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FEATHERS

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# OREGON JUNCO AND HYBRID FLICKER IN 57 AT SCHENECTADY-- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW AMONG THREE NEW ONES AT TROY

Guy Bartlett and Dr. Peter P. Wickham, Compilers

Schenectady's total of 57 species plus one hybrid was far ahead of any previous Christmas Count; 47 species were listed in 1959. Highlighting the December 21 census was an Oregon Junco which became Bird No. 98 on Schenectady's 35-year record, and No. 113 on the Schenectady-Troy composite. Hybrids are always of interest, but are not counted as species. Robert Yunick banded one of two feeder-visiting Flickers the following day, and found it to be a Yellow-Red-shafted specimen. The Oregon Junco had been seen previously during Count periods, but never on the day itself. These two birds were but two of an interesting number. Seven species were seen for only the second time: Bobwhite '57, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker '47, Boreal Chickadee '54, Baltimore Oriole '59, Red Crossbill '54, Chipping Sparrow '62, and Fox Sparrow '44. The Bluebirds were the first since '58; and the Snowy Owl and Rusty Blackbird had been recorded only twice previously. New maximum counts were set by: Bobwhite 10, Mourning Dove 318, Red-winged Blackbird 163, Tree Sparrow 880, White-throated Sparrow 6, Swamp Sparrow 5, and Fox Sparrow 3. Among misses were: Marsh Hawk, first miss since '57; Herring Gull, only misses since '45 were '62 and this time; Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Northern Shrike.

Troy's December 28 count of 52 species was only one species below all-time species high, despite low number of observers and deep snow. The fourth coldest December in history cut down on open water, hence ducks. New for Troy counts were Rusty Blackbird, Red Crossbill, and White-crowned Sparrow, which became No. 87 on the Troy list and No. 114 on the combined list. The Red-winged Blackbird and Lapland Longspur had not been recorded in the previous four counts; and the Screech Owl, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Pine Siskin, Pine Grosbeak, and Savannah and Swamp Sparrows had been recorded only once in the previous four Troy counts. Landbird coverage was excellent, with much credit due to the 17 intrepid observers.

Feeding-station records were very important, particularly in attaining the high count in the Schenectady area. The 30 or more species listed included at least nine not otherwise located.

## Schenectady Highlights

Birds listed with groups show species seen only in that area.

Group 1 - Gustave Angst and Robert Yunick. Lisha Kill, Rosendale and River Roads to Lock 7 and Mohawk View. 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Five miles afoot, 25 by car; 5½ hours afoot, 4 hours by car. 30 species, 410 count. Great Horned Owl, Cedar Waxwing, Swamp

## SCHENECTADY -- December 21, 1963 -- 57 species, 4063 individuals

Schenectady (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 0.8 mile south of 42°45' and 0.3 mile west of 73°45' as in preceding years). -- December 21; 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. -10° to 16°; wind W to N, 3-15 m.p.h.; 0-6 inches old snow on ground, minimum open water. Twenty-four observers in six parties, plus feeding-station reports. Total party-hours 43 (19 on foot, 24 by car); total party-miles 249 (27 on foot, 212 by car).

| | |
|---|---|
| 7 | Mallard |
| 1 | Black Duck |
| 6 | Red-tailed Hawk |
| 1 | Buteo (sp?) |
| 2 | Sparrow Hawk |
| 2 | Ruffed Grouse |
| 10 | Bobwhite |
| 10 | Ring-necked Pheasant |
| 1 | Common Snipe |
| 318 | Mourning Dove |
| 1 | Screech Owl |
| 1 | Great Horned Owl |
| 1 | Snowy Owl |
| 1 | Belted Kingfisher |
| 2 | Yellow-shafted Flicker |
| 1 | Y-s/R-s hybrid Flicker (banded by R.Y.) |
| 1 | Pileated Woodpecker |
| 1 | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker |
| 21 | Hairy Woodpecker |
| 34 | Downy Woodpecker |
| 96 | Horned Lark |
| 87 | Blue Jay |
| 393 | Common Crow |
| 209 | Black-capped Chickadee |
| 1 | Boreal Chickadee |
| 14 | Tufted Titmouse |
| 43 | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| 4 | Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| 5 | Brown Creeper |
| 5 | Robin |
| 3 | Eastern Bluebird |
| 2 | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| 1 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| 12 | Cedar Waxwing |
| 412 | Starling |
| 528 | House Sparrow |
| 163 | Red-winged Blackbird |
| 1 | Baltimore Oriole |
| 2 | Rusty Blackbird |
| 2 | Common Grackle |
| 107 | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 29 | Cardinal |
| 57 | Evening Grosbeak |
| 4 | Purple Finch |
| 5 | Pine Grosbeak |
| 13 | Common Redpoll |
| 86 | Pine Siskin |
| 154 | American Goldfinch |
| 3 | Red Crossbill |
| 1 | Oregon Junco |
| 268 | Slate-colored Junco |
| 880 | Tree Sparrow |
| 1 | Chipping Sparrow |
| 6 | White-throated Sparrow |
| 3 | Fox Sparrow |
| 5 | Swamp Sparrow |
| 49 | Song Sparrow |
| 2 | Lapland Longspur |
| 9 | Snow Bunting |

Total, 57 species (plus one hybrid), 4063 individuals. (Seen in area during count period but not on count day: Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Mockingbird, Vesper Sparrow, Meadowlark.)

Gustave Angst, Guy Bartlett (compiler), Philip H. Clark, Mrs. Gilbert M. Eddy, David P. Ellers, John Fuller, Stephen Fuller, Esly Hallenbeck, Barrington S. Havens, Betty Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Byron T. Hipple, Alice Holmes, Mary C. Johnston, Mary F. Linch, Barbara Podrazik, Stephanie Podrazik, Walton B. Sabin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Shedd, Mrs. Richard A. Waite, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Wernick, Robert P. Yunick. Also, feeder records: Mr. and Mrs. Ainslee B. Allen, Mrs. B. D. Bedford, Mrs. W. J. Champeau, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cook, Mrs. A. G. Darling, Mrs. Roy O. Dunham, Mr. and Mrs. Justus E. Glick, Mrs. William H. Norris, Joseph Pollak, Doris Remis, C. F. Terwilliger, and Mrs. Robert Yunick.

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TROY -- December 28, 1963 -- 52 species, 4327 individuals

Troy (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 0.1 mile south of 73°40' and 0.3 mile east of 42°50' as in preceding years). -- December 28; 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 5 to 20°; wind W, 0-5 m.p.h.; 8-12 inches fresh snow, only fast waters open. 17 observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 42 (17 on foot, 25 by car); total party-miles, 307 (24 on foot, 283 by car).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 66 | Mallard | 55 | Robin |
| 541 | Black Duck | 1 | Hermit Thrush |
| 14 | Common Goldeneye | 1 | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| 1 | Common Merganser | 9 | Cedar Waxwing |
| 1 | Accipiter (sp?) | 524 | Starling |
| 25 | Red-tailed Hawk | 641 | House Sparrow |
| 1 | Red-shouldered Hawk | 8 | Eastern Meadowlark |
| 4 | Rough-legged Hawk | 2 | Red-winged Blackbird |
| 6 | Sparrow Hawk | 2 | Rusty Blackbird |
| 6 | Ruffed Grouse | 4 | Common Grackle |
| 9 | Ring-necked Pheasant | 67 | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 26 | Mourning Dove | 32 | Cardinal |
| 1 | Screech Owl | 339 | Evening Grosbeak |
| 1 | Belted Kingfisher | 12 | Pine Grosbeak |
| 1 | Yellow-shafted Flicker | 16 | Common Redpoll |
| 5 | Pileated Woodpecker | 30 | Pine Siskin |
| 23 | Hairy Woodpecker | 121 | American Goldfinch |
| 59 | Downy Woodpecker | 37 | Red Crossbill |
| 48 | Horned Lark | 4 | Savannah Sparrow |
| 115 | Blue Jay | 160 | Slate-colored Junco |
| 132 | Common Crow | 532 | Tree Sparrow |
| 510 | Black-capped Chickadee | 1 | White-crowned Sparrow (adult) |
| 8 | Tufted Titmouse | 11 | White-throated Sparrow |
| 46 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 5 | Swamp Sparrow |
| 11 | Red-breasted Nuthatch | 43 | Song Sparrow |
| 8 | Brown Creeper | 2 | Lapland Longspur |

Total, 52 species, 4327 individuals.

Guy Bartlett, Philip Clark, John Fuller, Stephen Fuller, Esly Hallenbeck, Betty Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Hipple, Mary Johnston, Mary Linch, Mrs. Richard McFalls, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Norton, Benton Seguin, Donald Tucker, Peter Wickham (compiler), Robert Yunick.

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Sparrow.

Group 2 - Philip Clark, Esly Hallenbeck. Watervliet Reservoir. 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Six miles afoot, 18 by car; 5 hours afoot, 1/2 by car. 12 species, 79 count.

Group 3 - Guy Bartlett, Barrington S. Havens, Alice Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wernick. Scotia, Campbell-Schermerhorn Roads, Vischer Ponds, suburban areas. 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Four miles afoot, 30 by car; 2½ hours afoot, 6 by car. 25 species, 609 count. Snowy Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Rusty Blackbird.

Group 4 - Mrs. Gilbert M. Eddy, John and Stephen Fuller, Betty Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Byron T. Hipple, Mary Johnston, Mary Linch. Albany Airport, 6-mile Waterworks, State Farm Road. 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. One mile afoot, 43 by car; 2 hours afoot, 4 by car. 29 species, 894 count. Black Duck, Golden-crowned King-

let, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Red Crossbill.

Group 5 - David Ellers, Walton B. Sabin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shedd, Mrs. Richard A. Waite. Slingerlands, Voorheesville, Altamont, New Salem, Indian Ladder. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. 10 miles afoot, 90 by car; 3 hours afoot, 7 by car. 33 species, 1763 count. Bobwhite, Common Snipe, Boreal Chickadee, Eastern Bluebird, Pine Grosbeak, Lapland Longspur (by PC & EH).

Group 6 - Barbara and Stephanie Podrazik. Central Park, Parkview Cemetery, Balltown Road. 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. One mile afoot, 16 by car; 1 hour afoot, 1½ by car. 17 species, 164 count. Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Chipping Sparrow.

Group 7 - Urban and suburban feeding stations. At least 30 species, including at least nine not otherwise listed. Feeders only: Hybrid Yellow-shafted/Red-shafted Flicker (Mrs. Robert Yunick), banded Dec.22 by R.Y.; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cook); Boreal Chickadee (Group 5); Cedar Waxwing (Group 1); Baltimore Oriole (Group 4); Common Grackle (Group 4); Purple Finch (Mrs.W.J.Champeau); Oregon Junco (Mrs. B.D.Bedford); Chipping Sparrow (Group 6).

Troy Highlights

Group 1 - Stephen Fuller, Betty Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Byron T. Hipple, Mary Johnston, Mary Linch. Hudson Highland east of Hudson River to Route 40. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. 4 hours by car, 2.5 on foot; 33 miles by car, 2 afoot. 30 species, 910 count. Red-shouldered Hawk, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Cedar Waxwing.

Group 2A - John Fuller, Peter Hickham. Tomhannock-Tamarack. 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 5.5 hours by car, 3.5 afoot; 60 miles by car, 5 afoot. 36 species, 678 individuals. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Pine Grosbeak.

Group 2B - Robert Yunick. Melrose area. 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Afoot, 4 hours, 6 miles. 18 species, 112 count. Screech Owl.

Group 3 - Philip Clark, Asly Hallenbeck. North of Mohawk River. 9 a.m. to noon. 1.5 hours by car, 1.5 afoot; 18 miles by car, 3 afoot. 12 species, 52 count.

Group 4 - Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin. Green Island, Cohoes, east shore of Hudson River. 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Six hours by car, 2 afoot; 70 miles by car, 4 afoot. 28 species, 1291 count. Mallard, Kingfisher, Savannah Sparrow.

Group 5 - Center Brunswick area, between Routes 40 and 2. Mrs. Richard McFalls, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Norton. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 4 hours by car, 1 afoot; 12 miles by car, 1 afoot. 14 species, 265 individuals.

Group 6 - Donald Tucker. Northwest quadrant (West shore of Hudson, western highlands). 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 4 hours by car, 2 afoot; 90 miles by car, 3 afoot. 21 species, 433 count. Accipiter (sp?, very likely Goshawk), Lapland Longspur.

Group 7 - Feeders. 14 reports. 21 species, 617 count. White-crowned Sparrow (adult).

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# PHALAROPE ON NOVEMBER 17 IS HIGHLIGHT OF AUTUMN REPORTS

THE SEASON -- FALL -- August 16 to November 30, 1963

Dr. Peter P. Wickham, Records Committee Chairman

A Northern Phalarope on Saratoga Lake on the unlikely date of November 17 was perhaps the most unusual record during autumn of 1963 in SBC's Mohawk-Hudson region. Other unusual species reported included Double-crested Cormorant, Brant, Blue Goose, Shoveler; Barrow's Goldeneye, Golden Eagle, Pigeon Hawk, Black Rail, Stilt Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Migrant Shrike, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Orchard Oriole.

The season was one of contrasts. Two unusually cold months, August and September, were followed by two unseasonably warm ones. Because of this, the growing season at Albany, and in most parts of the region, was the shortest on record -- 113 days compared with the average 169. August was unusually cool, with an average temperature at Albany of 66.4°, 3.6° cooler than normal. September followed this pattern, with an average temperature of 56.8°, 4.8° less than normal. October was almost as warm, with an average temperature of 55.5°, 4.7° above normal. Precipitation was less than average in August and September, and in October totalled only 0.20 inch, producing severe drought conditions. November, in contrast, was rainy, with total precipitation of 4.15 inches, 1.45 in. above normal. It was also a warm month, with average temperature of 44.4°, 5.3° above normal.

The dry shores and mudflats of the lakes and reservoirs caused by the prolonged lack of adequate precipitation attracted a considerable number of transient shorebirds, in numbers even surpassing those of the preceding summer and fall. The warbler migration was not spectacular, although most observers regarded it as near average. A number of transients, perhaps because of continued mild weather into the latter part of the season, lingered later than usually reported. Prominent among these were Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow- and Black-billed Cuckoo, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Widespread reports of Evening Grosbeaks in early fall were followed by reports of most other species of our winter finches.

Abbreviations used: L-Lake; Nisk-Niskayuna; R-River; Sar-Saratoga; SCR-Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG-Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WRes-Watervliet Reservoir; Res-Reservoir.

Observers (parenthesized): SBC Schenectady Bird Club field trip; AD Alan Devoe Bird Club record; GC Greene County Bird Club record. GB-Guy Bartlett, DB-Dirck Benson, PC-Philip Clark, HE-Hazel Eddy, MF-Mabel W. French, JF-John Fuller, EH-Esly Hallenbeck, RK-Ralph Kent, MK-Marcia Kent, ER-Eleanor Radke, EMR- Dr.

Edgar Reilly, Jr., WBS-Walton Sabin, BRS-Benton Seguin, RS-Rudolph Stone, RW-Robert Wernick, PPW-Peter Wickham, RY-Robert Yunick.

LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon: first Oct 13, Sar L (PPW), remained in numbers thru rest of period, max 10 SarL Nov 10 (BRS).
Red-throated Loon: several reports suggest this species to be more regular late-fall migrant than previously thought: first Nov 9-10, RoundL (EH,BRS); other reports Nov 16,19,25,28 SarL (EH,BRS), max three SarL Nov 17 (SBC).
Red-necked Grebe: reported twice, one SarL Nov2 (EH,GB,BRS,PC) and three SarL Nov 17 (SBC).
Horned Grebe: first Oct 13, Lock 6, MohawkR (BRS) and SarL (PPW), remaining throughout period, max 70 SarL Nov 16 (EH,PC,BRS,GB)
Pied-billed Grebe: several fall records, first Sep 21 two WRes (BRS); 20 SarL Oct 27 (BRS) (also last report).
Double-crested Cormorant: five circling SarL on late date of Nov 5 (GB,BRS).
Great Blue Heron: com early, max 18 Sep 7, VFG (EH), last Nov 6, VFG (EH).
Common Egret: early departure, last Aug 26, VFG (EH).
Green Heron: widespread thru Sep, max 10 Sep 4-7, VFG (EH), last Oct 20, WRes (RY,RS).
Black-crowned Night Heron: lingered to Oct 4, VFG (BRS).
American Bittern: unreported after Aug 26 (EH).
Canada Goose: first flocks Sep 21, Ghent (AD) and Sep 30, Vly (GC); large numbers observed later in period.
Brant: five at SarL Oct 19 (BRS) and 28 there Nov 10 (BRS).
Snow Goose: early flock of 60 flew over Nisk Oct 17 (HE), followed by well-observed flight in mid-Nov when 275 were observed in four flocks flying over SarL Nov 17 (SBC); 60 flew over East Greenbush Nov 18 (MK) and ten were over SarL on Nov 28 (BRS).
Blue Goose: four in flock of Snow Geese over SarL Nov 17 (SBC).
Gadwall: several reports - two, Nov 2 Alcove Res (SBC); two Nov 5-9 SCR (BRS et al) and one Nov 17 RoundL (SBC).
American Widgeon: Sep 21, VFG (EH,PC) to Nov 10,SCR (BRS).
Pintail: Sep 30, Vly (GC) to Oct 29, SCR (EH).
Green-winged Teal: seen throughout period to Nov 24 (BRS).
Blue-winged Teal: lingered late, last Nov 10, SCR (BRS).
Shoveler: two at SCR Nov 5-6 (GB,BRS).
Wood Duck: lingered late, last Nov 2 Sar (BRS) and Emboght (GC).
Redhead: five at SarL Oct 26 (BRS) the lone record.
Ring-necked Duck: after early report of two Oct 4, SCR (BRS), good numbers appeared on SarL in Nov, max 35 Nov 24 (GB,BRS).
Canvasback: one at SCR Oct 5 (SBC), with later reports of six, RoundL Nov 23 (PPW) and one SarL Nov 28 and 30 (BRS).
Greater Scaup: one early, SCR, Oct 5 (SBC); many more toward end of period.
Lesser Scaup: 1-2 early, Sep 21, SCR (EH,BRS) through period.
Common Goldeneye: first Oct 26 SarL (BRS), through period, max over 500 Nov 28 at SarL (BRS).
Barrow's Goldeneye: one drake at SarL Nov 28 exhibiting mating behavior with female Goldeneye (BRS).
Bufflehead: Nov 2 SarL (BRS) to end of period, max 40 SarL Nov 24 (GB,BRS).
Oldsquaw: Nov 2 SarL (BRS) through period, max 16 Nov 16 at SarL (BRS,GB,EH).
White-winged Scoter: Nov 9 SarL (BRS) through period, max 36 SarL Nov 17 (SBC).
Surf Scoter: four female or immature birds at Lock 7 Oct 6 (BRS

et al) and one at SarL Oct 26 (BRS).
Common Scoter: flock of 85 in HudsonR off Albany Oct4 (PFW) and flock of 24 at Lock 6 of MohawkR Oct 9 (BRS). Two large flocks totalling about 200 birds passed over SarL Nov 17 but only one was observed on the lake (SBC).
Ruddy Duck: numerous reports from Oct 19 (BRS) to end of period at SarL, HudsonR (nr Coxsackie), Greenville, Vly, and RoundL, max 16 SarL Nov28 (BRS).
Hooded Merganser: three at Old Chatham Sep 19 (EMR); later reports from Oct 5 (SBC) through period, max 20 SarL Nov 20 (BRS).
Common Merganser: first two Oct5 SCR (SBC), most migrants much later, with marked influx at end of period.
Red-breasted Merganser: first Oct4 SCR (BRS) through period.

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: seen in groups of as many as ten in southern part of region until Oct 12 (AD).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported on Sep 7 and 14, VFG (EH) the only reports.
Cooper's Hawk: four reports during period.
Red-tailed Hawk: a fair migration reported.
Red-shouldered Hawk: many records to Nov 14 (BRS).
Broad-winged Hawk: no large groups observed, last Oct 5 VFG(BRS).
Rough-legged Hawk: several during period, first Sep 25 Nisk (RW).
Golden Eagle: an immature bird, chased by several small passerines, flew over Delmar Nov 4 (DB).
Marsh Hawk: several reports concentrated in Sep and early Oct, last Oct 13 SCR (BRS).
Osprey: reported occasionally to Oct 12 VFG (EH); an unusually late individual at White Birch L near Berne Nov 19 (RK).
Peregrine Falcon: lone report, one Nov 2 Burnt Hills (GB,BRS,EH).
Pigeon Hawk: reported Sep 21 VFG (EH) and Oct 5 SCR (SBC).
Bobwhite: reported at Meadowdale, Selkirk, and Athens during Aug and September.
Virginia Rail: reported to Sep 19, Vly (GC).
Sora: only record of year, one, Meadowdale, Sep 8 (R.Shedd).
Black Rail: one Sep 19, Vly and convincingly described (GC).
Common Gallinule: no fall reports.
American Coot: first Sep 26, Vly (GC) and Sep 28, WRes (PFW) through period, max 50 SarL Nov 2 (BRS,GB,EH,PC).
Semipalmated Plover: several to Oct 19, VFG (EH,BRS), max 7 Sep 21-22 (EH).
Black-bellied Plover: Oct 5, SCR (BRS) to Nov 10, SarL (PFW); at least five present in four different locations early in Oct.
American Woodcock: to Nov 9, Tamarack (RY) and Nov 11, Kiskatom.
Common Snipe: good numbers reported, last Nov 10 (EH,BRS).
Spotted Sandpiper: some individuals lingered late;last Oct 19, RoundL (BRS).
Solitary Sandpiper: last Oct 8, Emboght, late (GC).
Greater Yellowlegs: lingered into Nov, last Nov9 Tomhannock (SBC) and Nov 10, SCR (BRS).
Lesser Yellowlegs: last quite late, Nov 9, VFG (BRS,EH,PC,GB).
Pectoral Sandpiper: good numbers reported, max 15 Oct 5, WRes (BRS), last Nov 10 VFG (EH,BRS).
White-rumped Sandpiper: one at VFG Oct 4 (BRS).
Least Sandpiper: most left in Sep, last Nov 2 Emboght (GC).
Dunlin: Sep 25, VFG (EH,PC) to Oct 29, VFG (EH).
Stilt Sandpiper: one at VFG Sep 29 (BRS).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: good numbers observed, to Oct 19, VFG (EH), max 20 WRes Sep 20 (BRS).
Western Sandpiper: one or two at VFG to Sep 18 (EH) and one at

Round Lake Oct 13 (BRS).
Sanderling: none reported
Northern Phalarope: an individual in rather light gray-brown fall plumage seen at close range on Sar L on remarkable date of Nov 17 (SBC). For a while the bird was associated, strangely enough, with small group of Oldsquaw.
Great Black-backed Gull: no reports.
Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were commonly seen
Terns: no reports.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: a few lingered late, last Oct 15, Castleton.
Black-billed Cuckoo: reported even later, last Oct25 Ghent (AD) and Nov 1, Athens (GC).
Barn Owl: one found dead in Claverack Sep 16 (fide EMR).
Long-eared Owl: one reported at Old Chatham Oct 20 (PPW).
Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls reported occasionally.

GOATSUCKERS - SHRIKES

Common Nighthawk: good numbers seen in migration, especially about Sep 1; last Sep 21 Schenectady (BRS).
Chimney Swift: disappeared early, last Sep 4, Colu Co (AD).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: reported to Sep 22, VFG (EH) in fair numbers.
Yellow-shafted Flicker: reported to Oct 27 by several observers, after which most migrants had presumably departed.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: most passed through Sep 15-Oct 15, extremes Aug 19, Canaan (AD) and Nov 13 , Catskill (GC).
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one Oct 9, Catskill (GC); one Oct 16 at Schenectady (ISJacobs) in locality where species was reported previous year.
Eastern Kingbird: last Sep 21 (AD).
Great Crested Flycatcher: last Sep 10, Colu Co.(AD) and Sep 11, Catskill (GC).
Eastern Phoebe: to Oct 20, Catskill (GC).
Empidonax: two individuals of this group at VFG Oct 5 (BRS).
Eastern Wood Pewee: last Sep 17, Catskill (GC).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: late migrant at WRes Oct5 (BRS).
Tree Swallow: last Sep 25, VFG (EH).
Bank Swallow: last Sep 8, Emboght (GC).
Rough-winged Swallow: late date Sep 1, Emboght (GC).
Barn Swallow: last Sep 28, VFG (RW).
Cliff Swallow: last Sep 4, Canaan (AD).
Purple Martin: unreported during period.
Boreal Chickadee: one near Sar L Nov 17 (SBC).
Tufted Titmouse: noticeable increase throughout area.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: good migration, still in few areas at end of the period.
House Wren: last Oct 27 (AD).
Winter Wren: reported Sep 21 to Oct 24 (MWF).
Carolina Wren: no reports.
Long-billed Marsh Wren: last Nov 2, Emboght (GC).
Mockingbird: Loudonville (MWF), Scotia (SBC), Castleton (AD) and Colonie (JF) in Sep and Oct, apparently wandering individuals.
Catbird: irregular through October, last Oct 29, VFG (EH).
Brown Thrasher: last specific date Oct. 4 (BRS).
Wood Thrush: late, last reported Oct 27, Ghent (AD).
Hermit Thrush: few reported, last Oct 27, Meadowdale (RY,RS).
Swainson's Thrush: good migration: Sep 9, Loudonville (MWF) to Nov 5, Catskill (GC) with number of late Oct records.
Eastern Bluebird: most observers optimistic about numbers present, last Nov 20, Durham (GC).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: Sep 15 Black Mt, where it may breed (WBS,

PPW); first migrants Oct 3, Castleton (AD).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Sep 8, Colu Co (AD) to Nov 6, Catskill (GC).
Water Pipit: very common this season, reported from many areas, Sep 21 WRes (BRS) to Nov 10, SCR (BRS).
Migrant Shrike: one on rather late date of Nov 24 nr RoundL (GB, BRS). No other shrikes reported during period.

