Veery 8
Hairy Woodpecker 1	Common Crow 2	Starling 2
Downy Woodpecker 4	Blk-cap.Chickadee 6	Yellow-thr. Vireo 1

Red-eyed Vireo 4	Bay-br. Warbler 3	Common Grackle 2
Warbling Vireo 2	Ovenbird 5	Brown-hd. Cowbird 2
Blk-&Wh.Warbler 2	Louisiana Waterthrush 4	Scarlet Tanager 9
Golden-w. Warbler 1	Yellowthroat 2	Rose-br. Grosbeak 3
Tennessee Warbler 1	Canada Warbler 8	Amer. Goldfinch 6
Yellow Warbler 2	Amer. Redstart 2	Rufous-sided Towhee 4
Cape May Warbler 1	House Sparrow 2	Vesper Sparrow 1
Blk-thr.Blue Wrblr.1	Bobolink 10	Chipping Sparrow 6
Blk-thr.Green Wblr.7	East. Meadowlark 2	Field Sparrow 2
Blackburnian Wrblr.3	Red-wing.Blackbird 2	Song Sparrow 4
Chestnut-sided Wbr. 1	Baltimore Oriole 2	

-- Sam Madison

MEADOWDALEMay 27

Six SBC members from Scotia, Lathams and Schenectady met at the railroad station in Altamont at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 27, for the scheduled field trip to Indian Ladder and Meadowdale. At 8:30 a.m. it was evident that the leader had been unable to meet the group and that the trip had been cancelled.

We decided to drive back to Schenectady via Hennessey Road where a stop of 15 minutes did not produce the King Rail, a "new" bird seen the previous week by three SBC members. Our group missed the rail but heard many other marsh birds singing in the rain. A stop on Meadowdale Road enabled the birders in the writer's group to see the Pileated in the nest site, as well as a young deer which crossed the road and disappeared into the woods. The weather remained disappointingly constant: Rain, with a 40-degree temperature.

-- Mrs. Gilbert Eddy

KARNER PINE BARRENSMay 30

Like the good trouper that she is, Pauline Baker substituted for me on short notice, and I am grateful to her. This is her report. She expected to find no one on hand, because of the weather forecast, but eighteen came, four from Albany County and fourteen from Schenectady. The breeze held steady, at 50 degrees, and in the shade it was real chilly. But it was worth while, in spite of the need of dodging the twelve water holes. We finished at 12:30. We saw all the old reliables of the Barrens, a total of 34 species. The lupines were very blue, and lady slippers were blooming by the roadside. The list:

Black-billed Cuckoo	House Wren	House Sparrow
Chimney Swift	Catbird	Red-winged Blackbird
Ruby-thr.Hummingbird	Brown Thrasher	Baltimore Oriole
Flicker	Robin	Common Grackle
Hairy Woodpecker	Veery	Brown-headed Cowbird
Downy Woodpecker	Starling	Indigo Bunting
Eastern Kingbird	Yellow Warbler	Rufous-sided Towhee
Crested Flycatcher	Chestnut-sided Wblr.	Vesper Sparrow
East. Wood Pewee	Pine Warbler	Chipping Sparrow
Blue Jay	Prairie Warbler	Field Sparrow
Common Crow	Yellowthroat	Song Sparrow
Black-capped Chickadee		

-- Lucile C. Grace



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

W.O.S. MEETING IN CANADA

Lillian C. Stoner

The first Canada meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society was a great success. Two hundred and forty-eight people registered at this forty-second annual meeting which was held June 8 through 11 at Britannia Hotel, Huntsville, Ontario. This number included about fifteen members of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.

The host organizations were the Audubon Society of Canada, The Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and the Royal Ontario Museum.

Since Britannia Hotel is in the country about ten miles from the town of Huntsville and is located on scenic Lake-of-Bays with trees and bushes of various kinds all over the surrounding areas, the ornithologists had an excellent opportunity for nearby birding; they also could participate in early-morning trips and two 8 p.m. trips to Algonquin Provincial Park where they hoped to hear timber wolves and see deer and other wild animals.

Twenty-five papers, many illustrated with slides or moving pictures, were presented at the two-day paper session by members from several parts of Canada and the following states: Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Utah, and Wisconsin. Others in attendance came from Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota, Tennessee, Regina, Saskatchewan and other parts of Canada, Vermont and West Virginia.

Mrs. Louise De Kiriline Lawrence, a French lady of Rutherglen, Ontario, who has done so much research work on birds and has published many papers, gave her paper entitled "The Displays and Courtship of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Sphyrapicus varius" in perfect English.

Of interest was the paper by Dr. Ralph W. Dexter, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio on the subject "Life History of a Thirteen-year-old Chimney Swift." This male bird was banded when first nesting in a chimney on a campus building. The bird returned each year until 1959. During these years this bird had several mates and nested in three air shafts on the same building. The average life period of a Chimney Swift is about five years.

Dr. Heinz Meng, State University College of Education, New Paltz, N.Y., not only gave a color film on "The Breeding Behavior of the Goshawk" (this was on work done south of Syracuse) but he also supplied an extra film on one of the unlisted evening programs on Hawks.

Dr. J. Bruce Falls, University of Toronto, with the help of slides and tape, gave an unusual 15-minute report, "What Makes a Bird's Song Recognizable to Other Members of the Same Species?"

Grant E. Taylor filled in for an absentee listed speaker by telling us more about Algonquin Provincial Park. This huge, 2900 square mile park with miles of passable roads and a number of nature trails still has much wild area where timber wolves, deer, moose, and other wild animals can live.

The small but well-prepared museum with live snakes, frogs, etc, and mounted birds is located at the Wildlife Research Station. It is open to the many park visitors and is a favorite visiting place for children and families of this part of Ontario.

Fred T. Hall, Director of Buffalo Museum of Science, Dr. Lawrence I. Grinnell of Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, and Dr. Walter R. Spofford of State University of New York Medical College of Syracuse contributed much to the scheduled program. "Banding Snowy Owls in Wisconsin" by Daniel D. Berger and Helmut C. Mueller, Cedar Grove Ornithological Station, Wisconsin, and Frances Hamerstrom, University of Wisconsin, told of 61 Snowy Owls, found mainly about cities, that were caught, color-marked and released.

Dr. W. W. H. Gunn, noted recorder of bird songs from Toronto, contributed much to general arrangements for the meeting and to records and films presented at both day and evening meetings. We even had bird songs projected over the speaker system in the dining room during some of the meal hours.

Available for distribution were different check-lists of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles, and trees, shrubs and woody vines; all are booklets on work done in Algonquin Provincial Park.

During the discussions, mention was made of the scarcity of Bluebirds and Phoebes, both in States and Canada.

Favors at the banquet were a strip of four color slides: Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, and Common Raven. After the president's address we adjointed to the assembly room where Roger Tory Peterson, who had just returned from work in South America, presented his color film on "A Gathering of Storks." He also showed a film of African mammals and birds.

