

SCHENECTADY HAS LOW COUNT

Guy Bartlett, Compiler
Schenectady Count

Highlights of Schenectady's 38th annual Christmas Count were almost all on the minus side -- not since 1950 had so few species been recorded; ducks and owls were missed completely; and grosbeaks and winter finches were, except for a lone purple finch, entirely absent. Totals were 37 species and about 3759 individuals. Mourning doves and cedar waxwings were well distributed, and hairy woodpeckers outnumbered downies. Composite total for the 38 years remained at 101 species.

More than one group had the same report -- that there were large areas, both in open farmlands and in light woods, that were birdless.

Schenectady, N.Y. (42°44'N, 73°55'W) (15-mile circle centered at Lydius Street and Lone Pine Road, Town of Guilderland, to include all Schenectady and Scotia, part of Albany, Mohawk River from Lock 8 to Mohawk View, Indian Ladder, Watervliet Reservoir; urban and suburban 35%, open farmland 30%, light deciduous woods 15%, mixed deciduous woods and evergreens 10%, cattail marshes 10%.) December 24, 6:45 am. to 3:30 pm. Mostly clear to 3 pm., when 18-inch snowfall started. Temperature 8 to 25 degrees; wind north, 0-8 mph. Minimum of old snow on ground; open water only below Lock 7, swift streams and Tygert springs.

Twenty-two observers in eight parties, plus feeding-station and urban observers. 38 hours afield (18.5 afoot, 19.5 by car); 238 miles afield (33 afoot, 205 by car). Total, 37 species, about 3757 individuals. Seen in area during count period, but not on count day: ruby-crowned kinglet, snow bunting.

SCHENECTADY HIGHLIGHTS

Group A - David Ellers, John and Stephen Fuller, Betty Hicks, Margaret and Byron Hipple, Peggy McGuirk, David Rothaupt. Roads: Blessing, Krum Kill, Wormer, State Farm, Nott, Grant Hill, Herold, Hennessy, Tygert, Meadowdale, Frederick, Altamont, Pickard, New Scotland; Thacher Park, New Salem, Martin, Hilton. 8 am. to 3 pm. 10 miles afoot, 60 by car; 3 hours afoot, 4 by car. 26 species, 1354 count.

Group B - Aaron and Harvey Spivak, Rudolph Stone (Holyoke, Mass.), Robert P. Yunick. Niskayuna, Rosendale and River Roads, Lisha Kill, Mohawk River from landfill above Lock 7 to Mohawk View. 6:45 am. to 3 pm. 12 miles afoot, 25 by car; 7 hours afoot, 1½ by car. 23 species, 606 count.

FEATHERS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1967

SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS COUNT - December 24, 1966

	T	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Red-tailed Hawk	12	5		2	4					1
Rough-legged Hawk	3	2			1					
Marsh Hawk	1	1								
Sparrow Hawk	8	2		1	1	1	3			
Ruffed Grouse	7	3	4							
Ring-necked Pheasant	11	9	1						1	
Common Snipe	1	1								
Herring Gull	4		4	(3)						
Mourning Dove	136	4	55	60	7					10
Belted Kingfisher	1				1					
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2	1		1						
Hairy Woodpecker	40	13	10	4	5	1	1		4	2
Downy Woodpecker	32	12	6	3	1	3	2		3	2
Horned Lark	30	30								
Blue Jay	118	11	28	17	30	10	7	5	1	9
Common Crow	437	249	52	18	70		36	7	1	4
Black-capped Chickadee	185	43	75	13	30	3	1	9	7	4
Tufted Titmouse	8		2				4			2
White-breasted Nuthatch	39	6	8	5	5	6	3	2	3	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3				2					1
Brown Creeper	14		2	1	10					1
Mockingbird	2			1		1				
Robin	2				1				1	
Cedar Waxwing	118	20	10	63						25
Northern Shrike	2	1			1					
Starling	1159	475	150	42	80	200	156	35	2	19
House Sparrow	559	72	70	96	30	65	20	83	6	117
Eastern Meadowlark	11	1			10					
Red-winged Blackbird	13		3		1	9				
Brown-headed Cowbird	7						6	1		
Cardinal	36	7	14	3		3	1	2		6
Purple Finch	1		1							
American Goldfinch	46	17	2	15				10		2
Slate-colored Junco	34	4	7	3	1	2	1	6	6	4
Tree Sparrow	649	357	85	53	70	32	3	2	16	31
White-throated Sparrow	2		1							1
Song Sparrow	26	8	16				1	1		
Species	37	26	23	20	21	13	15	13	12	18
Count	3759	1354	606	404	361	336	245	164	51	241

Group C - Hazel and Francis Bundy. Saratoga County, Riverview Road to Vischer Ferry Game Management Area, Lock 7. 8 am. to 1 pm. 2 miles afoot, 16 by car; 2 hours afoot, 3 by car. 20 species, 404 count.

Group D - Guy Bartlett (compiler), Benton R. Seguin. Waterlilet Reservoir and close environs. 7 am. to 1 pm. 6 miles afoot, 18 by car; 4 hours afoot, 2 by car. 21 species, 361 count.

Group E - Frances Brewster (Bloomfield, N.J.), Alice Holmes. Gordon, Putnam, Schermerhorn and Campbell Roads, Route 53, Lock 8; and Riverside and Sunnyside Roads and Collins Lake. 9 am. to 1 pm. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on foot, 23 by car; $\frac{1}{2}$ hour afoot, $3\frac{1}{2}$ by car. 13 species, 336 count.

Group F - E. Lee Thomas. Fuller Road, Wabington Avenue and Campus area; 6-mile Waterworks; Northway to Albany Airport and

Ann Lee Pond; Airport via Route 155 to New Karner Road; Karner Sand Barrens; Old State Road and Lydius Street to Lone Pine Road; via Route 146 to Guilderland Center and via Route 20 to Fuller Road. 11:30 am. to 3:30 pm. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile afoot, 45 by car; $\frac{1}{2}$ hour afoot, $3\frac{1}{2}$ by car. 15 species, 245 count.

Group G - Irene S. and Stephanie F. Podrazik. Central Park, Park-view Cemetery, Municipal Golf Course, Balltown Road. 10:30 am. to 12:15 pm. 1 mile afoot, 12 by car; $\frac{3}{4}$ hour afoot, 1 hour by car. 13 species, 164 count.

Group H - Beverly Waite. Altamont and environs. 1 to 3 pm. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile afoot, 6 by car; $\frac{1}{2}$ hour afoot, $1\frac{1}{2}$ by car. 12 species, 51 count.

Group I - Hazel Eddy, Esly Hallenbeck, Mary Johnston, Mary Linch, Carol Wernick. Feeders, urban and suburban. 18 species, 241 count.

* * *

TROY TURNS UP HARRIS' SPARROW

Peter Wickham and Paul Grattan

Co-compilers, Troy Count

Practically no finches were around. Only three gulls - all herring gulls - were recorded. The snow, brought in by the Christmas Eve storm, was piled up to two feet in some places. Such were some of the gloomy aspects of the 1966 Troy count on the day before New Year's.

Those who disregarded these portents of disaster, however, and contributed to the Troy count rolled up a fine total of 52 species. Notable among these were two Harris' sparrows at the Richard McFalls' feeder in Center Brunswick - an area Christmas Count "first". Other good finds included common loon, killdeer, short-eared owl, winter wren, brown thrasher, Northern shrike, savannah sparrow and Lapland longspur. Cardinals seemed almost common, with reports of at least one from most feeders. Good counts - probably aided by the snow on the ground - on horned larks and snow buntings were also recorded.

All in all, it was a fine way to send out the old year and ring in the new!

Troy, N.Y. (42°50'N, 73°40'W) (15-mile diameter centered at River and Turner Roads, Town of Schaghticoke, to include Hudson River from Congress Street in Troy to Waterford, Mohawk River mouth to Mohawk View, Hoosick River mouth to Valley Falls, Tomhannock Reservoir; urban and suburban 30%, open farms 30%, mixed deciduous and evergreens 10%, light deciduous woods 15%, brush and ravines 10%, cattail marshes 5%.) December 31, 6:30 am. to 4:30 pm., clear am., overcast pm. Temperature 3 to 29 degrees; wind south, 0-5 mph.; 15-25 inches of snow without crust, only fast waters open. 18 observers in seven parties. Total party-hours, 54 (19.5 on foot, 34.5 by car); total party-miles 355 (18 on foot,

TROY CHRISTMAS COUNT - December 31, 1966

	T	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Common Loon	1				1				
Mallard	550			(480)	(550)				
Black Duck	1342			2(720)	(1340)				
Pintail	4			1	3				
Green-winged Teal	2			2					
Canvasback	1				1				
Cooper's Hawk	1		1						
Red-tailed Hawk	18	8	1		3	1	1	4	
Rough-legged Hawk	2							2	
Sparrow Hawk	12	2	1	3	2		1	3	
Ruffed Grouse	6		4						2
Ring-necked Pheasant	15		12	1					2
Killdeer	1		1						
Herring Gull	3		1	1	1				
Mourning Dove	301	3	7		8			65	218
Great Horned Owl	5		5						
Short-eared Owl	1							1	
Pileated Woodpecker	2		1						1
Hairy Woodpecker	42	2	6	2	5			2	25
Downy Woodpecker	96	1	15	1	5	1	12	6	55
Horned Lark	114	4	60			3		46	1
Blue Jay	416	27	75	30	20	33	17	77	137
Common Crow	168	32	86	20	4	3	3	16	4
Black-capped Chickadee	421	7	50	6	65	4	34	14	241
Tufted Titmouse	5							3	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	94	3	6	4	9		5	5	62
Red-breasted Nuthatch	11		11						
Brown Creeper	4		3		1				
Winter Wren	3		1			2			
Brown Thrasher	1								1
Robin	15	(14)	1		(3)				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6		3				3		
Cedar Waxwing	98	(28)	1		(70)			26	1
Northern Shrike	1							1	
Starling	1195	63	40	100	400	28	36	204	324
House Sparrow	1875	188	220	30	250	45	13	362	767
Eastern Meadowlark	8		5		2			1	
Red-winged Blackbird	6				(1)				6
Common Grackle	4								4
Brown-headed Cowbird	82		2		(40)			1	79
Cardinal	95	6	12	4	2	4	1	15	51
Evening Grosbeak	7								7
American Goldfinch	28	2	4		7		3	10	2
Savannah Sparrow	1							1	
Slate-colored Junco	184	5	9	6	1	1		34	128
Tree Sparrow	930	121	105	40	75		106	224	259
Field Sparrow								1	
Harris' Sparrow	2								2
White-throated Sparrow	5				3				2
Song Sparrow	57	7	12	1	5			4	28
Lapland Longspur	1		1						
Snow Bunting	178	50			3			125	

337 by ear). Seen in area during count period, but not on the count day: red-throated loon, Canada goose, common goldeneye, common merganser, common coot.

TROY HIGHLIGHTS

Group A - Betty Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Hipple. Hudson Highlands.

Group B - Mrs. Frederick Bordt, Peter Wickham (co-compiler), William Gorman, Monte Gruett. Tomhannock Reservoir and Tamarac Road.

Group C - Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin. Hudson River from Green Island to Cohoes.

Group D - Frances Adams, Elizabeth Macauley, Mrs. Thomas McGuirk, Samuel Madison. Hudson River.

Group E - Paul Grattan (co-compiler). Rice Mountain.

Group F - Dawne Spaulding, David Ellers. Grant Hollow.

Group G - Hazel and Francis Bundy, Walton Sabin. Saratoga County.

Group H - Feeders and local areas.

* * *

SOUTH RENSSELAER COUNTY COUNT A FIRST

Peter Wickham and Paul Connor

Co-compilers, Southern Rensselaer Count

Birders who disregarded the blustery early morning and the light snowfall of the previous night were rewarded with a fine sunny day for the first Southern Rensselaer County Christmas Count on January 2. Although most field observers felt the numbers and variety of birds decidedly sparse, they turned up a number of interesting species, including hooded merganser, goshawk, screech owl, brown thrasher and field sparrow. A large number of feeder-watchers added considerably to the final totals, and contributed the only mockingbirds, ruby-crowned kinglet, towhee and fox sparrows recorded. The final result, despite a seemingly lean year, was a highly successful first count.

Southern Rensselaer County, N.Y. (42°37'N, 73°38'W) (All points within 15-mile diameter circle centered at Best at intersection of Route 152 and Best-Luther Road to include part of Troy, Poestenkill, Averill Park, Nassua and a narrow belt of Albany County west of Hudson River; deciduous woods 30%, conifers 10%, field and pasture 30%, marshes 15%, orchards 2%, river 3%, towns 5%, city 5% and 30 feeders.) January 2, 6 am. to 5 pm. Cloudy in early am., clear in pm. Temperature 32-40 degrees; wind north to northwest, 0-15 mph. 10-20 inches snow cover. River and upland streams mostly open, other waters mostly frozen.

Twelve observers in six parties plus feeder reports. Total party-hours 41 (16 afoot, 25 by car), total party-miles 305 (15 on foot, 290 by car). Seen in area during count period, but not on day of count: barred owl, evening grosbeak, purple finch, white-throated sparrow. Total, 44 species and 7580 individuals.