VIREOS - WARBLERS

A fairly good fall migration was reported by most observers, with the bulk of the birds passing through Sep 8-25. Early and late dates for each species are given when available.
Yellow-throatee Vireo: last Sep 23 (RW).
Solitary Vireo: Aug 24 (SBC) - Sep 28 (ER).
Red-eyed Vireo: few reports in Sep, last Sep 28 (AD).
Warbling Vireo: last Sep 6 (AD).
Black-and-white Warbler: last Sep 16 (MWF).
Blue-winged Warbler: last Sep 9 (AD).
Tennessee Warbler: last Oct 3 (ER).
Nashville Warbler: Aug 24 (SBC) - Sep 15 (PPW,JF).
Parula Warbler: Sep 12 (PPW) - Oct 1 (EWaite).
Yellow Warbler: last Sep 2 (EH).
Magnolia Warbler: Sep 7 (MWF) - Oct 20 (GC).
Cape May Warbler: Sep 17 (HE) - Oct 5 (GC).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: Aug 30 (HE) - Sep 14 (MWF).
Myrtle Warbler: good numbers, last Nov 10 (PPW).
Black-throated Green Warbler: many reported, last Oct 4 (MWF) and Oct 5 (AD).
Blackburnian Warbler: Aug 20 (ER) - Sep 14 (PPW).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Sep 16 (MWF).
Bay-breasted Warbler: good numbers, Sep 7-16 (MWF).
Blackpoll Warbler: Sep 6 (MWF) - Oct 20 (GC).
Pine Warbler: Sep 14 (PPW) - Sep 20 (GC).
Palm Warbler: last Oct 5 (SBC).
Ovenbird: last Sep 15 (MWF,PPW).
Northern Waterthrush: Sep 4 (MWF) - Sep 16 (AD).
Connecticut Warbler: one female at Loudonville Sep 15 (MWF).
Yellowthroat: last Oct 28 (AD).
Yellow-breasted Chat: one at Catskill Sep 16 (GC).
Wilson's Warbler: three reports, Sep 6 (MWF), Sep 22 (WBS), and Oct 2 (AD).
Canada Warbler: Sep 5 (MWF) - Oct 4 (BRS).
American Redstart: last Sep 16 (RW).

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

Bobolink: good flocks in late Aug and early Sep, last Sep 15, Meadowdale (PPW).
Red-winged Blackbird: no enormous flocks sighted; last Nov 21, Catskill (GC).
Orchard Oriole: three at Castleton Aug 22 - Sep 19, a rather late date (AD), although none known to breed there this year.
Baltimore Oriole: one at Ghent on late date of Oct 2; otherwise the late reports fell in first half of September.
Rusty Blackbird: good numbers reported, first Sep 10, Ghent (AD) and Sep 22, Meadowdale (WBS), last Nov 24, Vischer Ferry (GB,BRS).
Scarlet Tanager: good numbers of migrants, last Sep 30, Catskill.
Cardinal: has become a widespread, fairly common resident.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: late birds seen at Lock 7 Oct 4 (RW) and Ghent Oct 22 (AD).
Indigo Bunting: last Oct 10, Castleton (AD).

Evening Grosbeak: appeared early in Oct in small flocks throughout region, first Sep 23, Lisha Kill (RW). By end or period, large numbers in region, in contrast to last year.
Purple Finch: few reported throughout period.
Pine Grosbeak: five, West Mountain Nov 19 (RK) the only report.
Common Redpoll: fl 30 nr Bryantville Nov 2 (RY).
Pine Siskin: large influx in Nov, following first reports in Colu Co Oct 17 (AD). Flocks of 85 and 100-150 included.
Red Crossbill: small group this species Bolton Landing Sep 6 (BRS) The birds apparently had been there at least two weeks.
White-winged Crossbill: small flock at Ghent Oct 20 (AD); dead one picked up at Rensselaerville Nov 27 after hitting window (MK).
Rufous-sided Towhee: last Oct 12, Old Chatham (PPW).
Savannah Sparrow: last report Oct 25 (AD).
Vesper Sparrow: last Oct 21, Athens (GC).
Tree Sparrow: reappeared early, first Oct 12, VFG (EH).
Chipping Sparrow: last Oct 26, Catskill (GC).
Field Sparrow: last noted Oct 19, VFG (EH).
White-crowned Sparrow: good numbers noted during migration, Sep 22 (AD) - Oct 19 (EH,HE,BRS).
White-throated Sparrow: fair numbers during migration, Aug 24 (SBC) - Nov 12 (RW).
Fox Sparrow: unusually high numbers Oct 5 (AD,SBC) - Nov 18 (GC), with as many as 35 reported in a day.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Oct 5-25 at Ghent (AD) the only record.
Swamp Sparrow: to Nov 10 (RY), with few wintering ones remaining.
Snow Bunting: first reported Oct 28 (fide MK) and widely reported in November.

# TWO YEARS IN THE HILLS OF WEST VIRGINIA -- I

Robert Yunick

To one who heeds the tune of the changing season and the world of nature, a geographical relocation is an interesting experience. Such was our experience when we moved from the Schenectady area in November, 1961 to the hills of West Virginia. Here we encountered new assortments of trees, birds, butterflies, and mammals. We were introduced also to a new assortment of humans. The heretofore mythical hillbilly of comic strip and television fame became a real-life character. His customs amazed us just as the antics of his television counterpart captured much of the nation.

In late November we became the occupants of 912 Chittum Lane, South Charleston and had at our disposal one-half acre of West Virginia. Included in the half acre were too much lawn which was thoroughly riddled with Japanese beetle larvae and numerous moles; a wild, overgrown hedgerow in which we saw our first Titmouse; a liberal assortment of beautiful large trees including apple, red maple, sweet gum, sycamore, beech, and tulip poplar; an intriguing looking ravine (locally referred to as "holler") complete with 45-degree sloping sides, small brook and a wonderful assortment of poison ivy, some of the above-mentioned trees, and also the sour gum, sassafras and some oaks. Across the holler was a large country club. Its birds visited the yard often.

On the property roamed the already-mentioned hairy-tailed mole, short-tailed shrew, Carolina short-tailed shrew, house mouse, deer mouse, Mearn's cottontail, 'possum, Fisher's chipmunk, stray cats and dogs, several species of skinks, a raccoon and other

quadrupeds which escaped being seen, or trapped for the mammal-skin collection. The chipmunks were notorious pilferers of seeds at the feeder and were active at all times except January and part of February. Three 'possums had an avid appetite for a pound of sunflower seed at one sitting, and all the suet they could get. Several rabbits were enjoyed as they cavorted about the yard and visited the feeding area and even entered bird traps to secure chick scratch. The presence of the rabbits was welcomed for the meager price of the chick scratch. Unfortunately we became popular with about 30 pigeons, and they presented problems.

The Tufted Titmice, which were common, were life birds. Cardinals were especially common. We were surprised by the wintering Towhees and large number of wintering White-throats. The feeding was begun in early December and the birds began to congregate. Juncos and Song Sparrows came, as did a very comical male Red-bellied Woodpecker. This mis-named bird was an endless source of enjoyment. His wonderful plumage, deliberate manner and fearless defense of feeding rights at the hands of the Starlings and Blue Jays were admirable. He would perch for considerable periods of time in the sycamore near the feeder and very casually observe the busy goings-on about the feeder. He never molested the other birds at the suet or sunflower seeds, but when he wanted to feed, no bird dared molest him. He gave ground to no bird. He always announced his arrival and we welcomed the sound of his "churr." Come early March, 1962, a female became a regular visitor, and in April the two departed. Next winter we did not see a Red-bellied until February 13 when a female came, and then a male on the 16th. Both were banded on the 16th.

Heading North

A Flicker, Grackle and several Robins grequented the yard that December. In mid-December Ann saw a female Evening Grosbeak at the seeds. On Christmas Day we were treated to a delightful fresh blanket of snow and two male and three female Evening Grosbeaks. Intermittently, in their truly nomadic fashion, these birds visited us through the winter. The last one was recorded early on the morning of May 1 when a clarion call rang out from atop the sun-bathed, new-leafed red maple. I stepped out in the cool morning air and admired the regal splendor of this handsome male. The low rays of the sun accentuated the golden plumage. Satisfied with his brief pause, he headed north across the Kanawha Valley and for a moment I too headed north with him. Mentally I was in the cool northern forest. When the air no longer carried back his twittering trill and the magic spell ended, I went back in the house and made ready for work. Next winter we had no Grosbeaks.

The winter played many tricks on us. Having been New Yorkers all our lives - and knowing that winter comes in November or December and lasts until April - the frequent mild 30-50 degree temperatures were quite unseasonable to us. Even more surprising was the totally unsettled nature of the weather. On several occasions we experienced temperatures in the high 60's and low 70's, only to have these followed within the week by below-zero weather. One experienced the coming of spring and the return of winter many times. Before we became accustomed to this and learned what to expect, we had a number of false starts. On January 26, 1962 we had the 72-degree weather. The following day, while I was reading in the den, I looked out in the yard and saw three Robins, the first since mid-December. While I admired them, the rest of

the stream of which these were a part flowed into the yard. Before I knew it, the yard was flooded with about 40 Robins. They were very exhuberant as they scattered over the lawn and searched for earthworms and Japanese beetle larvae. After several minutes they departed as quickly as they had come. Off they went on some more of their pre-migrational wandering. For sure spring was near, or so we thought. That afternoon the weather forecasters talked of snow, and we were back to winter.

On February 2, 1962 we had another beautiful May-like day. In fact we roamed quite a good deal of the calendar. The morning was cool and damp and shrouded in March fog. We had our first Red-shouldered Hawk. It called from high over the country club. I watched several minutes as it used a thermal to gain altitude and eventually drift off to the northeast. Migrating Crows called also. In the afternoon a Myrtle Warbler appeared in the dogwood and prompted me to make a journal entry, "Spring must really be close." We learned differently.

On February 10 we had a Fox Sparrow. It visited for about a month. It gave the Towhees considerable competition for the title of best leaf-thrower. The bird worked actively along the hedgerow and could be identified simply by its persistent scratching on the leaf-strewn ground.

March and April were quite wintry. The weather was cool and damp and raw, with April having 25 days of rain. The bird song chorus which began in February swelled to full volume in March. In mid-April the migration reached its peak. These two months offered interesting birding. In early March a robust spring snow squall increased our visiting Purple Finch flock to eight. These birds came with fair regularity and persisted into May. With the storm came some Grackles and a forlorn harbinger -- a male Bluebird. A week later a pair was present, but they did not stay, for we had no nesting facilities. On March 18 a Phoebe arrived, and on the 25th a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. We had the Sapsucker only briefly, although some feeders had had them all winter. By now the Juncos and White-throats were on the move also. On March 30 a familiar call issued from high over the yard. Its repetition indicated that the bird was perched. I stepped out and there atop the sycamore, about 60 feet off the ground, sang a Meadowlark. It surprised me that this bird would sing from so high a perch and in so woodsy an area. About a quarter of a mile away at the country club they were common and had arrived earlier in the month.

## S B C CALENDAR

Mary R. Healy, Secretary

Feb. 8, Saturday -- Field trip to Cape Ann, Mass., for coastal and maritime birds. Contact Dr. Peter Wickham, AS 2-3703, for details of the plans for the day.

Feb.24, Monday -- Annual meeting, 8 p.m., Pine Room, First Methodist Church. Election of officers and directors; annual committee reports; program and refreshments.

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# SABIN AND MADISON RE-ELECTED = HAVENS NAMED PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Walton B. Sabin and Samuel R. Madison were re-elected president and vice president of Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. at the annual meeting February 24 in the Pine Room of the First Methodist Church. Mrs. Richard A. Waite, Jr. was re-elected treasurer, and Dr. Robert P. Yunick was named secretary.

Miss Mary R. Healy, formerly secretary, and Benton R. Seguin and Dr. Donald J. Tucker were elected directors for two-year terms; Misses Alice Holmes, Mary C. Johnston and Mary F. Linch had asked to be succeeded as directors. Two other directors, Miss Betty Hicks and Guy Bartlett, remain in office until 1965.

Following the business meeting Bob Yunick held everyone's interest with his explanation and demonstration of bird-banding techniques. He displayed a variety of traps and nets, and showed how color-photography can help with records of plumages and identifications. Refreshments concluded the meeting.

Also following the annual meeting the new Board members named Messrs. Sabin and Madison and Mrs. Waite as the executive committee. Miss Holmes asked to be succeeded as Program Chairman, as did Miss Johnston as Membership Chairman. Committee Chairmen for 1964 were named by President Sabin to include:

Program: Barrington S. Havens
Membership: To be announced
Field Trips: Miss Betty Hicks
Records: Dr. Peter P. Wickham
Junior Activities: Mr/Mrs.E.W.Scott; Mrs.E.J.Kilcawley
Conservation: Samuel R. Madison
Publications: Guy Bartlett

Suggested Amendment

At the meeting Dr. Wickham, chairman of the nominating committee, read a proposed amendment to the constitution which will be voted upon before the next annual meeting. With the new material here in parentheses, it reads:

"Section 3. Term of Office The officers shall hold office for the term of one year or until their successors shall have qualified.((The other directors shall likewise hold office until their successors have been qualified. The President, Vice President, Secretary and other directors, except the Treasurer, may be elected and serve for not more than two successive terms in the same office. The Treasurer may be elected and serve for not more than four successive terms. Any officer or other member of the Board who is disqualified from being re-elected and serving by virtue of the provisions hereof shall be eligible to be elected to and serve as any other officer or member of the Board.))"

# CHRISTMAS IN CALIFORNIA

Benton R. Seguin

Up until a couple of days before the fact I was scheduled to cover Watervliet Reservoir with Esly Hallenbeck and Phil Clark on the Schenectady Christmas Count of December 21. I found myself instead in California, with that day available for birding.

The place: Los Angeles -- specifically, upper Newport Bay and Bolsa Chica (Spanish for Little Bay, but also known as The Back Bay); both off Pacific Coast Highway route 101 running south along the ocean from Los Angeles.

Temperature: 57 to 73 deg. Time: 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Counts: 77 species, plus one identifiable subspecies; 23,875 plus individuals. My list:

Horned Grebe 5, Eared Grebe 10, Western Grebe 4, Pied-billed Grebe 20, White Pelican 1, Brown Pelican 5, Double-crested Cormorant 15, Great Blue Heron 20, Common Egret 30, Snowy Egret 25, American Bittern 1, Canada Goose 75, Mallard 500+, Black Duck 750+ Pintail 2000+, Green-winged Teal 200, Cinnamon Teal 5, American Widgeon 4000+, Shoveler 25, Greater Scaup 500+, Lesser Scaup 300+, Bufflehead 100, Surf Scoter 500+, Ruddy Duck 250+, Common Merganser 10, Red-breasted Merganser 50, Turkey Vulture 3, Swainson's Hawk 1, Bald Eagle 2, Marsh Hawk 1, Sparrow Hawk 7, Clapper Rail3, American Coot 500+, Semipalmated Plover 20, Snowy Plover 1, Killdeer 40, Black-bellied Plover 700+, Surfbird 1, Long-billed Curlew 50, Whimbrel 200+, Spotted Sandpiper 1, Willet 1000+, Greater Yellowlegs 25, Lesser Yellowlegs 3, Pectoral Sandpiper 10, Least Sandpiper 300+, Dunlin 2000+, Long-billed Dowitcher 900+, Short-billed Dowitcher 200+, Semipalmated Sandpiper 100, Western Sandpiper 2000+, Marbled Godwit 1500+, Sanderling 50, American Avocet 2000+, Black-necked Stilt 20, Western Gull 30, Herring Gull 10, Ring-billed Gull 500+, Forster's Tern 700+, Common Tern 10, Mourning Dove 20, Spotted Dove 2, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1, Belted Kingfisher 1, Common Crow 50, Cactus Wren 5, Water Pipit 1, Loggerhead Shrike 1, Starling 100, House Sparrow 200, Western Meadowlark 40, Brown-headed Cowbird 30, House Finch 50, Brown Towhee 1, Savannah Sparrow 5, (Belding's Savannah Sparrow 10), Oregon Junco 30, White-crowned Sparrow 30.

As can be seen from my list of species, most of my time was spent observing birds in the ponds, swamps and muddy flats away from the ocean. Other than a trip to the surf-swept rocks for the Surfbird, no specific attempt was made for the observation of land or open-ocean species.

As for the total number of birds reported, I feel that I have greatly underestimated the actual number observed. For illustration, one portion of Bolsa Chica is about as big as Round Lake and was practically filled with ducks swimming side by side. In addition, picture Round Lake surrounded by a 40-foot-wide muddy beach completely covered with peepers, Avocets, Dunlins, Godwits, Dowitchers, etc. Estimating was work, but the looking was fun.

During my wandering in these two areas I ran across many other bird-watchers, all of whom informed me that these sections were the best around Los Angeles. To me they compare very favorably with our famous areas on the east coast. And there were species aplenty we do not have.

# LISHA KILL TITLE ACQUIRED

Mrs. J. F. Brown Jr., Lisha Kill Committee

Plans for a nature sanctuary in the Lisha Kill area have been realized, according to an announcement by Dr. H. M. Rozendaal, chairman of the Lisha Kill Natural Area Committee. Dr. Rozendaal has disclosed that The Nature Conservancy has completed the purchase of the principal part of the land for the natural area from Chester D. Vedder of Niskayuna. Title to the 80-acre tract was transferred at a closing held February 14 in the law offices of William P. Willig in Schenectady.

The drive to establish a nature sanctuary along the Lisha Kill was initiated in January 1963 when The Nature Conservancy took an option to buy the land just purchased from Mr. Vedder. This tract includes a portion of the ravine of the Lisha Kill and also a heavily wooded region that is the only known sizable stand of mature forest still standing within the Tri-city metropolitan area. The former Vedder property is the major part of the land - about 100 acres in all - that has been designated for the natural area. Two smaller parcels remain to be purchased before the project is completed.

Dr. Frank S. Ham, head of the drive for the Lisha Kill fund, reports that contributions made or pledged to the project now total $21,600. According to Dr. Ham, the local Lisha Kill committee will continue the fund drive until it attains the full amount of $36,000 needed to buy the land. The committee feels that public response to date indicates enough community support to put the full goal within reach. With this reliance on continued public support, the committee decided to take title now to the land under option, rather than to risk jeopardizing the project through further delay.

Information about the natural area may be obtained from Dr. Ham, 1445 Valencia Road, Schenectady 9.

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# WINTER SNIPE - AND ITS FATE

Esly Hallenbeck

Jan. 19 Bartlett, Seguin and I were riding along on the Meadowdale Road when we spotted a Common Snipe in a little stream which crosses the Meadowdale Road where it makes an S-turn. It seemed to be resting.

Jan. 29 I saw the Snipe feeding in the stream, on the opposite side of the road from where we saw it January 19.

Feb. 2 Havens, Seguin and I were in the Meadowdale area. We said "Let's show Barry the Snipe." When we got to the stream someone said "There is a Robin." We got out of the car for a close look, and found it was the Snipe. Someone had shot it. Several empty rifle shells and a small-caliber shotgun shell were by the edge of the road.

Feb. 15 The Snipe still to be seen, almost submerged in the non-freezing stream, according to Havens, Seguin and Bartlett. The icy water has preserved the body.

# PECK ORDER AT THE FEEDER

Barry Havens

One of the things that makes bird study - like other branches of biology - so much fun is the fact that one continually finds something new, some new angle, to enjoy. This can be particularly true with a bird feeder.

I have maintained feeders for many years. Most of them have been at my Jenny Lake summer camp, but in more recent years, because of my more suburban living, I have had a feeder at home, too. Some of my observations have appeared in past issues of FEATHERS.

I've always been interested in observing the peck order (if I may adapt that terminology) of the species that patronize my food supplies. At camp there was a constant rivalry between the Red-breasted Nuthatches and the Chickadees, with the Nuthatches usually coming out on top. But observations by others brought reports just the other way around. And it always seemed that the larger birds were higher on the peck order, according to size.

But now I have found one doughty warrior who makes up for his relatively tiny size with a dauntless spirit: the Pine Siskin. A few of these have just (mid-February) returned to my feeder after an absence of a couple of months, and one of them has made himself cock of the roost, so to speak. Outnumbered by the Goldfinches, nevertheless he drives them all fearlessly away, and he impresses his indomitable will not only on the Goldfinches but also the larger Tree and House Sparrows. And, as if this were not enough, I have repeatedly seen him stand off a flock of Evening Grosbeaks, single-handed.

So evidently, it isn't always size that counts. Which reminds me that I have found the Cardinal to be one of the more easily intimidated species, at least as far as behavior at my feeding station is concerned.

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# TWO YEARS IN THE HILLS OF WEST VIRGINIA -- II

Robert Yunick

By early April, 1962 the Cardinals had stopped relying on the feeder and became scarce as they set up nesting territories. During the winter these birds had been very dependent on the feeder. They would come in number in the early morning as soon as seed was available. The most that we ever saw feeding at one time was 24, but this was by no means a true measure of the number in the area. Banding captures for the one-year period of May, 1962 to April, 1963 numbered about 140. They always impressed me as birds whose splendid plumage belied their character. They were very belligerent among themselves and quite lazy. Only during the worst of the winter weather did they display the lusty appetite of the Grosbeaks for sunflower seeds. Usually they fed very indifferently.

I am sure that some West Virginians prefer the indifferent appetite of the Cardinal, rather than the eagerness of the Grosbeak. During the Grosbeak invasion of '61-'62 (probably the largest invasion observed in Charleston) one woman in Charleston very be-

grudgingly fed a flock of supposedly about 100 birds a total of 1200 pounds of sunflower seed. At first the birds were a novelty and greatly appreciated, and no doubt announced with great pride. However, in their own inimitable way, these birds became a Frankensteinian monster. Once they were dependent on the feeder, the once proud owner of said feeder feared for the birds should she stop feeding them. The birds averaged eight pounds of seed per day, and if one considers that the flock started small and gradually grew, the peak feeding rate must have been about 12 pounds per day! Understandably in November, 1962 this woman hoped that the Grosbeaks would not come back.

Grubs Aplenty

In early April, 1962 the Flickers came in considerable number. I derived great pleasure out of watching them dig the Japanese beetle larvae from our ridden lawn. It was not uncommon to see a dozen birds working on an area 75 x 50 feet. One Saturday afternoon I was impressed by the great number of larvae that were being consumed, so I started watching several birds closely and timed their grubbing rate. In about 15 minutes I had a representative average of a bird's performance. As it turned out, under uninterrupted conditions, those 12 Flickers were eating grubs at the rate of about 250 per hour! This activity lasted for about three weeks, and then the grass became too thick and the birds could no longer detect the grubs.

Cowbirds also came in number in April. The nesting Brown Thrashers and Wood Thrushes arrived. On April 15 we had our first Field and Savannah Sparrows. On April 21 we had our first Mourning Dove and Pileated Woodpecker. Both of these species visited at frequent intervals. The heavily wooded hills of West Virginia provide excellent habitat for the Pileated, and the birds are quite common. Some people were blessed with them at their feeders, but we were not that fortunate. On this same day I was outside, constructing a trap for capturing birds, so that I could make use of my newly arrived bird-banding permit. At the request of some shrieking Starlings and disturbed Robins, I looked up in time to see a Broad-winged Hawk fold its wings atop the sycamore. The alarm notes of the neighboring songbirds appeared to bother the hawk a little, for it seemed nervous. It surveyed the scene and its eye caught mine. I am sure that it was nowhere near as pleased to see what it saw as I was to see what I saw. Without much adieu the bird departed leisurely out over the fairways. Later in the same month those same branches of the sycamore harbored an Oriole nest.

Window Casualties

Late April brought a few White-crowned Sparrows, a number of Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, Scarlet Tanagers, and Indigo Buntings. This was also the season of bird casualties. Several Robins and Wood Thrushes flew against the windows of the den and porch. Without much hope these birds were banded and released. I especially remember one very badly injured Wood Thrush which I held in my hand until it showed some sign of life. I banded it and placed it on the lawn near some cover. Within minutes the still-dazed bird was being attacked viciously by one of its own kind. My high esteem for the delicate, graceful thrush was shaken. Time and again I tapped on the window to scare the attacker, only to have him return and become so bold that window-tapping did no good. Finally I went outside and rescued the battered

thrush. It recovered enough to fly away and glide weakly down the holler. With much concern I watched my first banded Wood Thrush, 62-189305, fly to what I thought was certain death. A little over a week later a second stunned, bleeding Wood Thrush was released with band 62-189311 on its pink tarsus. It is difficult to recall whether I thought about these birds during the next few months. Very often I do think about birds which I have banded and wonder just exactly where those birds are. In a way I envy them. I can apply ingenuity in capturing them and for a brief moment while banding them I can, if you will, act as their superior. However, once released I cannot travel with them. They hold that advantage over me.

## NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

CHRISTMAS AT CHATHAM

A Mockingbird, a Catbird and a Brown Thrasher were among the interesting species found by the Alan Devoe Bird Club on its annual Christmas Count, held December 28 at Chatham. Their totals were 41 species and 4160 count. Other species on their, but not our, count were Cooper's Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Meadowlark. They had 16 observers in four parties, plus feeders.

# 183 SPECIES ON 1963 FIELD TRIPS

Betty Hicks, Field Trips Chairman

Following Brother Austin's leadership of the Field Trips Committee was a real challenge, and we tried hard to carry out some of his ideas. With him we had decided to line up the whole year from January through December, to offer more trips to give more leaders and birders a wider chance for participation and to go beyond our usual area. We started bravely with 25 trips rather than 21, proposing to exchange one with the Greene County Bird Club, new trips to Berlin Mountain, Silver Lake Camp in Clinton County, Canajoharie, and Alcove Reservoir, as well as a repeat to Trapp Mountain. As an outgrowth of the interest excited by the Nature Conservancy's proposed purchase of the Lisha Kill a trip there was added in June. Changes were the rule rather than the exception: the Duck Count date was moved from January 12 to 19, the Greene County trip was officially called off by phone when the rain was teeming, but some birders are hard to reach or discourage. The Canajoharie jaunt was replaced by the Federation meetings; Trapp Mountain was closed out by rain; and a drought-closed woods followed by rain on the scheduled morning for Alcove forestalled all but the intrepid three.

The best intended plans cannot control either the weather or the busy personal schedules of the SBC members. The tally shows that the averages dropped back a bit from 1962 with 14 observers as compared with 17, and 41 species as opposed to 46. The SBC breakfast proved to be the most popular outing with its totals of 35 birders and 76 species seen. The trip had a sort of split personality for two locales were covered, with some people eagerly combing the "tracks" before breakfast and late-comers enjoying the Indian Ladder area as a post-breakfast treat. Stony Creek proved that numerous observers may not be so important as the season, locale and luck for six observers saw 60 species there on September 7. The Century Run is always a bright spot, weather or

not. for the 29 persisting people turned in a count of 126. Had the committee foreseen that Sunday should have been the day the odds would have been better! The two Christmas Counts speak for themselves -- 57 species on the Schenectady lists and 52 on the Troy Count.

The year's total was 183 species, plus the hybrid Flicker. Among the most interesting were Cattle Egret, Snow and Blue Geese, Pigeon Hawk, Dunlin, Northern Phalarope, Snowy Owl, Yellow-/Red-shafted (hybrid) Flicker, Boreal Chickadee, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cerulean Warbler, and Oregon Junco.