The all-day field trip to and in Algonquin Park on June 11 was most enjoyable because the fine, sunny, warm weather continued and the ever-present black flies were not quite so bothersome in the hot sunshine. There were quite a few members of the warbler and flycatcher families on the list of birds seen or heard on this trip. The Ravens and the White-throated Sparrows, which were heard often, added much to the enjoyment of the writer. Also of interest in this wooded northern district were the reports of Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks which we SBC members see in our area in winter.

Chairman Dr. J. Murray Speirs, with his committee of 14 members, deserve much credit for local arrangements for this successful Canadian meeting. In this group Dr. J. Bruce Falls had charge of field trips, Dr. and Mrs. W. W. H. Gunn did much work on the many parts of program and registration. Their combined work contributed to the enjoyment of all who attended the meeting.

The 1962 meeting will be held April 5-8 at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., and the 1963 meeting May 2-5 at Charleston, S.C.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Brother E. Austin and Robert Yunick, Co-chairmen

SLIDE MOUNTAIN

June 17

The weather was ideal for the nine participants on the trip of June 17 to Slide Mountain, Ulster County. There were fewer species on the mountain this year. No Winter Wrens or Bicknell's Thrushes were heard or seen.

One Junco nest with four eggs was found right at the top of the mountain. A hen Ruffed Grouse and eight chicks were seen about a quarter mile below the parking area. All warblers were heard singing. The Ovenbirds and Blackpoll Warblers were not seen. The trip's 41 species:

Turkey Vulture 2	Robin 6	Chest-side.Wrblr.2
Ruffed Grouse 9	Wood Thrush 2	Blackpoll Warbler 4
Yel-bill Cuckoo 1	Swainson's Thrush 2	Ovenbird 3
Chimney Swift 2	Veery 1	Canada Warbler 6
Ruby-thr. Humming. 1	Starling	Redstart 2
Belted Kingfisher 1	Yel-thr.Vireo 1	House Sparrow
Yel-bel.Sapsucker 10	Solitary Vireo 1	Red-winged Blackbird
Hairy Woodpecker 1	Red-eyed Vireo 15	Brown-hd. Cowbird
Least Flycatcher 2	Warbling Vireo 1	Rose-br. Grosbeak 1
Barn Swallow 5	Blk & Wh Warbler 2	Purple Finch 1
Blue Jay 2	Blk-thr.Blue Wrblr 8	Rufous-sided Towhee 3
Blk-cap.Chickadee 4	Myrtle Warbler 4	Slate-colored Junco 20
Red-br. Nuthatch 1	Blk-thr.Green Wrbr.12	Song Sparrow
House Wren 2	Blackburnian Wrblr 1	-- Walt Sabin

MOUNT GREYLOCK

June 24

A dozen SBC members, plus five from the Greene County Bird Club, were on the all-day trip to Mount Greylock, Mass., June 24. The sky was overcast and a chilling wind was blowing.

Climax of the trip was listening to three Bicknell's Thrushes in an open area on the Carriage Road on the mountain. The sun shone through the trees, high and a brilliant red about 8:30 p.m. as we prepared to leave the mountain top.

But this was not all! Walt Sabin on the way down (we followed) took the road to Route 7. A Thrush flushed out of her nest in front of his car. He stopped, located the nest, and found it contained a small, flat, warm stone. The egg was found under the nest. Walt "candled" the egg over his flashlight, to find it was not good. The day's 36 species:

Turkey Vulture 1	Veery 1	Blackpoll Warbler 7
Chimney Swift 4	Cedar Waxwing 1	Ovenbird 3
Yel-shaft.Flicker 1	Solitary Vireo 1	Canada Warbler 3
Downy Woodpecker 1	Red-eyed Vireo 4	Redstart 3
Wood Pewee 1	Warbling Vireo 3	Scarlet Tanager 2
Olive-side.Flyctr.1	Blk & Wh Wrblr 1	Indigo Bunting 7
Blue Jay 2	Magnolia Warbler 2	Purple Finch 20
Blk-cap.Chickadee 2	Blk-thr.Blue Wrblr 1	Goldfinch 14
Red-br. Nuthatch 2	Myrtle Warbler 3	Rufous-sided Towhee 2
Robin	Blk-thr.Green Wrblr 1	Slate-colored Junco
Hermit Thrush 1	Blackburnian Wrblr 6	White-thr. Sparrow
Gray-cheeked Thrush 6	Chestn-side.Wrblr 1	Song Sparrow 1
(Bicknell's subsp)		-- Mary Johnston

NISKAYUNA WIDEWATERS

July 23

The morning trip of July 23 to Niskayuna Widewaters attracted eight participants. The day was overcast or partly cloudy and the temperature rose from 65 to 90 degrees. The 55 species:

Green Heron	Bank Swallow	Yellow Warbler
Black Duck	Barn Swallow	Yellowthroat
Sparrow Hawk	Purple Martin	House Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Blue Jay	Bobolink
Common Gallinule	Common Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Killdeer	Black-capped Chickad.	Baltimore Oriole
Herring Gull	White-br. Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Mourning Dove	House Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Chimney Swift	Long-bill M. Wren	Scarlet Tanager
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Catbird	Rose-br. Grosbeak
Yel-shafted Flicker	Robin	Indigo Bunting
Hairy Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker	Veery	Rufous-sided Towhee
Eastern Kingbird	Cedar Waxwing	Vesper Sparrow
Eastern Phoebe	Starling	Chipping Sparrow
Traill's Flycatcher	Yellow-thr. Vireo	Field Sparrow
Least Flycatcher	Red-eyed Vireo	Swamp Sparrow
Eastern Wood Pewee	Warbling Vireo	Song Sparrow
Tree Swallow		-- Robert Yunick



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

SUMMER BIRDS AT LAKE GEORGE

During July in an area at Pilot Knob, Lake George, about a quarter mile square and largely wooded, I observed 45 species of birds. My list:

Herring Gull	Tree Swallow	Blk-thr. Green Warbler
Chimney Swift	Barn Swallow	Chestnut-sided Warb.
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Cliff Swallow	Blackpoll Warbler
Belted Kingfisher	Blue Jay	Ovenbird
Yellow-shafted Flick.	Common Crow	Yellowthroat
Yel-bellied Sapsucker	Blk-cap. Chickadee	Redstart
Hairy Woodpecker	White-br. Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Downy Woodpecker	House Wren	Common Grackle
Eastern Kingbird	Catbird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Crested Flycatcher	Robin	Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Phoebe	Wood Thrush	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Yel-bellied Flycatcher.	Veery	Purple Finch
Least Flycatcher	Yellow-thr. Vireo	Chipping Sparrow
Eastern Wood Pewee	Red-eyed Vireo	White-throated Spar.
Olive-sided Flycatcher.	Blk & Wh Warbler	Song Sparrow
		-- Alice Holmes

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NO EGRETS

Lillian C. Stoner

Where are the Common Egrets? Where are all the big flocks of Red-wings and Grackles? Where are numbers of other species?