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY CHRISTMAS COUNT - January 2, 1967

	T	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Hooded Merganser	1	1						
Goshawk	1		1					
Red-tailed Hawk	9		6	1	2			
Sparrow Hawk	4	1	1				1	1
Ruffed Grouse	6					2		4
Ring-necked Pheasant	42	12		6	9			15
Herring Gull	86	47			39			
Mourning Dove	137	17	45	8	8		1	58
Screech Owl	2					2		
Great Horned Owl	2						1	1
Belted Kingfisher	1				1			
Yellow-shafted Flicker	3	3						
Hairy Woodpecker	52	3	7	1	5	3	1	32
Downy Woodpecker	97	9	12	2	9	6	1	58
Horned Lark	401	149	89		86			77
Blue Jay	343	34	39	24	28	16	14	188
Common Crow	314	172	55	16	15	20	7	29
Black-capped Chickadee	454	48	41	26	68	12	25	234
Tufted Titmouse	12	1		1		5	1	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	90	9	7	2	7	6	2	57
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2							2
Brown Creeper	1				1			
Mockingbird	5							5
Brown Thrasher	1		1					
Robin	2	1						1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	8				8			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1							1
Cedar Waxwing	4	1			2			1
Starling	2875*	(301)	(267)	(101)	(111)	(20)	(98)	(251)
House Sparrow	1177	181	295	122	78	15	47	439
Eastern Meadowlark	25	10	1		14			
Red-winged Blackbird	17	17						
Common Grackle	6	3						3
Brown-headed Cowbird	332**	(2)				(10)		(7)
Cardinal	69	23	5			2	1	38
American Goldfinch	29	1			16	2		10
Rufous-sided Towhee	1							1
Slate-colored Junco	158	9	15		9	12	12	101
Tree Sparrow	687	219	30	19	109	25	26	259
Field Sparrow	1		1					
Fox Sparrow	2							2
Swamp Sparrow	3	3						
Song Sparrow	29	17	1	1	1	1		8
Snow Bunting	88	88						

* Roost count in Albany by Monte Gruett.

** Roost count in Albany by Peter Wickham.

Parentheses used in all counts denote counts of individual birds made in or near overlap territories.

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

Group A - Paul Connor, Ed Cummings. Schodack-Castleton Marshes.

Group B - Ed Somers, Walt Sabin. Nassau.

Group C - Betty Hicks, Peggy McGuirk. South Troy, Poestenkill.

Group D - Katherine Bordt, Peter Wickham, Monte Gruett.

Group E - Bill and Dave Gorman. East Greenbush.

Group F - Bob Kornis. Glenmont.

Group G - Feeders and local reports.

* * * * *

AN INTRODUCTION TO WINTER TREE STUDY PART II - THE EVERGREENS

Barrington S. Havens

In getting acquainted with trees in winter, there are some unfamiliar terms you will have to learn, for in most cases there are not any easy substitutes for them. And a knowledge of what the terms stand for will be a very important aid in your field work. However, rather than provide an immediate glossary of the several terms I cannot avoid using, I shall explain each one as I come to it and hope you will be able to remember the meaning when it's necessary to refer to it again.

Before starting out on a tree study field trip, there are certain characteristics of trees you should understand in order to distinguish one tree from another. So at this point, let's have a brief discussion of this subject to acquaint you with the kind of field marks you will be looking for.

Evergreen Trees

A great deal of tree identification will be done by a process of elimination. The first step in this process is a very easy one: deciding whether the tree you are looking at is an evergreen or a deciduous tree. (An evergreen tree is one that does not shed its leaves in the fall; a deciduous tree does shed its leaves in the fall.) Let us consider the evergreens first, before we go on to deciduous trees, for by and large the evergreen trees are the easier to identify.

Continuing our process of elimination, there are two types of evergreen: the broad-leaved evergreens and those that have needles or similar growths. The broad-leaved evergreens, because they do not lose leaves like deciduous trees, will be considered in that part of our study devoted to deciduous trees, even though they do not lose their leaves in winter. The rhododendrons and the laurels are broad-leaved evergreens.

Now that we have eliminated the broad-leaved evergreens - at least for the moment - let us turn to those that have leaves in the form of needles or similar growths. All but one of these do not lose all their foliage during the fall (the exception is the tamarack, which has needles but sheds them in the fall).

Our next step is to distinguish between those with recognizable needles and those with other forms of leaf - but not broad leaves as we know them. We can divide the needle-bearing types into four groups: trees with round needles, trees with needles that are square in cross section, trees with flat needles, and those that are scaly or spiny.

Before we go on to more details, it might be well to mention that these narrow-leaved evergreens are all gymnosperms, that is is, they have naked seeds. Usually these seeds are borne on the scales of the cones that are characteristic of this group. Some cones, like those of the pines, the hemlock, and the spruces are easily recognizable as such, but others, like those of the juniper and arbor vitae, are less so. Furthermore, the juniper and yew have berry-like fruits. But they are all in our "evergreen" group and more or less readily identifiable.

So, having determined that our evergreen tree has obvious needles, we can consider some further characteristics that will help us in a more detailed identification.

Round Needles

Trees with round needles are all pines; that is, they all belong to the genus *Pinus*, as distinguished from the pine family, which includes other genera besides *Pinus*. There are various aids to the identification of these round-needled pines, most of them involving a more detailed study of the needles. The needles are found in clusters of two or more, and the number of needles in a cluster is a helpful field mark. Where two or more species have the same number of needles in a cluster, the length and other characteristics of the needles can be the deciding factor.

Evergreen trees with "square" needles are all spruces. These needles are squarish in cross-section, like a match, and this characteristic can be distinguished readily by rolling a needle between the thumb and forefinger. There are several species of spruce, and each is recognized by one or more special features peculiar to that species alone. These features include such things as the smell of the needles when crushed, the presence or absence of fine hairs on the branchlets, the overall color of the foliage, and whether the branchlets hang down strikingly from the side branches.

Flat Needles

Evergreens with flat needles include the hemlock, the balsam, the tamarack and the yew. They depend to some extent on the characteristics of the needles for identification, but other field marks are quite important. In the case of the needles, identification factors include shape, size, the presence or absence of white lines under the sides, or whether the needles form whorls or clusters (most flat-needled evergreens are not like that). Other factors include the nature of the cones, presence or absence of berry-like fruit, the way the branches grow from the main trunk, and whether or not the "leader" stands erect at the top of the tree. (The "leader" is the topmost or end growth on a trunk or branch, and it represents the growth that took place during the current or, in winter, the preceding season.)

The last of four groups of evergreens is characterized by "leaves" that are more or less scaly or spiny in nature. In the case of the former, the leaves are like small scales, and they lie overlapping along the twig. As a matter of fact, it takes a close inspection to reveal the fact that they are, indeed, tiny leaves. The spiny leaves are also small, but more readily apparent when inspected. They may differ in some respects, but all of them are sharply pointed, resembling, as Arthur Harmount Graves says, little awls. This group consists of the junipers and the arbor vitae as native trees in our area, and identification factors are not restricted to the leaves. The type of fruit is an important field mark also, one bearing berries and the other, little cone-like fruits.

To summarize the identification characteristic of narrow-leaved evergreen trees, the most important field marks to look for are the needles - or leaves, to use the more accurate term. Other helpful factors include the cones or berries, and certain growth characteristics of stem, branch, and branchlet growth. All of these features can be learned easily. In addition, as one's familiarity with the trees in question increases, the overall appearance becomes more and more recognizable, until a point is reached when many of the trees can be identified from a distance.

PART III - DECIDUOUS TREES; BUDS

The next type of tree to consider is the great group of deciduous trees, the ones that shed their leaves in the fall and grow new ones in the spring. Although many of these lend themselves readily to identification, there are many more that call for much more careful study and the use of a considerable variety of field marks.

The characteristics or field marks that are valuable in identifying deciduous trees can, and usually do, differ considerably from those used in studying the evergreens. The leaves, of course (called needles on evergreens), are always helpful, but where the evergreen needles are always present, deciduous leaves, by their very nature, are no longer found on the trees in the winter. However, there are plenty of other recognition factors, and developing a familiarity with them can be a very rewarding experience.

Opposite Growth

As has already been mentioned, tree identification can be accomplished by a series of steps in a process of elimination. In the case of the deciduous trees, this process can begin by considering those whose leaves, branches and branchlets have opposite growth. This characteristic is an important identification factor, and you should familiarize yourself with it. This can be done readily.

Maples and birches are commonly found almost everywhere, even in the city. If you do not know them both when you see them, ask somebody to point out examples for you. Then, if you will examine the twigs and branchlets of both trees, you will find

one striking difference between the way they grow: In the case of the maple, the twigs growing from the branchlets are always found in pairs, opposite each other, whereas this is not true of the birch. Sometimes, through accident or other interference with the natural order of things, twigs, branches and branchlets are lost, so it is not uncommon to find examples of maples with some non-opposite growth, but the normal growth of a maple is opposite in nature, and that of the birch is not.

So opposite growth usually is the first characteristic to look for in a deciduous tree in our process of identification by elimination. Once you have established that your tree has opposite growth, you can go on to look for additional field marks to determine the species in question.

Leaves, of course, are a great help, but they will not be there in winter, so you have to rely on other things. Most important of these are buds, but you will also need to know something about leaf scars, seeds, bark, etc. So this is a good time to make you better acquainted with some of these. The information that follows applies to all deciduous trees.

Buds

Everybody knows what a bud is, but not very many realize that buds are present on the tree all year round except for a brief period in spring when growth starts and is at its height. But by midsummer the buds that will open the following spring have already formed. However, the buds are not as easily found and studied during the period when the leaves are still on the trees.

Most buds have a protective covering, consisting of one or more bud scales, as an examination of a well developed maple or beech bud will disclose. There are a few species that have no bud scales at all, and these are known as naked buds, but they are the exceptions, and their very nakedness is a definite identification aid.

The number of bud scales and their arrangement is a field mark. Some buds have but a single bud scale, others have two, while the great majority have more. You will find it worth while to study various kinds of buds in order to familiarize yourself with their nature.

The shape of the bud is also an identification aid. Some buds are globular, some are long and sharp-pointed, and there are many variations between the two forms.

Notice, also, whether the bud lies close to the twig or springs out from it at an angle. If the bud is sticky, that is another clue. If the sticky goo on the bud has an odor, that is another big help. And take note of the color; all buds do not have the same color. In the case of some species, the buds grow on stems. Some buds are hairy; others are not.

In some cases, the buds will be very hard to find, for they may be quite tiny or concealed in some way. Fortunately, there are not very many species like this.

Bud Arrangement

In addition to the nature of the buds themselves, there is another important field mark to take into consideration, and that is the way the buds are arranged on the parent twig. First of all, there are two distinct types of buds, some trees have them both, while others have only one type. These are terminal buds and lateral buds, and these names should be self-explanatory. However, let us make assurance doubly sure and explain that a terminal bud is the one found at the very tip of the twig, while lateral buds are those growing along the sides of the twig.

All trees have lateral buds, but some do not have true terminal buds. In other words, some species, when growth stops in summer, have a terminal bud at the end of each growing twig, with lateral buds along the sides, but others have only the lateral buds. When growth stops in such cases, the end part of the twig dies beyond the last lateral bud and sooner or later drops off or is otherwise lost. This leaves a lateral bud at the end of the twig, but it is not a true terminal bud and is therefore called a false terminal bud.

The distinction between false and true terminal buds can be an important field mark, but it is a distinction that may not be readily recognized. Usually it requires a careful inspection of the end of the twig, sometimes with a magnifying glass. If a bud is found there, with a leaf scar beside it, you know it is a false terminal bud.

Phyllotaxy

In addition to the ability to distinguish between, and recognize the characteristics of, terminal and lateral buds, there is another aspect of bud arrangement you should know. This comes under the heading of phyllotaxy; I wish there were a simpler word to substitute for it, but I know of none. However, once you understand what is involved, you can confine your interest to the details and forget the formidable name that covers them.

Phyllotaxy, then, covers the way the buds (and consequently the twigs that grow from them) are arranged along the branch or branchlet. The simplest arrangement is found in the opposite-growth type of deciduous tree; for example, an ash. As has already been explained, the buds of such a tree grow in pairs opposite each other along the twig. However, if you were to hold a twig horizontally and sight along it from one end to the other, you would see that the pairs of buds alternate, one pair facing, say up and down, and the next pair facing left and right; the alternate pairs face in directions at right angles to each other.

In the case of trees with non-opposite growth, however, the arrangement is often not that simple, and sometimes it can be relatively quite complicated. If you were to start out with one bud and note its position on the twig, you are likely to find that the next bud, instead of pointing at right angles, might be positioned just a little to one side of the plane of the first bud, and so on until you reach a bud that occupies a position along the same line of the twig as the first one.

This constitutes a spiral arrangement of buds along the twig, and the number of buds it takes to complete the spiral from the first to the last can be a significant factor in identification.

To summarize progress so far in our study of tree identification field marks, our first consideration was evergreens. After eliminating them, we went on to deciduous trees, in which our first group consisted of those having opposite growth. After deciding whether our tree is in that category, we moved on to consider some of the finer points of distinction. We have reviewed buds and their arrangement on the twig; next we shall pass on to things like leaf scars, seeds, bark, etc.

* * * * *

BRIEFING THE RECORD

SHORE BIRDS FEATURE FALL FLIGHT

Peter P. Wickham
Records Chairman

August was a dry month with precipitation at Albany totaling 1.44 in., 1.63 in. below normal. Temperatures averaged 69.2°, 0.8° below normal. Both September and October were chilly, temperatures averaging 58.0 and 48.5°, 3.6 and 2.3° cooler than the average over the years at Albany. Precipitation totaled 5.61 in. in September, 2.03 in. above normal, and 2.22 in. in October, 0.55 in. below normal. November, in contrast, was considerably warmer than usual, with a mean temperature of 42.3°, 3.2° above normal. Precipitation in November totaled 1.79 in., 0.91 in. below normal. Particularly cool periods included September 24-27 and October 30-31 when temperatures were about 10° colder than usual. During November 25-29, a warm spell was experienced when temperatures averaged about 10° above normal.