## FIELD TRIPS -- 1963

| Trip | Date | Area | Spec. Seen | No. of Par-tic. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 1/19 | Winter Duck Census | 29 | 6 | 11 |
| B | 2/24 | Upper Hudson | 23 | 6 | 19 |
| C | 3/17 | Greene County | 33 | 3 | 45 |
| D | 3/23 | Meadowdale | 34 | 21 | 26 |
| E | 4/6 | Lower Hudson | 46 | 15 | 45 |
| F | 4/13 | Saratoga-Round Lakes | 40 | 23 | 45 |
| G | 5/4 | Pancake Breakfast | 76 | 35 | 45 |
| H | 5/11 | Wolf Hollow | 45 | 5 | 45 |
| I | 5/15 | Rosendale Vespers | 44 | 10 | 45 |
| J | 5/18 | Century Run | 126 | 29 | 33 |
| K | 5/22 | Karner Vespers | 31 | 13 | 46 |
| L | 5/25 | Niskayuna Widewaters | 65 | 10 | 46 |
| M | 5/30 | Karner Sand Barrens | 54 | 15 | 46 |
| N | 6/8 | Berlin Mountain | 52 | 13 | 55 |
| O | 6/28 | Lisha Kill | 61 | 17 | 56 |
| P | 8/24 | Watervliet Reservoir | 52 | 10 | 64 |
| Q | 10/5 | Stony Creek Rsvr. | 60 | 6 | 71 |
| R | 10/13 | Hudson Highlands | 36 | 8 | 72 |
| S | 11/2 | Alcove Reservoir | 40 | 3 | 76 |
| T | 11/9 | Tomhannock Reservoir | 27 | 13 | 77 |
| U | 11/17 | Saratoga-Round Lakes | 48 | 21 | 77 |
| V | 12/21 | Schenectady Xmas | 57 | 39 | 63-1 |
| W | 12/28 | Troy Christmas Count | 52 | 17 | 1 |

## SPECIES (183 total, plus 1 hybrid)

| Species | Trips |
|---|---|
| Common Loon | g j stu |
| Red-thr. Loon | u |
| Red-neck. Grebe | g u |
| Horned Grebe | g u |
| Pied-b. Grebe | fg s |
| Grt. Blue Heron | e pqrs |
| Green Heron | g j l pq |
| Cattle Egret | j |
| Amer. Bittern | g j p |
| Canada Goose | efg qrs |
| Snow Goose | u |
| Blue Goose | u |
| Mallard | ab defg ijkl pq s uvw |
| Black Duck | ab defgh jk pqrstuvw |
| Gadwall | s |
| Pintail | a ef q s |
| Green-wing. Teal | e pq u |
| Blue-wing. Teal | g j l pqr |
| Amer. Widgeon | f q s |
| Wood Duck | e g j p |
| Ring-neck. Duck | ef u |
| Canvasback | a e q |
| Greater Scaup | ab e q u |
| Lesser Scaup | f |
| Com. Goldeneye | ab efg u w |
| Bufflehead | g u |
| Oldsquaw | u |
| White-w. Scoter | j u |
| Common Scoter | u |
| Ruddy Duck | s u |
| Hooded Mergans. | e j q s |
| Com. Merganser | a efg q tu w |
| Red-br. Mergans. | f u |
| Cooper's Hawk | h u |
| Red-tailed Hawk | a cde g no qr vw |
| Red-should. Hawk | cd j o r w |
| Broad-wing. Hawk | g i |
| Rough-leg. Hawk | cd r u w |
| Marsh Hawk | de |
| Osprey | g q |
| Pigeon Hawk | q |
| Sparrow Hawk | cdefg j uvw |
| Ruffed Grouse | no q uvw |
| Bobwhite | v |
| Ring-n. Pheasant | a c e ghij t vw |
| Virginia Rail | g j |
| Sora | j |
| Com. Gallinule | g j |
| American Coot | u |
| Semipalm. Plover | j |
| Killdeer | cde gh j lm opqrst |
| Amer. Woodcock | ijk opq |
| Common Snipe | g s v |
| Upland Plover | lm |
| Spotted Sandppr | g j l p |
| Solitary Sandpr | j p |
| Grtr. Yellowlegs | g j pq t |
| Pectoral Sandpr | p |
| Least Sandpiper | j l |
| Dunlin | j |
| North. Phalarope | u |
| Gr. Blk-bk. Gull | ef j |
| Herring Gull | bc ef j l qrstu |
| Ring-bill. Gull | c e j s u |
| Mourning Dove | b de ghijklm opqr uvw |
| Yellow-b. Cuckoo | j n |
| Black-b. Cuckoo | j lm o |
| Screech Owl | m vw |
| Gr. Horned Owl | v |
| Snowy Owl | v |

| | |
|---|---|
| Whip-poor-will | ijk |
| Com. Nighthawk | j |
| Chimney Swift | g ijklmno |
| Ruby-thr.Humbd. | j l op |
| Belt.Kingfisher | c fg ij l pq s uvw |
| Yel-shf.Flicker | defgh jklmnopqr vw |
| Flicker(hybrid) | v |
| Pileated Wdpckr | g j n pq tuvw |
| Yel-bel.Sapsckr | j n v |
| Hairy Woodpckr. | abc e g j m opqrstuvw |
| Downy Woodpckr. | abcdefghij lmnopqrstuvw |
| East. Kingbird | gh jklm o |
| Gr.Crest.Flyct. | h j lm op |
| Eastern Phoebe | efgh j l op |
| Traill's Flyct. | n |
| Least Flycatch. | j l |
| E. Wood Pewee | j lmnop |
| Horned Lark | bcde j l vw |
| Tree Swallow | efg ij lmnop |
| Bank Swallow | g jklm op |
| Rough-w.Swallow | j l |
| Barn Swallow | ghij lmnop |
| Cliff Swallow | g ij |
| Purple Martin | ij l |
| Blue Jay | abcd fghijklmnopqrstuvw |
| Common Crow | abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvw |
| Blk-c.Chickadee | abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvw |
| Boreal Chickad. | uv |
| Tufted Titmouse | ab d j m o vw |
| White-br.Nutht. | abc ef j l nopqr tuvw |
| Red-br.Nuthatch | ij q vw |
| Brown Creeper | a fg j no q t vw |
| House Wren | ghij lm o |
| Winter Wren | a g q |
| Long-b.Marsh Wr | j |
| Short-b.MarshWr | j |
| Catbird | ghijklmnop |
| Brown Thrasher | ghijklm o |
| Robin | a cdefghijklmnopqrstuvw |
| Wood Thrush | hijklmnop |
| Hermit Thrush | j w |
| Swainson's Thr. | h j q |
| Veery | h jklmno |
| East. Bluebird | f j s v |
| Blue-gr.Gnat'er | g |
| Golden-cr.King. | a ef j o q tuvw |
| Ruby-cr.Kinglet | e g qr v |
| Water Pipit | q |
| Cedar Waxwing | b d g j lmnopqrs vw |
| Starling | abcdef hijklmnopqrstuvw |
| Yel-thr. Vireo | j l o |
| Solitary Vireo | g j m op |
| Red-eyed Vireo | j lmno |
| Warbling Vireo | j lmn p |
| Blk-&-wh.Wrblr. | g j no |
| Golden-w.Wrblr | hij |
| Blue-wing.Wblr | j l o |
| Tennessee Wblr | j |
| Nashville Wblr | g ij p |
| Yellow Warbler | ghij lmno |
| Magnolia Wrblr | h j n |
| Cape May Wrblr | j |
| Blk-thr.BlueWb | gh j n |
| Myrtle Warbler | ghij qr |
| Bk-thr.Gren.Wbl | ghij l n |
| Cerulean Warbler | j |
| Blackburnian W. | h j no |
| Chestnut-s.Wrb. | ghij mno |
| Bay-br. Warbler | j |
| Pine Warbler | j |
| Prairie Warbler | jk m |
| Palm Warbler | g q |
| Ovenbird | ij lmno |
| No. Waterthrush | g ij |
| La. Waterthrush | gh j o |
| Yellowthroat | ijklmnop |
| Yellow-br. Chat | j |
| Canada Warbler | ij lmn |
| Amer. Redstart | ghij lmnop |
| House Sparrow | abcdefgh jklmnopqrstuvw |
| Bobolink | j l |
| East.Meadowlark | cdefgh j lmno qrs w |
| Red-w. Blackbd. | cdefghijklmnopqrs uvw |
| Baltim. Oriole | g ijklmnop v |
| Rusty Blackbird | d fg q vw |
| Common Grackle | cdefghijklmnopq t vw |
| Brown-hd.Cowbd. | defgh jklmno qr vw |
| Scarlet Tanager | hij lmno |
| Cardinal | a cde g jklm op rs vw |
| Rose-br.Grosbk. | g ij lmnop |
| Indigo Bunting | j l nop |
| Evening Grosbk. | abcd g stuvw |
| Purple Finch | bcde g j lmn qr v |
| Pine Grosbeak | vw |
| Common Redpoll | vw |
| Pine Siskin | d j s uvw |
| Amer. Goldfinch | abcd fghijklmnopqrstuvw |
| Red Crossbill | vw |
| Ruf-sd. Towhee | fghijklmno q |
| Savannah Spar. | g j w |
| Grasshopper Sp. | j |
| Vesper Sparrow | g j rs |
| Slate-col.Junco | abcdef h j n qrstuvw |
| Oregon Junco | v |
| Tree Sparrow | abcdef h stuvw |
| Chipping Spar. | e gh jklm op v |
| Field Sparrow | ghijklmn q |
| White-cr.Spar. | ij qr w |
| White-thr.Spar. | a gh j nopqrs vw |
| Fox Sparrow | e qrs v |
| Swamp Sparrow | fg j q t vw |
| Song Sparrow | a defghijklmnopqrst vw |
| Lapl. Longspur | vw |
| Snow Bunting | bcd st v |

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# SBC SPEAKS OUT -- AGAINST CITY PIGEONS

On March 6 copies of a statement for release March 9 were mailed to newspapers, broadcast stations, and members of the Assembly, under the signature of Robert Yunick as secretary of SBC. Newspapers had news items and editorials, and there were broadcast items and comments. The bill failed to pass in the Assembly. The SBC statement follows.

Bird lovers are not all pigeon fanciers. Nor is the State Department of Conservation. They seek enactment of a bill now pending in the Assembly which would permit municipalities to engage in or authorize programs aimed at eradicating such birds from the urban scene where necessary or in reducing their numbers. The measure has already passed the Senate.

In letters to members of the Assembly Conservation Committee, headed by Leo A. Lawrence, of Herkimer, bird clubs from various sections of the state say pigeons constitute a "nuisance" and are becoming an increasing "health hazard." In this they have the support of the Conservation Department which is also in favor of enactment of the bill.

The measure, which has been amended to overcome objections of persons opposing its original version which might have made it illegal to feed pigeons in public places, allows the legislative bodies of cities, towns and villages and the New York City Department of Health "to take or issue a permit to any person to take pigeons at any time and in any manner in such municipality, whenever such body or department finds that pigeons within such municipality are or may become a menace to public health or public nuisance."

Proponents of the bill point out that enactment of the measure will legalize anti-pigeon measures already under way in some communities and would authorize similar programs elsewhere when deemed necessary. In this connection, they point out that pigeon-proofing has been applied to the exterior of the State Capitol and to many other public and private buildings in efforts to repel the unwanted birds.

Leading the drive for the enactment of the bill is the Schenectady Bird Club, Inc., which comprises bird lovers in a 10-county area centered on Albany and Schenectady and of which Dr. Robert P. Yunick, of Niskayuna, is Secretary.

Joining with it through formal appeals are such groups as the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Audubon Society, Alan Devoe Bird Club of Columbia County, and Max Wheat, Conservation Committee Chairman of the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs -- the New York State counterpart of an Audubon Society -- which is composed of about 35 local groups throughout the state.

# Pigeon Curb Bill Favored By Bird Club

The Schenectady Bird Club Inc., with Dr. Robert P. Yunick of Niskayuna, secretary, is supporting a pigeon control bill in the State Legislature.

The bill would permit municipalities to engage in or authorize programs aimed at eradicating pigeons from the urban scene or reducing their numbers where necessary. It has already passed in the Senate.

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SCHENECTADY UNION-STAR

News Item, Mar. 9
Editorial, Mar.13

# *Bird Club Won't Come To Rescue of Pigeons*

The Schenectady Bird Club Inc. is among proponents of currently proposed legislation in the state which would permit municipalities to engage in or authorize programs for the eradication of pigeons where necessary or reduce their numbers.

* * *

THE AREA GROUP is comprized of bird lovers in 10 counties centered on Schenectady and Albany. Dr. Robert P. Yunich of Niskayuna is secretary.

In recent letters to the legislature, the local and other bird groups expressed pride in having endeavored throughout the years "to be reasonable in our approach." They also say they "have not violently sought to protect anything just because it bears feathers."

Also expressed by the bird organizations is "Pigeons in municipalities are, in our opinion, a nuisance and . . . we have concluded that they are a health menace in many situations and will contine to be a greater menace to health if their population growth is allowed uncheck-ed."

The measure now before the legislature allows the legislative bodies of cities, towns and villages to issue permits to take pigeons at any time when they are found to be a possible or actual menace to public health or a public nuisance.

SCHENECTADY GAZETTE

News Item, March 10
Editorial, March 12

# Pigeons Beware

Often when someone suggests, as we have done from time to time in these columns, that effective steps be taken for control or elimination of the common "street pigeon" in urban areas, the reply is that it can't be done because it would ruffle the feathers of the bird lovers, who can be as vocal in their way as the cat lovers, dog lovers and lovers of any other furred or feathered creature.

But the Schenectady Bird Club and the state conservation department can hardly be said to be against birds per se. They just want to give the pigeon the bird, so to speak. This should hearten other citizens who would have spoken out against the pigeon had they not been afraid of incurring the wrath of bird buffs.

Schenectady Bird Club Inc. is in favor of a pigeon control bill which already has passed in the state senate. The conservation department favors it, too. It would permit city, town and village councils to take steps or authorize others to take steps to take pigeons when said pigeons are considered to be or may become a health menace or public nuisance. The bill would legalize anti-pigeon measures that some communities already are taking.

Perhaps there wouldn't be so great a pigeon problem if people wouldn't feed them on the streets, but it's more practical and humanitarian to suggest taking pot shots at pigeons than to advocate taking pot shots at pigeon feeders.

# Bird Lovers Sing Out

PROPONENTS of a legislative bill to control pigeons have staunch support from one quarter where it might seem to be least expected. The Schenectady Bird Club, along with other audubon groups, has endorsed the measure which would permit municipalities to eradicate pigeons or reduce their numbers as a health safeguard. There's a forthright stand by bird lovers.

In their letters the bird groups express pride in having endeavored throughout the years "to be reasonable in our approach" and say they "have not violently sought to protect anything just because it bears feathers." They add:

"Pigeons in municipalities are, in our opinion, a nuisance and . . . we have concluded that they are a health menace in many situations and will continue to be a greater menace to health if their population growth is allowed unchecked. Furthermore, we believe it is quite obvious that they are a public nuisance in a good many areas and such a finding may properly be made by various local legislative bodies."

---

# INCIDENT WITH A BLUE JAY

William Safford
as told to Barry Havens

A few years ago, when I was hunting in a Schoharie County woods, I heard a peculiar noise. It sounded like a man gasping for air, and assuming someone was in need of help, I decided to investigate.

But it wasn't easy to track the noise down, and I searched for some time without result. First the sound would seem to come from one direction, then from another. But I finally located it.

I found a Blue Jay on the ground, gasping and panting as if it couldn't breathe; it looked as if it was on its last legs. I went over and picked it up, and it offered no resistance. It was a cold day, and the bird seemed half-frozen, so I tucked it inside my jacket to warm it up.

Pretty soon the gasping died down, and the bird began to revive. I was eating a sandwich, and on impulse I offered the bird a morsel of bread. To my surprise, the bread was accepted, and the bird ate it.

After a while, when I figured that the bird had gotten over its trouble - whatever it might have been - I put it back on the ground and moved away. In a few moments it flew to a nearby bush and perched there. Then, when I tried to come near it again, it flew a little farther away. I wasn't able to get near it after that.

I have heard that hawks will pursue smaller birds until the victims become completely exhausted. I had seen a hawk in the vicinity just before I found the Blue Jay, and I have always wondered if this might have been what happened.

---

## S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

STATE DUCK COUNT January 18

The 10th annual State Federation Duck Count was, locally, not very productive. Nine observers in two parties covered all the open waters they knew about, and found fewer than 800 individuals

of only four species. In all, there were 29 species observed:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 32 | Mallard | | Starling |
| 728 | Black Duck | | House Sparrow |
| 22 | Common Goldeneye | 1 | Red-winged Blackbird |
| 1 | Common Merganser, female | 1 | Rusty Blackbird |
| | | 1 | Common Grackle |
| 1 | Goshawk | 1 | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 5 | Red-tailed Hawk | | Cardinal |
| 2 | Rough-legged Hawk | | Evening Grosbeak |
| 1 | Sparrow Hawk | | Pine Siskin |
| 1 | Hairy Woodpecker | | American Goldfinch |
| 2 | Downy Woodpecker | 1 | White-winged Crossbill |
| 3 | Horned Lark | | Slate-colored Junco |
| | Blue Jay | | Tree Sparrow |
| | Common Crow | 6 | Song Sparrow |
| | Black-capped Chickadee | 51 | Snow Bunting -- Walt Sabin |

CAPE ANN, MASS. (Ex-territorial) February 8

Seven SBC members left from here and were joined by another SBC member from Holyoke, Mass., for the day on Cape Ann. Participants were Dave Ellers, John Fuller, Barry Havens, Walt Sabin, Benton Seguin, Rudd Stone (Holyoke), Pete Wickham, and Bob Yunick.

After leaving Slingerlands of a pleasant morning, we arrived on Cape Ann in a snowstorm! Notwithstanding the weather, waterfowl were everywhere. Almost all the participants (excepting our esteemed President) added new species to their "life lists." Especially enjoyable views were obtained of Brant, Harlequin Duck, Purple Sandpiper, Snowy Owl, and Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. None of us will soon forget the Murre, seen 15 feet away, or the flocks of Eiders, impeccable in black and white and brown plumage, bobbing up and down on the ocean swells.

The 46 species for the visit:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | Common Loon | 1 | Black-bellied Plover |
| 1 | Red-throated Loon | 43 | Purple Sandpiper |
| 1 | Red-necked Grebe | 4 | Sanderling |
| 50 | Horned Grebe | 1 | Glaucous Gull |
| 10 | Great Cormorant | 8 | Iceland Gull |
| 119 | Canada Goose | 250 | Great Black-backed Gull |
| 10 | Brant | 2000 | Herring Gull |
| 32 | Mallard | 100 | Ring-billed Gull |
| 1500 | Black Duck | 21 | Bonaparte's Gull |
| 270 | Greater Scaup | 1 | Thick-billed Murre |
| 750 | Common Goldeneye | 1 | Snowy Owl |
| 158 | Bufflehead | 1 | Hairy Woodpecker |
| 12 | Oldsquaw | 1 | Horned Lark |
| 15 | Harlequin Duck | 2 | Blue Jay |
| 340 | Common Eider | 40 | Common Crow |
| 40 | White-winged Scoter | 4 | Black-capped Chickadee |
| 4 | Surf Scoter | 1 | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| 3 | Common Merganser | | Starling |
| 54 | Red-breasted Merganser | | House Sparrow |
| 3 | Red-tailed Hawk | 2 | American Goldfinch |
| 1 | Red-shouldered Hawk | 1 | Slate-colored Junco |
| 1 | Rough-legged Hawk | 2 | Tree Sparrow |
| 3 | Sparrow Hawk | 3 | Song Sparrow -- Pete Wickham |

Another SBC member - Jim Meritt of Princeton, N.J. - visited that area two weeks later. Additional species on his list included a male Barrow's Goldeneye, 3 King Eider, 1 Black-headed Gull, 6 Black Guillemot, 3 Razorbill, 1 Boreal Chickadee at a feeder, Red Crossbill, and Pine Siskin.

MEADOWDALE March 21

Temperature 38°, wind south at 10 mph, partly cloudy skies -- not the formula for a balmy spring day, but the 28 people who took part in the trip "down the tracks" at Hennessey Road and on Meadowdale Road made up for it in enthusiasm.

Day began at the Waite farm with the call of the Barred Owl and a Bluebird before the official count. Esly, Phil Clark and the Bedfords were delayed at Watervliet Reservoir where they found Ring-necked Ducks, Goldeneyes and Mergansers.

We had some fine looks at four species of hawks, and a lone Snow Bunting was completely surrounded by admirers. The "official" list of 27 species:

10 Mallard
30 Black Duck
5 Pintail
2 Red-tailed Hawk
1 Red-shouldered Hawk
3 Rough-legged Hawk
1 Sparrow Hawk
1 Ruffed Grouse
2 Ring-necked Pheasant
6 Mourning Dove
2 Hairy Woodpecker
1 Downy Woodpecker
2 Horned Lark
60 Robin
60 Cedar Waxwing
Starling
House Sparrow
2 Eastern Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
1 Cardinal, heard
12 Evening Grosbeak
20 Pine Siskin
10 American Goldfinch
5 Tree Sparrow
6 Song Sparrow
1 Snow Bunting

-- Bob & Mary Lou Shedd

# TWO YEARS IN THE HILLS OF WEST VIRGINIA -- III

Robert Yunick

Early May, 1962 brought a number of developments. The butterfly collecting season was in full swing and was very interesting, because a number of new southern species was available. May 1 found a Quail in the holler. On May 8 we had two. During the summer we saw three at most, and never saw any chicks. In late summer the birds left and returned the following June. The cover and the food were not enough to sustain the birds through the winter. On May 6 a Yellow-billed Cuckoo visited the sycamore briefly, and a life Yellow-breasted Chat was seen in the apple tree.

During the second week of May we were dumped abruptly into summer. A five-day heat wave of 90-95 degrees and 90 plus per cent humidity arrived and we had our first taste of what was to make the weather from May to October so beastly uncomfortable. Relatively speaking, we did nothing all summer due to the heat and humidity. It was a major responsibility to stay alive, let alone comfortable.

By September the change of season was plainly evident, despite the often persistent heat. The air had a different tune. Gone were the numerous bird songs that had bathed the air earlier. In their place was the incessant cricket chorus, and the strange zips, chips and other brief calls of the migrating warblers. Spring's calls had spoken of only one season. There was no holdover from the previous season. September's cricket chorus reminded one of summer's bounty, and at the same time the notes of

the mysteriously arrived warblers carried a certain urgency which hinted at fall. The backwash of the spring migrational wave was gathering momentum.

September 2 -- the tulip poplar was yellow, the goldenrod in bloom, and most of the vegetation was dry and fallen. Small groups of birds drifted through the yard. Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were added to the life list. A group of Titmice and Carolina Chickadees entered the yard and raised a fuss in the sycamore. A closer examination of the tree revealed an irregular knob on one of the limbs. There slept a Nighthawk.

Apple Cider Time

By middle September the air was becoming comfortably crisp. The cricket noise level was considerably less. On September 20 a rather early White-throat arrived from the north country. The bird was banded and allowed to go its way. By the last week of September the migration was in full force. This was apple-cider time and the yellow-jackets stumbled about very drunkenly among the soft rotting apples. On warm afternoons the same apples served to intoxicate the comma and question-mark butterflies which were especially common from mid-September to mid-October.

On September 20 we had a delightfully clear and cool day. The 30th was much of the same, with a morning temperature of 35°. The birds were pouring through. Many of the banded residents were replaced by migrants. We had migrant Towhees, Summer Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Song Sparrows, Nashville and Magnolia Warblers, Pewees, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Palm Warblers, Indigo Buntings, and House Wrens. On both days we had a Gray-cheeked Thrush and came ever so close to capturing it for banding.

During the first week of October the White-throats became common. A third Titmouse came to the feeder. It appeared to be the offspring of our pair. The migration stopped dead in its tracks on October 14 when the thermometer shot to the 80's. A very late fledgling Cardinal came to the feeder with its mother. The young males were moulting to their post-juvenal red plumage. The holler was thinning of leaves. Some trees were bare, others shedding, and still others green. Occasionally a White-throat gave a feeble version of its mournful spring melody. An occasional White-crown appeared.

October 21 -- a return White-throat! and a special one at that. Since I had received my banding permit late in the spring migration, there was time to band only three White-throats at the end of April. The following year's banding showed that the wintering White-throats departed by middle April. The late-April and early-May birds were migrants. White-throats are known to return consistently to their wintering grounds, but very few are captured enroute. Numerous people have speculated that the White-throats use alternate spring and fall migration paths. However, 32-138705 which had been banded on April 30, 1962 as a migrant was now in the very same trap. It was not captured again, as usually was the case with the migrating birds. Surprisingly a second of those three April, 1962 White-throats furnished information. It was not until the spring of 1963 that the story became known to me. The first White-throat that I had banded on April 28, 1962 was recovered in December, 1962, at Dothan, Alabama - 35 miles from the Gulf Coast and about 550 air-miles from South Charleston. It afforded added proof these last White-throats were migrants.

# NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

BOUND VOLUMES And Indexes

Do you wish to have your copies of FEATHERS, Volumes 21 through 25, 1959-1963, cloth-bound with a 5-year index? If so, get in touch promptly with Guy Bartlett -- material is to be given to the bindery May 1. The binding, including the index, will cost $4.75 postpaid. Missing copies can be supplied for most issues, but you must furnish at least the January 1961 and March 1962 numbers.

Two cumulative indexes are now available from Mrs. Waite, treasurer. There is a 10-year, Volumes 11 through 20, 1949-1958 index; $1 postpaid. Also now available is the 5-year, Volumes 21 through 25, 1959-1963 index; 40 cents postpaid. The 10-year index is 28 pages, mimeographed, plus cover; the other is an eight-page offset item.

HARD-WORKING FEEDER Fifteen and More

Just a bit of shouting from an 83-year youngster. Monday of this week (February 24) I had the pleasure of seeing the Pileated Woodpecker pecking away about four feet from the ground on a tree in a next-door neighbor's yard. On Tuesday, my first Goldfinch for my 1964 list. Wednesday I saw an oversized Song Sparrow; on closer inspection it proved to be a Fox Sparrow.

Thursday, today, the Fox Sparrow was verified and, to top the day, a Titmouse hove into sight. A Cardinal is on the front walk now. Evening Grosbeaks are at my feeding tray. Yesterday's list ran up to 15 kinds, including the Mourning Dove and others.

A Song Sparrow without a tail was here last fall. Another Song Sparrow, possibly the mate, stayed with me so I have had two of them all winter. All are seen from an easy chair next to a window.

I believe I am continuing to see the Southern Downy Woodpecker - outer tail feathers white, while those of the Northern are spotted. -- Ernest Geiser

WINTER HUMMER Not Ruby

"Christmas in California," March, page 14, listed one Ruby-throated Hummingbird. It should have been "Hummingbird (sp?) 1." That was the way it appeared on the list made at the scene.

NEST RECORD CARDS All Can Help

A new nest record card project is being sponsored by the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University and the Onondaga Audubon Society. The object is the collection of information on the breeding biology of birds. The basic idea is that the contents of every active nest found is recorded on a card. Each nest found has a separate card, but subsequent visits to the same nest are recorded on the same card. For each nest the locality and site are recorded, as well as the name of the species, date, and number of eggs or young. Several visits to the same nest increase the value of the card.