These are questions we considered when we totaled up 38 species and only 605 individual birds for the Dayton Stoner Lower Hudson River trip on September 9.

Leaving Albany at 7:30 a.m. with temperature 68° and returning about 3 p.m. when it was 88°, eighteen members of SBC looked in vain for the large white birds and the flocks of blackbirds of any kind on this annual field trip.

The visibility was poor most of the day; while the bright sun did partially get through the haze, we could not see birds well during our 80-mile trip down and up along the Hudson River.

Some of our best records were obtained at our first stop seven miles south of Rensselaer, where we could walk a distance of about two blocks down the road to a small pond. During this 30-minute side trip, one little Green Heron and one Sora were seen, and also a flock of about 50 Long-billed Marsh Wrens, five Cliff Swallows and three Yellow-throated Vireos.

We felt we were fortunate to get any kind of birds here because a detonator exploded a sudden, violent, shot-like sound at regular intervals of an estimated three to five minutes. This was a disturbing factor both to us and the birds. Our guess was that perhaps this detonator had been set up to frighten birds away from the nearby corn fields.

Then, here and on the rest of our trip, we listed 250 plus Red-wings, 13 Grackles, 50 plus each of Starlings and Goldfinches, 35 plus House Sparrows, and about 20 Herring Gulls.

Several of the six Red-shouldered Hawks seen in different places seemed to be immatures. Observers saw five Broad-winged Hawks flying overhead during our lunch period at the little park near the west end of Rip Van Winkle Bridge.

Two Black Ducks, three Ospreys, seven Killdeer, four Kingfishers and one Lesser Yellowlegs (several thought this might have been a Greater, as identification opinion differed on this) all helped in our count. Also listed was a solitary Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Cedar Waxwing, Warbling Vireo, Yellowthroat (our only member of the warbler family), Swamp Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

We did list two each of Catbirds, Baltimore Orioles (a male and a female) and Chipping Sparrows. Of interest on this date were the Orioles and the 15 Yellow-shafted Flickers (probably some were young birds of the summer).

When you hear and see so very few birds and count them one by one instead of by flocks, your total number of individuals must necessarily be small. This is the smallest count of individual birds that we have had on these annual SBC fall trips which we have been taking for 15 years.

Of course we were disappointed not to see even one Common Egret standing in the marshy area even though the tide was low near mid-day, which is a favorable feeding time for them. Nor could we spot any resting in the trees near the river, but the hazy atmosphere was not conducive to spotting these birds at a distance.

One or two Common Egrets were noted respectively by Mrs. William Foote about a month earlier and Brother Austin September 10 and 17. The latter record was at the Niskayuna Coalpocket and the first was across the Mohawk River not far from this area.

In Regional Reports of The Kingbird (the quarterly magazine of Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.) Vol. XI, No. 2, July, 1961 issue, there are several early reports of this large white bird in different parts of our state. Our recorder Walton Gabin listed one bird on Hudson River May 15. The earliest Common Egret noted was April 1 in Oak Orchard region. Then, one on April 15 at Port Byron (north of Syracuse) and one each on April 29 and May 14, both birds not too far from Rochester. One bird was reported on April 21 at Deposit (not too distant from Binghamton). Montezuma Refuge record was of three birds on April 29. While five were first seen April 8, and 25 were sighted on May 6, all at Jones Beach. Last year in The Kingbird, Vol. X, No. 3, October issue, John J. Elliott reported 25 Common Egrets nesting on July 16 at Jamaica Bay, Long Island. This is about the most northern nesting record for these birds. We see them along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers in their post-breeding wanderings. This summer Mrs. Charles Betts observed two of them in Adirondack area in late August.

Early on September 9, the day of our trip, Dr. Charles E. Niles saw a probable thousand Grackles in the tall trees within a block of his home, and Mrs. Albert Dotter also told me of seeing hundreds of Grackles in high trees back of her place on the same date. These two reports are from widely separated areas in Delmar. While Mrs. Gilbert Eddy and Viola Mabb reported Robins seen in Schenectady, we did not hear or observe any down and back along the Hudson River.

We wonder if our small total of individual birds may have been due to the detonator we heard operating or because of the weather conditions; but perhaps due more to the increasing use of insecticides and drainage of swamp areas both in the South and in the North. However, the trip was most enjoyable to all the participants and we hope more birds may be seen on next year's River Trip.

The following SBC members participated: Pauline Baker, Mrs. Charles E. Betts, Mrs. Gilbert M. Eddy, Ruth Fox, Mary Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Byron T. Hipple, Jr., Mary Linch, Viola Mabb, Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Malone, Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Niles, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Novak, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, and Ethel Young.

As leader of the trip, I wish to thank the several members who helped to spot, identify and list our records.


S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS


Brother E. Austin and Robert Yunick, Co-chairmen

WATERVLIT RESERVOIR

August 20

August 20 proved to be a very comfortable morning, so eight people went to Watervliet Reservoir to see what had drifted in. Much to the surprise of all it was more interesting than August trips usually are.

Fine views of the Pectoral Sandpiper were enjoyed, and the juvenile Sanderling was learned by all. Green Herons, as usual, were much in evidence.

The trip's 38 species:

Great Blue Heron 1	Hairy Woodpecker 1	Starling
Green Heron 12	Downy Woodpecker 1	Yellow-thr. Vireo 1
Green-winged Teal 5	East. Wood Pewee 2	Yellow Warbler 1
Wood Duck 6	Tree Swallow 8	Yellowthroat 1
Osprey 1	Barn Swallow 6	Redstart 4
Killdeer 12	Blue Jay 2	House Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper 1	Common Crow 2	Red-winged Blkbd. 4
Pectoral Sandpiper 2	Blk-cap. Chickadee 1	Baltimore Oriole 3
Sanderling 2	White-br. Nuthatch 2	Common Grackle
Ring-billed Gull 1	House Wren 2	Pose-br. Grosbeak 4
Yellow-b. Cuckoo 4	Catbird 4	Goldfinch 10
Belted Kingfisher 1	Robin 3	Song Sparrow 6
Yel-shaft. Flicker 2	Cedar Waxwing 1	-- Nelle VanVorst


NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

MONOMOY TRIP

A trip to Monomoy, Mass., on August 18 produced a list of 44 species that included some yet to be recorded in SBC area. The trip was with nine local observers. Our list:

Black-cr. Nt. Heron	Greater Yellowlegs	Least Tern
American Bittern	Lesser Yellowlegs	Black Tern
Black Duck	Least Sandpiper	Mourning Dove
Green-winged Teal	Dunlin	Eastern Kingbird
Blue-winged Teal	Short-b. Dowitcher	Horned Lark
Oldsquaw	Stilt Sandpiper	Tree Swallow
Common Eider	Semipalm. Sandpiper	Barn Swallow
Marsh Hawk	Hudsonian Godwit	Common Crow
Sparrow Hawk	Sanderling	Catbird
Piping Plover	Parasitic Jaeger	Robin
Wilson's Plover	Gr. Blk-backed Gull	Red-winged Blackbird
Black-bellied Plover	Herring Gull	Common Grackle
Ruddy Turnstone	Laughing Gull	Savannah Sparrow
Whimbrel	Common Tern	Song Sparrow
Solitary Sandpiper	Roseate Tern	-- Alice Holmes

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Editor: Guy Bartlett, 1053 Parkwood Blvd.