Plovers and sandpipers provided the most exciting moments of the season. It is becoming apparent that if favorable conditions develop in the region for shore birds, they will appear in good numbers and variety. Such was the case this year, most notably in late August and early September at Old Pond, Chatham and in September and October at Watervliet Reservoir, which apparently was deliberately maintained at a very low level. All told, 22 species were recorded, 18 of which were seen at least once at Watervliet Reservoir. The most unusual ones included golden plover, ruddy turnstone, purple sandpiper, dowitcher, stilt sandpiper and Northern Phalarope.

The waterfowl migration this fall was on the whole rather disappointing. Highlighting the season was an heavy movement of Canada geese through the area in mid-October, with several observers commenting that they had never seen as many geese in this area before. On the other hand, many ducks seemed much less common than usual. Swans were reported from two different bodies of water on only one day - November 11 - indicating a possibly wide-spread movement that day.

Raptors, in general, continued at extremely low levels. Many, perhaps most, observers in the area did not see an accipiter for the entire season. Only one observer reported red-shouldered hawk and only two reported marsh hawk. Admittedly, no hawk migration routes along ridges through our area were deliberately studied, but the main questions might be: a) how does this compare with previous years? and b) what has happened to our native hawks? The most likely answers seem extremely discouraging. Most owls were not very common either.

The small-land-bird migration seemed disappointing to most observers with very few reporting more than a handful of warblers. One observer unwittingly summarized a widespread reaction by remarking on his September report, "not much activity...migration not yet started" ! Winter finches were in extremely short supply to round out a rather dismal land-bird picture.

The most unusual features of the season deserve comment: a) the occurrence of a number of unexpected land bird species in mid- to late October, including red-eyed vireo, Nashville warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, Northern waterthrush and ruby-throated hummingbird, and b) the appearance of four species of heron in November - cattle egret, great blue heron, black-crowned night heron and American bittern - the last three seen in different places on November 24.

Other unusual or rare species reported included gadwall, saw-whet owl, Philadelphia vireo, orchard oriole and sharp-tailed sparrow.

Abbreviations used: AR- Alove Reservoir, BL- Ballston Lake, BR- Basic Reservoir, EG- East Greenbush, L- Lake, max- maximum daily count, mob- many observers, MR- Mohawk River, nr- near, OP- Old Pond- Chatham, RL- Round Lake, SCR- Stony Creek Reservoir, SL- Saratoga Lake, TR- Tomhannock Reservoir, VFG- Vischer Ferry Game Management Area, WR- Watervliet Reservoir.

Observers: (ad)- Alan Devoe Club record, (gc)- Greene County Club record, (sbc)- Schenectady Bird Club record, (HFB)- Hazel Bundy, (PC)- Paul Connor, (MWF)- Mabel French, (WG)- William Gorman, (MDG)- Monte Gruett, (EH)- Esly Hallenbeck, (BH)- Barrinton Havens, (MK)- Marcia Kent, (CK)- Clarissa Ketcham, (SM)- Sam Madison, (PM)- Peggy McGuirk, (WBS)- Walton Sabin, (BRS)- Benton Seguin, (PPW)- Peter Wickham, (RPY)- Robert Yunick, (GMZ)- Gladys Zimmer, (bsh)- Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barrington Havens.

LOONS - DUCKS

C Loon: Sept 18, SL (BRS)- end of period, max 11 Nov 12, SL (sbc).
 Red-thr Loon: eight individuals Nov 5-27 at SL (seven) and BL (one), only one or two per day.
 Red-n Grebe: only one- Nov 5, AR (WBS, SM, PM).
 Horned Grebe: Oct 2, SL (BRS)- end of period, max 77 Nov 26 at SL and TR (PPW, PC).
 Pied-b Grebe: reported sparingly throughout period, max seven on Oct 8, SCR (PPW, WG).
 Great Blue Heron: slight increase over last year, last Nov 24 AR (CK).
 C Egret: one was in the SCR-VFG area Aug 14- Sept 10 (mob).
 Cattle Egret: one at Coxsackie Nov 5 (gc) was most unusual.

- E-Green Heron: rather uncommon, last Sept 25, WR (mob).
 Black-cr Night Heron: slightly more common than in 1965, Aug 20-
 Sept 23 at VFG, max eight (sbc). One Nov 24, AR (CK) very late.
 Amer Bittern: a few in Aug and Sept, one Nov 24, Kesseberg farm,
 Dunnsville Road (BH), late.
 Least Bittern: at VFG only, last Sept 3 (banded) (RPY).
 Whistling Swan: on Nov 11 a flock of 13 was on BL (John Urbaetis)
 and two were on TR (Whitehead, Riordan and Moomaw, fide Rudolph
 H. Stone), the only reports. No mute swans were reported.
 Canada Goose: an excellent flight year, some residents seeing
 more than ever before, Sept 24- Nov 2, max 500 Oct 16 Catskill
 (gc) and 3055 in many flocks Oct 18, Berne (MK).
 Brant: none reported.
 Snow Goose: only record, one imm Nov 26, TR (PC,PPW).
 Mallard and Black Duck: good numbers seen.
 Gadwall: two Nov 6, AR (sbc) the only report.
 Amer Widgeon: Oct 8, SCR (PPW,WG)- Nov 26, TR (PPW,PC), no
 large groups.
 Pintail: Sept 25, WR (WBS et al.)- Nov 19, SCR (HFB), few seen.
 Green-w Teal: reported throughout period in small numbers.
 Blue-w Teal: reported to Oct 16 (BRS,HFB).
 Wood Duck: last Oct 16, SCR (BRS).
 Redhead: single birds Nov 8, SL (BRS,BH) and Nov 20, SCR (bsh) and
 eight Nov 13, RL (sbc) the only reports.
 Ring-n Duck: only records- one Oct 16, SCR (HFB), four Nov 6, AR
 (sbc) and three SL Nov 26 (bsh,PPW,PC)- very few.
 Canvasback: more than usual, Nov 5 AR (WBS,SM,PM)- end of period,
 max 75 Nov 13, SL (sbc) and 40 Nov 26, SL (bsh).
 Scaup: two greater scaup at WR Sept 25 (WBS et al.) seemed early;
 both species noted through Oct to end of period.
 C Goldeneye: Nov 5 to end of period, late in arrival.
 Bufflehead: Oct 16, SCR (HFB) to end of period, max 30 Nov 13
 and Nov 26, SL (sbc).
 Oldsquaw: two RL Oct 23 (PPW,HFB), five at AR Nov 5 (WBS,SM,PM)
 and two to ten at SL Nov 5 through end of period (mob).
 White-w Sooter: one Oct 16, SL (BRS) only Oct record; at TR Nov 11
 (one) and at SL Nov 12 through end of period, max 40 Nov 12.
 Surf Sooter: no report.
 C Sooter: eight at Look 6 MR Nov 2 (HFB), two Nov 11 TR (Whitehead,
 Riordan and Moomaw) and one Nov 19 TR (shot) (sbc)- only reports.
 Ruddy Duck: Oct 18 SCR (HFB)- Nov 26 SCR (PC,PPW), max eight on
 Oct 18.
 Hooded Merganser: Sept 26, Greenville (CK)- end of period; low in
 numbers, max seven Nov 20, SCR (HFB,PM).
 C Merganser: first Nov 5, AR (SM,PM,WBS), increasing throughout
 rest of period.
 Red-br Merganser: very scarce, only reports- two Nov 19 and six
 Nov 26, SL (bsh).

HAWKS - OWLS

- Turkey Vulture: confined to southern sections, max 15 Sept 5,
 Kiskatom (gc), last Oct 6, Catskill (gc).
 Goshawk: lone report- adult observed perched on stump and in
 flight nr Summit, Nov 13 (Carl Parker).
 Sharp-sh Hawk: only report- one Oct 9 nr East Nassau (PC).
 Cooper's Hawk: only three reports during period.
 Red-t Hawk: regularly reported in small numbers throughout period.
 Red-sh Hawk: only reports Oct 2, SCR and Oct 8, WR (BRS).
 Broad-w Hawk: Few reports, last Sept 24, Columbia County (sbc).
 Rough-l Hawk: Nov 6 Meadowdale (BRS,BH)- end of period, several.

- Eagles: none reported.
- Marsh Hawk: reported in Aug at Ghent (ad) and Oct 15 at Greenville (CK).
- Osprey: Sept 3, BR (PPW)- Oct 15, Greenville (CK).
- Sparrow Hawk: reported in every area throughout period, but generally rather uncommon.
- Ruffed Grouse, Bobwhite and Ring-n Pheasant: all seemed somewhat low in comparison with previous years.
- Virginia Rail: only report- Sept 24, VFG (RPY).
- Sora: one observed in late Aug to Sept 1 at OP (ad,PPW) only one.
- C Gallinule: at VFG, SCR and WR during Aug and Sept, last Oct 9 VFG (HFB).
- Amer Coot: early reports Sept 4 (CK) and Sept 18, SL (BRS); other reports Oct 16- and of period, max 200 AR Nov 5 (WBS,SM,PM) and 110 SL Nov 13 (sbc).
- Semipalmated Plover: Aug 28 (EH)- Sept 26 (CK) at OP, BR, WR; max six Sept 18, WR (BRS).
- Killdeer: abundant at WR and other muddy spots in late Sept, a few remained to end of period.
- Golden Plover: a varying flock of up to 20 birds remained at WR Sept 20- Oct 15 (mob).
- Black-b Plover: 12 on Sept 18 (BRS), three Oct 5 (HFB) and one Sept 25 and 30 and Oct 8, all at WR.
- Ruddy Turnstone: one Sept 18 on a rocky beach at Galway L (David Harrison, Mrs. B.D.Bedford)- only record this year.
- Amer Woodcock: observed in Sept and Oct, max 12 Oct 25 at Catskill (ad).
- C Snipe: observed in Sept and Oct, last Nov 6 AR (sbc).
- Upland Plover: last report Aug 14 at nesting area in Niskayuna.
- Spotted Sandpiper: last Sept 25 WR (PPW,WBS et al.).
- Solitary Sandpiper: a few in Sept, last Oct 5 (late), WR (HFB).
- Greater Yellowlegs: reported to Oct 15, WR (BRS), max 35 Sept 25 (PPW,WBS et al.).
- Lesser Yellowlegs: at OP Aug 29- Sept 1 (ad) and at WR Sept 18- Oct 15, max 30 Oct 8 (HFB).
- Purple Sandpiper: one was sitting on a board above the falls at Lock 7 MR nr Niskayuna on Nov 20 (bsh). This is only the third record for the area in my possession.
- Pectoral Sandpiper: at WR Sept 18- Oct 15, max 22 Sept 25 (PPW, Wbs et al.), last Nov 5, AR (WBS,SM,PM).
- White-r Sandpiper: eight were in one group at WR Sept 20 (BRS) and three were at AR Nov 5 (WBS,SM,PM).
- Least Sandpiper: only reports Sept 17, OP (PPW,MDG) and Oct 8, WR (BRS).
- Dunlin: reported at WR Sept 18- Oct 15, max six Oct 15 (BRS).
- Dowitcher: seven at VFG Sept 17 (RPY) and two at WR Sept 20 (BRS) the only reports.
- Stilt Sandpiper: two were at WR Sept 30- Oct 8 and one remained through Oct 15 (BRS,PM,HFB et al.).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper: very few reports, only Sept 20-26.
- Sanderling: one SL, Sept 18 (BRS), two WR Sept 20 (BRS) and one BR Sept 26 (CK).
- Northern Phalarope: two were swimming and spinning in a muddy shallow arm of SCR Aug 20 (sbc) and one was at OP Aug 29-30.
- Great Black-b Gull: only report- two Nov 26 SL (bsh,PPW,PC).
- Herring and Ring-b Gull: seen throughout period in moderate numbers.
- Bonaparte's Gull: at SL Oct 16 (two) (BRS) and Nov 5-26, max five Nov 13 (sbc).
- Yellow-b and Black-b Cuckoo: reported infrequently to mid-Sept, no late reports.

Screech Owl: reported from Ghent, Greenville, EG, Cropseyville and VFG during period.

Great Horned Owl: few reports from outlying sections.

Snowy Owl: only record- one nr Greenville Nov 24 (fide CK).

Saw-whet Owl: one banded in Niskayuna Oct 8 and another at VFG Oct 16 (RPY)- no other reports.

GOATSUCKERS - STARLING

C Nighthawk: most left in late Aug, max 30+ Aug 25, Scotia (EH) and 52 Aug 31, Catskill (go).

Chimney Swift: lingered into early Sept, last Sept 25 at VFG with a group of swallows (RPY).

Ruby-thr Hummingbird: heavy migration in late Aug and early Sept, max about 50 at VFG Aug 27 (RPY), last Oct 21, Gallupville, observed at close range while feeding on late-blooming larkspur (GMZ)- an extremely late record.

Belted Kingfisher: sparingly reported through period.

Pileated Woodpecker: surprisingly no records for late Aug- Oct; several reports Nov 5- end of period.

Red-h Woodpecker: an imm Oct 31 at Catskill (go)- the lone report.

Yellow-b Sapsucker: migrants noted Sept 24- Oct 4.

E Kingbird: bulk of migrants departed in Aug, last Sept 18 (BRS).

Crested Flycatcher: reported to Aug 31, no Sept reports.