These cards may be obtained free from the Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods, Cornell University, Ithaca and, at the end of the season, the completed cards are mailed back to the Laboratory.

From an analysis of several hundred cards it is possible to obtain an accurate picture of the breeding season, the clutch-size and its variation with season, and the nesting success of the species. In these days when insecticides are so much in the news accurate knowledge of actual breeding success would be most valuable. It is hoped that all bird-watchers will assist in this enterprise. Anyone who finds even a single nest can help.

-- David B. Peakall, Syracuse

(SBC members can obtain additional information and cards from Peter P. Wickham, Records Committee Chairman)

## S B C CALENDAR

Sat., Apr. 25 -- The Meadowdale field trip will start at 7 a.m. at the Hennessey Road railroad crossing. Those wishing only breakfast may meet the group at Aunt Jemima's Pancake Kitchen, Route 20 at Fuller Road, at 9 a.m. -- and breakfast, rain or shine.

Please telephone reservations in to Mrs. Richard A. Waite, UN 1-8998, by April 16.

To facilitate serving and enable us to get back to the birds quickly, we have ordered a standard breakfast of juice, pancakes and coffee, for which the Club will pick up the tab for members only. Bacon or sausage may be ordered at the table and paid for individually. Guests are welcome, also sponsored individually at $1.15 each. The trip will continue after breakfast.

Sun., May 3 - Lisha Kill field trip; Mrs. Nancy Slack, leader. Start from firehouse near Rosendale-River Roads intersection at 8 a.m.

Sun., May 10 - Wolf Hollow field trip; Gus Angst, leader. Start from Van Curler Garage, Washington Avenue, at 8 a.m.

Wed., May 13 - Post-dusk bird songs; Mildred Crary, leader. Meet just beyond Rosendale-River Roads intersection at 7:30 p.m.

Sat., May 16 - Century Run. All-day all-out coverage of SBC's 11-county area. Mail report at once to Guy Bartlett.

Fri., May 22 thru Sun., May 24 - 17th annual convention, Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.; Poughkeepsie; Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club of Dutchess County, host. Field trips Saturday and Sunday; council meeting Saturday morning; general meeting (paper session) Saturday afternoon; annual dinner Saturday evening. Headquarters at Poughkeepsie Inn.

Sat., May 30 - Memorial Day at Niskayuna Widewaters; Dr. Carl F. Runge, leader. Start from sandpile below Rosendale and River Roads at 8 a.m.

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FEATHERS

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# LET'S ALL TALK THE SAME LANGUAGE

"The New York State Standards of Abundance, Frequency, and Seasonal Occurrence" were explained by Robert S. Arbib, Jr., in the February 1957 issue of Audubon Field Notes. Mr. Arbib was reporting as chairman of the State Federation Committee on the State Book. The information was published in FEATHERS, Vol. 19, No. 4, April 1957, pages 17-18, and is now repeated with some modifications. Here are the definitions, along with the abbreviations SBC is using.

Abundance Scale, Non-breeding

Occurring in such numbers that a competent observer at the appropriate time and place might in a single day see or hear:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ab | Abundant: | more than 500 |
| vc | Very common: | 101 - 500 |
| c | Common: | 26 - 100 |
| fc | Fairly common: | 6 - 25 |
| unc | Uncommon: | 1 - 5 (and no more than 25 per season) |
| r | Rare: | 1 - 5 (and no more than 5 per season) |
| vr | Very rare: | 1 (and 1 per season) |

Abundance Scale, Breeding

| | Term | Breeding Density (Flicker size or smaller): One pair per | Breeding Density (Larger than Flicker): One pair per |
|---|---|---|---|
| ab | Abundant: | 5 acres or less | 25 acres or less |
| vc | Very common: | 6 - 25 acres | 26 - 125 acres |
| c | Common: | 26 - 125 acres | 126 acres - 1 sq.mi. |
| fc | Fairly common: | 125 acres - 1 sq.mi. | 1 - 5 sq.mi. |
| unc | Uncommon: | 1 - 5 sq.mi. | 6 - 25 sq.mi. |
| r | Rare: | 6-25 sq.mi. | 26 - 125 sq.mi. |
| vr | Very rare: | 26 sq.mi. or more | 126 sq.mi. or more |

gen To distinguish between colonial and non-colonial breeders the loc modifiers "generally" or "locally" can precede these terms.

Frequency Standard

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| reg | Regular: | Recorded every year |
| irreg | Irregular: | Recorded less than once every year, but no less than once in five years, on the average |
| occ | Occasional: | Recorded less than once in five years, but no less than once in ten years, on the average |
| spor | Sporadic: | Recorded less than once in ten years, but no less than once in 20 years, on the average |
| cas | Casual: | Recorded less than once in 20 years, on the average |
| exot accid | Exotic or Accidental | Recorded but, because of its normal range, not expected to occur again |

Seasonal Occurrence

| | |
|---|---|
| res | Residents: Breeding species; may occur as |
| sr | Summer residents, or |
| pr | Permanent residents |
| tr | Transients: Birds of passage which occur in spring and/or fall but do not breed; may occur as |
| s tr | Spring transients, or |
| f tr | Fall transients |
| vis | Visitants: Non-breeding birds which occur as temporary visitors; may occur as |
| sv | Summer visitant, or |
| wv | Winter visitant, or |
| vag v | Vagrant visitant (irregular as to season) |

Other S B C Abbreviations

In addition to all of the preceding, there are several more abbreviations that SBC is using in its records and publications. Here are some of them:

| | |
|---|---|
| ar | arrived |
| br | breeding/bred |
| E | eggs in nest |
| F | at feeder |
| f,♀ | female |
| fl | flock |
| hd | heard (song or other) |
| imm | immature (out of nest) |
| lv | leave/left |
| m,♂ | male |
| N | nest observed |
| nr | near |
| pr,♀♂ | pair |
| rec | recorded, but not considered an end-date of season |
| S | song heard |
| Y | young, in nest |
| SBC | Schenectady Bird Club |
| AD | Alan Devoe Bird Club |
| GC | Greene County Bird Club |

| | |
|---|---|
| Alb | Albany |
| BCM | Black Creek Marshes |
| Col | Columbia |
| Hds | Hudson |
| IndLad | Indian Ladder |
| LK | Lisha Kill |
| Mdale | Meadowdale |
| Moh | Mohawk |
| MWW | Niskayuna Widewaters |
| Sar | Saratoga |
| Sch | Schenectady |
| Sco | Scotia |
| SCR | Stony Creek Marshes |
| Tomh | Tomhannock |
| VFG | Vischer Ferry Game Area |
| WRes | Watervliet Reservoir |
| L | Lake |
| R | River |
| Res | Reservoir |

# CROSSBILLS AND WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS FEATURED LOCAL WINTER RECORDS

THE SEASON -- WINTER -- December 1, 1963 to March 31, 1964

Peter P. Wickham, Records Committee Chairman

The most notable developments of the 1963-1964 winter in SBC's 11-county Mohawk-Hudson region were the fine flight of winter finches, marked by the widespread appearance of both species of crossbill, and the unexpected appearance of wintering White-crowned Sparrows in several areas.

Especially unusual or rare species reported during the period included Snow Goose, Broad-winged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Iceland Gull, Saw-whet Owl, a hybrid Red-Yellow-shafted Flicker, Swainson's Thrush, and Bay-breasted Warbler. Other rare wintering landbirds

reported in one or two areas were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Savannah Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. Birds of prey continued to be uncommon, although hawks increased in abundance in many sections in January and February.

After a very cold and snowy Dec, temperatures in Jan and Feb were near average. Dec, with an average temperature of 18.1° at Albany, was the fourth coldest Dec on record, 8.4° below normal. Snow accumulation by the end of the month was about a foot in most areas. Jan and Feb, in contrast, averaged close to normal in temperature. Precipitation in Jan totaled 3.35 in, 0.88 in. above normal, alleviating the critical water shortage in many areas. Precipitation in Feb totaled 1.63 in., 0.64 in. less than normal, and in March 2.93 in., 0.21 in. above average. March temperatures were well above average the first ten days of the month, and below average the last half.

In late Jan and early Feb, warmer weather produced some open water in the Hudson River south of Albany, and several species - e.g., Herring Gull, Pintail and Common Goldeneye - appeared in the area. On Mar 5, the warmest day of the period (71° at Albany) the first major influx of spring migration occurred, with the appearance of Redwings, Grackles, Cowbirds, Killdeer, and many gulls and ducks. Continued warm weather over the next ten days brought numbers of additional migrants into the region. Colder weather over the latter half of the month (which averaged 3.7° lower in temp. than the first half) arrested migration in most areas (excluding waterfowl).

Abbreviations used: com-common; cr-crowned; L-Lake; nr-near; NWW-Niskayuna Wide Waters; Res-Reservoir; R-River; Sar-Saratoga; Sch-Schenectady; SCR-Stony Creek Reservoir; thr-throated; Tomh-Tomhannock; WR-Watervliet Reservoir; w-winged; GCC- Greene County Bird Club (Catskill) Christmas Count; SCC- Schenectady Christmas Count; TCC- Troy Christmas Count.

Observers (parenthesized): AD- Alan Devoe Bird Club record; GC- Greene County Bird Club record; SBC- Schenectady Bird Club field trip. GB- Guy Bartlett; HE- Hazel Eddy; DE- David Ellers; MWF- Mabel French; JF- John Fuller; EH- Esly Hallenbeck; MK- Marcia Kent; ER- Eleanor Radke; EMR- Dr. Edgar M. Reilly; WBS- Walton Sabin; BRS- Benton Seguin; RW- Robert Wernick; PPW- Peter Wickham; RPY- Robert Yunick. Also: bh- Bartlett, Havens; bs- Bartlett, Seguin; bhs- Bartlett, Havens, Seguin.

LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon: first Mar 15, NWW (EH,HE), only record in period.
Red-throated Loon: one, Dec 8, TomhRes (PPW) was late.
Horned Grebe: remained in numbers on SarL to Dec 8 (bs); first spring, Mar 21, NWW (PPW).
Pied-billed Grebe: ar in marked wave third week in Mar, first Mar 20, Lock 6, Sch (BRS).
Canada Goose: last a flock of 48, Tomh Res, Dec 8 (RPY,PPW); first arrivals at Stockport and SCR Mar 8 with slow increases thereafter.
Snow Goose: late fall records as follows: two, SarL, Dec8 (WBS, bs); one, TomhRes, Dec8 (RPY,PPW); one, Guilderland Center, Dec15 (bhs).

Gadwall: two at SCR Mar 25 (bh), an early record.
American Widgeon: first reports Mar 8, Lock 6, Sch (BRS) and Stockport (PPW).
Pintail: a female appeared on HudsR above Troy Feb 15 (PPW); migrants in marked wave Mar 7-8 in many areas.
Green-winged Teal: first Mar 8, Stockport (PPW) and in many areas by Mar 15.
Blue-winged Teal: reported early at SCR Mar 14 (bhs) and Coxsackie Mar 15 (GC) but only a few in area by end of period.
Wood Duck: first Mar 16, Castleton (AD); a marked influx Mar24-26
Redhead: two at SCR Mar 25 to end of period (bhs) the only ones.
Ring-necked Duck: remained at Sar L to Dec 8 (bs); first s tr Mar 8, Stockport (PPW, AD).
Canvasback: up to 45 at SarL to Dec 8 (bs); only spring reports, 4, Stockport Mar 8 (PPW) and 6, Moh R, Mar 29 (bhs).
Scaup: up to 70 at SarL to Dec8 (bs); first s tr Mar 14-16, with large numbers after Mar25.
Common Goldeneye: flock of 22 on HdsR above Troy Jan 18 (SBC); with advent of warmer Feb weather, 125 in that area Feb 15 (PPW); reported throughout region in Mar.
Bufflehead: first Mar 23, Amboght (GC), with only three s tr reports in period; last Dec 8, SarL (bs) and TomhRes (PPW).
Oldsquaw: last f tr, nine, Dec 8, SarL (bs); no s tr in March.
Scoters: no reports.
Ruddy Duck: last f tr Dec 8, Sar L (bs); first s tr, SCR Mar 25 (bh).
Hooded Merganser: last Dec 8 SarL (bs) and TomhRes (PPW); first s tr Mar 13, NWW (EH) and Mar 14 in several areas.
Common Merganser: only one female this winter upper HdsR (SBC); migrants at Stockport and MohR first Mar 8 (BRS,PPW,AD).
Red-breasted Merganser: at SarL in good numbers to Dec 8 (BRS); first s tr Mar 14, NWW (PPW,JF).

## HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: vagrant Jan 5, Chatham (EMR) - an unusual date; first migrants Mar 1-2, Greene Co. (GC).
Goshawk: Jan 5 nr Round Lake (bhs); Jan 18 nr Rexford (SBC); Mar 1, Canaan (AD); and Mar 14, Niskayuna (BRS).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: five reports during the period.
Cooper's Hawk: four reports during the period.
Red-tailed Hawk: more prevalent than previous winter, numbers increasing in latter part of period.
Red-shouldered Hawk: at least seven reports during period, with no apparent influx in March.
Broad-winged Hawk: two very early reports- one Mar 14, SCR and one Mar 29 along Moh R (bhs).
Rough-legged Hawk: regularly throughout period to Mar 21 (SBC); more than in previous winter, max 7, Feb 15, Meadowdale (bhs).
Bald Eagle: an immature at Sar L Dec 1 (GB,EH,BRS), observed at close range. This was the only 1963 regional record.
Marsh Hawk: probable wintering individuals reported at Old Chatham, Castleton, Livingston, and Albany Airport; first s tr Mar 14, Meadowdale (PPW,JF).
Sparrow Hawk: very few in early winter, with only nine reported in four Christmas Counts, Dec 21-28; notable increase in Feb and Mar.
Bobwhite: at least six still at Meadowdale Mar 14 (PPW,JF); some still at Athens Jan 20 (GC).
Turkey: reported irregularly from Greene and western Albany Co.
Killdeer: last Tomh Res Dec 8 (PPW); early migrants Mar 5 (Castleton (PPW) and Rotterdam Junction (RPY).

Amer. Woodcock: first s tr Mar 14, Palenville (GC) and Niskayuna (EH).
Common Snipe: one wintering at Meadowdale was shot about Feb 1; first migrants Mar 20, Palenville (GC) and Mar 22, Meadowdale (bhs).
Iceland Gull: one at Niska Isle, Moh R, Mar 25 (bh); this second-year individual was seen standing on the ice and in flight.
Great Black-backed Gull: first recorded nr Castleton Mar 6, when 20 were observed (PPW); most observers reported a decrease in numbers after the initial appearance of gulls in the region, although about 40 were seen in a large group of gulls feeding on stranded fish at Niskayuna Mar 24 (RW).
Herring Gull: none reported on area Christmas Counts. With onset of somewhat milder weather in mid-Jan, five were reported over Colonie Jan 23 (JF) and 11 were at Albany Feb 5-6 (PPW) when the Hudson was (briefly) open there. Colder weather forced most of these out, although one was on Hud R north of Troy Feb 15, and several remained at Castleton all month (AD). First wave of migration reported Mar 5 (PPW) with species widespread by Mar 10.
Ring-billed Gull: reported throughout the winter at Castleton (AD) but otherwise not reported until Mar 8 (BRS,PPW). Numbers increased rapidly the latter half of March.
Screech Owl: very few reported.
Great Horned Owl: status about as usual.
Snowy Owl: four reports in Dec, including individuals at New Scotland (MK), Reidsville (MK), Dolgeville (fide WBS), and at Mont Pleasant High School, Sch, (SBC). Only other record, one nr Rexford Feb 1 (GB,EH,BRS).
Barred Owl: individuals reported at Hudson (AD), Lisha Kill (BRS), and Purling (GC).
Saw-whet Owl: one at New Concord Jan 29 (ER).

## GOATSUCKERS - SHRIKES

Belted Kingfisher: wintered at Canaan, Cohoes and Sch; first migrant Mar 22, WR (bhs).
Flicker: wintered at Red Rock, Old Chatham, Kiskatom, Sch (2), and Melrose. One of two in Sch was found to be a hybrid Red-Yellow-shafted Flicker when it was trapped and banded Dec 22 (RPY).
Pileated Woodpecker: regular in several areas.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one at feeder in Sch to Jan 15 (RPY).
Eastern Phoebe: first migrants Mar 17, Catskill (GC) and Mar 21, New Concord (ER).
Horned Lark: considerably smaller flocks than previous winter.
Tree Swallow: first Mar 15, Rotterdam (bhs), more generally at end of period.
Boreal Chickadee: one in Sch Dec 21 (SBC), banded Dec 22 (RPY).
Tufted Titmouse: many reports, still increasing.
Winter Wren: two reports, Dec 7 and Jan 6, Chatham (AD), and two, Durham, Dec 22 (GC).
Mockingbird: reported from Ghent (AD) and Latham (B.Hicks) during Jan and Feb, and from four areas in Colu Co during Mar (AD).
Catbird: one at Spencertown to Jan 14 (AD) and one in Troy during Jan (fide PPW).
Brown Thrasher: one Jan 18, Ghent (AD).
Robin: more widespread and numerous than usual, with flocks up to 40 reported.
Hermit Thrush: one at TomhRes Dec 28, TCC the only record.
Swainson's Thrush: one at Lock 7 Jan 17 observed in good light

and convincingly described (RW). The bird was observed in same location as that in which a late migrant was seen in last period.

East. Bluebird: six wintered at Ghent (AD); other winter reports were from Meadowdale, Catskill, Mariaville and Normansville. First spring report Mar 5, Luther (J.Alexander), with many others after Mar 15.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: rare this winter, with only two reports after December.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: reported from Tomh Res Dec 8 (PPW), Sch Dec 21 (SBC), Catskill Jan 8 (GC), and Ghent Feb 26 (AD). One at a Niskayuna feeder Feb 15-29 (HE).

Cedar Waxwing: few reports during winter; migrants appeared Mar14 and during succeeding week with some areas reporting 50-100 birds.

Shrikes: a Migrant Shrike remained nr Round L throughout the winter (bhs). Northern Shrikes were reported from New Concord Feb 10 (ER) and Catskill Dec 28 (GC). Other shrikes (sp?) were reported from Meadowdale Mar 22 (bhs) and Westerlo Dec 17 (MK); they seem very scarce.

## VIREOS - SPARROWS

Myrtle Warbler: one at Loudonville feeder Dec 26-Jan 13 (MWF); another at Catskill Mar 3 (GC) may have been that at the Catskill feeder earlier in the winter.

Bay-breasted Warbler: one sitting in a small tree in Schodack on the remarkable date of Dec 14 (AD). Some chestnut on flanks as well as wing bars, back striping and the greenish color noted.

East. Meadowlark: reported all winter, with migrants in mid-Mar.

Red-winged Blackbird: few throughout winter; returning migrants appeared Mar 5 in large flocks at Castleton (PPW) and Guilderland (RPY), and widely by Mar 7.

Baltimore Oriole: one at Sch Dec 22 (SBC) at feeder; another at Loudonville feeder in mid-Dec for few days (Mrs. O'Meara); one reported from Castleton Dec 7 (AD).

Rusty Blackbird: several winter reports, but only two in Mar, when flocks are usually noted.

Common Grackle: several wintered at widely scattered locations; returning groups noted at Delmar, Castleton and Guilderland Mar 5 (DE,RPY,PPW) and widely in next few days.

Brown-headed Cowbird: many wintered; returning individuals noted after Mar 2 (GC).

Dickcissel: two found dead in Colu Co, one Dec 15, Ghent (AD) and one Jan 14, Chatham (AD).

Evening Grosbeak: com this winter, with high counts of 199 and 339 Dec 21 and 28, SCC and TCC respectively. Although numbers seemed to decrease in late Feb and early Mar, late Mar saw an influx of additional birds. In one feeding station at Sch, 128 were banded during Dec-Apr 13 (RPY).

Purple Finch: very few reported for most areas, with no evidence of a return movement in Mar; max 25 Feb 20, Colonie (RW).

Pine Grosbeak: in many areas after Dec 20 through early part of winter, mainly in small groups, max 109 Jan 15 Mariaville (BRS); fewer in Mar, last Mar 15 Mariaville (bhs).

Common Redpoll: throughout winter in small flocks, more common late Feb - mid-Mar, last Mar 22 (BRS).

Pine Siskin: reported regularly throughout the winter.

Red Crossbill: the most widespread invasion in years, with small groups reported throughout the region, and remaining past the end of the period; max 37 TCC Dec 28.

White-winged Crossbill: reported in several areas early in period but disappeared in late Jan; last Feb 1 Colonie (JF), max 25 Dec 13 Westerlo (MK).
Rufous-sided Towhee: two reports, one Jan 7 Cairo Junction (GC) and one Feb 13 Loudonville (MWF).
Savannah Sparrow: one at Meadowdale Dec 15 (bhs) and four recorded Dec 28, TCC.
Vesper Sparrow: one occasionally during winter at Schodack (AD); others reported Dec 7 Ghent (AD); Dec 25 Meadowdale (BRS); Jan 25 Vischer Ferry (bs).
Slate-colored Junco: wintered in large numbers; max 268 Dec 21 SCC and 355 Dec 28 GCC.
Oregon Junco: at least four well-identified birds-- one Dec 18-22 Sch (GB); one Dec 19 Sco (EH); one Jan 11-13 Colonie (JF), and one Loudonville Dec 26-27, Jan 2 and 14-17 (MWF).
Tree Sparrow: wintered in high numbers, max 880 SCC Dec 21.
Chipping Sparrow: one at feeder in Sch during Dec (SBC).
Field Sparrow: 1-6 in Colonie Jan 1-Feb 22 (JF).
White-crowned Sparrow: two in Dec- adult at Troy (PFW et al.) and an imm at Castleton (AD). In Jan another appeared in Colu Co (AD) and still a fourth was located near Tomh Kes (RPY). These or others were then reported throughout the period into Mar. The previous rarity of the species in winter in the local region may be illustrated in that it had never previously been recorded in either the TCC or SCC, despite the fact that the Schenectady count is 35 years old.
White-throated Sparrow: unusually large numbers reported wintering; max 11 TCC Dec 28.
Fox Sparrow: several lingered into late Dec; one reported at Clarksville Jan 15 (MK). Returning individuals noted Mar 10 and thereafter in good numbers.
Swamp Sparrow: few individuals reported into Jan. No return migration noted in period.
Lapland Longspur: few reported, in groups of 1-10, Dec 14 (bs) to Mar 18 (AD).
Snow Bunting: reported throughout period to Mar 21 (SBC); max 500 Jan 15 Mariaville (BRS); considered scarce by most observers.

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# TWO YEARS IN THE HILLS OF WEST VIRGINIA -- IV

Robert Yunick

On October 27, 1962 -- my 27th birthday -- I began one of my greatest birding adventures. The local chapter of the Brooks Bird Club had several active bird-banders who were mist-netters. They had the use of a "barn" at the McClintic Wildlife Refuge about 65 miles northwest of Charleston in the Ohio Valley. The barn was equipped with running water, flush toilets, a cast-off refrigerator and stove, tables, cots, benches, cooking utensils, and oil heat. Staying at the barn hardly constituted roughing it.

The banders used the barn as a headquarters. The barn was surrounded by numerous meadows, wild and planted; hedgerows and plantings of multiflora and Russian olive. To top it off, the conservation people had a mower for cutting four-foot lanes through the thickest of cover. These lanes served as the ultimate in net lanes, and this place was a bander's heaven. As a bander using only two traps, the netting results of these people sounded very, very attractive. Now I had an opportunity to learn the use of these nets.

The day began with a temperature of 17 degrees and, as I drove the Kanawha Valley to its confluence with the Ohio, the entire countryside was coated with a tremendous deposition of hoarfrost which caught the morning sun rays in all their splendor. When I arrived at the barn and parked, the barn door opened a crack, out stretched a handful of bird, and with the opening of the hand a banded White-throat was on its way.

Inside everyone was busy. The nets had just been visited and the birds brought back to the barn for identification and banding. A Lincoln's Sparrow was under close scrutiny. Chapman and Roberts were being consulted. Everyone agreed about the identity and the bird was banded and released. It was a thrilling experience to learn. The barn was heated not only by the controlled combustion of oil, but also by the warmth of the people, a common interest, and the sharing of that interest.

On November 17 I made another trip to McClintic. It too was a very pleasurable experience. I added four new life birds to my banding list. By now the winter weather was setting in and no more trips would be made until spring. I applied for a netting permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service. My eagerness for getting the permit was even more intense than that involved in getting my original permit.

December 2 brought the birth of our second daughter, Carole. When Carole and Anne came home the next week we had about five to seven days of below-zero weather. The birds flocked to the feeder. Since I was home on "vacation" taking care of the house, I made the most of the spare time, what there was of it, and took advantage of the birds' need for food. From December 9 to 13, I caught 127 birds in two traps. Fifty-six of these were repeats, birds caught and banded earlier.

The netting permit arrived, and later in the month the nets were bought. On December 30 they had their first trial. Two nets took 18 birds. They worked beautifully.

On January 7, 1963 there was a Screech Owl in the holler at 6 p.m. On the 8th we had a wonderful songfest at 5:45 p.m. from the eighth fairway across the holler. I listened on the next two evenings, but heard no owl. The evening of the 10th was especially conducive to listening. During the day it had warmed to 64 degrees, and winged insects were flying. As well as listening for the owl I was looking for bats, but saw none. On the 12th it snowed. Twenty-five new birds fell to the nets on the 13th.

The worst of the winter came in the next few weeks. January 23 was a mild day at 45 degrees. The rain that had begun the night before turned to snow by mid-morning. By evening it was 10 degrees and atop the icy glaze were three to five inches of snow. The following morning it was -12 degrees; we had a drop in temperature of 57 degrees in 24 hours. On the 27th the cold persisted and the birds came in number, while two to three inches of snow fell. We had 17 Cardinals -- outnumbered only by 20 pigeons.

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# BOARD ADOPTS BROAD NEW PLAN FOR FUTURE PROGRESS OF S. B. C.

## Special Meeting of Entire Membership on June 15 Will Discuss Board's Proposals

Samuel R. Madison, Chairman, Subcommittee on Planning

The S. B. C. Board of Directors at its regular meeting on May 4 unanimously adopted a long-range plan for future progress. The plan was prepared and recommended by a subcommittee of the Board appointed for that purpose. Many portions of the plan had been under consideration for several years. But, this is the first definitive and complete plan for positive action. It sets forth goals for the future, and practical policies and means by which the desired objectives may be achieved.

The Board's plan encompasses the following major steps:

(1) That S.B.C. gear itself to achieve fully the purposes for which it was created; that our Club encourage the study and appreciation of bird life to a much greater extent; that our field trips be made more educational; that more positive action be taken to encourage interest in our stated aims and drives; that the age-old dream of acquiring a library and housing it at a location available to all members be made a reality; that more action be taken in the area of conservation.