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CONTACT THE LEADER

Shouldn't members of the Club, if they are going on a scheduled trip, contact the leader?

I have learned my lesson about how important "a message TO the leader" is, now that the Greylock trip is over. For trips of any distance such as this, a leader should be able to know whether or not anyone is coming. I sent out 25 postcards, reminding folks of the trip and had two calls and two letters. A dozen made the trip.

Incidentally, there should be no excuse about telephoning when the new toll-free system is put into effect in our area before the end of the year.

Below are listed some of the suggestions of one of our neighboring clubs about hikes:

1. Inconspicuous clothing
2. Stay with the group, not lagging behind or going ahead
3. A quiet birding trip is more rewarding, than when members band together for a lot of chit-chat
4. Bright objects such as trim on binoculars, and cigarette smoke tend to frighten off birds.
5. Remember to share expenses when riding with someone. Thruways, turnpikes and car operation cost money.
6. Be courteous enough to arrive on time at the meeting place and, when long trips are planned, let the leader know you are coming.

-- Mary Johnston

BASKING CREEPER

One of the summer's Brown Creepers at Jenny Lake worked up a white pine a couple of times and then dropped to a sunlit patch of bare ground at the base of the tree. With wings spread, it remained motionless for a few minutes. The bird permitted the observer to approach to within six feet before it stirred, and then it resumed its inspection of the neighboring trees. -- G.B.

INSECT PESTS ENCOURAGED

Outbreaks of destructive insects have been encouraged by man's activities that have eliminated a natural diversity of plant and animal life and created instead a single-crop forestry and specialized farming. This was the theme of a paper presented by Roland C. Clement, ecologist on the staff of the National Audubon Society, at the Northeast Wildlife Conference held at Halifax this summer.

As the diversity of vegetative cover has been reduced, the numbers and kinds of birds and other natural enemies of insects have also been reduced. This gives a few insect pests the chance to get out of hand, Clement explained, especially when one-crop agriculture spreads an inviting table across wide areas.

The use of chemical insecticides, particularly those that kill all kinds of insects and poison birds and other animals as well, may only make matters worse, according to Clement.

The Audubon Society ecologist, who has advocated using chemical pesticides as a "scalpel and not as a bludgeon," pointed out that Nova Scotia orchardists have apparently learned to combine natural controls with judiciously applied and timed insecticides.

"In most of the United States, however, the orchards no longer have any birds," he said.



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NOVEMBER= MONTH OF SURPRISES Dorothy W. Caldwell

"The melancholy days are come, the saddest of the year,
Of wailing winds and naked woods and meadows brown and
sere."
Bryant.

* * *

November is not the most popular month of the twelve, either among the poets or among the bird watchers. The daylight hours are becoming fewer, winter lies just ahead, and it is not unusual to receive a real taste of it before it officially arrives.

Hours of sunshine may be few and far between, and most of our land birds have long since departed for the south. Some Novemberers do bring us short or long periods of exquisite Indian summer weather but some do not.

Coastal Mildness

Coastal winters are usually a bit milder than inland winters and bird-watching days may be enlivened by waterfowl that come down from the far north to winter off shore; rafts of Scaup, Oldsquaws, Eiders and Scoters, for instance. Sometimes a November storm brings close inshore incredible numbers of the alcids; in other years even an occasional Razorbill, Murre, Dovekie or Guillemot is a cause for rejoicing. A few warblers may linger into November or all winter, Ipswich Sparrows may be found, and flocks of Horned Larks, Longspurs or Snow Buntings may be seen.

Farther inland, one has to be content with happily welcoming the usual recipients of the bounty of our feeding stations. It is good to have Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Juncos, Tree Sparrows and the like at our windows daily, and occasionally Goldfinches, Purple Finches, Evening Grosbeaks and other winter species.

Feeder Surprises

The modest feeding station at my home in Littleton, Mass., is a joy all through the winter months and occasionally brings real thrills. On November 7, 1960 a Tufted Titmouse was a great surprise; November 8 there were two Tufted Titmice and within a week we had three of these delightful birds intermittently, not only through November but into March, part of an unusual wave of Tufted Titmice that visited eastern Massachusetts last winter.

Later it dawned upon me that November had been rather an interesting month for birding here in Littleton -- that out of seven Novembers in residence, five had brought real surprises. The first, and the least welcome of the five, November 27, 1954, was a visit to the feeder by a Northern Shrike.

The second surprise, November 24, 1956, was finding a Dickcissel among the House Sparrows that haunt us. The bird came again

and again, sometimes alone, often with House Sparrows, through December -- our only record for it here.

Even a Pileated

The third surprise, November 2, 1959, was a wonderful visit by a Pileated Woodpecker. One had been seen in the village that week but we had not expected to be honored.

She did not come to the feeder but worked busily excavating in a big ash tree within a few feet of one of our windows and was under close observation for some ten or fifteen exciting minutes. She apparently made a return visit later in the week and greatly enlarged the hole, but was not seen. On December 22 she came again and worked at a very old buttonwood in the yard for about an hour.

Blue and Gray

The fourth surprise, November 19, 1959, was finding a Gray Jay feeding on the ground with the Blue Jays. The bird was seen at the feeder or on the ground almost daily, feeding voraciously, until December 5, after which we and our friends watched for it in vain.

Both the Gray Jay and the Tufted Titmouse brought us many bird-watching visitors and established a reputation for our station which we hope it may be able to live up to in the years to come.

We will try not to expect unusual species but we are ready to be happily "surprised" this November or at any other time. Incidentally, we have other surprises now and then in other months, but not to equal our November record.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Brother E. Austin and Robert Yunick, Co-chairmen

COLUMBIA COUNTY

September 24

Four members of SBC had an enjoyable and profitable bird trip Sunday, September 24, with the Alan Devoe Bird Club in spite of the intense heat. The morning was spent at "Erlen Acres" and the afternoon at Tuttle Swamp.

Forty-nine species were seen -- highlights were the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Shoveler, Tufted Titmouse, and six kinds of warblers.

Everyone enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. C. Paul Erlenbach. We had our picnic lunches on the grounds of their beautiful home.