E Phoebe: a few seen into Oct, last Nov 5 AR (WBS, SM, PM).

Yellow-b Flycatcher: two late Aug and two Sept records; last Sept 24, VFG (banded) (RPY).

Traill's Flycatcher: still singing at VFG in late Aug, last Sept 10 VFG (banded) (RPY).

Least Flycatcher: last Sept 17 VFG (banded) (RPY).

E Wood Pewee: only Sept record- one Sept 23 VFG (RPY) last.

Tree Swallow: remained later than usual, including five Oct 2 EG (PPW) and two Oct 14, Catskill (go).

Bank Swallow: many migrants through Aug, last Sept 3, BR (PPW).

Rough-w Swallow: disappeared during Jul and Aug, last Aug 23, Ghent (ad).

Barn Swallow: reported well into Sept, last Sept 18 when "hundreds" were seen in several areas (BRS) and Sept 25 VFG (RPY).

Cliff Swallow: few reports, last- 25 at BR Sept 3 (PPW), including at least two road-kills there.

Red-br Nuthatch: very few reports outside local areas in which the species is a permanent resident.

Winter Wren: Sept 24, Old Chatham (sbc)- Oct 24, Loudonville (MWF), few seen.

Long-b Marsh Wren: reported to Sept 24 at VFG (RPY) and to the end of the period in the Castleton Marshes (PC).

Mockingbird: reported infrequently from various areas, seems either less common or less conspicuous than in recent months.

Catbird: reported to early Oct, last Oct 9 Vfg (RPY).

Brown Thrasher: few reports.

Wood Thrush: a few reports during Sept, last Oct 16, Berne (MK).

Hermit Thrush: Oct 2 VFG (RPY)- Oct 24, Loudonville (MWF), several reports.

Swainson's Thrush: banded on Aug 20 (two) and Aug 27 (one)- early (RPY); others Sept 21-29, last Oct 2 VFG (RPY).

Gray-ch Thrush: only reports- Oct 15, Greenville (CK) and Oct 16 VFG (RPY).

E Bluebird: reported widely in small numbers throughout period, max 20 Oct 8, Catskill (go).

Golden-cr Kinglet: first Oct 8, Catskill and EG (go, PPW), other reports through period.

Ruby-cr Kinglet: virtually no noticeable Sept movement, Sept 26 VFG (RPY)- through Oct, a few still present at end of period. Numbers appeared much lower than usual.

Water Pipit: Sept 17 OP (PPW,MDG)- Nov 20 SCR (bsh), max 40+ WR Sept 18 (BRS).

Cedar Waxwing: large groups common as usual through Sept and into Oct; more than usual seemed present through end of period.

Shrike: the species of the only one observed on Nov 26 nr Vissher Ferry was not determined (bsh).

VIREOS - WARBLERS

Vireos- Yellow- thr: last Sept 18 Lock 6 MR (BRS), few reports. Solitary: no reports.

Red-eyed: numerous Sept reports, last Oct 17 and 24 VFG (RPY), somewhat late.

Philadelphia: one Sept 24 VFG (banded) (RPY) the only record.

Warbling: last Sept 24 VFG (RPY).

Warblers- Black and White: very few reports, last Sept 5, Karner.

Tennessee: only reports- Sept 21, Greenville (CK) and Sept 25, VFG (RPY).

Nashville: Aug 27 VFG (RPY)- Oct 22 VFG (RPY) (late).

Parula: only report- several Sept 10 at Karner (sbc).

Yellow: last Sept 18 (BRS).

Magnolia: Aug 29 EG (PPW)- Oct 2 EG (PPW).

Black-thr Blue: several Sept reports, last Oct 15 VFG (late,RPY).

Myrtle: Sept 9, Berne (MK)- Nov 13 SL (sbc).

Black-thr Green: migrants Aug 29 EG (PPW)- Oct 2 EG (PPW).

Blackburnian: Sept 10, Karner and Sept 24, Chatham (sbc) the only reports.

Chestnut-s : reported through Sept, last Oct 2 EG (PPW) and Oct 26-29, Loudonville (MWF)- the latter record very late.

Bay-br: two Aug 29 EG (PPW); no late reports.

Blackpoll: Aug 29 EG (PPW)- Oct 15 VFG (RPY); many reports.

Palm: only reports Sept 30 VFG (RPY)- Oct 8 SCR (PPW,WG).

Ovenbird: reported into Sept, last Sept 17 VFG (RPY).

Northern Waterthrush: Aug 20, several areas- Sept 16 VFG (RPY); one Oct 24 and 27 at Loudonville was very late (MWF).

Yellowthroat: reported into Oct, last Nov 12, Amsterdam (Dorothy Adams), late.

Wilson's: five reports, Sept 2 VFG (RPY)- Sept 16 EG (PPW).

Canada: main movement in Aug, max four EG Aug 18 (PPW), last Sept 14 EG (PPW).

Amer Redstart: no late reports, last Sept 14 EG (PPW).

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

Bobolink: heavy migration noted in late Aug and early Sept, max 150+ BR Sept 3 (PPW), last Sept 17 OP (PPW).

Orchard Oriole: one remained in the Castleton locality where the species has previously nested through Aug to Sept 10 (ad).

Baltimore Oriole: last records in early Sept, excepting one at a feeder in Catskill to Nov 15 (gc).

Rusty Blackbird: Sept 24, Old Chatham (sbc)- Nov 12 BL (PPW), many reports.

Red-w Blackbird, Brown-h Cowbird and C Grackle: seen through period, with many flocks reported, especially Oct 8-20. One flock of grackles at EG Oct 10 was counted at 12,000 individuals (PPW).

Scarlet Tanager: numerous Aug and Sept reports of migrants, last Sept 18 (BRS).

Rose-br Grosbeak: migrants noted in Aug and Sept, last Sept 24 VFG (RPY).

Indigo Bunting: several Sept reports, last Sept 30 VFG (RPY).

Evening Grosbeak: very scarce, only reports- small flocks Nov 5 Gallupville (GMZ) and Nov 20 Niskayuna Widewaters (bsh).

Purple Finch: reported generally as single or paired birds throughout period with no concentrations.

Pine Siskin: only report- two Catskill Oct 8 (gc).

Amer Goldfinch: seemed fairly numerous. No other finches reported in marked contrast to 1965.

Rufous-s Towhee: reported into Oct, last Oct 16, SL (BRS).

Sparrows- Savannah: largely missed this fall, last Nov 7, Catskill (go).

Sharp-t: one was banded and photographed at VFG Sept 29 (RPY), the first record for the area in several years.

Vesper: main movement mid-Oct, last Oct 23 (PPW,HFB).

Slate-c Junco: migrants a little late, first Sept 28 VFG (RPY) and Sept 30, Berne (MK).

Tree: very late; records appear from early Nov on.

Chipping: heavy movement last half of Oct, last Nov 11, Catskill.

Field: heavy movement mid-Oct mid-Oct, last Oct 18 (HFB).

White-cr: Oct 8 several areas- Oct 24 VFG (WBS), rather common in some areas with groups of up to 15, while some observers saw few.

White-thr: migrants reported from Sept 10 VFG (RPY) on, a few remaining into Dec.

Fox: reported Oct 17- Nov 14 in small numbers by (mob).

Lincoln's: 15 were banded at VFG Sept 9 (early)- Oct 24 (WBS,RPY).

Swamp and Song: observed in good numbers, especially during late Sept and Oct at VFG.

Lapland Longspur: none reported.

Snow Bunting: first Oct 23 RL (PPW); several reports in Nov, max 60+ AR Nov 5 (WBS,SM,PM).

* * * * *

LEGISLATORS' WHO'S WHO

Samuel R. Madison

From time to time, members of the Club have made inquiries concerning names and home addresses of legislators to whom they might express their personal views on pending legislation. For your convenience and ease of reference, there follows a list of such officials.

New York State Senators

Jacob K. Javits New York City
Robert F. Kennedy Glen Cove, Long Island

New York State Members of Congress

Joseph Y. Resnick 8 Diane Drive, Ellenville
Daniel E. Button 107 South Pine Avenue, Albany
Carleton J. King 126 Nelson Avenue, Saratoga Springs
Samuel S. Stratton 244 Guy Park Avenue, Amsterdam

1967-68 New York State Assembly Committee on Conservation

Charles F. Stockmeister, Chrm. 74 Second Avenue, Rochester
 Victor C. Waryas P.O.Box 132, Poughkeepsie
 Louis E. Wolfe 6 Mason Drive, Plattsburg
 Gregory J. Pope 619 East Avenue, Lockport
 Charles J. Melton 7 Girard Avenue, Bay Shore
 Francis J. Griffin 120 McKinley Parkway, Buffalo
 Mortimer P. Gallivan 128 Kuhl Avenue, Syracuse
 Dorothy H. Rose Gold Street, Route 2, Angola
 Gordon K. Cameron 42 Washington Street, Cornwall-on-Hudson
 Raymond J. Lill 31 Wolfert Terrace, Rochester
 Herbert A. Posner 436 B 21st Street, Far Rockaway
 L. Richard Marshall 7 Starthmont Park, Elmira
 Clarence D. Lane Windham Arms, Windham
 Donald J. Mitchell Shells Bush Road, Herkimer
 Peter J. Costigan Bob's Lane, Setauket
 William R. Sears Bear Creek Road, Woodgate
 Glen H. Harris Canada Lake
 Benjamin A. Gilman P.O.Box 443, Middletown

1967-68 N.Y.S. Senate Committee on Conservation and Recreation

Bernard C. Smith, Chrm. 167 Main Street, Northport
 Theodore D. Day Interlaken R.D.2
 D. Clinton Dominick III 100 Third Street, Newburgh
 William T. Smith Smithome Farms, R. 1, Elmira
 H. Douglas Barclay 7380 Park Street, Pulaski
 Bernard G. Gordon 1019 Park Street, Peekskill
 Dalwin J. Niles 8 S. William Street, Johnstown
 James H. Donovan 3895 Oneida Street, Washington Mills
 Leon E. Giuffreda 1344 Middle Country Rd., Centereach
 James F. Hastings 63 Main Street, Allegany
 Ronald B. Stafford 14 Pleasant Street, Peru
 John E. Flynn 15 Huron Street, Yonkers
 Nicholas Ferraro 23-20 Steinway Street, Long Island City
 William C. Brennan 55-27 84th Street, Elmhurst
 James D. Griffin 602 Park Avenue, Buffalo
 James E. Powers 33 Sunnyside Lane, Rochester

1967 - Area Members of New York State Senate

D. Clinton Dominick III 100 Third Street, Newburgh
 Jay P. Rolison, Jr. 11 Market Street, Poughkeepsie
 Douglas Hudson Castleton-on-Hudson
 Julian B. Erway 112 State Street, Albany
 Dalwin J. Niles 8 S. William Street, Johnstown

1967 - Area Members of New York State Assembly

Donald A. Campbell 89 Locust Avenue, Amsterdam
 Richard A. Cerosky 50 Galloway Lane, Valhalla
 Neil W. Kelleher 190 Second Avenue, Troy
 Clarence D. Lane Windham Arms, Windham
 Harvey M. Lifset 380 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville
 Victor C. Waryas P.O.Box 132, Poughkeepsie
 Clark C. Wemple 1760 Van Antwerp Road, Schenectady
 Kenneth L. Wilson 10 Deming Street, Woodstock

* * * * *

Rochester's flamingo of November 5 was assumed to have been an escapee.



FROM THE SECRETARY

Carol Wernick
Secretary

More than thirty members and their guests of the Schenectady Bird Club attended the annual Christmas Count meeting on Monday night, December 12, 1966. The festive atmosphere in the Pine Room of the First Methodist Church that evening, with holiday decor on the walls and a colorful display of books for sale on the tables, was no doubt enhanced by a delightfully lively and informative slide-illustrated talk on our vanishing birds of prey, by Mr. Joseph Munoff of Glens Falls, N.Y.

The slides of predators shown by Mr. Munoff were taken during a banding study of these birds. They recorded beautifully and accurately, not only the pitfalls encountered by bird and beast living in the woods, but also those encountered by man in his attempt to capture these for the screen.

Selecting sites to observe the nesting practices of predators, in this instance the sparrow hawk and horned owl, was difficult. But once a nest was selected, either one made fifty feet up in an oak tree or in a man-made wooden box put up by Mr. Munoff, and once the observers got their camera equipment set -- the men, using utility company climbing gear, balanced precariously, like window washers at the U.N. Under constant threat of attack from the mother bird -- with everything in place: bird, man, camera, Mr. Munoff was able to observe the young.

How well it was worth their efforts, for we shared with Mr. Munoff and his associate the many delights of discovery and observation. Not unlike parental pleasure, we took pride in the growth of the birds from their hatching to the time when they flew from the nest.

The birds were banded, and with scale and ruler, they were weighed and measured. Attempts were made to follow one clutch as long as possible. In one instance, a nesting box attached to what was assumed to be a sound tree trunk fell in a strong wind and the eggs inside destroyed. The nests were hoped to be protected by warnings from the Fish and Wildlife Service, but in many instances this only brought them to the attention of trigger-happy hunters, who used the signs as targets. We saw photographs of birds where the guns didn't miss, and photographs of road kills. It was Mr. Munoff's sincere concern that life in the wilderness is tough enough, and wanton, thoughtless destruction of these birds in addition to the natural dangers they encounter spoils eventual disappearance. Mr. Munoff's outlook for the future of predatory birds is indeed pessimistic.