(2) That a permanent headquarters or clubhouse be constructed by S.B.C. on property centrally located to the majority of the membership. Such a headquarters would give us our "much-talked-about-but-little-done-about" permanent home and mailing address. The property would be owned outright by S.B.C. and would be located in a semi-wild area.

(3) The building would be a permanent structure, useful for all Club purposes: meetings of all types -- membership meetings, Board meetings, committee meetings, post-fieldtrip get-togethers, etc; educational classes; repository of all files and records; house a library. The building would have kitchen facilities and be of sufficient size to accommodate an expected enlarged future membership.

(4) A concerted membership drive to be spearheaded by an enlarged membership committee.

This new and revitalizing plan will take several years to accomplish. The details will be discussed at the June 15th meeting -- and for months to come.

If there is sufficient enthusiastic support for the Board's proposal, the Board has determined that the plan should be made effective immediately, and that "action on all fronts be commenced as soon as possible." The Board intends to appoint its entire membership and other Club members designated by the President as a committee to carry out the plans and policies it has approved. Members of the committee who are not members of the Board will attend all future meetings of the Board at which this matter is discussed. Subcommittees will be appointed to work on various phases of the plan such as (1) site and size of the new buildings and its facilities, (2) enlarged and more active membership committee, and (3) financing.

The Board's subcommittee rendered a nine-page report setting forth the above plans. It was unanimously approved by the Board, one member being necessarily absent. The subcommittee consists of Betty Hicks, Robert P. Yunick, and the writer as chairman. Copies of the subcommittee report will be distributed at the June 15 meeting, or may be obtained in advance by request.

* * * * *

All SBC members are urged to attend the meeting of the Club in Room 114, Van Antwerp Junior High School, Monday evening, June 15, at 8 p.m. At the meeting a proposed amendment to the constitution will be voted on. It has to do with terms of office of directors and officers, and was discussed at the annual meeting February 14 (FEATHERS, March, p.13).

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# SCHENECTADY'S FIRST HOUSE FINCH

Robert Yunick

April 29 was, for the most part, a day like many others of the previous four to five weeks at our feeder. I arrived home at about 4:50 p.m., set my mist nets, replenished the feeders, and prepared for dinner. The birds were coming well so, right after dinner, I began banding. While at the banding table on my sun porch, I glanced at the feeder, 25 feet away, and saw three finches. One was an adult male Purple Finch, another a female, and the third impressed me as different. The bird had a decidedly brighter and redder rump and breast than the male Purple Finch, and for the moment I was willing to call it a sub-adult male in molt. By the time I finished banding, the birds at the feeder had flown.

That evening when everything settled, the sight of the strange finch came to mind and I wished that I had looked at it with the binocular. It bothered me to think that I had been willing to call the bird a molting male Purple Finch, because it suddenly occurred to me that a molting bird in spring would molt from a dull-colored plumage to a bright-colored adult plumage, and not from one that was already brighter than an adult male. Now my curiosity was whetted. About three weeks before I had bought a "Western Peterson." I recalled that there was a plate of finches different from our usual eastern finches in the book, so I con-

sulted it. The adult male House Finch looked quite similar to what I had seen, but the red of the breast and rump on the color plate was off-color and, since I had had an uncertain view of the bird, I decided to stop worrying about it. I knew of the House Finch on Long Island and lack of records in our area, but in short knew little else about the bird. I thought that in due time I would seek information regarding the bird, but right then there were other things to do. I did make a mental note that the striped belly and flank were important in separating the House Finch from the Purple Finch.

We were away over the weekend and had no chance to watch the feeder. On May 5 I came home and dinner was nearly ready. I had wanted to eat early in order to get out to band Bank Swallows in Scotia. The western sun shone brightly on the back of the house and directly into the eyes of anyone looking out the kitchen window. A Goldfinch was at the feeder. As I stood looking out the window a bird landed at the feeder and, due to the glaring sun, I could distinguish only the bird's profile. It was similar to a House Sparrow, but something was not quite right. The bird's tail was too long. I grabbed the binocular and there in my field of view stood the mystery finch with its bright rump, breast and striped flank. Because of my previous frame of mind - that of indecision - I would not quite believe that it was a House Finch. I wanted more proof. The bird was obviously something unusual.

I called Pete Wickham who I thought would be familiar with the bird from his days on Long Island. I wanted more information about the bird than the field guide provided, and Peter gave it to me. He mentioned the most important features of the bird and how these compared to similar species. He recalled having a monograph on the bird that he would locate.

At about 5:30 p.m. I unfurled my nets with the hope of getting the bird - the swallows were forgotten by now. At about 5:35 p.m. Pete called and read a detailed description of the bird to me. Everything he mentioned, I had been able to observe as fitting the House Finch. Then as fate would have it, the bird lit on the feeder while I talked on the telephone. By now I was satisfied and, thanks to Peter's information, the identification was positive. The bird fed while Anne and the children were only 30 feet away in the yard. Peter made plans to come the next day, hopefully to see the bird. Anne, not knowing what was at the feeder, came toward the house and the bird flew. I ended the telephone conversation and hustled everyone into the house despite Anne's complaint about "You and your birds!" An air-raid alert was in effect. I hoped that by clearing the yard, the bird would return and possibly be netted. Within five minutes the "alert" began to bring results. The bird was back. Now I was confronted with its capture.

All too often birds at the feeder fly away overhead to two nearby plum trees or several birches rather than to fly out to the nets which are only seven feet tall and at varying distances from the feeder. There was only one course of action - panic. By scaring the bird from the right direction, it would not rely on its usual flight paths and would hopefully hit a net. I had employed this technique previously with success. I snuck out the front door and went around to the back corner of the house from where I was going to charge the bird. By now you have probably concluded that bird-banders are crazy, and you may be correct. Anne, I am sure, believes it.

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FEATHERS

CIRCULATION
Miss Mildred D. Crary
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I peered around the corner and was momentarily very disappointed, for there was no bird at the feeder. In the same instant I caught sight of a squirrel on the ground and in those few milliseconds visions came in mind of past, wild flushings by squirrels of grosbeaks and other birds about to enter traps. However, before I had time to condemn the squirrel for such an act, I caught sight of a "rosy-colored" bird in the bottom shelf of the net. Surely it must be the finch and, judging from its position in the corner of the net, where little slack existed, I knew the bird was precariously held. I had to act fast or lose the bird. I ran to the net and, just as I was to grab it, the bird escaped! In that fraction of a second I died another one of those deaths that bird-banders die watching badly wanted birds walk out of traps, fly over or out of nets, etc. However, by the time the bird had flown two or three feet, I mentally relaxed because I knew that victory was near.

The bird headed inescapably toward a second net about 12 feet away. It hit the second shelf of a new, untorn net and formed a very deep, secure pocket in the net. For the first time in my life, I was happy to have had a squirrel near the feeder.

At 6:45 Peter's line was busy - probably the RBA was in effect. I called Hazel Eddy to speed the Rare Bird Alert and also announce the capture. Then I reached Peter and advised him that the bird was in hand, and to get in his chariot and get over to see it. Then I called Guy Bartlett. I went out to the porch to photograph the bird. As I worked the phone rang. I placed the bird in a cage and went to the kitchen, and just as I reached for the telephone, the ringing stopped.

I sounded the "all clear" and my relieved wife and unconcerned children were allowed the yard again. It seemed that everything happened while I was photographing. The nets were taking birds, the telephone rang again, and more birds came. Before I knew it Benton Seguin arrived, then the Bartletts, followed by Hazel Eddy, Esly Hallenbeck, Phil Clark, Peter, the Shedds, and Beverly Waite and her mother. In due time everything quieted. The three or four Redwings were banded, along with some White-throats, a Chipping Sparrow and some Grackles. Everyone had a satisfactory view of the House Finch, and at about 8 p.m. the bird was released. This was referred to by someone as a "launching." It flew over a neighbor's house to a maple where to the best of my knowledge it roosted that night. The fading light in the west gave an especial reddish glow to the bird's breast. Unfortunately, we have not seen the bird since. Apparently the eight flashbulbs and two hours' captivity were too high a price for our sunflower seeds. Hopefully "Lucky 7"(Band #101-103007) will show up at someone's station.

What about the voice of the House Finch? One of its more common call notes is like the chirp of a House Sparrow. Its song has been well described as resembling that of the Purple Finch but higher, longer, more disjointed, and frequently ending with a nasal note.

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FEATHERS

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# 161 SPECIES ON CENTURY RUN SET NEW MARK -- NO LIST ADDITIONS

Guy Bartlett, Compiler

One hundred and sixty-one species of birds, plus one hybrid, were recorded by seven groups of observers on SBC's 19th annual Century Run, on Saturday, May 16, within the local 11-county area. Previous high was in 1962 -- 155 species plus 1 hybrid. There were no added species this year, so the master list for the 19 years remains at 222 species plus 2 hybrids. Two groups obtained lists of well over 100 species -- 127 and 121 respectively; two other groups were just a few short of the magic mark.

The weather was ideal -- clear; windless to slight southwest of 5-10 mph; temp from 40° to 85°. Some were afield at 3 a.m.; some did not stop until 9:30 p.m. Foliage was well advanced, and not thereby helping in quickly seeing tree-top birds. There were 45 participants in the seven groups. Needless to say, some of the favorite regions were covered, recovered and supercovered. Northern observations were missing -- with owl, nuthatch, heron and hawk possibilities not developed.

Outstanding among the records were:

Red-necked Grebe: First record since 1951
Common Egret: First record since 1955
Brant: Previous records in 1954 and 1957 only
American Widgeon: Only previous record, 1953
Red-breasted Merganser: First record since 1958
Bald Eagle: First record since 1959
Baird's Sandpiper: Only previous record, 1962
Black Tern: First record since 1959
Red-breasted Nuthatch: Missed for second time in 19 years
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Previous records 1947 and 1960 only
Loggerhead Shrike: Only previous record in 1956
Palm Warbler: First record since 1956
Common Redpoll: Previous records in 1956 and 1958 only

Thirty-two species were seen by one group only, and are listed with the observers. Thirty-four species were recorded by all groups: Killdeer, Chimney Swift, Kingfisher, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee; Tree, Rough-winged and Barn Swallows; Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Catbird, Robin, Veery, Starling, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warbler, Yellowthroat, Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Grackle, Cowbird, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch, Chipping and Song Sparrows. There were 24 species on all except one list: Mallard, Black Duck, Sparrow Hawk, Pheasant, Spotted Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Horned Lark, Blue Jay, Crow, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated

Vireo, Golden-winged and Chestnut-sided Warblers, Ovenbird, Meadowlark, Scarlet Tanager, Towhee, Field and Swamp Sparrows.

Observers, and Areas

Group A Mrs. Robert Arnold, Betty Hicks, Mary Johnston, Hazel Kinzly, Mary Linch, John and Stephen Fuller, David Rothaupt, Mrs. Gilbert Eddy. 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Schenectady and Albany counties. Baird's Sandpiper easily at 20 feet, for analysis from bill to black legs. 121 species: Pied-billed Grebe, Red-shouldered Hawk, Semipalmated Plover; Pectoral, Baird's and Semipalmated Sandpipers; Great Horned Owl, Rusty Blackbird, Common Redpoll.

Group B Neil Gomberg, Mr/Mrs Byron T. Hipple, Grace Liebich, Pat and Virginia Malone, Estelle Rogers, Mrs.F.A.C.Samuels, Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner (compiler), Lee Thomas, Mildred Betts; observers not together all the time. 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. Washington Park and Cary Road in Albany, Six-mile Waterworks, Karner Road, Albany Airport, Niskayuna Widewaters, French's Mill Road, Meadowdale, Thatcher Park, South Bethlehem, Routes 9J and 144 down to van Wie Point and Hudson River, and Slingerlands. 97 species: Common Nighthawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Blackpoll Warbler.

Group C Ethel Young, Ruth Fox and Stephanie Podrazik; 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Stephanie, Regina and Irena Podrazik, 4:30 to 9 p.m. Rosendale Road, Parkview Cemetery, Central Park, Lock 7 Road, Meadowdale. 81 species.: Common Egret, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler.

Group D Mr/Mrs Chester Zimmer. All day, home area, Gallupville. Cerulean Warbler not observed, but seen May 13. 40 species: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Group E Gus Angst. 5:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Rosendale and River Roads, Lisha Kill, Vischer Ponds, Stony Creek Reservoir, Meadowdale. 76 species plus 1 hybrid: Hooded Merganser, Brewster's Warbler.

Group F Alice Holmes, Esly Hallenbeck, Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin (after 4 p.m.). 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Central Park, Lisha Kill, Vischer Ponds, Stony Creek Reservoir, Round and Saratoga Lakes, Karner, Watervliet Reservoir, Meadowdale. 96 species: Red-breasted Merganser, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Loggerhead Shrike, Cape May Warbler.

Group G Walton Sabin, Peter P. Wickham, Dr. Donald Tucker, Samuel Madison, David Ellers, Dr. Hollis Ingraham, Mr. Lade, Dr. Robert Korns; and four observers from Utica for part of time. 3 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Meadowdale, Indian Ladder, Watervliet Reservoir, Karner, Lisha Kill, Niskayuna Widewaters, Stony Creek Reservoir, Vischer, Round and Saratoga Lakes. 127 species: Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Brant, American Widgeon, Redhead, Common Merganser, Brown Creeper, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Blackburnian Warbler.

Group X Supplementary records: Red Crossbill - At feeder, Mr/Mrs Harold Jonson, State Farm Road.

Thirty participants in the Alan Devoe Bird Club century run listed 137 species, including the Prothonotary and Kentucky Warblers and Orchard Oriole among birds not on the SBC list.

| GROUP | ABCDEF | G |
|---|---|---|
| Common Loon | | 2 |
| Red-necked Grebe | | 1 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | a | |
| Green Heron | ab ef | 4 |
| Common Egret | c | |
| American Bittern | abc f | 3 |
| Canada Goose | e | 3 |
| Brant | | 25 |
| Mallard | abc ef | 8 |
| Black Duck | abc ef | 18 |
| Blue-winged Teal | a f | 2 |
| American Widgeon | | 2 |
| Wood Duck | c f | 3 |
| Redhead | | 2 |
| Scaup (sp?) | f | 4 |
| Hooded Merganser | e | |
| Common Merganser | | 1f |
| Red-breasted Merganser | f | |
| Turkey Vulture | | 1 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | ab e | 8 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | a | |
| Bald Eagle | f | |
| Osprey | f | |
| Sparrow Hawk | abc ef | 2 |
| Ruffed Grouse | a | 2 |
| Bobwhite | abc f | 5 |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | abc ef | 6 |
| Virginia Rail | a f | 1 |
| Sora | a f | |
| Common Gallinule | a | 4 |
| Semipalmated Plover | a | |
| Killdeer | abcdef | 8 |
| American Woodcock | ab | 1 |
| Common Snipe | a f | 3 |
| Upland Plover | b | 1 |
| Spotted Sandpiper | abc ef | 9 |
| Solitary Sandpiper | abc f | 5 |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | a | 1 |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | a | |
| Baird's Sandpiper | a | |
| Least Sandpiper | ab | 10 |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | a | |
| Herring Gull | abc ef | 15 |
| Ring-billed Gull | a f | 1 |
| Black Tern | f | 8 |
| Mourning Dove | abc ef | 4 |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | ab d f | 2 |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | a c ef | 15 |
| Screech Owl | b | 1 |
| Great Horned Owl | a | |
| Whip-poor-will | a c | 1 |
| Common Nighthawk | b | |
| Chimney Swift | abcdef | 15 |
| Ruby-thr.Hummingbird | ab | |
| Belted Kingfisher | abcdef | 1 |
| Yellow-shafted Flicker | abcdef | g |
| Pileated Woodpecker | ab f | |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | b | |
| Yel-bellied Sapsucker | d | |
| Hairy Woodpecker | abc e | 3 |
| Downy Woodpecker | abcdef | 8 |
| Eastern Kingbird | abc ef | g |
| Gr.Crested Flycatcher | abc ef | 10 |
| Eastern Phoebe | abc ef | 6 |
| Traill's Flycatcher | a | 6 |
| Least Flycatcher | abcdef | 4 |
| East. Wood Pewee | abcdef | 8 |
| Horned Lark | abc ef | 1 |
| Tree Swallow | abcdef | 25 |
| Bank Swallow | ab ef | 20 |
| Rough-winged Swallow | abcdef | 6 |
| Barn Swallow | abcdef | 45 |
| Cliff Swallow | ab f | 10 |
| Purple Martin | bc ef | 2 |
| Blue Jay | abcd f | g |
| Common Crow | abc ef | g |
| Black-cap.Chickadee | abcdef | g |
| Tufted Titmouse | c f | |
| White-br. Nuthatch | abcdef | 5 |
| Brown Creeper | | 1 |
| House Wren | abcdef | 15 |
| Winter Wren | a | 2 |
| Long-b. Marsh Wren | ab ef | 5 |
| Short-b. Marsh Wren | a | 1 |
| Catbird | abcdef | g |
| Brown Thrasher | abc ef | 4 |
| Robin | abcdef | g |
| Wood Thrush | abc ef | g |
| Hermit Thrush | ab | |
| Swainson's Thrush | ab | 3 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | | 2 |
| Veery | abcdef | 6 |
| Eastern Bluebird | ab d | 2 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | ab f | 2 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | a c | |
| Cedar Waxwing | ab | 12 |
| Loggerhead Shrike | f | |
| Starling | abcdef | g |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | a cdef | 6 |
| Solitary Vireo | ab | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | abcdef | 20 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | b e | |
| Warbling Vireo | abcdef | 5 |
| Black-&-White Warbler | a c f | 6 |
| Worm-eating Warbler | ab | 1 |
| Golden-winged Warbler | abc ef | 6 |
| Blue-winged Warbler | a | 1 |
| (Brewster's Warbler) | e | |
| Tennessee Warbler | bc | 4 |
| Nashville Warbler | a | 1 |
| Parula Warbler | c | 2 |
| Yellow Warbler | abcdef | 25 |
| Magnolia Warbler | e | 1 |
| Cape May Warbler | f | |
| Black-thr.Blue Warbler | c e | 3 |
| Myrtle Warbler | ab ef | 2 |
| Black-thr.Green Wrblr. | bc ef | 1 |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | 1 |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | abc ef | 10 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bay-breasted Warbler | b f | Cardinal | abcdef 3 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | b | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | abcdef20 |
| Pine Warbler | c | Indigo Bunting | abcdef 7 |
| Prairie Warbler | ab 3 | Evening Grosbeak | ab 5 |
| Palm Warbler | c | Purple Finch | a cd f 6 |
| Ovenbird | abc ef10 | Common Redpoll | a |
| Northern Waterthrush | a f 1 | Pine Siskin | ab ef |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | a ef 1 | American Goldfinch | abcdef30 |
| Yellowthroat | abcdef25 | Red Crossbill (Group X) | |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | 3 | Rufous-sided Towhee | abc ef20 |
| Wilson's Warbler | ab 2 | Savannah Sparrow | ab f 3 |
| Canada Warbler | ab e 6 | Grasshopper Sparrow | a c f 1 |
| American Redstart | abcdef15 | Henslow's Sparrow | a f 1 |
| House Sparrow | abcdef g | Vesper Sparrow | a c f 2 |
| Bobolink | abcdef35 | Slate-colored Junco | e 3 |
| Eastern Meadowlark | abc ef15 | Chipping Sparrow | abcdef g |
| Red-winged Blackbird | abcdef g | Field Sparrow | abc ef10 |
| Baltimore Oriole | abcdef g | White-crowned Sparrow | a c |
| Rusty Blackbird | a | White-throated Sparrow | abc e 2 |
| Common Grackle | abcdef g | Swamp Sparrow | abc ef g |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | abcdef g | Song Sparrow | abcdef g |
| Scarlet Tanager | abc ef10 | | |

# TWO YEARS IN THE HILLS OF WEST VIRGINIA -- V

Robert P. Yunick

An immature Mockingbird banded in November returned for suet in late January, 1963. This bird had a technique all its own. It refused to compete directly with the other birds for food. In order to get its share, it invariably came into the yard with a great rush, uttering a harsh alarm note. At this all the birds scattered, and the mocker settled down to a meal of his choosing. Typically a piece of suet was confiscated and carried off to some nearby undisturbed perch for consumption.

Despite the -4° on the thermometer on February 16, Song Sparrows sang. The Titmice had started calling in January. Now they called more frequently. Their loud, clear "peta-peta-peta" was the call of spring. In the late winter and early spring, this call rang out clearly through the barren, hardwood-clad hollers. Later, when these same hillsides were in leaf, and their sound-carrying qualities deadened, the Titmouse's call was just another call. But here in February and March, despite the weather, there was no more optimistic a note than that of these little gray rascals who scolded me because of an empty feeder tray or when I put out my nets. Just recalling their notes takes me back to early spring in the Appalachians.

While watching the nets on the 17th I heard the call of what I thought was a toned-down Pileated Woodpecker. Glancing that way, I saw a Harrier come to rest on a tree limb in the holler. Shortly the bird was flushed by a car coming up the holler road. The Harrier flew up over tree level and glided out over the fairway.

On February 24 we were treated to our first live 'possum. It sat on the lawn in much the manner of a cat. Peculiarly the animal had spent most of the day wandering our yard and our neighbor's. During the spring and summer we had many subsequent en-

counters with this dull, stupid marsupial, but always at night and mainly after 10 p.m.

Early March of 1963 brought many signs of spring. The temperature moderated. The Meadowlarks returned. On March 4 the peepers were out in a heavy night-time rain; they called loudly from a small pond across the holler. On the 9th I banded my first Phoebe. The next day brought a pair of Bluebirds. The male sang softly in the cold morning rain. They stayed only about 15 minutes and were gone.

The first attempt of the season at McClintic was on March 16 and was a rained-out failure. It was such a disappointment after awakening at 4:30 a.m., driving 63 miles, setting up the nets, seeing the rain come, waiting for a break in the clouds, and finally going out in the 40° rain and getting thoronghly soaked taking down the nets. It was a long ride home. The rain-swollen Kanawha was lapping at its banks and many of the river-bottom fields were flooded.

March went out like a lamb. On the 29th the temperature was in the 80's. On the 30th it went to 75°. Through the day birds, especially Robins and Juncos, dribbled through the yard. A quite early Hummingbird bounced off one of the wind-blown mist nets and continued on its way. During that last week of March a number of banded Blue Jays which had been absent all winter rturned to the feeder.

April 1 saw the coming of the season's first Brown Thrashers and weather in the 80's. This April was considerably more pleasant than April 1962. The weather was dry, warm and comfortable. The pre-seasonal warmth brought many species back earlier than usual. On April5 I joined two other banders at McClintic for an overnight trip. We had our nets out just before dark. The setting of the sun brought rapid cooling and there was much bird activity. We were busy with our headlamps after dusk, taking birds from the nets. In the pleasantly cool, brisk April air we worked while several Woodcock called from nearby meadows. To one used to the city's night noises and smells, the open-country air was invigorating and revitalizing. We took the cure.

We were up at 5:30 a.m. next day making the rounds of the nets. The ground was well frosted as a result of temperatures in the mid-20's. The day warmed to the 60's and we had a wonderful time. We basked in the mid-day sun and watched the first falcate orange-tips, eastern tailed blues and tiger swallowtails flit along a grove of Russian olive. We caught over a hundred birds, including my first Fox and Savannah Sparrows.

Spring, Not Autumnal, Splendor

This was blossoming time. During the first week of April the dogwood and apple were in heavy bud. By the middle of April many trees and shrubs were out in full force. What the autumnal foliage is to the Northeast, the blossoming of trees and shrubs during the second and third weeks of April is to the Appalachians. Appalachian April was, for us, the most spectacular of the seasons in the hills. The great number and assortment of blossoming shrubs and deciduous trees came to life at this time, bringing forth their lush greens. The fall foliage was dull and drab compared to northern New York, but spring splendor second to none.

On April 18 I added a life Cerulean Warbler and on the 20th a White-eyed Vireo. The next day one of the vireos was banded. The bird was very belligerent and somehow its bespectacled white eyes enhanced its ferocity. It was an active biter. I cannot help but laugh to myself every time I think of the White-eye's facial expression and manner.

Thrushes 62-189305 and 62-189311

In Part II of this article (page 18) I spoke about banding and releasing two injured Wood Thrushes, 62-189305 and 62-189311. They were banded in late April, 1962. The story of these two birds did not end with their release, however. Consider the date April 23, 1963. It was a very peculiar day. I was up at 6:30 a.m. The temperature was 70° at 7 a.m. I took five birds from my mist nets. One was an unbanded Wood Thrush, one a previously banded Blue Jay, two unbanded White-throats, and a return Catbird banded previously on May 11, 1962. It was my first Catbird of 1963. When these were recorded and released, another bird was in the net. The bird was smaller than a Song Sparrow and had the markings of an Ovenbird, but it could not be. As so often happens, even familiar birds look so startlingly different in the hand. I had always imagined an Ovenbird as thrush-sized. But what could this be? A quick search revealed that it had to be an Ovenbird, and I was amazed. For years I had heard these callers of the woodlands give forth their robust notes and always believed them to be sizeable birds. Here cuddled in my hand was this midget version of a vocal giant. In my journal I made the following entry, "I gladly banded it and it flew silently away. Whenever I hear one sing again in the deep woods I'll think of that tiny sprite which bears 67-76966."

Noon-hour that day, two bird-club members and I visited a picnic site at work. This place had become a regular lunch-time haunt. In a pine tree 20 feet over my head I saw my first Yellow-throated Warbler -- a species that would figure in another banding adventure. By 5 p.m. the temperature had dropped to 48° and a low of 30° was predicted. That evening another Wood Thrush was taken from a mist net. 62-189311 had returned from Nicaragua or Costa Rica or wherever it had wintered. A bird for which there had been so little hope and which felt like such a burden in my hand on May 8, 1962, was now healthy and vigorous and a handful of joy. Twice in the next three days it was recaptured. Several days later, on May 5, the even more seriously injured 62-189305 which had been nearly pecked to death a year before was taken from a mist net. It was recaptured during June and July as a resident. Perhaps the stories of these thrushes are not yet complete.

April faded into May and by the end of the second week the migration had pretty well spent itself. Before the tide had ebbed, however, a number of birds were seen and banded. On the morning of May 5 I was out repairing a gaping hole in a net. The night before, an owl seeking a mouse or a shrew on the lawn had hit the net with sufficient force to break it. Three feathers remained in the net. Their general coloration matched well that of a Screech Owl. A net near an apple tree, where a Chat was seen a year earlier, captured three Chats this weekend. A life Orchard Oriole was caught and banded. The last of the White-throats straggled northward.

## NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

### ALICE ABEL

It is with regret that we note the death of a charter member of Schenectady Bird Club, Miss Alice M. Abel who died June 21 after a long illness. Miss Abel was an inspirational English teacher in the public schools of Schenectady for many years and retired from Linton High School in 1958. She was a delightful companion, an ardent lover of the out-of-doors, and will be missed by a host of friends. -- Alice Holmes

### AMENDMENT ADOPTED

At a membership meeting of SBC June 15 at Van Antwerp School, Section 3 of Article V of the By-laws was amended to read:

Section 3. Term of office.

The officers shall hold office for the term of one year or until their successors shall have qualified. The other directors shall likewise hold office until their successors have been qualified. The President, Vice President, Secretary and other directors, except the Treasurer, may be elected and serve not more than two successive terms in the same office. The Treasurer may be elected and serve for not more than four successive terms. Any officer or other member of the Board who is disqualifiwd from being re-elected and serving by virtue of the provisions hereof shall be eligible to be elected to and serve as any other officer or member of the Board.

### WORTH REPEATING

Said the late Ding Darling, then chief of the old Biological Survey under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the first North American Wildlife Conference back in 1936:

"Putting out honey cups for the hummingbirds and suet for the wintering cardinals is a laudable and pleasant contribution. Passing fervent resolutions protesting against the nonexistence of fish in our streams and birds in our uplands ... buying a hunting license for a dollar and a half and subscribing to an outdoor magazine ... all are desirable in their way.

"But they do not entitle anyone to a medal for distinguished service as a conservationist. We have been doing all these things for a generation and according ourselves honorary mention as good citizens." (Michigan Audubon Society Newsletter)

### AOU IN KANSAS

The 82nd stated meeting of The American Ornithologists' Union will be held August 30-September 3 at the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. On Thursday, September 3, a field trip to the Natural History Reservation of the University of Kansas is planned.

### FEWER EVENINGS

Young Evening Grosbeaks were brought to feeders at Jenny Lake earlier (June 25) than last year but in smaller numbers. Other feeder-visiting species seemed about normal. G. B.

SCHENECTADY GAZETTE, TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1964

## Action Can Be Taken if Birds Endanger Health—

# *Drive on Pigeon Nuisance Is Urged in Schenectady*

By PETE JACOBS
Gazette Reporter

Whether or not Schenectady should take up the war on pigeons that was recently dropped by Fort Edward and is still being engaged in by Albany is an issue that is still up in the air here.

* * *

PIGEONS have for many centuries been the servant of man and the vagabond players for the very young and old, but in a sophisticated society they are often considered messy, a nuisance and a menace to health.

"For two years there was a strange odor in the house," a woman told the Gazette recently. "The chimney got very hot and all the plants in the house died," she said. "We really love birds and feed them all the time," she added. When the roofers examined the chimney, she said, large pigeon nests were found to have plugged it, filling the house with carbon monoxide. If we'd ever lit the fireplace they told us we'd have been blown up, she said. "Now we have spikes in our chimney and the pigeons have moved to the house next door," she said, adding, "some people used poison on their roofs but that kills innocent birds."

* * *

JOSEPH PENNELL, assistant general manager of the chamber of commerce and secretary of the downtown merchants bureau, said recently he has received constant complaints about pigeons from downtown merchants. Pennell said he also receives complaints from business executives who see the embroidery of pigeons on store fronts and also from consumers and private citizens. "They are no benefit to the economy of Schenectady," he said. "In some instances, according to the merchants," he said, "the pigeons affect the economy adversely."

As it stands now, conservation law protects registered and carrier pigeons, but makes the provision for legislative bodies of any city or incorporated village, or their boards of health, to issue permits to trap pigeons if they become a public nuisance, or menace to public health.

* * *

FORT EDWARD declared war on its pigeons January 6. Within four weeks, 1,800 were dead according to Mayor Louis Fisher. There had been 4,000 against 12 men armed with shotguns and pellet-guns. During the conflict it was noted, however, that the pigeons learned the range of enemy shot and flew outside it. There is a front established there that neither man nor bird dare tread and according to recent intelligence reports, the town is quiet and unmenaced.

The pigeon is comparatively intelligent, a "rugged individualist" and has a high capacity for independence. Pigeons usually won't stay were they are not wanted, according to Guy Bartlett, a member of the Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. They are hardy breeders, he said. The construction of city buildings is protection for their nestings and there isn't much natural resistance to them, he added.

* * *

THE SCHENECTADY Bird Club Inc., which comprises bird lovers in a 10-county area, centered in Albany and Schenectady, led the drive for enactment of a bill, killed on March 6 by the state assembly. The bill would have allowed "permits to be issued to any person to take pigeons at any time and in any manner." "Bird lovers are not all pigeon fanciers," Bartlett said.

Joining with the Schenectady Bird Club Inc., in the drive for state anti-pigeon legislation were the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Audubon Society, Alan Devoe Bird Club of Columbia county and Max Wheat, conservation committee chairman of the state federation of bird clubs — the state counterpart of an Audubon Society, composed of about 35 groups throughout the state.

* * *

"PIGEONS in municipalities are in our opinion a nuisance. We have concluded that they are a health menace to many situations and will continue to be a greater menace to health if their population growth is allowed to continue unchecked," the bird groups said in letters to the state legislature.

Many methods have been developed to eliminate or intimidate the pigeon, including various types of traps, poisons, acidic pastes and electrical fixtures. Guns and firearms, however, probably establish the greatest confidence, since one is able to see his target destroyed. In most man-pigeon conflicts firearms are a last resort and perhaps are used when no-feeding, nest destruction and more subtle campaigns cannot be co-ordinated on a large scale.

* * *

"NOTHING has been done in my 31 years on the job to eliminate them and it's getting worse," said Chester Griffith, field supervisor and assistant regional conservation officer for the capital district.

"The farmers are hard hit by them," Griffith said. "They feed on grain," he said. "Their broods will be hatching from next month through July and August," he said.

Neither City Manager Peter Roan nor Health Commissioner Dr. Malcolm Bouton have received formal complaints regarding pigeons in Schenectady. Dr. Bouton did say, however, that permits can be issued to trap them when they are a nuisance. A lung disease, psitacosis, similar to pneumonia is carried by pigeons and other birds, but it is not a health problem in Schenectady, he said.

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# DATES SET FOR 20TH SCREEN-TOUR SERIES

Speakers and dates for SBC's 20th annual Audubon Screen Tour series are:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thu. | Oct. 8 | Walter H. Berlet | "Northwest to Alaska" |
| Thu. | Nov.19 | John D. Bulger | "New England Saga" |
| Wed. | Jan.27 | Harry Pederson | "Village Beneath the Sea" |
| Thu. | Mar. 4 | John E. Taft | "Land That I Love" |
| Thu. | Mar.25 | D. J. Nelson | "Inherit the Wild" |

With one exception, all programs will be at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of Niskayuna High School, Balltown Road. The first program will be presented in the auditorium of Linton High School, The Plaza. Co-chairmen for the series are Miss Eleanor Byrne and Barrington S. Havens.

Tickets will be mailed to members and others who have requested them about September 1. Only season tickets will be sold, and it should be kept in mind that for several years the demand has exceeded the supply -- prompt purchases are urged.

# SPRING SHOREBIRD FLIGHT OUTSTANDING

THE SEASON -- SPRING -- April 1 to May 31, 1964

Peter P. Wickham, Records Committee Chairman

This spring was once again quite dry. Precipitation at Albany totalled 2.17 in. during Apr and 1.31 in. for May, 0.60 and 2.16 in. below normal, respectively. Although Apr, with an average of 45.7°, was very close to the normal in temperature, May was a warm month, with temperatures averaging 61.7°, 3.8° above normal.

Ducks and geese were observed in average numbers early in the period. An unusual number of species were recorded well into May, although some observers felt the bulk of the waterfowl left a little earlier than usual. The very dry conditions prevailing in May made the local spring shorebird flight an outstanding one.

Despite a series of pleasant days at the end of Apr and the beginning of May, the bulk of the landbirds did not appear until May 6-10. Observers reported good numbers of many species on May 9 and 10 especially. It seems likely that a storm passing south of the region at the beginning of May held back many migrants for a few days, as birds usually appearing first in very early May were reported generally 3-4 days later this year. Few "waves" were noted after that culmination on May 9-10, as days continued to be sunny and pleasant, and the birds were not detained.

The spring migration of warblers was generally disappointing. Despite the wide variety of species reported, most observers saw few individuals, even of some rather common species. Although this was very likely due partly to the lack of rain or even cloud

cover on many nights, still even nesting warblers seemed less common in a number of local areas.

An interesting result of the influx of finches over the past winter was the number of late records of these birds; especially noteworthy were the many reports of lingering Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills.

Unusual or rare species reported during the period included Red-throated Loon, Cattle Egret, Brant, Snow Goose, Shoveler, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, King Rail, Iceland Gull, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, Brewster's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole and Dickcissel. In addition, a House Finch was recorded in the Mohawk-Hudson region for the first time, and two sandpipers which were probably Baird's were reported.

Abbreviations used: arr-arrived; BCM- Black Creek Marshes; br-breasted; Co-County; Colu-Columbia; com-common; cr-crowned; L-Lake; LK-Lisha Kill; max-maximum count; n-necked; Nisk-Niskayuna; nr-near; NWW- Niskayuna Wide Waters; pr-pair; R- River; Res- Reservoir; SCR- Stony Creek Reservoir; SL- Saratoga Lake; Tomh- Tomhannock; thr-throated; w- winged; WR-Watervliet Res.

Observers (parenthesized): SBC- Schenectady Bird Club field trip; AD- Alan Devoe Bird Club record; GC- Greene County Bird Club record; GA- Gus Angst; GB- Guy Bartlett; HE- Hazel Eddy; JF- John Fuller; EH- Esly Hallenbeck; BH- Barrington Havens; MK- Marcia Kent; SP- Stephanie Podrazik; ER- Eleanor Radke; EMR- Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr; WBS- Walton Sabin; BRS - Benton Seguin; RS,MLS- Robert & Mary Lou Shedd; DJT- Dr. Donald J. Tucker; BW- Beverly Waite; RW- Robert Wernick; PPW- Peter Wickham; RPY- Robert Yunick; NZ- Naomi Zimmer; also B-S-H for Bartlett, Seguin and Havens.

## LOONS-DUCKS

Common Loon: reported throughout period to May 16,SL(WBS,PPW).
Red-throated Loon: one at SL Apr 25 (B-S-H).
Red-necked Grebe: four Apr 19-25 (B-S-H) and one very late at SL May 16 (WBS,PPW).
Horned Grebe: last May 1, SL (BRS); max 60 SL Apr 25 (B-S-H).
Pied-billed Grebe: more than last year; max 28 Apr 5 (GB,BH).
Great Blue Heron: very few seen.
Common Egret: one at Claverack Apr 16 (AD); one at Chatham Apr 22 (EMR); one at Basic Res Apr 26 (WBS). A fourth at SCR May 16-17 (SP)
Cattle Egret: flock of 15-20 appeared on a farm nr Broadalbin May 6 and were photographed (fide L.Stoner). The only report.
Green Heron: arr late; one in Canaan Apr 18 (AD), but others arrived in marked wave Apr 28-30
American Bittern: one Apr 12, Round L (B-S-H); most arr Apr24 and thereafter.
Canada Goose: many flocks observed, last May 24 (AD).
Brant: two flocks observed flying over and one on the water in Greene County May 16-18 (GC); flock flew over Slingerlands on May 16 (WBS,DJT).
Snow Goose: one flew over Meadowdale with flock of Canada Geese Apr 17 (MLS).
Gadwall: pr at SCR Apr 8-12 (EH,HE).

American Widgeon: most left by mid-Apr, but two were at SCR thru May 16 (PPW,WBS)
Pintail: good numbers; last Apr 23 (GB,BH)
Green-winged Teal: last May 7, SCR (B-S-H).
Blue-winged Teal: large influx about Apr 10; few appeared to remain in area to breed
Shoveler: one male Apr 11, SL (SBC)
Redhead: one pr at SCR Apr 2-5 (B-S-H)(EH); pair at NWW May 16 (DJT,PPW,WBS)
Ring-necked Duck: in good numbers to May 3 (B-S-H)
Canvasback: several reports early Apr, max 40 SL (BRS); last SCR Apr 26 (GA)
Scaup: seen regularly thru May 16 (SBC)
Common Goldeneye: to May 3, SL (B-S-H)
Bufflehead: relatively few reported, last May 1 (BRS)
Oldsquaw: brief appearance; 14 at SL Apr 22 (B-S-H); six MohR above Cohoes Apr 23 (GB,BH); one at Alcove Res Apr 26 (WBS)
White-winged Scoter: one at Lock 7, Moh R Apr 22 (BRS)
Ruddy Duck: one at SL Apr 22 (BRS)
Hooded Merganser: number of reports; last May 16 (GA)
Common Merganser: well into May; last May 16, WR (WBS,PPW) and May 23 NWW (PPW)
Red-breasted Merganser: reported up to May 16, WR and SL (B-S-H)

## HAWKS - OWLS

Goshawk: two late records- one Apr 18, Old Chatham (AD); one Meadowdale Apr 26 (GB,BRS)
Sharp-shinned Hawk: only five reports, three Apr 24-28 (B-S-H)
Cooper's Hawk: one Alcove Res Apr 12 (WBS); one near Albany Airport Apr 27 (RW)
Red-shouldered Hawk: ten reports, mostly singles, scattered thru period
Red-tailed Hawk: seems somewhat more common this year than last
Broad-winged Hawk: some migrants Apr 18-May 10, no large flocks
Rough-legged Hawk: last, one Kinderhook Apr 1 (ER) and one Apr 5 (GB,BH)
Bald Eagle: two reports- one at WR Apr25 (JF), one at SCR (BRS et al) May 7-16, both adults
Marsh Hawk: eleven reports to mid-May
Osprey: early report Apr 4, Emboght (GC); appeared in several areas Apr 12-14, and then reported to May 16, SCR (B-S-H).
Peregrine Falcon: one over Wolf Hollow May 10 (SBC)
Bobwhite: Recorded at Canaan, Emboght, Meadowdale and Niskayuna
King Rail: one seen well at BCM May 17 (LThomas)
Virginia Rail: first, BCM Apr 18 (EH); reports few
Sora: at BCM Apr 22 (BRS) to May 16 (SBC); also Greene and Columbia counties May 16 (GC,AD)
Common Gallinule: few reports, first Apr 4 BCM (EH) and Apr 5, Coxsackie (GC), very early. Next reports were after Apr 20
American Coot: only two reports- one Apr 24,SCR(WBS) and one May 16, Greene Co (GC)
Semipalmated Plover: more than 15 reported from May 16, Vly Creek Res (HE,JF,BHicks) through end of period
Upland Plover: few reports, first May 16 (SBC)
Spotted Sandpiper: arr in marked wave last week of Apr, first Apr 23 (GB,BH)
Solitary Sandpiper: late, first May 8,SL (B-S-H) and Defreestville (PPW)
Greater Yellowlegs: reports sprinkled throughout period from Apr 4, Emboght(GC) to May 24, Meadowdale (B-S-H)

Lesser Yellowlegs: at least 5 reports from May 16 (SBC)-May31(RPY)
Pectoral Sandpiper: 1-4 at Meadowdale Apr 24-May 1 (HE et al); also at Nisk May 16 (HE,JF,BHicks)
Least Sandpiper: reported May 16 (many areas) thru period, max 40 May18(BRS). Banding of 44 of these nr Scotia on six dates produced only three repeats on dates other than that of capture, even though large numbers of the species were maintained thruout the latter half of May at the locality, showing a rapid, continuous movement through the area (RPY). A similar pattern was shown by banding results with Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Spotted Sandpiper.
Dunlin: three nr Scotia May 28; one banded and remained thru May 31 (RPY)
Semipalmated Sandpiper: mostly 1-2 reported, May 16, Nisk (HE,JF, BHicks)-May 29 (RPY), but 23 were banded the evening of May 28 (RPY).
Baird's Sandpiper: two birds, probably of this species, observed in company of Pectoral and Least Sandpipers at Nisk May 16 (HArnold, BHicks et al). Unfortunately others were not able to find the birds later
Iceland Gull: one at SL Apr 23 (GB,BH)
Great Black-backed Gull: few reported, last May 7 (B-S-H)
Bonaparte's Gull: reported from Apr 12,SL - May 7,SL (B-S-H) in small numbers; most reports Apr 18-26
Common Tern:first at Queechy L and SL Apr 22 (AD,BRS). Several other reports in late Apr and early May; last May 24,NWW (GB,BH)
Black Tern: three reports, all SL, May 9-16, max 8 (PPW et al)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr May 7, Meadowdale (RS,MLS); seen in good numbers
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr May 8, Catskill (GC) and BCM (B-S-H).
OWLS: no unusual ones reported.

## GOATSUCKERS - SHRIKES

Whip-poor-will: very early first report, Apr 9, Palenville (GC); several reported late Apr and later
Nighthawk: two early reports- one Apr 29, Chatham Center (AD) and one May 2, South Schodack (AD); most arr after May 15
Chimney Swift: first Apr24, Catskill (GC) and Apr27,Chatham (ER).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first May 6, Scotia (RPY); large influx late in May
Pileated Woodpecker: good numbers reported from all sections.
Red-headed Woodpecker: several reports- one,Meadowdale, May 10-11 (BW,RS,MLS); one, Chatham Center May 10(fide PPW); one, Washington Park, Albany, May 16 (BHipple et al); and one, Kiskatom, May 16 (GC)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: first Apr 2, ColuCo (AD) with several observed Apr 11-12; last migrant observed May 16, Gallupville (HE,NZ,EH)
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: reported at Karner May 8 (HWinn et al) and at Nisk May 9 (HE et al). The localities about 10 miles apart, so both observations could refer to same individual.
Eastern Kingbird: first May 1, BCM (BRS), but most arr May 7 on.
Crested Flycatcher: first May 3 (SBC) with many reports in next few days.
Traill's Flycatcher: first May 16, BCM (SBC) and thereafter.
Least Flycatcher: first Apr 23, Ghent (AD) and Apr27, Greenville (GC), but most appeared in early May.
Wood Pewee: first May 10, ColuCo (AD) and May 16 elsewhere; relatively few reported.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one report, May 16, ColuCo (AD)
Tree Swallow: numbers rapidly built up Apr 5-11, and remained high throughout period
Bank Swallow: first Apr 17 (WBS,BH,GB); widely seen by end of Apr. At one especially large colony nr Scotia, 606 nest holes were counted on May 23, and a careful estimation based on banded swallows indicated about 1175 adults present (RPY).
Rough-winged Swallow: first Apr 17, Catskill (GC) and widely the following week.
Barn Swallow: first Apr 11, Canaan (AD) and Apr 14, Rotterdam Jct (RPY), with many reports the following week.
Cliff Swallow: first Apr 25, BCM (SBC); few reports.
Purple Martin: first reported at Linlithgo quite early, Apr 6 (AD); at Nisk Apr 25 (B-S-H), and Corinth (GB).
Boreal Chickadee: one seen and heard at Tomh Apr 17 (WBS et al).
Tufted Titmouse: nesting in several areas, although not common. Adults observed feeding young at LK May 3 (SBC).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: few migrants observed, although present in usual breeding areas.
Brown Creeper: fairly heavy flight noted by several observers over latter half of Apr.
House Wren: first Apr 24, Nisk (HE); widespread by May 1.
Winter Wren: only two migrants reported, in mid-Apr.
Carolina Wren: one seen May 12 at Catskill (GC) in locality where species bred previously, but it did not return.
Long-billed Marsh Wren: very late and in low numbers in all reporting areas; first May 10, Castleton (AD)
Short-billed Marsh Wren: only record a singing individual at BCM May 16 (SBC).
Mockingbird: reported from New Concord, South Schodack, Catskill, Greenville and Athens, but no reports much north of Colu and Greene counties.
Catbird: first May 2, several areas; widely by May 7.
Brown Thrasher: first Apr 18, Palenville (GC) and Apr 23, Westerlo (MK) with marked influx last week of Apr.
Wood Thrush: first Apr 28, Catskill (GC) and Scotia (RPY); many reported May 1-4.
Hermit Thrush: few migrants observed, first Apr 5 (GB,BH); most Apr 19-May 10.
Swainson's Thrush: several reports, May 7(BRS)-May 22(RW).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: four reported, May 7(BRS)-May 16 (PPW,WBS, DJT).
Veery: reported very early- Apr 25 at Colonie (JF et al) but most appeared from May 6 on.
Bluebird: may be slowly increasing in area, or at least holding its own.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: very few reports, Apr 19-26 (B-S-H); most observers reported none.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: good flight Apr 14 (EH)-May 16 (several reports); max 45 Apr 25 (PPW).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: unprecedented flight, at least 9 reported. First report May 5. Two pr reported nesting nr Voorheesville (SBC); nest of one of these found. Another pr at Kiskatom May 16 and thereafter (GC); still another pair observed May 13 along Route 30, Schoharie County (HE,NZ,EH). Single seen May 17, Central Park, Schen (BRS).
Water Pipit: three reports- small flock, Apr 26, BCM (BRS,GB); 40, May 16, Kiskatom (GC); and flock remained at Ghent thru May 16 (AD)
Migrant Shrike: one singing nr Catskill Apr 11 (GC). The individual which wintered nr Round L still present there May 16 (B-S-H); a third shrike (sp?) May 16, ColuCo (AD).

VIREOS - WARBLERS

Yellow-throated Vireo: first May 7, several localities.
Solitary Vireo: first Apr 29, Red Rock (AD); marked wave May 7-10.
Red-eyed Vireo: first May 4, Schodack Center (AD); widespread by May 10.
Philadelphia Vireo: two reports, both May 16 (SBC).
Warbling Vireo: one singing, Nisk, Apr29(PPW); marked influx May 4-5, several areas.
Black-and-white Warbler: relatively few observed; first Apr 27, Meadowdale (MLS) and Greenville (GC).
Prothonotary Warbler: one May 16, Old Chatham (EMR), first in region in several years.
Worm-eating Warbler: at Indian Ladder as usual, May 16 and on (SBC); also Ghent May 11 (AD) and at Kiskatom May 16 (GC).
Golden-winged Warbler: first May 4, New Concord (AD), with many reported May 7-9.
Blue-winged Warbler: seen May 7, Troy (PPW) and New Concord (AD) and in more localities than usual May 8-10.
Brewster's Warbler: one nr LK May 13 and again May 16 (SBC). No other reports of hybrids.
Tennessee Warbler: first May 8, Vischer Ferry (B-S-H), with marked wave May 9-10, last May 17 (B-S-H).
Orange-crowned Warbler: singing bird at ADBC sanctuary, Old Chatham, May 9 (AD).
Nashville Warbler: first May 1, Ghent (AD) and May 3, LK (SBC).
Parula Warbler: more reported than usual, first May 6, Schenectady (B-S-H).
Yellow Warbler: first Apr 25, Ghent (AD) and in several localities Apr 26-29.
Magnolia Warbler: May 5, Schen - May 24, Indian Ladder (B-S-H); few reported.
Cape May Warbler: May 7 (several observers)-May 16(SBC).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: first May 4, Schen (BRS); very few reported.
Myrtle Warbler: first Apr 11, SL (SBC), early. This bird was in female or immature plumage and may have wintered nearby. Later reports from Apr 18, Castleton (AD)-May 24 (B-S-H), below usual numbers.
Black-throated Green Warbler: first Apr 26, Tomh (PPW), but most appeared May 3-4 and later. Appeared very low in numbers, and absent from some areas where it previously bred.
Blackburnian Warbler: first May 2, LK (B-S-H) and May 4, Meadowdale (RS,MLS).
Cerulean Warbler: observed May 13, Gallupville (NZ,HE,EH), but species apparently not breeding in this area where it has bred for last several years.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: first May 2, Nisk (B-S-H), generally reported May 7-9.
Bay-breasted Warbler: only five reports, from May 11, Ghent (AD) to May 31, Nisk (SBC)
Blackpoll Warbler: first May 11, Ghent (AD) to end of period.
Pine Warbler: first May 6, LK (RW); only four reports.
Prairie Warbler: first May 9 (AD), New Concord; with other reports from Catskill (GC) and Karner (SBC).
Palm Warbler: only five reports, all singles; four Apr 22-26, and one May 16 (SP).
Ovenbird: first May 4, Catskill (GC); in other areas May 6-8.
Northern Waterthrush: few reports, May 1-May 16.
Louisiana Waterthrush: first Apr 23, Red Rock (AD); few seen.
Kentucky Warbler: again at Ghent, May 16-17 (AD); only report.

Mourning Warbler: no migrants observed; however, species present in nesting habitat at Jenny Lake (GB).
Northern Yellowthroat: first May 4, Catskill (GC) and May 6, BCM (B-S-H).
Yellow-breasted Chat: several reports- one, BCM, May 9 and 16 (PPW et al); one, Vischer Ferry, May 10 (B-S-H); one, nr Albany Airport May 16 (RW); one nr Catskill May 16 (GC); and at least two nr Altamont May 16 (PPW,WBS,DJT).
Wilson's Warbler: several reports, May 8, Schen (B-S-H) to May 16 (several localities).
Canada Warbler: first May 7, BCM (B-S-H); generally reported May 9 and on.
Redstart: first May 6, LK (RW) and May 7, Troy (PPW), and generally in succeeding days.

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

Bobolink: first May 6 (B-S-H); widely observed May 8-9.
Baltimore Oriole: first May 3, ColuCo (AD), and in other areas in marked wave May 4-5.
Orchard Oriole: May 8, Catskill (GC); May 10, Ghent (AD); May 22, Nisk (PPW). Two pr reported nesting at Castleton (AD).
Rusty Blackbird: number of Apr reports, last Apr 28, BCM (MLS); one reported May 16, (HE,BHicks,JF).
Scarlet Tanager: first May 8, LK (B-S-H)and widely May 11-12.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: several early, first Apr 25, Nisk (HE) and Apr 26, Castleton (AD).
Indigo Bunting: very early individual at Castleton Apr 18 (AD); next report from Catskill May 7 (GC), with most birds appearing from May 10 on.
Dickcissel: one at feeder in Canaan Apr 18 by observers familiar with species (AD).
Evening Grosbeak: lingered late in good numbers, last reports May 16 (SBC); summering at Jenny Lake (GB).
Purple Finch: very few until about Apr 20, when noticeable influx occurred; frequently reported through May.
House Finch: one seen at feeder in Nisk Apr 29. On May 5 this male was trapped, photographed and viewed by large number of observers (RPY et al). To my knowledge, this is the first record of the species for the Mohawk-Hudson region, and may portend a northward extension of its range into this region.
Common Redpoll: one very late individual seen in flock of Pine Siskins at Meadowdale May 16 (HE,JF,BHicks).
Pine Siskin: number seen up to mid-May; last May 21, Catskill (GC).
Red Crossbill: observed in numbers both at feeders and elsewhere throughout April and well into May. Last reported, May 16, Guilderland (HJonson).
Rufous-sided Towhee: gradual influx from Apr 17 on, with good numbers in most areas by Apr 26.
Savannah Sparrow: first Apr 12, Schodack (AD), and from several areas in following week.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr late, first May 6, Catskill (GC).
Henslow's Sparrow: few reports, first May 7 Meadowdale (B-S-H).
Vesper Sparrow: first Apr 11 several areas (SBC).
Slate-colored Junco: migrants passing through well into May, last May 29 (very late), Muitzeskill (AD)
Tree Sparrow: last Apr 27, Westerlo (MK).
Chipping Sparrow: first Apr 10, Nisk (HE); marked wave Apr 20-25.
Field Sparrow: first Apr 7 (GC,AD).
White-crowned Sparrow: two still at feeders in ColuCo in Apr.;

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first migrants observed Apr 23 (EH); marked wave May 9-11, when some observers reported seeing 10-20 individuals.
White-throated Sparrow: reported throughout period, marked influx May 5-11.
Fox Sparrow: many reports early Apr, last Apr 12, SL (B-S-H).
Lincoln's Sparrow: only report, ColuCo May 16 (AD).
Swamp Sparrow: quite late in appearance, first Apr 15, BCM (EH).
Snow Bunting: observed at Altamont Apr 22 (late) (HE).