The day's list:

Great Blue Heron 1	Mallard 3	Green-winged Teal 2
Green Heron 2	Black Duck 7	Shoveler 6

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Turkey Vulture 1	Tufted Titmouse 2	Pine Warbler 6
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	White-br.Nuthatch 7	House Sparrow 6
Red-tailed Hawk 1	House Wren 1	Red-w. Blackbird 60
Marsh Hawk 2	Catbird 5	Common Grackle 40
Common Gallinule 2	Robin 2	Scarlet Tanager 1
Killdeer 1	Ruby-cr.Kinglet 2	Cardinal 5
Belted Kingfisher 1	Cedar Waxwing 20	Rose-br. Grosbeak 1
Yel-shaft. Flicker 10	Starling 12	Purple Finch 2
Hairy Woodpecker 1	Red-eyed Vireo 1	Goldfinch 15
Downy Woodpecker 2	Blk & Wh Warbler 1	Rufous-sided Towhee 4
Eastern Kingbird 1	Parula Warbler 1	Vesper Sparrow 1
Eastern Phoebe 5	Myrtle Warbler 1	Chipping Sparrow 2
Blue Jay 50	Blk-thr.Grn.Wrblr. 1	White-thr. Sparrow 1
Common Crow 12	Blackburnian Wbler. 1	Song Sparrow 6
Blk-cap.Chickadee 25		-- Mary F. Linch



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

EAGLE PROJECT

The five-year Bald Eagle conservation project started last year by the National Audubon Society has been endorsed by President John F. Kennedy. In a letter to Audubon Magazine, September-October issue, the President said:

"The founding fathers made an appropriate choice when they selected the Bald Eagle as the emblem of our nation. The fierce beauty and proud independence of this great bird aptly symbolize the strength and freedom of America. But as latter day citizens we shall have failed a trust if we permit the Eagle to disappear.

"To find out why the Bald Eagle has declined in numbers, and then to take the necessary steps to assure its permanence among our living wildlife -- these are important tasks for conservationists.

"I commend the Bald Eagle project undertaken by the National Audubon Society and associates."

NATURE CENTERS

The merger of the organization, Nature Centers for Young America, Inc., with the National Audubon Society has been completed.

Established in 1959, Nature Centers for Young America, Inc., set out to encourage the preservation of natural areas and their use as educational centers under local leadership and management. This program is now carried on by the Nature Centers Division of the National Audubon Society. Dr. J.J. Shomon, former chief of education for the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, is director of the division. Byron L. Ashbaugh, formerly of the Maryland Department of Research and Education, is chief of field services.

The National Audubon Society itself has been operating three model educational centers where groups of children and adults may study nature and conservation under expert teachers. These are at Greenwich, Conn., Dayton, Ohio, and El Monte, Calif. A fourth major Audubon Center will be opened this fall at Sharon, Conn.

Albany and Scarsdale, in our state, are among the communities being assisted by the Nature Centers staff, which mentions 14 projects now being operated or developed by local civic or educational bodies.

BLUEBIRD STATUS

Summer of 1961 did not seem encouraging locally so far as recovery of the Eastern bluebird is concerned. There were not many places where the birds could be found.

A recent report of the National Audubon Society is hence of interest. The 1960 Christmas bird count disclosed no improvement in the bird's status, the Society announced. On the contrary, records turned in by the census teams indicated a further decline in the population of this popular little thrush, which was termed a "disaster species" by the Society last year.

The scarcity of the Bluebird was perhaps most marked in Maryland and Virginia, two states that normally have sizable wintering populations.

On eleven census areas in Maryland, only 42 Bluebirds were seen last Christmas season, compared to 778 in 1960. Maryland observers commented on the "alarmingly low" numbers.

The Virginia picture was also as bleak. There, all 17 areas where Bluebirds were observed in 1959 showed smaller numbers in 1960. Statewide the count was 529 in 1959 and only 82 in 1960.

Connecticut was an exception. There the counters surprisingly recorded 339 on nine areas, compared to 225 the previous year.

Eleven census areas were down in Bluebirds in New Jersey, and three showed small increases.

On the basis of the Christmas count reports, the Eastern Bluebird decline seemed general throughout the Southern states, from Florida to the western limit of the range of the species in Texas.

A major factor in the current decline is believed to have been severe winter kills in 1958 and 1960. In both years late winter blizzards swept through the border states and southward, depriving the birds of food and freezing many to death.

There may be other environmental factors not yet fully understood that are making life especially difficult for the "bird of happiness," Audubon spokesmen said. One suspected but as yet unproven factor is the widespread use of chemical insecticides, particularly in the Southeastern states.

Audubon ornithologists reiterated their belief the Eastern Bluebird is not in imminent danger of extinction. They believe it will come back, but that it may take several years for the species to recover from its present "disaster" status. Conservationists can help by providing nesting boxes, maintaining the boxes from year to year, and giving the birds all possible protection.

Locally the Bluebird has appeared irregularly and in small numbers on the Christmas counts. In the most recent six years the records have been one in 1955, three in 1956, and two in 1958. The Troy counts in those years have not shown any of the birds.



STATE FEDERATION NEWS



The fourteenth annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was held in New York City September 29-30, October 1. The Linnaean Society of New York was the sponsoring organization.

SBC, which sponsored the fifth and tenth meetings of the group, will again be active in arrangements, this time for the 15th meeting, again in our area. SBC will be one of the sponsoring hosts.

Dr. Allen H. Benton, Albany, has agreed to head up the SBC activities. A spring meeting is planned -- there will be opportunities for all to assist.



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NEXT FEDERATION CONVENTION IN ALBANY MAY 11-13, 1962

Walton B. Sabin

The 1962 (Fifteenth Annual) Convention of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., is coming! Co-sponsored by SBC, the Alan Devos Bird Club and the Greene County Bird Club, the meetings will be held in Albany May 11 through 13.

Preliminary plans are already well under way. Dr. Allen Benton will be General Chairman, and committee chairmen have been appointed from each of the local clubs. We'll be meeting at the Inn Towne Motor Hotel, Broadway, Albany, a location that should be convenient for members of all the sponsoring groups.

This is where you come in. We will need people for the reception committee, the information committee, for publicity and field trips, for finance and food. Whatever your special talents or interests, we have a place for you on one of the committees. Check in with Dr. Benton or with the SBC Program Committee chairmen, and volunteer for the position you want.

We've had these State Federation meetings in Schenectady twice before -- in the 5th and 10th years of the organization's existence. Let's work together to make this 15th annual convention the best one yet. Don't wait to be called on -- step up and take your place in the line.

The annual council meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., was held Saturday morning, September 30, at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, in conjunction with the 14th annual meeting of the Federation. The host club was The Linnaean Society of New York.

The minutes of the 1960 Council Meeting, the report of Treasurer Lillian C. Stoner, and the proposed 1962 budget were read and approved. Various appointed committees then reported as follows:

Kingbird Finance Committee - The former chairman resigned. The new chairman proposed that ways must be found to secure advertisers in The Kingbird.

Conservation Committee - Although Federal conservation issues should be supported where considered valid, most of the committee's efforts should be focused on our own state. If we spread ourselves thin, little may be accomplished.