In addition to the sparrow hawk and horned owl, we saw pictures of the red-tailed hawk, screech owl, marsh hawk, golden eagle (taken at Delmar Game Farm, it was so difficult to find one in the wild), and though they are not classified as predators, their scavenging talents make them valuable in this

area, we saw also a charming photograph of a nest of young crows.

The quality of the pictures was excellent. The audience definitely appreciated Mr. Munoff's sense of timing and his lingering on each slide, enabling us to enjoy the seasonal colors and the exquisite detail of each feather, beak and glassy eye.

From Mr. Munoff's message, it may well be this is a last close-up for many of us of these glorious birds of prey.

After the talk, Mr. Guy Bartlett and Dr. Peter Wickham proceeded to organize, respectively, the Schenectady and Troy Counts. This was done with their usual efficiency and speed, and the smell of good coffee quickly lured us to the kitchen where Mrs. Sabin, Mrs. McGuirk, and Mrs. Bundy served us delicious refreshments.

* * * * *

ELSEWHERE IN THE STATE

Edited by
Guy Bartlett

BIRDS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

"Birds of the Columbia County Area," compiled by Eleanor L. Radke, is available at \$1 per copy from the Alan Devoe Bird Club, Inc. of Chatham. The pocket-size (7 $\frac{1}{2}$ X 4 $\frac{1}{2}$) stiff-covered booklet packs much information in its 28 pages. The area is all of Columbia County and all of Rensselaer County south of Route 2. Except where indicated the summary charts are based on the club's records, 1957 through mid-1964, and include a few more than 200 species and hybrids, plus short lists of stragglers and hypothetical records. The foreward is by E.M.Reilly, Jr.; the center-spread is a map of the area; and there is a listing of the best birding areas. SBC could well update its records similarly.

GENESEE CHRISTMAS COUNT

Genesee Ornithological Society's 63rd Christmas Count, at Rochester, had 80 species and about 12,544 individuals. There was not a pine grosbeak or redpoll, and only one pine siskin. Interesting finds included eared grebe and red phalarope.

NATURE CONSERVANCY ACTIVITIES

The Great Bear Swamp is now thoroughly protected by buffer zones according to the local chapter of Nature Conservancy. The chapter has just acquired 87 acres of timber and swamp that fills out its holdings.

Charles H. W. Foster is the new president of The Nature Conservancy, Washington office. He was Commissioner of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the past seven years.

HAWK AND EAGLE PROGRAM

A program for the diminishing eagles and hawks of North America was spelled out by Roland Clement and Alexander Sprunt of National Audubon Society at the society's annual convention at Sacramento, Cal. Recommended were stronger protective laws in some states and a federal law to halt interstate traffic in birds trapped for sale to would-be falconers and to the pet trade. Mr. Sprunt, reporting on five years of bald eagle studies, recommended (1) strict protection of bald eagle nest trees, (2) elimination of the use of DDT and other persistent pesticides, (3) a program to stop the shooting of eagles much like the effort that was successful, through public education, in protecting migrating whooping cranes.

LAPWING SIGHTING

A lapwing, really a European, was one of the highlights for December birders at Montauk Point.

LONG ISLAND LAW SUIT ON DDT

From THE CONSERVATIONIST, December-January issue, of the New York State Conservation Department comes the following:

The National Audubon Society is supporting a law suit brought by a Long Island housewife in an effort to establish that a citizen's constitutional rights may be violated by 'the deliberate and wrong-headed pollution of his environment by a damaging pesticide.' She has won a temporary injunction in a state supreme court against the use of DDT by the Suffolk County Mosquito Control Commission and now the suit is being broadened by complaints against private tree-spraying contractors. She is seeking also to restrain them from using DDT and similar persistent chlorinated hydrocarbons. National Audubon Society, with the approval of its Rachel Carson Council, has pledged Rachel Carson funds to pay for the publication of court proceedings in the case.

* * * * *

FLORIDA AUDUBON TOURS SCHEDULEDBarry Havens

The Florida Audubon Society, in collaboration with Pan American Airlines, has announced a series of eight natural history tours for 1967 to various foreign destinations. These tours, providing a valuable opportunity to study the spectacular bird and plant life of the regions involved, limit the number of persons taking each trip (usually about 20 persons) and, as they are very popular, those who are interested should take appropriate action early.

Travel is by air between distant points. The daily field trips are made in comfortable automobiles or chartered buses. They include the cooperation of naturalist guides in the countries visited. Excellent accommodations are provided at picturesque inns usually in attractive settings, where much

enjoyment can be found in studying the local bird and plant life. Check lists of birds are provided for all the countries visited.

Applications are already being received, and because of the demand anyone interested should make inquiry early. A descriptive folder on the tours will be supplied on request to Florida Audubon Society, P.O. Drawer 7, Maitland, Florida, 32751, or to Pan American Airways, Inc., 2 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, 33132. A condensed summary of the tours involved follows:

Tour No. 1: Jamaica. Monday, January 16 - Sunday, January 22, 1967; Features include ferns, birds, bat caves, and a phosphorescent bay; \$390 per person; double-occupancy hotel room.

Tour No. 2: Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala. Friday, February 3 - Friday, February 24, 1967; features include scenery, botany, ornithology, and the cooperation of the Costa Rica Agricultural College; \$985 per person, double-occupancy hotel room.

Tour No. 3: Surinam, French Guiana and Panama. February 28 - March 21, 1967. Besides the usual bird attractions, its features include exotic animal life and visits to Amerindian and Bush Negro villages, views of the Panama Canal, and trips to the biological station at Barro Colorado, Canal Zone. \$1260 per person, double-occupancy hotel room.

Tour No. 4: Curacao, Bonaire, Trinidad, Tobago. Friday April 22 - Saturday May 7, 1967. As in the other tours, botany and spectacular scenery will supplement birding. \$835 per person, double-occupancy hotel room.

Tour No. 5: Western Europe. Covers Scotland, England, Holland, Belgium, and a brief stop in Paris. \$1090 per person, double-occupancy hotel room. Monday September 4 - Monday September 25, 1967.

Tour No. 6: Grand Bahama Island. October 12-15, 1967. Birding, golfing, tennis, swimming, fishing, etc. \$235 per person, double-occupancy hotel room.

Tour No. 7: Abaco in the Bahamas. Features a comparatively unspoiled vast range of pine forest with unusual birds and plants. \$225 per person, double-occupancy hotel room. Thursday November 9 - Sunday November 12, 1967.

Tour No. 8: Harbour Island in the Bahamas. Thursday November 23 - Monday November 27, 1967. Features exotic plants, animals, marine life, etc. as well as birding. \$250 per person, double-occupancy hotel room.

These brief resumes do not begin to describe the attractions of the tours as outlined in the Audubon descriptive leaflet. If you're interested, send for your copy right away, before the tours are all subscribed. Meanwhile, you can get further details from me, as I have a copy of the leaflet and can read you the fascinating descriptions over the phone.

* * * * *

EDITOR'S NOTES

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

With this first issue of the year, it is a pleasure to acknowledge the efforts of the launch crew who put this publication in orbit. To the gals, Mildred Crary, Betty Jane Leschen and Marty Price, who fold, address and assemble these issues go my sincere thanks for a job well done. Thanks are also due the back-up crew of Hazel Eddy, Alice Holmes, Ruth Fox and Viola Mabb, who, when the holiday mail prematurely began to close in on us, rallied to the cause on very brief notice and put the November-December issue in the mail prior to the Christmas meeting. My thanks also go to Joyce Merrill who helps with typing.

The efforts of those who are regular contributors of material and ideas make this job easier. The assurance of having a supply of material is comforting. To Guy Bartlett, Elva Link, Peter Wickham, Sam Madison, Barry Havens and Don Tucker go my appreciation for their contributions.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE CORRECTION

In the "Spring" section of the 1967 SBC field trip schedule there are three trip dates which need correcting. The Greene County trip will be held on Saturday, April 29; the Christman Sanctuary trip will be held on Sunday, April 30; and the Karner trip will be held on Wednesday, May 24. Please correct your field trip schedule now, before you forget.

NEXT ISSUE

Material for the March-April issue will be due on or before March 15. Short notes and feature articles are most welcomed. Coming in that issue will be the completion of Barry Havens' winter tree series.

(Issue assembled January 28, 1967)

EDITOR:

Robert P. Yunick
1527 Myron Street
Schenectady 12309



CIRCULATION:

Mrs. John G. Leschen
1170 Mohawk Road
Schenectady 12309

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Robert P. Yunick, Peter P. Wickham

MEMBERSHIP: Sustaining \$5; Active \$3; Associate \$2; Student \$1; Family 50 cents per additional member. Membership chairman: Mrs. E.L. Thomas, 37-B Fuller Road, Albany, New York.

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.: Walton B. Sabin, President; Stephen C. Fordham, Vice-President; Mrs. Leo Norton, Treasurer; Mrs. Robert Wernick, Secretary.



MADISON AND KOCH HEAD SBC

Carol Wernick
Secretary

On the evening of February 27, 1967, thirty members of SBC attended the annual meeting. It was held in Fellowship Hall of the First Methodist Church in Schenectady.

At this time, yearly club elections were held, and the following are now the officers and directors of Schenectady Bird Club:

President - Samuel R. Madison
Vice Pres. - Edward Koch
Secretary - Carol Wernick
Treasurer - Lois Norton

Board of Directors: Dr. Paul Grattan (term exp. '68)
Dr. Clifford Pepper " "
Dr. Peter Wickham " "
Walton E. Sabin (term exp. '69)
Dr. Monte Gruett " "

The officers and last three members of the board were elected at this meeting.

Ed Koch read a letter of acceptance from the newly elected president, Sam Madison, who was fortunate enough to have been birding in the West Indies at the time of this meeting. Peter Wickham then presented a resolution extending recognition to Walton E. Sabin for his outstanding service to the SBC as past president. Two field guides were given Walt as a further small token of the Club's appreciation of his efforts.

There were several committee reports, too. Some comments and reports that might be of general interest were from the treasurer and lecture series chairman who reported both balanced books and financial gains.

Forty-five new members joined the Club this year and those new members attending this meeting stood up and were greeted.

The records committee chairman spoke of the success of the rare bird alert. Thanks were extended to all those field observers for their cooperation in the RBA and in regular reporting.

Many thanks and grateful appreciation were also expressed by the publications chairman to those people who worked so dili-

gently on FEATHERS. The publication is growing, both in size and circulation. The new feeder bulletin has been particularly successful.

After the business part of the meeting, the evening was turned over to Club member Bruce Tatge. Mr. Tatge, an acoustical engineer at the Research and Development Laboratory at GE presented and discussed slides and tapes taken in Barro Colorado Island in the Panama Canal Zone. This work was related to research on the effect of human intruders on naturally occurring noises in the jungle -- a joint effort of GE, the U.S. Army Limited War Laboratory and the Department of Ornithology at Cornell.

Tropical sunsets, sunrises, waterways, scrubby jungle, air plants, and the unrelieved dark green of the climax forest were particularly welcome on that wet, snowy Schenectady night. The geography of the Canal Zone, pictures of the recording equipment, the Panama Railway, the research station itself, were shown, as well as slides of insects, lizards, birds, and animals.

Mr. Tatge, to everyone's delight, added particular interest to the program by the recordings. Intense jungle rain, rolling thunder, bird calls and songs, the seemingly incessant whirr of insects, the shrill cry of the frogs, gave a vitality to the viewing. The voice of the howler monkey, for example, was a sound that must be heard to be believed.

Mr. Tatge pointed out that an aspect of this research that might have value for a birdwatcher was the discovery that bird activity and bird sounds above eye level were apparently unaffected by intruders in the jungle. Bird activity and sounds on ground level were definitely curtailed when human beings were nearby.

In addition to slides and sounds, mountings of tropical butterflies obtained by Mr. Tatge on Barro Colorado were on display.

Many thanks to Bruce Tatge for an enjoyable and informative presentation.

Many thanks, too, to Mrs. Sabin and Mrs. McGuirk for the cupcakes, coffee and tea served afterwards.

* * * * *

DUES ARE OVER DUE

The first notice for 1967 dues was in the November-December issue of FEATHERS. This was followed by a telephone reminder from the treasurer wherever possible. Currently 167 members have paid their dues for 1967. Anyone whose dues are not paid by May 1st will be dropped from the FEATHERS mailing list. Checks should be made out to Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. and mailed to:

Lois A. Norton
239 Sixth Avenue
Troy 12180

Thank you for your prompt action.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, WALTON B. SABIN has served as an outstanding member of the Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. for many years and has always given his time unstintingly for the furtherance of the diverse activities of the Club, and

Whereas, WALTON B. SABIN has rendered valuable service to the Club by his active field work which has produced many additions to the Club's species records, his service in planning and suggesting new areas for field trips, his constant willingness to educate, advise and assist Club members and others who were less proficient than he in identifying avian species, and

Whereas, during his tenure as president, the Club has broadened its activities by greatly increasing the number and variety of its field trips, increased its membership, expanded its educational programs, and been of greater service to its members and the public, and

Whereas, WALTON B. SABIN has served for nearly five years as the second president of SBC, Inc., and under the by-laws is ineligible for reelection at this time,

Now, Therefore be it resolved by the entire membership of SBC, Inc. and by its board of directors that this resolution expressing their appreciation for his many services be adopted, that the secretary be directed to enter this resolution upon the minutes, and that a suitably engrossed copy thereof signed by the officers and other members of the board of directors be presented to him as a token of our appreciation.

Done this 27th day
of February, 1967.