## S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Saratoga-Round Lakes — April 11

The first really warm, still day of spring brought what must have been a record turnout of SBC observers who threatened to outnumber the species count. Fortunately the birds obliged with an equally impressive attendance. Skeins of Canadas sectored the sky above Saratoga; rafts of them settled on the lake. Excellent views of displaying Mergansers, Goldeneyes and Buffleheads were enjoyed by all observers at the "point" on Saratoga. A pair of Blue-winged Teal were seen by the leader's party on a farm pond after leaving the trip at Kaydeross Park.

This was an altogether satisfactory outing, a textbook experience in good birding for so large a group well represented by old hands and novices. The 35 observers listed 47 species:

5 Common Loon; 3 Horned Grebe; 6 Pied-billed Grebe; 200 Canada Geese; 3 Mallard; Black Duck; 3 Pintail; 2 Blue-winged Teal; 4 American Widgeon; 1 Shoveler; 2 Wood Duck; 18 Ring-necked Duck; 30 Lesser Scaup; 25 Common Goldeneye, 20 Bufflehead; 2 Hooded Merganser; 30 Common Merganser; 8 Red-breasted Merganser.

1 Red-shouldered Hawk; 2 Sparrow Hawk; 1 Killdeer; 2 Great Black-backed Gull; Herring Gull; Ring-billed Gull; 2 Mourning Dove; 1 Belted Kingfisher; 5 Downy Woodpecker.

2 Eastern Phoebe; 12 Tree Swallow; 1 Blue Jay; Common Crow; 2 Black-capped Chickadee; Robin; 3 Cedar Waxwing; Starling; 2 Myrtle Warbler; House Sparrow.

Red-winged Blackbird; Common Grackle; 2 Brown-headed Cowbird; 1 Cardinal; 2 Evening Grosbeak; 3 Pine Siskin; 3 American Goldfinch; 2 Vesper Sparrow; 5 Tree Sparrow; Song Sparrow.

-- Howard L. Malone

## S B C CALENDAR

Saturday, August 22 - Field trip, Watervliet Reservoir; Mary Linch, leader, IV-9-7868. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the bridge of Route 158.

Saturday, September 19 - Field trip, Karner Sand Barrens, Mary Johnston, leader, IV 9-7868. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Drive-in Theater, Stop 22 on Route 5.

Saturday, September 26 - Brigantine, N.J., field trip. Contact Miss Hicks, ST 5-7960, or Miss Linch, IV 9-7868, for details.

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FEATHERS

SEPTEMBER
1964

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# PLANNING COMMITTEE READY TO ACT

"S.B.C. has been in existence for approximately a quarter of a century. In recent years its membership has remained practically constant, i.e., new members have simply offset attrition due to deaths and departures from the area. The Club has in our opinion not fully achieved the purposes for which it was organized.

"We believe that these purposes can be achieved. We believe that S.B.C. can encourage the study and appreciation of bird-life to a greater extent than it has; we believe the Club can do more in the area of conservation, both with respect to birds and conservation generally; we believe that our field trips can be made more meaningful and educational; we believe that more can be done to encourage interest in our aims and desires. We believe that our work in scientific and educational programs, with respect to birds and nature in general, can be greatly enhanced.

"We believe that the aim of acquiring and maintaining a library, announced years ago, can be a reality within a short time. We believe that suitable housing for such a library can be accomplished by the construction of a new headquarters; that such headquarters would be a permanent office of the Club; that all meetings could be held therein.

"These are merely a portion of the accomplishments which can be achieved by proper planning," said Samuel R. Madison at the special SBC membership meeting June 15 at Van Antwerp School. He was reporting as chairman of a special committee which also included Miss Betty Hicks and Dr. Robert P. Yunick.

Consensus at the meeting was that the plan for future progress offered real opportunities and challenges. A few voiced objections to any increase in membership dues or costs of Audubon Screen Tour tickets, but more than 90 per cent asked for increased activities (including instructional classes and library facilities, among other items) and more meetings, and development of the plans of the committee (FEATHERS, June, pages 37-38).

At a subsequent meeting of the SBC board, at Jenny Lake July

# Brigantine -- and Cape May

Cape May, as well as Brigantine Beach, has been suggested for inclusion in the SBC field trip along the Jersey shore the weekend of September 26. The leader is James K. Meritt, formerly of Schenectady and now of Blackwood, N.J. Those planning to participate should check promptly with either of the field-trip committee members: Miss Betty Hicks, ST 5-7960, or Miss Mary Linch, IV 9-7868. Walton Sabin, HE 9-1144, also can supply information about arrangements.

11, President Walton B. Sabin was empowered to appoint a committee to carry out the plan, consisting of all Board members and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the subcommittees who might not be members of the board. The group will be known as the Planning Committee. Its subcommittees will include:

Finance and Corporate Reorganization
Activities Development
Membership
Headquarters Site
Headquarters Facilities and Operation

Appointments to these, and possibly other, subcommittees will be announced after the Board meeting in September.

---

# JOHN BULL TO EDIT STATE BOOK

Virginia Sabin

John L. Bull of The American Museum of Natural History, New York City, has been selected as permanent editor-author of "Birds of New York State," it was announced at the 17th annual convention of Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held in Poughkeepsie May 22-24. SBC was one of 27 clubs to have representatives at the business meeting Saturday morning.

At the meeting the nominating committee extended its appreciation to Mrs. Dayton Stoner, outgoing Corresponding Secretary. The president expressed regrets that Mrs. Stoner would no longer be an officer but felt sure that she would continue to serve the Federation in many ways. Mrs. Stoner was given a vote of thanks, and later was elected chairman of the nominating committee for 1965.

Samuel R. Madison, as chairman of the finance committee, presented the 1965 budget of $2620, a cut from the 1964 budget but still a deficit one. He urged an increase in dues.

Walton B. Sabin, as chairman of the nominating committee, presented the following slate of officers: President, Robert S. Arbib, Jr., Mamaroneck; Vice President, Dr. Allen H. Benton, Fredonia; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Frederick Marsi, Binghamton; Recording Secretary, Miss Margaret S. Rusk, Syracuse; and Treasurer, Kenneth D. Niven, Monticello. The slate was elected.

Mrs. Beverly Waite was one of two new members appointed to the conservation committee, of which Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., of Freeport, L.I., is chairman. At the meeting Mr. Wheat proposed the following resolutions, which were approved by the council:

1, that the New York State Conservation Department purchase the Barry Town area along the Hudson River to preserve it as a wildlife area;
2, that the State of Pennsylvania be petitioned not to further develop Presque Island;
3, that Buckhorn State Park be kept as a wildlife refuge and that a proposed music festival be located elsewhere;
4, that the Federation take cognizance of the work of Nature Conservancy in setting aside for preservation various areas

in the state (Dome Island, Lake George, and Lisha Kill are among such areas);

5, that the Federation go on record against the use of motorized vehicles in the Forest Preserve except for emergency purposes, and that the Federation commend Chairman Watson Pomeroy of the Joint Legislation Committee on Natural Resources for his work on this matter;

6, that the Federation support efforts to persuade the U. S. government not to use Mikura Jima off Japan as a bomb-test site;

7-10, that the Federation go on record in support of the Wilderness Bill, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Bill, establishment of National Seashores, and preservation of the Hempstead Wetlands as a wildlife refuge;

11, that the Federation go on record as opposed to any bounty system; and

12, that the Federation stands opposed to the indiscriminate use of pesticides and poison sprays.

The 18th annual convention of the Federation will be held in Syracuse in June, 1965.

## S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Pancake Breakfast — April 25

In a favorite spot, the Meadowdale trip of April 25 did not produce as long a list as it might have two weeks later, for we were well in advance of the warbler season. Migrating swallows, constant display flights of the Common Snipe, and 23 Ruby-crowned Kinglets almost made up for it, however.

The in-hand observation of one Red Crossbill at Harold Jonson's feeder was a show-stopper. Panicky at the sight of so many staring people, the bird was unable to find its way out of the glass jar where it was eating sunflower seeds. Mary Linch reached in for the Crossbill and held it for all to see the curving mandibles and the red and gold plumage of the sub-adult.

Extra-curricular observations of the morning: a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Hazel Eddy's (early, for cool weather); Widgeons and 3 Pectoral Sandpipers at Med-O-Dale Farm; Pied-billed Grebe, Scaup, Canada Geese, Ospreys and -- a Bald Eagle -- at Watervliet Reservoir. There was a flexible total of 39 persons on the field trip and at the pancake breakfast; 52 species were listed:

1 American Bittern
6 Mallard
8 Black Duck
2 Green-winged Teal
4 Blue-winged Teal
6 Wood Duck
3 Red-tailed Hawk
1 Broad-winged Hawk
2 Sparrow Hawk
3 Bobwhite
1 Ring-necked Pheasant
2 Virginia Rail
3 Killdeer
4 Common Snipe
1 Spotted Sandpiper
1 Greater Yellowlegs
15 Mourning Dove
2 Belted Kingfisher
6 Yellow-shafted Flicker
2 Pileated Woodpecker
4 Hairy Woodpecker
2 Downy Woodpecker
2 Eastern Phoebe
Tree Swallow
6 Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow

1 Cliff Swallow
5 Blue Jay
8 Common Crow
8 Black-capped Chickadee
1 White-breasted Nuthatch
1 Brown Thrasher
Robin
1 Eastern Bluebird
23 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Starling
6 Myrtle Warbler
House Sparrow
8 Eastern Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
1 Cardinal
20 Evening Grosbeak
2 American Goldfinch
1 Red Crossbill
8 Vesper Sparrow
6 Chipping Sparrow
4 Field Sparrow
4 White-throated Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Song Sparrow -- Beverly Waite

Lisha Kill May 3

There were 44 participants for the Lisha Kill field trip of May 3 -- so many people that the group was divided into three separate groups, each with at least one competent leader, and the lists combined. It was too early for many of the warblers, including the Ovenbird which is very common there later. Brown Creepers and the Louisiana Waterthrush were both seen and heard. Pellets, probably of the Great Horned Owl, were found along the trail.

The beauty of the area, with its stately old hemlocks and rushing stream, as well as the variety of bird song, were enjoyed by all. A trip into the area a week or two later is recommended.

Titmice were nesting in a tree near the bank of the first tributary stream. There were 34 species:

2 Ruffed Grouse
7 Mourning Dove
Yellow-shafted Flicker
5 Hairy Woodpecker
3 Downy Woodpecker
2 Great Crested Flycatcher
Blue Jay
Common Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
3 Tufted Titmouse
6 White-breasted Nuthatch
4 Brown Creeper
2 House Wren
1 Brown Thrasher
Robin
2 Wood Thrush
1 Hermit Thrush
3 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Starling
1 Black-and-white Warbler
2 Nashville Warbler
3 Myrtle Warbler
2 Louisiana Waterthrush
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
2 Evening Grosbeak
1 Purple Finch
8 Red Crossbill
4 Rufous-sided Towhee
2 Chipping Sparrow
5 Field Sparrow
5 White-throated Sparrow
9 Song Sparrow -- Nancy Slack

Wolf Hollow May 10

For the Wolf Hollow trip of May 10 the weather was cloudy, with a brief shower late in the morning. In the Hollow itself was little wind, but on the rim the wind was 15 mph from the northwest, with gusts up to 25 mph. It was cool, and not many warblers were in evidence, Highlight of the trip was a Peregrine Falcon.

There were 16 observers; and 49 species were recorded:

2 Red-tailed Hawk
1 Broad-winged Hawk
1 Peregrine Falcon
1 Mourning Dove
2 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
3 Chimney Swift

4 Yellow-shafted Flicker
1 Pileated Woodpecker
1 Hairy Woodpecker
4 Great Crested Flycatcher
3 Eastern Phoebe
4 Tree Swallow
8 Barn Swallow
4 Blue Jay
Common Crow
6 Black-capped Chickadee
3 White-breasted Nuthatch
2 House Wren
Robin
7 Wood Thrush
2 Veery
1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Starling
1 Magnolia Warbler
3 Black-throated Green Warbler
2 Blackburnian Warbler
1 Chestnut-sided Warbler
1 Bay-breasted Warbler
1 Pine Warbler
4 Ovenbird
4 Louisiana Waterthrush
1 Yellowthroat
3 Canada Warbler
2 American Redstart
House Sparrow
3 Eastern Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
6 Baltimore Oriole
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
2 Scarlet Tanager
7 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
3 American Goldfinch
2 Rufous-sided Towhee
11 Slate-colored Junco
5 Chipping Sparrow
2 Field Sparrow
8 White-throated Sparrow
9 Song Sparrow

-- Gustave Angst

Rosendale Road Evening Trip — May 13

The weather was cloudy, the wind southeast, and the temperature 68 degrees for the post-dusk trip along Rosendale Road on May 13. There were 18 observers who listed 27 species:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ring-nk. Pheasant | Wood Thrush | Eastern Meadowlark |
| Mourning Dove | Veery | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Whip-poor-will | Starling | Baltimore Oriole |
| Downy Woodpecker | Golden-winged Warbler | Scarlet Tanager |
| Eastern Phoebe | (Brewster's Wblr) | Rose-breasted Grosbk. |
| Black-cap.Chickadee | Chestnut-sided Wblr. | Indigo Bunting |
| House Wren | Blackpoll Warbler | Rufous-sided Towhee |
| Catbird | Ovenbird | White-thr. Sparrow |
| Robin | Yellowthroat | Song Sparrow |

Highlighting the records were the Whip-poor-will, the Golden-winged Warbler, and the hybrid Brewster's.

-- Mildred Crary

Century Run — May 16

The story of the annual Century Run, with its record-breaking total of 161 species has already been told -- June, pages 41-44.

Bird-banding — May 20

Twenty-six members and guests assembled at the Glenville landfill area for the special field trip featuring banding operations, from 6 p.m. to dark on May 20. Due to the excellent opportunity for taking shorebirds on the open mud flats adjacent to the swallow colony, the netting effort was directed toward the sandpipers and plovers. Despite the variety of shorebirds present, only the Least Sandpiper was netted. Many learned for the first time how agile some species are on the wing, as the birds did their best to avoid the nets. Others thrilled to the wheeling, compact groups of "peeps" that occasionally hit the nets. The close, in-the-hand views of those birds that were caught were enjoyed.

During the evening, swallows that were frequenting the flat

blundered into the nets. The vast majority were too fleet of wing to be caught. Fortunately, one bird was a Rough-winged, and those present had a chance to compare it with bank swallows in the hand. Parenthesized figures below show numbers banded. The 19 species:

1 Mallard
1 Semipalmated Plover
3 Killdeer
1 Spotted Sandpiper
1 Solitary Sandpiper
1 Lesser Yellowlegs
20 Least Sandpiper (14)
1 Common Nighthawk
1 Belted Kingfisher
1000 Bank Swallow (7)
1 Rough-winged Swallow (1)
5 Barn Swallow
1 Tufted Titmouse
10 Starling
1 Eastern Meadowlark
3 Red-winged Blackbird
1 Baltimore Oriole
5 Common Grackle
1 Song Sparrow

-- Robert P. Yunick

Lisha Kill - Niskayuna Widewaters May 30

Memorial Day was a beautiful, clear day. The trip began at the Rosendale Road sandpile, then to Lisha Kill ravine. We went up the ravine about 1/3 mile to the point where the trail crosses the stream. Most notable in this area was the hovering performance by two hummingbirds and vocal performances by several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. We did hear one Louisiana Waterthrush. We next went along the Lock 7 Road to the culvert, and along the river trail eastward. In this area were one nest each of Robin and Baltimore Oriole.

From here we went eastward along the old railroad tracks through several backwaters, past Niska Isle bridge to the Widewaters at Niskayuna Road - a good two miles of hiking. Most notable on this hike was the prevalence of Warbling Vireos. They could be heard on all sides the whole distance. At the marshes near Niskayuna Road we saw several shorebirds as listed and two Black Ducks. We returned to the starting point by cars.

After the group broke up, about a third of us went to Craig School hoping for Upland Plover, but saw none. However, we did add Bobolink, Horned Lark and Redptailed Hawk. The day was a good one. The 19 participants listed 63 species:

4 Mallard
2 Black Duck
1 Blue-winged Teal
1 Red-tailed Hawk
1 Semipalmated Plover
8 Killdeer
1 Spotted Sandpiper
2 Least Sandpiper
2 Herring Gull
3 Mourning Dove
1 Black-billed Cuckoo
4 Chimney Swift
2 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
3 Yellow-shafted Flicker
2 Downy Woodpecker
2 Eastern Kingbird
4 Great Crested Flycatcher
2 Eastern Phoebe
1 Least Flycatcher
1 Eastern Wood Pewee
1 Horned Lark
4 Tree Swallow
6 Barn Swallow
Blue Jay
Common Crow
2 Black-capped Chickadee
1 White-breasted Nuthatch
1 Brown Creeper
2 House Wren
1 Long-billed Marsh Wren
4 Catbird
1 Brown Thrasher
10 Wood Thrush
20 Veery
1 Cedar Waxwing
Robin
Starling
6 Yellow-throated Vireo
4 Red-eyed Vireo
16 Warbling Vireo
1 Golden-winged Warbler
20 Yellow Warbler

1 Chestnut-sided Warbler
1 Bay-breasted Warbler
1 Louisiana Waterthrush
12 Yellowthroat
20 American Redstart
House Sparrow
7 Bobolink
4 Eastern Meadowlark
12 Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
4 Brown-headed Cowbird
3 Scarlet Tanager
1 Cardinal
7 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
1 Indigo Bunting
12 American Goldfinch
1 Grasshopper Sparrow
1 Field Sparrow
2 Swamp Sparrow
20 Song Sparrow

-- C. F. Runge

Jenny Lake July 18

Feeding stations provided by far the majority of avian records on Saturday, July 18, when 20 or more SBC members and guests escaped some of the heat of the day by investigating Jenny Lake and environs. Lists varied according to the territory covered and the time of day, but included in the individual lists were at least some of these 47 (F shows records at feeders):

Broad-winged Hawk
Ruffed Grouse
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird (F)
Yellow-shafted Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (F)
Hairy Woodpecker (F)
Downy Woodpecker (F)
Eastern Phoebe
Least Flycatcher
Wood Pewee
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
Blue Jay (F)
Common Crow
Black-capped Chickadee (F)
White-breasted Nuthatch (F)
Red-breasted Nuthatch (F)
Brown Creeper
Catbird
Robin
Wood Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Veery
Cedar Waxwing
Solitary Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Black-and-white Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Ovenbird (F)
Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird (F)
Scarlet Tanager
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Evening Grosbeak (F)
Purple Finch (F)
American Goldfinch
Slate-colored Junco (F)
Chipping Sparrow (F)
White-throated Sparrow (F)
Swamp Sparrow
Song Sparrow (F)

-- B. S. H. & G. B.

Watervliet Reservoir August 22

The rainy day we had needed all summer arrived August 22, the day of the Watervliet Reservoir summer field trip. In spite of the rain we had 38 species and three birders. The highlight of the trip was the banding of a Least Bittern by Bob Yunick.

A little statistical information on two previous August trips at the reservoir:

1963 -- 10 observers -- 52 species
1962 -- 16 observers -- 45 species

The list of 38 species:

1 Great Blue Heron
1 Green Heron
1 Common Egret
1 Least Bittern
12 Mallard
8 Black Duck
37 Blue-winged Teal
2 Wood Duck

EDITOR
Guy Bartlett
1053 Parkwood Boulevard
Schenectady 8, N. Y.

FEATHERS

CIRCULATION
Miss Mildred D. Crary
603 State Street
Schenectady 7, N. Y.

1 Killdeer
2 Spotted Sandpiper
1 Lesser Yellowlegs
1 Herring Gull
1 Mourning Dove
1 Chimney Swift
1 Belted Kingfisher
1 Downy Woodpecker
1 Eastern Kingbird
1 Eastern Wood Pewee
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
1 Cliff Swallow
1 Blue Jay
5 Common Crow
4 Black-capped Chickadee
4 White-breasted Nuthatch
2 Long-billed Marsh Wren
11 Catbird
1 Robin
2 Wood Thrush
6 Cedar Waxwing
12 Starling
1 Yellow Warbler
1 Yellowthroat
1 American Redstart
1 Baltimore Oriole
3 Common Grackle
6 American Goldfinch
10 Song Sparrow -- Mary F. Linch

## S B C CALENDAR

Saturday, September 19 - Field trip, Karner Sand Barrens; Mary Johnston, leader, IV 9-7868. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Drive-in Theater, Stop 22 on Route 5.

Saturday, September 26 - Field trip, Brigantine (and possibly Cape May), New Jersey. James K. Meritt, leader. Check reservations promptly with Miss Hicks, ST 5-7960; Miss Linch, IV 9-7868; or Mr. Sabin, HE 9-1144.

Saturday, October 3 - Field trip, Stony Creek Reservoir; Samuel R. Madison, leader, GR 4-6530 or, after 6, 463-0710. Meet at Reservoir entrance at 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 8 - First Audubon Screen-tour presentation; Walter H. Berlet, "Northwest to Alaska." Linton High School, The Plaza, 8 p.m. Admission by season tickets only.

Sunday, October 11 - Field trip, Hudson Highlands; Byron T. Hipple, leader, HO 5-6913. Start at 8:30 a.m. from Saratoga and Ontario, Cohoes

## NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

PESTICIDES IN CONNECTICUT

The Pesticide Control Board of the State of Connecticut, which was formed under a new law last January 1, is expected to ban the use of DDT in aerial sprays. The matter will be considered at a board meeting on September 23. The ban has been asked for by the board's consultant, Brainerd T. Peck.

Sevin and some other chemicals have been found to break down into substances that are not harmful, while still as effective as DDT in sprays.

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# INSECTICIDES AND THE FEDERATION

Insecticides can be strongly suspected of wildlife destruction, sometimes hundreds of miles and several years from the site and time of application; it is time to question the almost single-minded reliance on these devices and to look most urgently for non-lethal approaches to blemish-free apples and mosquito-free residential areas.

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., alarmed at the astonishing decrease of certain birds and other wildlife species in New York State, urges an immediate attitude of caution and even restraint in the application of pesticides, both in regard to the actual materials used and the manner by which they are applied.

Insecticides may destroy inadvertently because they are long-lasting or are passed through the food chain until they are ingested enough by such birds as Bald Eagles as to cause death, sterility or unhatched eggs.

The Bald Eagle, symbol of our nation, may already have disappeared as a breeding bird in New York State. In the early 1950's there were an estimated 12 pairs nesting. During the last three years no eagle nest is known to have been active in the state. This correlates with extremely low breeding success of Bald Eagles in New England and the central Atlantic States. This has led Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, eminent ornithologist, to predict that by the end of another decade we may have seen the last Bald Eagle on the eastern seaboard.

Insecticides are strongly suspected. This is because Bald Eagles feed in great part on fish carcasses. Fish can concentrate within their bodies residues of stable (those that don't break down) pesticides such as DDT and its derivatives. Fish can ingest these by feeding on treated insects that become easier prey or from run-off emanating from insecticide-treated lands.

Eastern Long Island had what was considered to have been one of the world's largest concentrations of Osprey, those big fish-eating hawks that delight and thrill people by their soaring and spectacular hunting dives. There were some 500 nests. Today there are about 200. The decline set in, according to observers, about ten years ago.

Some 30 to 35 nests could easily be seen at Orient Point, one of New York State's parks, on eastern Long Island. Now there is only one and this has not produced an egg in two years. There

(Adapted from a statement by Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., chairman of the conservation committee, at the annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., Poughkeepsie, May 23, 1964.)

were about 20 active nests yearly in the vicinity of Montauk Point State Park. The last count showed two nests. In 1962 observations were made of all nests on the north end of Gardiner's Island (site of most of the nesting) in early June and again about July 10. By the latter date the young should have been four or five weeks old. Instead, only 20 per cent of the eggs had hatched. There were many unhatched and rotting eggs in these nests. Studies of unhatched eggs at Old Lyme, Conn., showed that they had a significant concentration of DDT, DDE and other derivatives of DDT. A few years ago there was widespread spraying of DDT for the gypsy moth on Long Island. DDT spraying against mosquitoes is being planned this summer in Suffolk County (location of Long Island's Osprey colonies).

The Peregrine Falcon, the fastest bird that flies, has disappeared as a breeding bird in the whole of the northeastern states. In 1946 there were at least 14 occupied nests in the Hudson Valley. Pesticides as the cause cannot be proved; but in the 1950's the birds went through the same suspicious pattern as the Osprey, sitting on eggs that did not hatch. With no replacements, the existing pairs finally disappeared just as so many Ospreys and Bald Eagles seem to be doing.

Pesticides are strongly suspected in the apparent sharp decline in numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons, Great Blue Herons, Kingfishers, Marsh Hawks, and other species in the state.

Reports continually reach us of bird destruction following spraying programs in New York State. Dead Savannah Sparrows were found strewn over a field that had been sprayed. Last winter in one area Evening and Pine Grosbeaks died after feeding along roadsides that had been sprayed. Following spraying for the gypsy moth on Long Island, a few years ago, the beautiful song of the Hermit Thrush was stilled. This was the bird so movingly used as a symbol by Long Island's famous poet, Walt Whitman, when he wrote his famed poem about the death of Abraham Lincoln, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd."

It is difficult for the untrained observer to realize the destruction that can be occurring in his own community. This is because only a minute portion of the dead birds are usually found. Also, if a population of Robins, for example, is eliminated by spraying, more will come to replace them -- nature abhorring a vacuum. These in turn might become exposed to the lingering pesticides in the habitat. A collapse of populations could come suddenly under these circumstances.