Membership committee - 101 individual and two club memberships were approved. These resulted from applications filed since the

1960 meeting. It was suggested that a husband-wife membership, similar to that of SBC, be offered. It was also suggested that notice of any dues changed be published in The Kingbird, with the effective date.

Publications and Research Committee - A bibliography of New York State Ornithology from 1910 to 1952 has been published in mimeograph form. The Kingbird reported a change in editors effective with the July 1961 issue; Dr. Minnie B. Scotland was the previous editor. The State Bird Book subcommittee reported reorganizational and reappraisal activities consumed most of the year; from now on rapid progress can be expected.

Two elected committees, auditing and nominating, then reported. A proposed amendment changing the dues for annual membership from \$2.50 to \$3 was passed by the council, and now must be ratified by two-thirds of the member clubs.

The invitation to hold the 1962 annual meeting in Albany was accepted. The meeting adjourned after thanks and appreciation were tendered the outgoing officers and the hosts of the meeting.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS DEC. 23 & 30

What new winter records, if any, will be established locally on Saturday, December 23? That is the date of Schenectady's 33rd annual Christmas Count. Last year's 46 species featured five Short-eared Owls and a Mockingbird.

And what new records will there be on Saturday, December 30, in the Troy area? It is then that SBC will make its annual Christmas Count in that 15-mile circle. Last year's 45 species included the Ring-necked Duck and Brown Thrasher.

Byron T. Hipple, Jr., HO 5-6913, will compile the Schenectady report; Brother E. Austin, AS 6-7251, will care for the Troy list.

Plans for coverage and reporting for both of the Counts will be on the agenda of SBC's annual Christmas party, in the Pine Room of the First Methodist Church, State and Lafayette Streets, Friday, December 8, at 8 o'clock.

AN ANTING CARDINAL

Hazel V. Eddy

While birding from my window one September afternoon this year I witnessed a remarkable piece of bird behavior that is known as anting.

A female Cardinal was hopping around the lawn eating seeds when suddenly the bird picked up an ant in its beak and held it. Then the wings were brought forward, curved inward almost over the breast. The tail was fanned out and brought forward, and the bird appeared to be sitting on its tail. Then it rubbed the ant rapidly on the underside of a wing, from front to back. The action was repeated beneath the second wing. Then the Cardinal

tumbled over, losing its balance. The whole action was carried out at great speed and intensity. When the wings were spread open the brilliant flame-colored linings were beautiful to see.

The act of placing an ant beneath the wings and rolling over continued until a last spin took the bird out of sight behind the garden wall.

Later both male and female Cardinals appeared at the feeding station as usual. The performer was calm. It seemed I was the more excited. There is little doubt that the sight of a bird anting makes a great impression on the observer.

THE SILENT TRAVELER SPEAKS

Brother E. Austin

Once upon a balmy August day two balmy boys started a balmy 2,000-mile trip from Troy around the Gaspé Peninsula. Montreal, the first stop, was interesting and Quebec much more so. In the latter city at the ritual of the changing of the Guard at the famous Citadel there was a delightfully young middle-aged woman who, Hilda-like, was imitating the high kicking steps of the soldiers. Quebec is picturesque in its location, its local scenery, its restaurants, and sometimes in its conversations. One man speaking of the chilly weather remarked that Quebec had its summer last Tuesday.

The automobile trip from Quebec around the north shore of the Gaspé was a beautiful ride and an enlightening experience, chiefly because the farther north you go there is less and less English spoken and more and more French. Even the children speak French. It was both humbling and frustrating to learn that the classic affirmative "oui" can by the aid of gestures be made to mean either yes or no, five miles down the road, to the left, and, at the postoffice. Perry Peskin from Cleveland, my friend and companion, who speaks French rather fluently, suffered a mild trauma during the course of trying to purchase some ice for our food container; the language barrier in this case at least was insurmountable.

Percé and Bonaventure Island were the goals of our safari. Percé is a truly scenic gem featuring the celebrated Percé Rock, a huge pierced stone a couple of hundred yards offshore in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Many sea birds perch and nest on the pinnacles. It was at this point that the wonder kids discovered that they could neither turn nor pry the cover piece off the front end of the Balscope. This was particularly exhilarating after having brought the thing over 1,000 miles.

Bonaventure Island, site of the principal Gannet colony in North America, is a Federal and Provincial Bird Sanctuary; the Gannets are estimated to number between 15,000 and 20,000 nesting pairs. There is ample ferry service by motor boat for the less than three-hour trip around the island. At this time of year since the breeding season was about over, no Puffins, Murres, or Auks were seen, but the 20-story-high cliffs on the north side of the island presented hundreds of Kittiwakes and thousands of smooth-flying Gannets. On the boat trip, passengers will be dropped off at their request on the Island's dock and can either walk up to the nesting area in little more than a half hour or can take a horse-drawn carriage to the top.

When one sage commenting on the heavily rutted carriage road insisted that you pay by the jolt, the walk seemed preferable. There were swallows over the meadows and warblers in the woodlands, but the major interest lay at the end of the modest climb to the cliff top. Gannets, ungainly at 10 to 12 pounds and with six-foot wingspread, were there by the thousands, and even though one approached to within a few feet of the birds they did not fly away. The only notice they seem to take of the intruders was to increase the volume of their continuous guttural croaks. Perry said that this proved there was no truth to the vile canard that the Gannets attack those who do not hire the horse-drawn carriage.

But the spectacle of the Gannets feeding their young and of maneuvering to land in their proper nesting areas among the teeming mass of birds was a fascinating sight. Also there were at all times a hundred or more Gannets in flight wheeling over the cliff tops, careening over the waves in the Gulf, or diving beautifully. We had extra time to observe these wonders because the boatman apparently forgot to pick us up on his next round trip.

However, time was running out and we had to head almost directly back, stopping only in Bangor, Plum Island, Cape Cod, and Rhode Island before the tocsin sounded for work.

"Buvez Pepsi-Cola!"

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Brother E. Austin and Robert Yunick, Co-chairmen

HUDSON HIGHLANDS

October 15

Thirteen observers braved the potential fallout and feedback and had a fairly good day, especially for hawks, on the Hudson Highlands trip of October 15. Five species of hawks were seen, with light-phase Rough-legs predominant. Both American and White-winged Scoters were present just above Lock 1 on the Hudson. The chilly cloudy day added to the hilarity of the occasion.

Of warblers there were only two species, and of finches and sparrows seven. The day's list of 34 species:

Great Blue Heron 1	Hairy Woodpecker 2	Eastern Meadowlark
Lesser Scaup 5	Downy Woodpecker 1	Red-winged Blackbd 10
White-w. Scoter 4	Blue Jay 2	Rusty Blackbird 5
Common Sooter 15	Common Crow	Common Grackle
Cooper's Hawk 1	Black-cap. Chickadee	Purple Finch 4
Red-tailed Hawk 1	Robin 20 plus	American Goldfinch
Rough-legged Hawk 15+	Cedar Waxwing 20	Vesper Sparrow 3
Marsh Hawk 2	Starling	Slate-colored Junco
Sparrow Hawk 2	Myrtle Warbler	Field Sparrow 1
Killdeer 4	Yellowthroat 1	White-thr. Sparrow 15
Herring Gull	House Sparrow	Song Sparrow 3
Ring-billed Gull		-- Brother E. Austin

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1960 IN REVIEW

Walton B. Sabin, Chairman
Records Committee

The 1960 SBS area list of 213 species (plus two hybrids) is 11 below and three below the 1959 and 1958 lists respectively (FEATHERS, November 1960 and September 1959). Only 188 species were common to the 1959 and 1960 lists.