* * * * *

THE NEW STATE BIRD BOOK

Recently, we were talking to John Bull, who is working on the forthcoming state bird book. The discussion turned to ways in which SBC might help him in his monumental task. The major area of interest in which we have very little information is that of breeding densities in typical habitat areas. Such densities could be obtained by SBC members willing to give a little time to it. Interested? Call Pete Wickham, 477-6345, for details.

John can also use unpublished observations and would like to examine any local collections - private or public - of bird specimens. If you have such records, or know of the existence of such records or specimens, please let us know. We are also working on an up-dated summary of birds in the SBC area, and they would be of great interest to us, too.

The records committee-
Guy Bartlett Monte Gruett
Hazel Bundy Walt Sabin
Pete Wickham, Chairman

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Samuel R. Madison
President

SBC has much to offer to many individuals in our portion of the State. Our expanded program activities, our more numerous and varied field trips, our publications and our spreading into other natural science areas are some examples.

There is a widespread need and desire for such planned activities. Our recent spectacular increase in membership -- after years of remaining static -- demonstrates this vividly.

But there is need for more. To name a few of the more important: We need a place where we can hold meetings of the Club, the board of directors and various committees. We need a "home" to serve as a general gathering place and exchange of information. We need a place where we can be readily reached by others by mail and telephone. We should acquire sanctuary lands. Ideally one of the first sanctuaries should be centrally located so that we could construct our new headquarters on it.

Our entrance into other areas of the natural sciences and new educational activities should be expanded further to keep pace with the demand for and interest in such matters.

In the past few years much effort has been exerted by many dedicated members of the planning committee, its five subcommittees and others. Now is the time for a persistent, hard-hitting drive to nail down the results of our efforts. Time is of the essence; unless we acquire a centrally located sanctuary soon, the clock will have run against us. That portion of earth's soil and flora which the bulldozers shall not have shoved aside, shall be covered by our monstrous mechanical earthmovers and asphalt and concrete spreaders.

The achievement of these goals has been uppermost in my mind in making appointments to present vacancies. In addition, several new positions have been created and filled.

On March 20, 1967 your new board of directors held its first meeting since the election of new officers and per custom I was chosen chairman of the board. Ed Koch has been appointed to the newly created position of deputy chairman. Paul Connor succeeds me as the new chairman of our conservation committee.

Ed Koch has also been appointed to the new position of deputy chairman of the planning committee. Walt Sabin and Peggy McGuirk are going to serve as members of the planning committee without assignment to any particular post. They have been designated as ex-officio non-voting members of all subcommittees of the planning committee. This will permit their utilization wherever necessary. Peggy McGuirk has consented to fill the new position of assistant to the president and has been serving as such since I assumed the presidency. This executive reorganization will be of immeasurable assistance in attempting to accomplish our goals.

As a result of the election and these appointments, six of the 15 individuals who comprise our officers, directors and chairmen of standing committees have joined SBC within the past three years and ten have been with us five years or less.

I ask all of you to help. You need not assume a major task. Every bit is most welcome. Please contact me and advise me of your particular interest.

* * * * *

COOPERATIVE BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

Willet T. Van Velzen

Migratory Bird Populations Station

Purpose: To obtain, by random sampling, an index of abundance of breeding birds. Such a technique is needed to provide information on distribution and relative abundance of North American birds, and specifically to measure changes in abundance that result from such factors as changes in land use and widespread applications of pesticides.

A second survey will be carried out in New York as part of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife Continental Breeding Bird Survey during this coming June. During 1966, 24 New York birders ran 27 survey routes throughout the state. The most thorough coverage was obtained in the Schenectady degree block and the adjacent block to the west. Although increased coverage is badly needed in the northeastern and southeastern sections of the state, it is hoped the additional routes can be run throughout the entire state.

Survey routes are selected at random within the state to sample each one-degree block. Each road-side route, driven one time during the breeding season, consists of 50 stops at half-mile intervals. All birds heard or seen for a three-minute stop-period are recorded on special forms, and the data are later transferred to machine punch cards for analysis.

The survey period is extended throughout the month of June to allow for optimum weather conditions. Each census starts one-half hour before sunrise and takes approximately four hours.

* * * * *

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Peter P. Wickham

Records Chairman

In 1966 eight breeding bird survey routes were run in the SBC eleven-county area - six of these by SBC members - out of a total of about 15 such counts. This year our aim is to run all of those in the area if possible. WE NEED YOUR HELP - 1) as an observer if

(a) you can identify at least 95 percent of the regular breeding birds in the area by song and (b) can still hear the songs or 2) as a recorder or driver if you lack the requisite experience but would like to help out.

This can be a valuable learning experience for those who wish to be more familiar with bird songs and call notes. To volunteer call Bob Yunick, 377-0146, or Pete Wickham, 477-6345.

* * * * *

N.Y.S. CONS. DEPT. DUCK COUNT-1967

The following tabulation represents the results of the New York State Conservation Department's annual aerial waterfowl survey. The species are recorded according to date and area of survey.

Species	Champ- lain Valley 1-12-67	Ontario St. Law. 1-13-67	Lake Ontario 1-14-67	Central Lakes 1-14 & 15-67	Hudson Valley 1-9-67	Long * Island 1-9 & 10-67
Marsh Ducks						
Black Duck	430	2,799	1,446	2,282	1,760	20,954
Mallard	49	510	353	900	445	4,107
Wood Duck						2
Baldpate		30	38	95		2,828
Diving Ducks						
Scaups	775	790	14,437	2,332	650	52,865
Redhead			155	4,900		10
Canvasback	400		2,620	1,215		2,773
Goldeneye	1,815	3,055	11,475	851	25	4,823
Old Squaw		17	795	1		2,198
Bufflehead		80	358	10		3,445
Ruddy Duck					205	293
Scoter			448			38,530
Geese						
Canada Geese	28			239	25	2,390
Brant						23,274
Miscellaneous						
Merganser	1,160	1,437	20,226	286	265	4,529
Coot				495		1,013
Mute Swan		1		11		682
Unidentified						39
Total	4,657	8,749	52,351	13,617	3,375	164,755

*Includes Ground Surveys and Excludes "N.J. Line to Sandy Hook".

YOU SEE 'EM, NOW YOU HEAR 'EM

Charles Q. Lemmond

Did you ever try to hear the "what-cheer cheer cheer" of a cardinal or the "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" of a chickadee when the sounds are effectively blocked by a thermopane window? We have and this year we did something about it.

Our three bird feeders are all visible from a large dining room window where we like to spend spare moments during the winter months watching and photographing our various winter visitors. Occasionally a stranger arrives and even with the help of Mr. Peterson, we sometimes have trouble identifying it by fieldmarks. If we could only hear the bird-call, we might have a better clue. This prompted the construction of an amplifier with an outdoor microphone to bring the sounds of the birds into our dining room.

Small completely wired, inexpensive, transistor amplifiers are available from various electronic suppliers. (Why wire it, when you can buy it?) We chose to power the amplifier with batteries so as to reduce the possibility of hum and also eliminate the need for a power connection to a 110-volt outlet. The battery drain is very low. With these thoughts in mind, the amplifier, three three-volt batteries, and an eight-inch speaker can all be mounted in a single housing. A volume control with switch is the only control. A small dynamic microphone is mounted outside the window with a plug-in connection. A shielded cable brings the mike input to the amplifier-speaker cabinet. A turn of the volume control knob now brings in the cardinal's call loud and clear.

I find that the effect is much like sitting in one's house with the windows thrown wide open. There are some problems, however. Never, under any circumstances, should a husband mount such a contraption in a living area of the house without prior, complete, wifely approval!! Ours is now being rebuilt and moved to a new location. Then there is a problem with the 1966-67 birds. Where are they? Sparrow listening is excellent. I guess the answer is, "Wait till next year."

* * * * *

CAPE ANN V

Guy Bartlett

An Ipswich sparrow and a gannet were among the half-dozen newcomers on the composite list; an eared grebe and several harlequin ducks were seen by all; and king eiders and Kumlien's gulls (a subspecies) were also among the highlights of SBC's fifth annual winter trip along Massachusetts's North Shore. The Ipswich sparrow was right where Gerald L. Soucy of the Brookline

Bird Club had told us to look, and so were the eared grebe and harlequins, among others.

Cape Ann and Magnolia were studied January 27-29, and Newburyport and Plum Island Sunday, the 29th. Cape Ann and Magnolia had 39 species; Newburyport and Plum Island had 42, plus one subspecies. The trip total was 54 species plus Kumlien's. With gannet, pintail, meadowlark, cowbird, Ipswich sparrow and killdeer new, the five-year total is 78 species plus one subspecies.

There were 12 participants in four cars; headquarters were at Vista Motel, Gloucester; and Saturday evening's lobsters were at Sea Shell, Rockport. The roster: Dr. and Mrs. Husted, Dr. and Mrs. Gruett, Mrs. Bundy, Hammond and Waite; and Messrs. Bartlett, Madison, Sabin, Seguin and Spivak.

At the start there was no snow on the ground, and temperature above freezing. There was heavy rain Friday night, with Coast Guard hurricane flag flown. Saturday morning had stiff wind and high waves, and there was a slight snow on the ground Sunday morning -- but such things did not interfere with the trips.

The list shows maximum one-day counts for: A, Cape Ann and Magnolia, and B, Newburyport and Plum Island.

	A	B		A	B
Common Loon	25	20	Purple Sandpiper	20	
Red-throated Loon	1		Sanderling	20	
Red-necked Grebe	1	1	Iceland Gull	2	2
Horned Grebe	60	30	(Kumlien's Gull, ssp)		2
Eared Grebe	1		Great Bl.-backed Gull	2000	350
Gannet	1		Herring Gull	4000	1000
Great Cormorant	60		Ring-billed Gull	100	75
Canada Goose		650	Dovekie	1	
Mallard	2	15	Mourning Dove	3	
Black Duck	100	900	Snowy Owl		1
Pintail		1	Hairy Woodpecker		1
Canvasback		4	Downy Woodpecker		1
Greater Scaup		30	Horned Lark	10	60
Common Goldeneye	300	500	Blue Jay	x	x
Bufflehead	40	100	Common Crow	30	20
Oldsquaw	2	125	Bl.-capped Chickadee	2	4
Harlequin Duck	11		Northern Shrike		1
Common Eider	20		Starling	x	x
King Eider	8		Myrtle Warbler		1
White-winged Scoter	30	400	House Sparrow	x	x
Surf Scoter	10	15	Eastern Meadowlark		1
Common Scoter	10	6	Brown-headed Cowbird		1
Red-breasted Merganser	150	60	Ipswich Sparrow		1
Rough-legged Hawk		1	Tree Sparrow	1	20
Marsh Hawk		1	Song Sparrow	1	2
Sparrow Hawk	2		Lapland Longspur		15
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	5	Snow Bunting	3	15
Killdeer	1	2	(54 species, plus 1 subspecies)		

* * * * *

AN INTRODUCTION TO WINTER TREE STUDY

PART IV - LEAF SCARS, TWIGS AND BARK

Barry Havens

When a leaf drops off in the fall from the twig to which it was attached, it leaves a scar. Each species of tree has a more or less distinctive kind of leaf scar, so a knowledge of leaf scars, especially those of lateral buds, can be of great help in the identification of trees.

Probably the most important field mark to look for in leaf scars is the shape and size. The shape may vary widely; some are more or less circular, while others show considerable variation. A common form resembles a crescent moon.

As far as I know, the bud from which next year's growth will come is always associated with a leaf scar left when a leaf dropped off in the fall. So the association of these two can be helpful. Usually the bud is situated above the leaf scar. It may be partially or almost completely encircled by the leaf scar. Some buds are virtually buried in the leaf scar, so that a superficial hunt for the bud will not disclose it.

The sap or nutritive fluid of a tree is carried through vascular bundles, corresponding to the blood vessels of animals. These bundles extend from the twig or branch through the leaf stem to the leaf itself. When the leaf drops off in the fall, the bundles are, of course, broken and sealed off at that point, and so the bundle scars, situated within the confines of the leaf scar, are another identification clue. Their number, arrangement and other helpful features are consistent for each species.

Another element that may be associated with leaf scars is the stipule scar. A stipule is an appendage found at the base of the leaf or flower stem of many trees and plants; take note that some species do not have them. But on plants that do have them, the stipules may vary widely in characteristics. They may look for all the world like leaves, or like flower petals. In any event, on a tree they are found in pairs, one on each side of the leaf scar, and when they drop off they leave stipule scars - another field mark.

Twigs

A live twig in winter can present a host of clues to a tree sleuth. It has many helpful characteristics useful in distinguishing one species from another, and so you should know something about them and learn to use them as field marks. But bear in mind that just one twig alone can be misleading; for various reasons it could be deformed or just uncharacteristic. So look over a number of twigs in order to find one or more typical of the tree in question.

To begin with, twigs vary in thickness, and this can be a

help. For example, both the ash and the maple have opposite growth, but the twigs of the ash are much stouter than those of the maple.

Hairiness is another characteristic. Some twigs have no hairs, others have them. And the hairiness, when it exists, may range from coarse hairs, quite plainly visible, down to fine fuzz found only on close inspection.

A twig may have a distinctive taste or odor. Sometimes these are readily noticed, and in other cases the twig may have to be crushed or scraped.

Note whether the twig is sticky or gummy. This characteristic may be limited to the buds alone.

The twigs of many trees have distinctive colors - but that doesn't necessarily mean the twig color will be the same as that of the tree trunk or larger branches.

If a twig is cut with a sharp knife, a cross section will reveal the pith or central core. This is often a determining clue to the identity of the tree, especially when the pith is found to be "diaphragmed" or "chambered."