Much destruction has evidently been due to overuse (as in spraying of huge areas by airplanes) and persistent pesticides that do not break down but retain their toxic state, thus often damaging species long after initial application. Such pesticides include aldrin, dieldrin and heptachlor (which England has clamped down on), andrin, and compounds of chlorinated hydrocarbons like DDT.

Conservationists can work effectively by examining local spraying programs which too often are carelessly implemented. They can insist - publicly if necessary - that restrictions prescribed by responsible officials or agencies are at least heeded.

For example, although there has been widespread spraying with

DDT for the Dutch elm disease, spraying is not recommended (except in special cases) by the State College of Agriculture at Cornell University. Sanitation methods (removing affected and neighboring trees) has proved the most effective.

In fact, the whole practice of non-agricultural spraying has been opened to question. It involves consideration of values -- or perhaps of conveniences or non-conveniences. What is the comparison between a few less mosquitoes in the backyard and dead fish piled on a nearby shore -- or even the extinction (in some areas at least) of the Bald Eagle?

Ironically, as far as we know, no widespread eradication program has been successful for any length of time. A main reason for this is the co-destruction of natural control mechanisms. Heavy applications lead to resistance of the target species to the insecticide. Also it should be realized that the bounce-back of the lowest forms of life is much greater than that of the higher forms. Yet, it is the lowest we generally wish to destroy and the higher that we wish to preserve.

The Federation suggests that member clubs conduct census activities, particularly among breeding birds. Annual counts of heron colony populations would help indicate trends of increase or decrease which might be correlated with insecticide activities.

The Federation urges the support of legislation that will lead to effective regulation and perhaps even restrictions concerning the manufacture, sale and use of pesticides and that will encourage more research, especially of alternate methods of control.

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# BRIGANTINE !

Peter P. Wickham

As the autumnal season of each year rolls around, with its sharply bright days, its turning leaves with flashes of scarlet or magenta and its nippy nights of frost or near frost in upstate New York, an astonishing phenomenon recurs year after year along the eastern seaboard. On those crisp nights when the first tentative sweeps of Canadian air occur, great flights of landbirds appear along the outer strip of barrier beach and adjacent lowland. With every new cold front, in concert with the north or northwest winds, migrating landbirds appear in these coastal areas by the hundreds of thousands -- frequently in the most unlikely looking places. The evening of September 25 found two small groups of SBC'ers heading southward toward such a place...Cape May, New Jersey. As we traveled south, we could see that the weather, which earlier had provided a brief shower, was clearing, and the wind began to blow out of the northwest.

After a night of expectant waiting at an inexpensive motel -- punctuated by warbler and thrush notes overhead and an amateurish moon-watching episode -- the seven of us assembled before dawn the following morning at a nearby restaurant with our peerless leader, Jim Meritt. Following breakfast we headed for Cape May Point as the sky lighted. Here, next to Lily Lake, we began our day.

As the day broke, a Caroline Wren was singing mellifluously. There were birds all around us, flying by, feeding avidly, drop-

ping in here, there, everywhere. For a while we stood watching a line of low willows as warblers,vireos and kinglets passed us. For every one we identified, at least five or ten would pass. Several times birds flew in between us, missing one of us by inches. As we wandered about Cape May Point that morning, new birds continually attracted (or distracted) the eye -- on the ground, in low bushes or in small or medium-sized trees. Flickers, Sapsuckers, Jays, and Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were especially abundant, and these we saw all over town. However, our list also included 17 species of warblers, several vireos and flycatchers, two Red-headed Woodpeckers and a good sampling of hawks wheeling overhead. Both a Philadelphia Vireo and a Baird's Sandpiper were seen to advantage.

That afternoon found us at Brigantine where we sampled some of that great Refuge's teeming wildlife. On our trip around the dikes we succeeded in spotting a Snow Goose, many Glossy Ibis, several Brant and a Hooded Merganser, as well as many other species of ducks, geese, herons and shorebirds. Before stopping on this exciting, exhausting day we stopped at Philadelphia International Airport where we found about 20 Golden Plover (on a dump!) and at Tinicum Refuge nearby, where two Stilt Sandpipers and a host of other shorebirds and ducks were observed.

Nor was that all! Jim had not only arranged our trip, but invited us out to his house that night for a delicious buffet supper -- a wonderful finale to an exciting day. Our day's list totalled 126 species.

The following morning, shaken out of our cocoons to meet the first red burst of daybreak, we hurried over to Brigantine. Despite the overcast sky and the chill damp wind blowing in off the ocean, we spotted a flock of Avocet, several Royal Terns, and a Peregrine Falcon among many species -- some of which we'd seen and some of which we hadn't seen the previous day. A trip up to Beach Haven rewarded us with fine views of some Scoters and some Royal and Caspian Terns, although the wind kept most birds in sheltered positions. Our last stop before returning was at Island Beach where we visited Bob Yunick at the Operation Recovery banding station, and learned something of their work and methods. Our last bird of the trip was, appropriately enough, an exhausted Philadelphia Vireo caught in one of the nets at Island Beach.

Finally, each of us would like to express our gratitude to Jim Meritt whose organization made the trip possible, whose leadership made it interesting and exciting, and whose companionship made the trip an enjoyable and unforgettable experience.

# We Need Members

SBC needs more members! The enclosed new, up-to-date membership blank is for your use in obtaining new members. Each of us should strive harder than ever to bring new members into the Club in view of the new and exciting plans for our future headquarters. Additional membership blanks are readily obtainable from Mrs.E.L. (Lenny) Thomas, 37-B Fuller Road, Albany, phone IV 9-2267.

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# CHRISTMAS MEETING DECEMBER 14 -- LOCAL COUNTS CHANGED TO DEC. 26 & JAN. 2

SBC's annual Christmas meeting will be held Monday, December 14. The Schenectady and Troy Christmas Counts will be on December 26 and January 2, Saturdays, a week later in each case than originally announced.

The Christmas meeting will be at 8 o'clock in the Pine Room of the First Methodist Church, State and Lafayette Streets. Preceding the entertainment, plans will be completed for the two Christmas Counts, the leaders of which will be:

SCHENECTADY, Saturday, December 26 -- Guy Bartlett, leader, 1053 Parkwood Boulevard, Schenectady 8; EX 3-0014.
TROY, Saturday, January 2 -- Dr. Peter P. Wickham, leader, Box 465 A, RD 4, Troy; AS 2-3703.

Special report blanks for the Counts will be distributed at the meeting, and arrangements completed for total area coverage. Members interested in participating, but unable to attend the meeting, should communicate with that trip leader in advance. Schenectady had a record-breaking 57 species listed last December, and Troy had 52. Feeder records have been very worthwhile -- those having unusual species should alert the leaders in advance and also plan to check the feeders on the day of the Count.

## BRIEFING THE RECORD

THE SEASON -- SUMMER -- June 1 to August 15, 1964

Peter P. Wickham, Records Committee Chairman

The Mohawk-Hudson region experienced its third successive dry summer -- and the driest of all three. Rainfall at Albany during June was the lowest since records were started there (1826), and totalled only 0.65 inch (2.60 in. below normal); the May-June total, also the lowest on record, was only 1.29 in. Temperatures in June averaged 66.5°, 0.8° below normal. July was a hot month, averaging 74.4° at Albany, 2.3° above normal, but drought conditions worsened with precipitation of only 1.29 in., 2.20 in. less than normal. Early August was cooler than usual, with practically no precipitation.

The lack of rainfall definitely seems to have decreased the number of nesting marshbirds in the region. Very few rails and gallinules were observed this summer. Pied-billed Grebes, Marsh Hawks, Bitterns and Great Blue Herons were virtually absent from observers' reports during June and July, although a few of these appeared in Aug. Few hawks were seen. Many other landbirds, especially some of the flycatchers and many of the warblers, seemed very low in numbers in usual breeding habitat. Swallows and

blackbirds, on the other hand, seemed more abundant than usual, with large flocks, especially of the latter, appearing in many sections by the end of the period.

Low water in marsh, lake and reservoir areas again are attracting a wide variety of shorebirds to this region; the vanguard of these appeared during the period. Rare or unusual species occurring during the summer included Little Blue Heron, Least Bittern, Mute Swan, Black Vulture, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Orchard Oriole. Perhaps the most interesting report is that of the nesting of a pair of Goshawks about 20 miles west of Albany.

Abbreviations used: ADBC, Alan Devoe Bird Club record; SBC, Schenectady Bird Club field trip; Am,American; br,breasted; com, common; cr,crowned; imm,immature; L,lake; nr,near; pr,pair; Res, reservoir; SCR,Stony Creek Reservoir; thr,throated; TR, Tomhannock Reservoir; VFG, Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; w,winged.

Observers (parenthesized): ad, Alan Devoe Bird Club record; gc, Greene County Bird Club record; SBC, Schenectady Bird Club field trip. HE, Hazel Eddy; EH, Esly Hallenbeck; MK, Marcia Kent; EMR, Dr.Edgar M. Reilly; DJT, Dr.Donald J. Tucker; RW, Robert Wernick; PPW, Peter Wickham; RPY, Robert Yunick.

LOONS - DUCKS

Great Blue Heron: only one June report; influx after mid-Jul, but less reported than usual.
Common Egret: one at VFG from Aug 1 on (EH); one at Tuttle's Marsh Aug 6-9 (ad)
Little Blue Heron: adult at pond in Old Chatham Aug 22 (EMR).
Green Heron: widely reported as usual; noticeable influx in Aug.
Black-crowned Night Heron: five reports, all imm birds at VFG, Jul 15 (PPW) thru end of period, max 3 Jul 27 (HE).
American Bittern: only four reports.
Least Bittern: two at VFG Jul 18 (EH,PPW).
Mute Swan: two at Emboght during Jun, then disappeared (gc); one at Basic Res Aug 8 (MK); this species has not become established in t his area thus far.
Canada Goose: Jun 6, SCR (EH) and Canaan thru July (ad)
American Widgeon: one male at SCR Jul 18 (PPW); may have been a bird observed there in late May
Green-winged Teal:no nesting reports; three at SCR Jul 15 (PPW).
Blue-winged Teal: through summer, several areas.
Hooded Merganser: one female at SCR Jun 6 (EH); species has been known to breed nearby (rarely).

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: mostly reported from southern sections at higher elevations, max 24 Aug 7, Preston Hollow (MK).
Black Vulture: two in flock of Turkey Vultures, Old Chatham Aug 23 (EMR).
Goshawk: nest with three imm birds, fiercely defended by adults, found in early June in Thacher Park at 1200-ft elevation. Two of the imm birds had left the nest by Jun 14 and disappeared by Jun 16. The other was still in the nest Jun 16, although it appeared almost ready to leave (Walton Sabin, Beverly Waite, Mary Lou Shedd).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: only report Aug 9, Rexford (DJT)

Cooper's Hawk: no reports.
Buteos: few reports of Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks.
Marsh Hawk: nr Albany Airport Jun 2 and 5 (RW) and at Canaan Jul 18 (ad).
Osprey: four at VFG Jun 3 (EH); one in Colu Co in Jun (ad), but no evidence of nesting in region. One at VFG Aug 10 (DJT).
Bobwhite: at Meadowdale, Coxsackie, Athens, Chatham Center, Ghent.
Virginia Rail: three young at Canaan in Jul (ad); adult at VFG Aug 15 (EH).
Common Gallinule: reported Jun 6,SCR (Stephanie Podrazik) and VFG (EH), and Aug 15,VFG (EH)
Coot and Sora: unreported
Semipalmated Plover: last spring migrant Jun 6, VFG (EH); several reports in Aug at VFG and SCR, first Aug 6 (DJT).
Killdeer: many congregated on mudflats in region toward end of period.
Woodcock: few summer reports.
Upland Plover: observed at Glenville in Jun (EH).
Solitary Sandpiper: first Jul 25, VFG (EH); many in Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: first Aug 1,VFG (EH).
Lesser Yellowlegs: first Jul 15,SCR (PPW); at least twice as common as Gr.Yellowlegs at SCR and VFG in Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: first Aug 1,VFG (EH).
Least Sandpiper: last spring migrants Jun 9, Emboght (gc); first fall Jul 27, Glenville (RPY)
Dunlin: a late spring bird at Glenville Jun 1 (RPY).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last spring migrants Jun 3, Glenville (RPY); first fall report Aug 6, VFG (DJT).
White-rumped Sandpiper: one observed close at Emboght Jun 9 (gc).
Herring and Ring-billed Gulls: seen occasionally.
Black Tern: no evidence of breeding. One or two at Round L Jul 26 and Aug 2 (Gus Angst) and VFG Aug 13 (EH).
Cuckoos seemed fairly common to several observers, with about equal numbers of each species reported.
Owls: very few reports.

GOATSUCKERS - SHRIKES

Whip-poor-will: reported to Jul 12 (EH); no late-summer reports except Jenny L.
Kingfisher: pronounced influx in late Jul and Aug.
Pileated Woodpecker: few reports.
Red-headed Woodpecker: more than usual reports - one nr Colonie May 29 (fide MK), another at Meadowdale Jun 3 (EH), one nr Palantine Bridge Jun 28 (RPY), one at VFG Jul 18 (EH,PPW).
Yellow-breasted Sapsucker: Berlin and JennL, nesting
Flycatchers: many species seemed fewer in number this summer, especially the Wood Pewee and the Traill's and Least Flycatchers.
Traill's Flycatcher: still singing Aug 1 nr Castleton (PPW)
Olive-sided Flycatcher: one, probably late migrant, heard at Indian Ladder Jun 6 (PPW)
Swallows: began to migrate toward end of July. Mixed flocks of several hundred Tree and Bank Swallows at VFG through Aug 15 (DJT)
Bank Swallow: most young fledged at large colony nr Glenville Jul 1-10 and left colony almost immediately (RPY). No second broods attempted.
Purple Martin: two still at Niskayuna breeding area Aug 8 (RPY).
Tufted Titmouse: few reported - fewer than at other times of year.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported from probable breeding areas at TR, Jenny L, Warrensburg and Red Rock.

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Brown Creeper: probably bred at Lisha Kill, where seen all summer.
Carolina Wren: no records.
Mockingbird: at Chatham (ad) and Norton Hill (fide MK).
Brown Thrasher: few reports; surprisingly uncommon.
Hermit Thrush: reported from Thacher Park Jun 6 and 16 (SBC) and from Old Chatham Jun 3 (ad), as well as Jenny L where it is regular nester.
Bluebird: fewer reports than 1963; species had less success in nesting.
Cedar Waxwing: became very common late in summer.

VIREOS - WARBLERS

Brewster's Warbler: one at Canaan in Jul (ad) the lone report.
Magnolia Warbler: late migrant nr Albany Airport Jun 2 and 3(RW).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: during Jun and Jul, Indian Ladder and Berlin Mountain, as well as further north.
Myrtle Warbler: a male and a female seen Jun 14 at TR about four miles apart (PPW), at least 40 miles south of (or 2,000 ft lower in elevation than) known nesting areas.
Prairie Warbler: regularly reported from Ghent through summer(ad).
Northern Waterthrush: early fall migrant at Watervliet Res Aug 8 (RPY).
Louisiana Waterthrush: only 2 or 3 reports this season.
Yellow-breasted Chat: one at Meadowdale Jun 3 (EH), but no evidence of nesting.

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

Bobolink: seemed rather scarce throughout region; migrants in early August.
Orchard Oriole: two pr nested at Castleton (ad); others reported at Ghent (ad) and Athens (gc) in June without evidence of nesting.
Evening Grosbeak: again bred at Jenny L but in fewer numbers than in 1963 (Guy Bartlett)
Crossbills: unreported.
Grasshopper Sparrow: only one report, nr Catskill, probably nesting (gc)
Henslow's Sparrow: no reports.
White-throated Sparrow: one singing nr Nassau Jul 4 (PPW); one at Loudonville Aug 9 (Mabel French); both locations below 400 ft elevation, near Albany. Also reported in usual breeding areas.
Song and Swamp Sparrows: seemed in good numbers.

# Donald Tucker, Treasurer

At the meeting of the SBC Board held in Delmar in November Mrs. Richard A. (Beverly) Waite submitted her resignation as Treasurer and Executive Committee member. The Board accepted it with real regrets and named Dr. Donald J. Tucker to complete her unexpired term, until the Club's annual meeting in February. Barrington S. Havens was named to replace Dr. Tucker as a Director of the Club.

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# PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE NAMED

Chairmen and vice-chairmen of four of six sub-committees of the SBC Planning Committee have been named, and memberships of three have been announced. These are the groups that will report to the SBC board and members with recommendations for long-range plans for the Club.

The plans have been described at a membership meeting June 15 and in FEATHERS, May pages 37-38 and September pages 57-58. Among topics which have been considered by the Activities Development Sub-committee have been meetings and programs, publications, education, and field trips. Memberships of the different sub-committees include:

SBC Planning Committee: All members of Board of Directors, plus sub-committee chairmen and vice-chairmen. Walton B. Sabin, chairman. Board members: Guy Bartlett, Barrington S. Havens, Miss Betty Hicks, Miss Mary R. Healy, Samuel R. Madison, Benton R. Seguin, Dr. Donald J. Tucker, Dr. Robert P. Yunick. Sub-committee chairmen: Mrs. E. L. Thomas, Dr. Peter P. Wickham. Sub-committee vice-chairmen: Miss Eleanor B. Byrne, Dr. Clifford M. Tepper.

Activities Development Sub-committee

Chairman: Dr. Robert P. Yunick
Vice-chairman: Dr. Clifford M. Tepper
Members: Mrs. Edward A. Brown
Miss Mary C. Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. Elton C. Lowerree
Mrs. Richard J. McFalls
Miss Constance Mountain
Mrs. Richard C. Pillsbury
Dr. Carl F. Runge
Benton R. Seguin
Mrs. Glen A. Slack
Dr. Donald J. Tucker
Robert J. Wernick
Dr. Peter P. Wickham

Finance and Reorganization Sub-committee

Chairman: Samuel R. Madison
Vice-chairman: Miss Eleanor B. Byrne
Members: Mrs. Lawrence English
Mrs. Dayton Stoner
Dr. Donald J. Tucker
Dr. Robert P. Yunick

Membership Sub-committee

Chairman: Mrs. E. L. Thomas
Vice-chairman: Miss Betty Hicks
Members: To be announced

Building Site Sub-committee

Chairman: Dr. Peter P. Wickham
Vice-chairman: Benton R. Seguin
Members: Gustave Angst
Mrs. Gilbert M. Eddy
Stephen C. Fordham
Dr. Paul E. Grattan
Mr.& Mrs. Robert Shedd

Building Sub-committee

To be announced

Publicity Sub-committee

To be announced

The four officers of the Club are non-voting, ex-officio members of all sub-committees under the Planning Committee

# S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Betty Hicks, Field Trips Chairman

Karner Sand Barrens — September 19

Construction of the Karner section of the new Albany arterial highway system made a round-about trip necessary. Some favored spots in the Sand Barrens were thereby neglected, but the day proved fruitful. Birds were clustered in flocks of assorted species in favored feeding areas. Cloudy weather made the observers look sharply, but several closeup views were to be had. When positioned correctly, bird colors could be seen, but the dull light kept us circling for best viewing. A male Redstart, still in full breeding plumage, was seen well but only for a few brief moments. One Ruffed Grouse was seen by two men in the group as it moved across a path. Sapsuckers feeding in the pitch pines, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and eight species of warblers added interest. On the homeward trip, four observers saw a trio of Bluebirds in flight. The three landed in a dead tree for good posing. The day's tally for the 12 observers was 33 species:

Ruffed Grouse, Flicker, Sapsucker, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, 3 Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Yellow-throated and Solitary Vireos; Black-and-white, Magnolia, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted and Palm Warblers; Redstart, House Sparrow, Grackle, Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping and White-throated Sparrows.

-- Lee Thomas

Brigantine, N. J. — September 26

This trip has already been recorded -- October, page 67.

Stony Creek Reservoir — October 3

October's bright blue weather with its glory of color was with us on this trip. We left the car at the reservoir and, while waiting for other birders, we searched the surrounding grounds and saw a Winter Wren and a Sapsucker. This was a fine start. Green-wined Teal were abundant -- and when the sun shone on their wings they appeared like emeralds. While driving down the road off Bonneau Road we flushed some sparrows, and after waiting a few minutes a Song Sparrow came out and bathed in a puddle on the road. Then an adult male White-crowned Sparrow appeared and found a similar bathing spot.

In late afternoon the wind came up quite strongly. A Green Heron showed up in our scope and took cover behind a stump. Chipmunks were scolding everywhere. Some beautiful single specimens of black-eyed Susan, purple aster and goldenrod were seen in the fields. As we hiked through the fields, we walked into color as we approached the wooded areas. A total of 45 species were seen by the four observers:

2 Great Blue Heron; 1 Green Heron; 55 Canada Goose, 150 Mallard, 200 Black Duck, 4 Gadwall, 25 Pintail, 500 Green-winged Teal, 12 Blue-winged Teal, 30 Amer. Widgeon, 2 Greater Scaup, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, 2 Marsh Hawk, 1 Sparrow Hawk, 2 Pheasant, 6 Killdeer, 3 Golden Plover, 10 Greater Yellowlegs, 5 Lesser Yellowlegs, 45 Pectoral Sandpiper, 1 Least Sandpiper, 2 Semipalmated Sandpiper,

2 Mourning Dove, 1 Black-billed Cuckoo, 1 Kingfisher, 2 Flicker, 1 Sapsucker, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 2 Phoebe, 9 Blue Jay, 20

Crow, 6 Chickadee, 1 Winter Wren, 16 Robin, 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6 Pipit, Starling, 2 Magnolia Warbler, 12 Myrtle Warbler, 1 Blackburnian Warbler, 1 Meadowlark, 12 Red-winged Blackbird, 8 Goldfinch, 1 White-crowned Sparrow, 12 Song Sparrow.-- Mary Linch

Hudson Highlands October 11

Forty-one species were recorded by the seven observers, the second largest count for this trip during the seven years it has been scheduled. The time of year, together with the type of territory, combine to yield a high concentration of observations among the hawks and among the finches and sparrows. Yet past records show that of the 72 species seen at different times on this trip, over 30 were observed only once or twice. Using this as a guide, the more unusual (for this trip) observations were: Ring-necked Pheasant and House Wren (neither reported before); Blue-winged Teal, Osprey, Greater Yellowlegs, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Water Pipit, and Yellowthroat, each of which had been recorded only once before. The 41 species:

30 Mallard, 24 Black Duck, 10 Blue-winged Teal, 2 Red-tailed Hawk, 1 Osprey, 2 Sparrow Hawk, 1 Pheasant, 4 Killdeer, 12 Greater Yellowlegs, 10 Herring Gull, 4 Mourning Dove, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Flicker, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 4 Blue Jay, 50 Crow, 12 Chickadee, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 House Wren, 1 Catbird, 1 Brown Thrasher, 100 Robin, 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2 Pipit, 12 Cedar Waxwing, Starling, 1 Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, 4 Meadowlark, 50 Red-winged Blackbird, 50 Grackle, 8 Cowbird, 1 Cardinal, 3 Goldfinch, 1 Towhee, 1 Slate-colored Junco, 4 Field Sparrow, 12 White-crowned Sparrow, 20 White-throated Sparrow, 25 Song Sparrow.
-- Byron Hipple

Tomhannock Reservoir November 8

At the request, or insistence, of the State this trip was cancelled. The woods and fields were really dry.

Round and Saratoga Lakes November 15

Woods and fields were still closed, but lakes such as Saratoga so reachable on state roads were open to use, so the state closing did not apply to this trip. Sixteen observers listed 35 species, mostly on or beside Saratoga Lake. Included were:

1 Red-throated Loon, 50 Horned Grebe, 200 Canada Goose (two flocks overhead), 6 Black Duck, 5 Redhead, 4 Canvasback, 200 Greater and Lesser Scaup, 250 Common Goldeneye, 12 Bufflehead, 1 Oldsquaw, 3 White-winged Scoter, 2 Surf Scoter, 2 Common Scoter, 6 Common Merganser, 25 Red-breasted Merganser, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk enroute, 80 Coot, 5 Killdeer, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, Mourning Dove enroute, 1 Hairy and 1 Downy Woodpecker, 30 Blue Jay, Crow, 6 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 White-breasted Nuthatch, 4 Brown Creeper, 1 Robin, Starling, House Sparrow, 6 Cowbird enroute, Cardinal enroute, 3 Amer.Goldfinch, 2 Slate-colored Junco, 5 Tree Sparrow, 1 Song Sparrow.
-- Sam Madison

Alcove Reservoir November 22

A small group of six observers braved bitter winds, but enjoyed themselves. It is always a thrill to see out-of-season birds like the Bluebird and Robins. Water was so low there was none north of the causeway; most of the Mallard and Coot were

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near Alcove Dam. The day's list of 23 species:
1 Great Blue Heron, 31 Canada Goose, 325 Mallard, 100 Black Duck, 14 Greater Scaup, 7 Common Goldeneye, 56 Common Merganser, 2 Red-shouldered Hawk, 1 Broad-winged Hawk, 12 American Coot, 7 Herring Gull, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 3 Downy Woodpecker, 8 Blue Jay, Common Crow, 11 Black-capped Chickadee, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 12 Robin, 1 Eastern Bluebird, Starling, House Sparrow, 3 Slate-colored Junco, 10 Tree Sparrow. -- Robert Shedd

## NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

### INCIDENT AT THE FAIR

On a cold, windy and blustery day, October 10, we left our Albany bus to become part of the mass of people milling about the World's Fair Grounds. Arriving about 11 o'clock, we ate at the Better Living Building, had excellent food, then resumed our walking pilgrimage.

About 2:30 p.m. between the Mexican Building and the Pavilion of Fine Arts, on a white birch tree, fairly dancing among the branches and leaves, I spied a small bird. Immediately I thought it must be an "escapee" and, identifying it a little further, I began to think it was an African finch of some kind. Still checking, and my friends getting farther away into that maze of people, I discovered it was a female Golden-crowned Kinglet, my first for this year.

I called and beckoned to my friends to show them my "find." I think my next-door neighbor could not have cared less as she was seeking the Irish Pavilion. Nevertheless, I was delighted. It was the highlight of the day. -- Mary Linch

### COINCIDENCE OF ONE-LEGS

Since re-establishing my winter feeding station I have noted that, as usual, it takes a little time for the birds I want to find it again. The Chickadees were the first to come back, and they were followed quickly by the White-breasted Nuthatches. And, of course, there were the iniquitous, ubiquitous Blue Jays - and House Sparrows.

One of the last-named species was deformed. It dragged one leg to one side, as if the member was broken; at any rate, it was useless. The bird seemed to get along all right on one foot, however.

What was my surprise, a day or so later, to find that the male Downy Woodpecker that was patronizing my suet had but one leg also. True there was a second leg, but it was even more useless than that of the sparrow; it lay back against the bird's body to such an extent as to be difficult to see.

Does this mean some sort of disease is crippling birds? Certainly it's a striking coincidence when two species in the 15 or 20 visitors at this one feeder should be so deformed.

-- Barry Havens