Reported in 1960 only were the Double-crested Cormorant, Least Bittern, Black Vulture, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Iceland and Bonaparte's Gulls, Snowy and Short-eared Owls, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Bohemian Waxwing, Dickcissel, Hoary Redpoll, and Lapland Longspur.

Reported in 1959 but not in 1960 were the following 23 species: Red-throated Loon, Cattle Egret, Little Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons, Brant, Snow Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Surf Scoter, Wild Turkey, Golden and Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, Northern Phalarope, Common and Caspian Terns, Dovekie, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Prothonotary and Kentucky Warblers, Orchard Oriole, and Oregon Junco.

Most of the observations and dates pertain to Troy-Abnay-Schenectady and Columbia County areas, but all species known to have occurred within the area of 11 counties during 1960 are reported here.

Lack of definite arrival and departure dates for many species makes it necessary to refer to them in general terms indicative of their seasonal distribution. Records for 1961 should be completed and submitted shortly -- and it is hoped that information reaching the Records Committee will be far less meager. The summary for 1960:

Common Loon 5/14; 11/6-12/10	Redhead 5/14
Red-necked Grebe 11/5	Ring-necked Duck 12/31
Horned Grebe 4/9; 11/6	Canvasback 1/2
Pied-billed Grebe 4/9-10/23	Greater Scaup 4/9
Double-crested Cormorant 5/14	Lesser Scaup 1/1; 4/9; 11/6
Great Blue Heron res, scarce in winter	Common Goldeneye fall, winter and spring vis
Common Egret 4/7-9/10	Bufflehead spring & fall tv
Green Heron summer res	Oldsquaw spring & fall tv
American Bittern summer res	White-winged Scoter 4/9
Least Bittern 5/14	Common Scoter 11/6
Canada Goose ar 3/27	Ruddy Duck 10/26-11/6
Mallard resident	Hooded Merganser spring & fall tv, few summer res
Black Duck resident	Common Merganser fall, spring & winter vis
Amer. Widgeon ar 4/1	Red-breasted Merganser spring & fall tv
Pintail 12/31	Turkey Vulture 4/6-11/22
Green-winged Teal spring & fall tv, few summer res	Black Vulture 10/8
Blue-winged Teal summer res	Goshawk 2/21-22
Shoveler 9/18	
Wood Duck summer res	

- Sharp-shinned Hawk res
 Cooper's Hawk res
 Red-tailed Hawk res
 Red-shouldered Hawk res
 Broad-winged Hawk summer res
 Rough-legged Hawk winter vis
 Bald Eagle 5/14; 12/1
 Marsh Hawk res
 Osprey 4/9-10/13
 Peregrine Falcon 1/29; 10/1
 Pigeon Hawk 2/14
 Sparrow Hawk res
 Ruffed Grouse res
 Bobwhite res
 Ring-necked Pheasant res
 Virginia Rail summer res
 Sora ar 4/30
 Common Gallinule 4/30-9/25
 American Coot spring & fall
 tv, 6/9
 Semipalmated Plover 5/14
 Killdeer res, rare in winter
 Woodcock 3/30-11/20
 Common Snipe 11/16; 12/26
 Upland Plover ar 4/17
 Spotted Sandpiper 4/24-9/25
 Solitary Sandpiper ar 5/1
 Greater Yellowlegs ar 4/14
 Lesser Yellowlegs ar 4/17
 Pectoral Sandpiper 4/17; 9/24
 Least Sandpiper spring &
 fall tv
 Dunlin 9/24
 Semipalmated Sandpiper 9/10
 Iceland Gull 1/2
 Great Black-backed Gull spring
 & fall tv, few ww
 Herring Gull fall, winter &
 spring vis
 Ring-billed Gull spring & fall
 tv
 Bonaparte's Gull 4/24
 Black Tern 9/10-14
 Mourning Dove res
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo summer res
 to 10/8
 Black-billed Cuckoo summer res
 to 11/5
 Screech Owl res
 Great Horned Owl res
 Snowy Owl 3/5-16; 11/5
 Barred Owl res
 Short-eared Owl 12/26
 Saw-whet Owl 11/8-18
 Whip-poor-will ar 4/21
 Common Nighthawk ar 4/12
 Chimney Swift ar 4/24
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird sum-
 mer res to 10/13
 Belted Kingfisher res
 Yellow-shafted Flicker res
 Pileated Woodpecker res
 Red-headed Woodpecker 5/27
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker spring
 & fall tv
 Hairy Woodpecker res
 Downy Woodpecker res
 Eastern Kingbird ar 4/25
 Great Crested Flycatcher ar 5/4
 Eastern Phoebe ar 3/14
 Traill's Flycatcher ar 5/21
 Least Flycatcher ar 5/3
 Eastern Wood Pewee ar 5/8
 Olive-sided Flycatcher 5/14;
 10/12-13
 Horned Lark res
 Tree Swallow ar 4/4
 Bank Swallow ar 4/24
 Rough-winged Swallow ar 4/20
 Barn Swallow ar 4/13
 Cliff Swallow ar 4/24
 Purple Martin ar 4/24
 Blue Jay res
 Common Crow res
 Black-capped Chickadee res
 Boreal Chickadee Feb
 Tufted Titmouse res
 White-breasted Nuthatch res
 Red-breasted Nuthatch res
 Brown Creeper res
 House Wren 4/24-10/4
 Winter Wren spring & fall tv
 Carolina Wren res
 Long-billed Marsh Wren 3/13-10/9
 Mockingbird 1/19; 1/28
 Catbird summer res to 10/4
 Brown Thrasher ar 4/18
 Robin res; scarce in winter
 Wood Thrush 5/1-10/29
 Hermit Thrush summer res
 Swainson's Thrush spring &
 fall tv to 10/27
 Gray-cheeked Thrush ar 5/22
 Veery ar 4/25
 Eastern Bluebird res
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 5/14;
 8/11
 Golden-crowned Kinglet fall,
 winter & spring vis
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet ar 4/17
 Water Pipit 4/13-5/14
 Bohemian Waxwing 4/5
 Cedar Waxwing res
 Gray Shrike 11/1
 Yellow-throated Vireo 5/3-9/30
 Solitary Vireo ar 4/14
 Red-eyed Vireo 5/8-10/1
 Philadelphia Vireo 5/15; 9/30
 Warbling Vireo 5/6-9/23
 Starling res
 Black-and-white Warbler ar 4/23
 Worm-eating Warbler ar 5/8
 Golden-winged Warbler ar 5/3
 Blue-winged Warbler ar 5/18

- Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)
8/16-26
- Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid)
5/7-11
- Tennessee Warbler ar 5/8
- Orange-crowned Warbler 5/14
- Nashville Warbler ar 4/29
- Parula Warbler ar 5/10
- Yellow Warbler ar 4/26
- Magnolia Warbler ar 5/20
- Cape May Warbler ar 5/14
- Black-throated Green Warbler
ar 4/16
- Myrtle Warbler ar 4/13; lv
11/29
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
ar 5/8
- Blackburnian Warbler ar 5/7
- Cerulean Warbler ar 5/8
- Chestnut-sided Warbler ar 5/8
- Bay-breasted Warbler ar 5/25
- Blackpoll Warbler ar 5/22
- Pine Warbler ar 4/24
- Prairie Warbler ar 5/30
- Palm Warbler ar 4/16
- Ovenbird ar 5/4
- Northern Waterthrush ar 5/1
- Louisiana Waterthrush ar 4/22
- Connecticut Warbler fall tv
10/3
- Mourning Warbler ar 5/27
- Yellowthroat ar 5/1
- Yellow-breasted Chat local sr
- Wilson's Warbler spring & fall
tv
- Canada Warbler ar 5/17
- American Redstart ar 5/5
- House Sparrow res
- Bobolink ar 5/1
- Eastern Meadowlark res; rare
in winter
- Red-winged Blackbird res;
scarce in winter
- Baltimore Oriole ar 5/4, lv
10/30; also 11/7, 12/5-7
- Rusty Blackbird spring & fall
- Common Grackle res, scarce in
winter
- Brown-headed Cowbird res;
scarce in winter
- Scarlet Tanager 5/5-10/18
- Cardinal res
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak 4/26-
10/4
- Indigo Bunting 4/29-10/12
- Dickcissel 10/22-27; Dec.
- Evening Grosbeak lv 5/21;
ar 10/13
- Purple Finch res
- Pine Grosbeak 4/30
- Hoary Redpoll 3/13
- Common Redpoll lv 5/1; ar 11/5
- Pine Siskin fall, winter &
spring vis
- American Goldfinch res
- Red Crossbill Jan, 2/5, 5/29,
11/6
- White-winged Crossbill 2/7
- Rufous-sided Towhee 3/10; ar
4/11, lv 10/4
- Savannah Sparrow summer res
- Grasshopper Sparrow ar 4/20
- Henslow's Sparrow 4/29-9/17
- Vesper Sparrow summer res
- Slate-colored Junco res
- Tree Sparrow lv 5/4, winter vis
- Chipping Sparrow summer res;
11/1
- Field Sparrow summer res
- White-crowned Sparrow spring &
fall tv; 6/25; 11/16
- White-throated Sparrow res;
scarce in winter
- Fox Sparrow 3/28-5/12; 11/6;
Dec.
- Lincoln's Sparrow 9/10; 9/30;
10/5
- Swamp Sparrow res; scarce in
winter
- Song Sparrow res; scarce in
winter
- Lapland Longspur 3/2, 3/5
- Snow Bunting lv 3/26

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Brother E. Austin, Records Committee

CRESCENT RESERVOIR

October 29

It was an almost balmy day for the Crescent Reservoir trip of October 29. There was intermittent bright sun, making for pleasant walking although relatively few birds. Most of the species seen were concentrated in a small marshy arm of the reservoir, behind a small rise near the main Vischer Ferry Road a short distance east of the reservoir entrance.

The 29 species found by the 14 observers:

Pied-billed Grebe 1	Pileated Woodpecker 1	House Sparrow
Mallard 15	Hairy Woodpecker 2	Red-w. Blackbird 12
Black Duck 9	Downy Woodpecker 3	Rusty Blackbird 1
Gadwall 3	Blue Jay 3	Pine Siskin 3
Pintail 4	Common Crow	American Goldfinch 3
Green-winged Teal 1	Blk-cap. Chickadee 8	Slate-colored Junco 2
Red-tailed Hawk 2	White-br. Nuthatch 1	White-thr. Sparrow 15
Ruffed Grouse 1	Robin 4	Fox Sparrow 1
Greater Yellowlegs 2	Starling	Song Sparrow 1
Herring Gull 1	Myrtle Warbler 1	-- Howard Malone

TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR

November 12

The day was cold, calm and clear as 14 birders gathered at the southern end of Tomhannock November 12 to begin the annual check of this favorite SBC area. As the day wore on, a few clouds appeared and the temperature rose, but both the air and the birds remained calm. As a result, only a relatively small number of individuals were seen or heard.

The highlights of the trip were three separate small groups of Pine Grosbeaks nibbling (quietly, of course) buds at the tops of evergreen trees, and a dark-phase Kough-legged Hawk which remained in view for several minutes. In all, 33 species were recorded, including three seen by individual members enroute: White-winged Scoter (Niskayuna wide waters), Sparrow Hawk (Troy Road), and American Widgeon (Green Island). The list:

Common Loon	Kough-legged Hawk	White-br. Nuthatch
Horned Grebe	Sparrow Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Canada Goose	Ruffed Grouse	Brown Creeper
Mallard	Ring-necked Pheasant	Golden-cr. Kinglet
Black Duck	American Coot	Starling
American Widgeon	Herring Gull	House Sparrow
Common Goldeneye	Belted Kingfisher	Pine Grosbeak
White-winged Scoter	Downy Woodpecker	American Goldfinch
Hooded Merganser	Blue Jay	Slate-colored Junco
Common Merganser	Common Crow	Tree Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Black-capped Chickadee	Song Sparrow
		-- Walt Kaskan

SARATOGA & ROUND LAKES

November 19

November 19 was a beautiful, clear day. The sky was blue and the ground barren except for a little shell ice. The water was calm, with many reflections.

Horned Grebes were ever-present! Pine Grosbeaks were close enough "to put salt on their tails." There were more females than males. The dozen birders found 32 species:

Common Loon 1	Red-tailed Hawk 2	Brown Creeper 3
Red-throated Loon 1	Sparrow Hawk 2	Winter Wren 1
Horned Grebe 75	Ring-necked Pheasant 1	Starling
Pied-billed Grebe 2	Killdeer 1	House Sparrow
Mallard 3	Herring Gull 15	Red-w. Blackbird 1
Black Duck 24	Ring-billed Gull 35	Evening Grosbeak 10
Common Goldeneye 150	Downy Woodpecker 2	Pine Grosbeak 20
Bufflehead 16	Blue Jay 4	Tree Sparrow 10
Common Scoter 1	Common Crow 3	Song Sparrow 2
Common Merganser 2	Blk-cap. Chickadee 8	Snow Bunting 6
Red-br. Merganser 22	White-br. Nuthatch 3	-- Dr. M. B. Scotland