Then there are lenticels. These are spots or markings on the outside of the twig or on the bark of the trunk or branches; they are like pores through which the tree breathes. They are often helpful in identification.

Some trees have thorns or other protuberances that are more or less thornlike; such as prickles or bristles. The presence of these would, of course, be an obvious help.

Another factor not to be overlooked is juice. Some trees, at or toward the start or end of winter, have twigs containing a milky juice.

Finally, we come back to the things related to the growth of the twig - such things as the way the leaf scars are arranged, or the way the twigs grow from the branchlet. This includes phyllotaxy, which was explained in Part III of this series.

It also includes the consideration of nodes and bud-scale scars, and it would be a good idea to devote a few moments to those right now.

The botanists tell us that, with the exception of flower buds, each bud contains the growth for the following year in miniature, including all the leaves that will develop next summer. When spring arrives and the tree starts to grow again, the little stem lengthens and the little leaves open - and the scales drop off the bud. But they, too, leave their scars, and they are quite close together; the twig grows on beyond them, leaving a mark that, to me at least, seems a tight little circle of ridges. This point is called a node.

So, when the bud opens, the scales drop off, and the twig extends itself, it leaves a node that you can recognize if you look for it. And when growth stops in late summer, there will

either be a true terminal bud at the end of the twig, or the end of the twig will drop off leaving the last lateral bud to act as a terminal bud to extend the growth the following year. And then the operation will be repeated: the bud will open, scales drop off, the twig will lengthen, etc. But again the bud scales will leave their scars at that point, forming another node.

By observing the nodes on the end portion of a twig, we can determine how much the twig grew the previous summer - or during any recent summer, as long as the nodes can be readily found.

Bark

Trees of different species can present a wide variety of bark for your inspection, and this variety can be quite a help in your field work. A conspicuous example is the bark of the white birch; another is that of the sycamore. So it's well to devote a few moments to a consideration of this aspect of the subject and its value as a field mark.

One way of subdividing bark types is to group them into two broad categories: rough and smooth. And I hasten to point out that these groupings not only can have blurry intergradations, but - and this can be frustrating - you can usually find two kinds of bark on the same tree. Furthermore, a young tree may have a bark that is distinctly different from that of a mature specimen of the same species. Let's consider some examples:

A white birch has smooth bark, and so has a young white pine or trembling aspen. An elm, on the other hand, has rough bark. But a mature white pine or aspen will have rough bark.

A young white birch would not be recognizable as such if you depended on the characteristic smooth white bark as a clue. The bark of the young tree is reddish, not white, and the true character of the bark does not develop until the tree gets older.

There are not very many trees whose bark can be classified as smooth; most of them are in the rough category. But this group, in turn, can be further subdivided according to different characteristics. Learning to recognize the various kinds of rough bark is one of the more difficult phases of tree study, but if you stick with it you'll eventually develop a familiarity with the different kinds that can be an important clue in your detective work.

PART V - FLOWERS, FRUITS AND SEEDS

Let's conclude our groundwork in this review of the types of things that are helpful in identifying trees in winter by giving some attention to flowers, fruits, and seeds. Trees do produce such growths. All species of trees bear flowers, although some are very inconspicuous or short-lived and consequently of not much use as field marks. Not all trees bear fruits, but those that do have this characteristic as a useful field mark. And all species produce seeds, for it is through seeds that they reproduce themselves. (Strictly speaking, the seeds are fruits,

but I find it useful to distinguish between fleshy fruits like berries or apples and those that are not fleshy.)

Flowers

As already mentioned, flowers are not very useful in the identification of trees, for they do not last very long and some of them are very inconspicuous. Furthermore, they are not normally an aid in the winter identification of trees, which is the aspect of the matter under present consideration. However, they sometimes can be a field mark, and I think of two examples of this.

The hazelnut - which, of course, is a shrub rather than a tree - is one of the earliest to bloom in the spring, and its flowers appear before the foliage proper. They are tiny and red; you have to look closely for them, or you would never notice them.

The witch hazel, on the other hand, is one of the latest shrubs to flower of any kind to be found in the fall. In this case, however, the flowers are not inconspicuous; they can be plainly seen if one is at all attentive.

These two examples are given in spite of the fact that they are shrubs and not trees proper, because they usually are a source of considerable pleasure when found, appearing as they do as an early harbinger of spring and summer in the case of one, and as one of the last performances of a dying summer in the case of the other.

Fruits

Fruits, as non-botanists normally think of fruits, are fleshy in nature - and sometimes edible. Strictly speaking, they are all seeds, but a fleshy fruit can be so helpful as a tree field mark that it's worthwhile distinguishing between the fleshy and non-fleshy types.

So, if the tree you are studying bears, or obviously has borne, fleshy fruit of some kind, it will help you in your identification. Some fruits, like the apple, make identification immediate and conclusive, but others are not so easy.

Many trees bear berries as fruits, but the type of berry can vary. You may find the fruit to be like a blackberry, or like a cherry, or relatively thick and irregularly shaped. Such fruits are not usually found on the trees in the fleshy state in winter, but they are, after all, the vehicles for seeds, and likely as not will remain on the tree in some form or other at least into the early part of the winter. To repeat an example already given, at least a few apples are often found on apple trees throughout the winter.

Seeds

Seeds, for the purpose of this simplified discussion, are hard and not fleshy, although they may consist of some sort of container in which the seeds proper are to be found. They vary considerably in nature, and the following list the types more or less commonly encountered:

1. Nuts. Seeds that take this form are usually readily recognizable, but they are not all alike. The butternut, walnut and hickories, for example, are hard, rough, and relatively smooth on the outside, while the horse-chestnut has prickles.
2. Cones. Some trees have seeds that are borne in little cone-like structures, like those of the alder, yellow birch, or arbor vitae.
3. Catkins are a familiar form of seed-bearing vehicle, and they are helpful in identification. Familiar examples are those of the poplar, pussy willow and white birch. The botanist's name for a catkin is ament.
4. Acorns, are a very familiar and easily recognizable form of seed, and are an immediate means of recognition key to the oak tree wherever found. They vary considerably in size and design, however, and the distinctions between them are very useful in determining which of the many kinds of oak you are trying to identify. Even if the tree does not show any acorns in the winter, it may usually have them on the ground beneath it.
5. Samaras. A samara is a winged seed, and the most familiar form is the winged maple seed. But there are other seeds, like those of the elm, the hop tree, and the ash, that I find it convenient to put into this category, and they are all good field marks. There's one good thing about a samara; it's often found on the tree, to some extent, in the winter.
6. Pods. Some trees bear their seeds in pods, like peas or beans, and this is not a coincidence, for as far as I know they are all members of the pea family, which are known as legumes. The Kentucky coffee tree, locust and red-bud are examples of this family.
7. Miscellany. There are still other trees whose seeds I find it difficult to sort out into categories containing more than one example. I find it almost impossible, for example, to describe the seed of the witch hazel - which, after all, is just a shrub. The sycamore seed is a ball hairy or bristly about an inch in diameter. Basswood seeds form a cluster borne on a stem suspended from the bottom of what looks like a leaf but is not; botanists call it a bract.

This should give you an idea of the great variety of seeds to be found associated with trees. As they are not uncommonly to be found on the tree during at least some of the winter, they are a useful field mark.

To summarize this series of articles, we have reviewed some of the significant things that are valuable to us in the winter identification of trees. We did this because, while summer foliage is very useful in distinguishing one tree from another, identification based on winter characteristics - which are to be found on the tree nearly all year around - is much more conclusive. And furthermore, the things we need to learn in so doing are worth while because they lead to a fuller and more satisfying understanding of trees.

In the first installment we learned what a tree is and how trees are classified by botanists. In the second, we discussed

evergreens and their foliage. The remaining installments were devoted to deciduous trees and their characteristics, most of which apply to evergreens as well. These included opposite versus alternate growth, buds and their arrangement, leaf and bundle scars, twigs, bark, and flowers, seeds, and fruits.

To carry on from here, the most important thing to do is to take advantage of the expert, experienced literature available. Most of it uses technical terms, but many of these have already been explained in this series, and after all, it isn't too difficult to consult the glossary that is usually found in the book involved.

For a fascinating introduction to botany in general, I know of no better book than THIS GREEN WORLD, by Rutherford Platt. It is extremely readable and enjoyable and should provide an excellent groundwork.

There are many books on trees, but my favorite by far is the ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO TREES AND SHRUBS by Arthur Harmount Graves, formerly instructor in forest botany, Yale School of Forestry, and assistant professor of botany at Yale. It was published by the author, in Wallingford, Connecticut. Professor Graves has also published a paperbound, concise WINTER KEY TO WOODY PLANTS which is an essential adjunct to his larger, hardbound book.

If it is still available, the Province of Ontario, Canada, published some years ago a very useful leaflet entitled THE FOREST TREES OF ONTARIO. However, your best bet is the work by Graves.

* * * * *

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Peggy McGuirk
Field Trip Chairman

ROUND AND SARATOGA LAKES

NOVEMBER 13

Weather: Skies clear, the air was chilly because of 25-mph winds from the north.

Species: Two red-throated loons at Saratoga outnumbered one common loon seen at Round Lake. A raft of 75 canvasbacks and 110 coot were at Saratoga Lake. Hawks, as usual, were uncommon.

--B. R. Seguin

PELHAM BAY PARK

DECEMBER 3

There was a crew of five -- Mr. and Mrs. Sabin, Hazel Bundy, Peggy McGuirk and myself -- who decided to make the trip down to Pelham Bay and vicinity.

A threat of snow and a harsh wind lasted all day, but failed to dull our enthusiasm.

Almost immediately after climbing out of the cars, the names herring gull, black-backed gull, buffle head, black duck, mallard, and fish crow appeared on our lists.

There were many, many water birds to be seen that day. We had good long looks at flocks of Canada geese totaling 120 individuals and over 600 greater scaup ducks. Also counted were 60 buffleheads, 44 American widgeon, 16 canvasbacks and 6 female American goldeneyes.

At least 13 killdeer were about and one-half dozen sanderslings.

There was a combined total of approximately 1500 herring and ring-billed gulls, 150 Bonaparte's gulls, 50 great black-backed gulls, and 20 laughing gulls.

In one spot a patrolman gave us a fishy eye for parking on and nearly blocking a gravel road. But it was here we made our greatest land-bird finds. Besides the usual downy and hairy woodpeckers, chickadees and nuthatches, we found a number of robins, hermit thrushes, fox and white-throated sparrows, and a flicker. There was also a flock of 40 red-winged blackbirds. An active flock of goldfinches and at least 30 house finches were all around us.

All together we totaled 40 species.

Now there's one more item to add. After seeing everything from house sparrows to house finches (and one man walking around the park with a sack over his head) you would think at least one of the park's famous owls would blink his shiny eyes at us. We didn't see one. Also, it is my personal belief that Mr. Sabin was more amused at Peggy McGuirk's reactions to this than he was disappointed at the owls' lack of cooperation.

--Harvey Spivak

STATE DUCK COUNT

JANUARY 8

One common loon, 400 mallards, 560 black ducks, a canvasback, and a "species-undetermined" female merganser were the only waterfowl found on the upper Hudson, Hoosic and Mohawk Rivers by 10 observers in a caravan of four cars on January 8, a day of 40 to 48 degree temperatures. It used to be that both common and red-breasted mergansers and goldeneyes, among other diving species, were to be expected in at least modest numbers, but it looks as though pollution and detergents, among other ills, have reduced local wintering possibilities. The trip was concluded at 2 pm and then showed only 560 black ducks, but a late visit to the Federal Dam at the Ford plant by Miss Elizabeth Macauley showed many more black ducks arriving, boosting that total to 1100.

Among the birds on the day's total of 32 species were a great blue heron below the Federal Dam, ten red-tailed hawks (including three atop tightly adjacent transmission-line tower poles), five herring and ten ring-billed gulls, a kingfisher, an easily observed pileated woodpecker, and flocks of mourning doves, horned larks, cedar waxwings, and cowbirds.

--B. R. Seguin

TOMHANNOCK WINTER WALKJANUARY 15

The sun was shining through high broken clouds, and the outdoor thermometer stood at 42 degrees as the fearless leader and his spouse started from Fuller Road, Albany and up the Northway for the trip to Tomhannock via Route 7. As if to forecast the day's results, a lone sparrow hawk sat atop a tree near the Northway. This was the only bird we would see all the way to Tomhannock!

Arriving at the reservoir well ahead of 2 pm, Mr. and Mrs. trip leader optimistically alerted ear and eye, for it had seemed a promising day weather-wise. But as the cars arrived bearing 20 assorted observers, the weather deteriorated somewhat. The sun slipped away, and light snow flurries appeared. The flurries dwindled into nothing, and we noted it was considerably colder than it had been back in Albany.

A few chickadee twitters, and some passing crows were the only signs of bird life. One car-load of observers had seen a red-tailed hawk on nearby Plank Road, so we threw that in with another of the same that part of the group spotted adjacent to Valley Falls Road.

By the time we had completed the snowy-footed hike down "finch lane" through the evergreens, and met with nothing but a stiff wind from the reservoir and one brown creeper, everyone was about ready to admit that the "Winter Walk" was well-named. We all agreed that fresh air and exercise was very nice!

At a suggestion, we then drove to John Snyder Road. From a car someone spotted a white-breasted nuthatch at a feeder. That was it. Our grand total for the two hours or so stood at five species. In a swampy area we trained our binoculars on another lone chickadee, fascinated at seeing a bird; any ol' bird!

Just before the group disbanded, a bird "a little larger than a sparrow" was seen to plunge swiftly from one side of the road to the swamp on the other side. None of us could find it -- perhaps it was merely hallucination!

These then are the lowlights of the Winter Walk, '67. There can be little doubt the rest of the field trips this year will be monumental by comparison! (And such a fine turnout we had, too!)

Returning via Route 7 to the Albany area, I ruefully noticed a troupe of normally ubiquitous starlings cavorting about someone's yard, too selfish to have flown over to Tomhannock so we could have had one more species for the list. --E. L. Thomas

FEEDER OPEN HOUSEMARCH 4

A group of 13 adults and five children met at the firehouse on Rosendale Rd. for the feeder trip to Joseph Pollak's home, a short distance up the road. Cardinals whistled their greeting and crows were heading north in spring migration, since the weather was warm in comparison to the month of February. The day started off cloudy with a temperature around 25 degrees, as we walked down the road to meet Joe Pollak, our host.

The Pollak's home is nestled among mature pines and exotic trees and shrubs, all of which afford excellent shelter for the bird life which abounds nearby. Joe's feeders were not elaborate, but he certainly must have a touch of magic, or a communication with nature that all of us admired. With a large crowd of adults and children, I was quite surprised to see chickadees feeding on peanut butter spread on the branches, just above my head. Peanuts were passed out, so the children had the thrill of feeding chickadees right out of their hands; later some adults had the pleasure, also.

The nuthatches felt envious, so Mr. Pollak hand-fed the bolder female, while the male caught some peanuts that were tossed to him. Meanwhile the bluejays called to one another, probably discussing the obnoxious intruders and impatiently waiting for our departure.

The group retired into a warm garage to produce the effect of "all is calm." We never really created this mood for the birds, since there was always a child outside, trying to hand out a peanut. The maneuver was clever enough to lure a couple of tufted titmice into view. Downy and hairy woodpeckers slipped in and out of the suet feeder, unceremoniously. A brown creeper followed their example, too. A mourning dove did observe us from the treetops, but decided we were not of the same species and retreated.

Later, Joe gave us a tour around to show us the many different trees and shrubs, among them the Kentucky Coffee and Japanese Tamarack. At the edge of Joe Pollak's property, Bob Yunick acted as guide, leading us over a snow-covered, frozen creek bottom to the Lisha Kill. Here a trail took a segment of the party back to the cars and we said good-bye to Carol Knight, Ethel Simmons, Helen Abel, Cliff Tepper and his children, Audrey and Nancy.

The remainder of the hardy group followed Bob Yunick, school-boy fashion, into the snow-laden forest, and thence onto Rosendale Rd. and back to the firehouse. The nuthatches and woodpeckers ignored the Tom-foolery to continue their routines.

Back at the firehouse, the group was unwilling to quit, since the day had become quite sunny. Thinking of the pending duck migration, we decided to check the open waters at Lock 7, but it only revealed a song sparrow on an open patch of grass. More stops along the road brought our species' total to 17, with tree sparrows, and flying in the distance, a red-winged blackbird, cowbirds and starlings.

Saying farewell to the rest of the group, Aaron Spivak and his son Harvey, Al Kosinski, Peggy McGuirk, Walt Sabin, Hank Tepper, Mildred Cray and Bob Yunick, we proceeded home, reflecting that it was a successful feeder trip.

I also realize that the pleasure we had today resulted from the efforts of others. I would like to express thanks to Joseph Pollak, Bob Yunick and the people who have sponsored Lisha Kill Preserve.

We missed the grosbeaks, redpolls, crossbills and other

migrants which sometimes brighten up our winter, although this is not the doing of man, but a result of the mild winter and the abundance of food in the North. --Ed Koch

* * * * *

OFF THE BOOKSHELF

Elva Link

Books for the Rock Hounds

For the beginner -

Cronis, G.G. & W.C. Krumbein. DOWN TO EARTH: AN INTRODUCTION TO GEOLOGY. U. of Chicago, 1936, \$8.50. Paper \$2.95.

"A complete introduction to the basics of geology, well illustrated with diagrams, sketches and photographs.

Dana, E. S. & C. S. Hurlbut. MINERALS AND HOW TO STUDY THEM. Wiley, 3rd ed. 1949, \$6.95. Paper \$1.45.

"An excellent beginning text. This book discusses crystals, properties of minerals and identification tests, with minerals arranged according to chemical classification."

English, G.L. & D.E. Jensen. GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH MINERALS. McGraw, Rev. ed. 1958. \$7.95.

"A beginning text, beautifully illustrated, includes information on mineral resources, equipment, preparation, identification and classification. An excellent guide to methods of collecting both common and rare minerals."

Sinkankas, John. GEMSTONES AND MINERALS: HOW AND WHERE TO FIND THEM. Van Nostrand, 1961, \$8.95.

"A book of practical information for the collector when he begins working in the field, covering such topics as trip planning, tools and their use, recognizing rock classes, field features of mineral deposits, digging and extraction methods, preparation and storage of specimens."

Pough, F. M. FIELD GUIDE TO ROCKS AND MINERALS. Houghton, 1953, \$4.95.

"Every mineral which the non-specialist is likely to encounter is described in detail with emphasis on immediate identification in the field."

For those out of the beginner class.

Dana, E.S. & W.E. Ford, A TEXTBOOK OF MINEROLOGY. Wiley, 4th ed. 1932, \$9.95.

"An advanced text considered by many as the most valuable one available."

Dana, E.S. & C.S. Hurlbut, MANUAL OF MINEROLOGY. Wiley, 17th ed. 1959, \$10.50.

"A standard reference for over a century covering crystallography, minerology and mineral uses."

Sinkankas, John. GEMSTONES OF NORTH AMERICA. Van Nostrand, 1959, \$15.00.

"This book covers both the physical and chemical properties and the features of the localities where they are found."

General information sources.

New York State Museum in Albany.
Union College in Schenectady
Crandall Free Library in Glens Falls

There is available from the N.Y. State Museum a spiral bound set of five maps, plus text, GEOLOGIC SURVEY OF NEW YORK, cost \$10.00 plus postage. The maps are large and awkward to use, but are an excellent source of information.

* * * * *

A POOL'S THE THING

Barry Havens

If you're one of the local thousands who find pleasure and gratification in operating a bird feeding station, you may wish to consider taking the next step: supplying water for your avian boarders. Judging by my own experience, I believe that this supplement to your feeder, while perhaps not essential, can provide even more worthwhile returns than the feeder itself.

I have found that a bird bath of the conventional type is not enough. For some years I had provided that type of water supply as a supplement to my feeders at Jenny Lake, and while the birds patronized it, they did so rather sparsely. It was a trash can cover, mounted upside down on a length of pipe stuck into the ground. It was located near my several feeding trays, with plenty of cover in the form of shrubbery and trees nearby. Nevertheless, virtually all of the visitors which visited it to drink, and occasionally bathe, were the chickadees and chipping sparrows.

After seeing the excellent ground pool maintained by Carl Runge, on the occasion of a board meeting at his home a few years ago, I realized the possibilities in that type of bird convenience. So last year, I tried it myself at my Jenny Lake camp, and the results were beyond my fondest expectations.

First I excavated to provide the rough outline, digging out a dish-shaped depression, more or less oval, about eight or ten inches deep, three feet long, and 16 or 18 inches wide. I covered the bottom with small rubble, and this in turn I covered with cement. I extended the sides well above ground level with

stones, and the cement bottom was, in turn, extended up the sides. Then I painted all the cement with cold-weather, water-proof paint to prevent the water from seeping out through the cement. A low drain to take care of overflow was provided at the rear. When filled with water, the pool ranged from very shallow sides to a depth of four to six inches in the center, thus making it possible for birds of various size to bathe as well as drink. Finally I decorated the edges of the pool with various types of native ground greenery, including ferns, lycopodium, arbutus, partridge berry, and extensive layers of moss draped over the rocks. As an extra touch, I introduced a half dozen pairs of guppies, knowing this species of live-bearing aquarium fish to be very hardy and hoping it would be able to survive the rather cool temperatures.

As already mentioned, the results exceeded my fondest expectations. The birds took to it immediately, and in numbers. This was particularly interesting, in view of the fact that I did not complete the project and put it into operation until later summer, after the local birds had become well established in their feeding routes and habits.

It was not unusual to see as many as ten or a dozen birds, of various species, at the pool at one time. The birds that visited the pool included a great many more species than have ever visited the feeders themselves. For example, I have never had warblers or thrushes at my feeders, but they became regular patrons of my "grotto," and for the first time I was able to get good looks at most of the birds that I knew were breeding in the area - birds I could hear but rarely see plainly.

The only drawback to the operation was the fact that my water supply also found favor in the sight of the raccoons that frequent the area nocturnally.

* * * * *

HAZEL V. EDDY

EX3-9542 - how the telephone kept ringing! So many of Hazel's friends kept calling to wish her and Gilbert a happy landing in Europe - a wonderful trip.

It is pleasant to know that they enjoyed their trip. It was completed and they had gone to all the places as planned.

In Amsterdam, Holland, Hazel made her last purchase of a piece of statuary, indicative of one of her many interests in life - a bird - an owl. There she was stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage on March 17 and died the following day. To those of us who had the privilege of her friendship, her memory will be cherished.

Members of SBC knew Hazel Eddy as a vivacious, interested and ever willing member of the Club. She had a great love of life in all its phases, and a warm feeling toward people. Anyone meeting her for the first time, would immediately be at ease. She had served on several committees and at one time had charge of FEATHERS' circulation.

I shall remember Hazel by her queer little quirk of a smile and a "Bye gals, we had such fun, I enjoyed myself," and our reply, "Bye Hazel, let us know when you get home."

Gilbert had to make that last call for her. --Mary Johnston

* * * * *

EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue carries notice of a number of changes and coming changes in SBC. To last year's officers, especially our outgoing president, Walt Sabin, go our thanks for a job well done. To our new officers as they look toward new horizons, go our encouragements.

However, a change most difficult to accept is the loss of Hazel Eddy. Her constant praise and encouragement of the efforts of this publication have been most appreciated. To her memory this issue is dedicated.

NEW BIRD ART

Subscribers to NATURAL HISTORY and AUDUBON magazines were given a grand finale for the year 1966 with the December and November-December issues, respectively. Both issues featured several pages of full color reproductions of some new and inspiring art work. For years people have marveled at the work of the grand masters Audubon, Fuertes and more recently Peterson. Fortunately, the work of Audubon and Fuertes has received wide circulation in a number of texts. Unfortunately, Peterson's better work has not enjoyed such wide distribution. Most people are familiar with the work in his field guides, but this really cannot be considered art. People have come to accept these drawings so routinely that they assume the nature of technical drawings.

NATURAL HISTORY has reproduced nine of Britisher Basil Ede's bird prints from his exhibition in Manhattan's Kennedy Galleries Galleries. Full page prints are devoted to the yellow-shafted flicker, tree swallow, belted kingfisher, pileated woodpecker and great horned owl; and smaller prints display the Baltimore oriole, black-capped chickadee, robin and Canada jay. AUDUBON has included Canadian James Lansdowne's black-and-white of a great grey owl and color prints of the goshawk, lesser yellowlegs, spruce grouse and common goldeneye.

Ede and Lansdowne have one thing in common - their work is extremely meticulous. Each gives the impression of painting his subject feather by feather - there are no careless strokes of the brush. Their work is also markedly different. Lansdowne paints birds with every feather scrupulously in place. Ede's birds are typically ruffled or unpreened. Because people are accustomed to the tailored feather look of so many artists, they may find it hard to accept Ede's work. However, judging from handling birds for banding, Ede's untailored look displays great realism, because bird's feathers are not usually exactly in place. The other striking difference to their work is that Ede takes great pains to set the scene with a well

executed background. Lansdowne's backgrounds are minimal and some of his birds have the impression of standing stark naked, nonetheless the presentation is remarkably effective.

It is difficult and perhaps senseless to try to make a choice of the better man. However, if I had to choose which print impressed me the most, I would have no difficulty choosing Lansdowne's goshawk. One has to see this print to appreciate its awesomeness. From the fiery red eye and bright yellow cere to the scaly-looking claws of death clutching a dead flicker, that goshawk begs to come alive off the paper. It lacks only a pulse.

By all means buy, beg or borrow copies of AUDUBON and NATURAL HISTORY, relax in a comfortable chair and soak up the refreshment of some impressive new bird art. What's more, be on the lookout for BIRDS OF THE NORTHERN FOREST written by John Livingston and illustrated by James Lansdowne, published by Houghton-Mifflin. It is from this book that the four prints in AUDUBON magazine came.

SCHENECTADY MUSEUM

At their October meeting the board of trustees of the Schenectady Museum Association enthusiastically accepted the concept and design for the new museum. The project will start with the building of the main museum. Eventually over a long term, the center will involve 57,000 square feet.

SUMMER JOBS

The Audubon summer camps in Connecticut, Maine, Wisconsin and Wyoming are in need of adult instructors, secretaries, dieticians and cooks for the period from the second week of June through August. Interested persons should contact the Personnel Office, Audubon Camp Department, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, Conn. 06830.

For qualified high school, college and graduate students there are 115 openings in the Student Conservation Program operated in conjunction with the National Park Service. Twelve national parks will be included. Applications are available from The Student Conservation Association, Inc., Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, Mtd. Rt., Box 304, Oyster Bay, N.Y. 11771.

LATEST COUNT

A recent U.S. Census Bureau survey revealed that there are about 8,196,000 bird watchers and 3,113,000 bird and wildlife photographers in our country. Based on these figures about one out of every 20 people is a bird enthusiast of sorts. If only one-half of these one-out-of-twenty people in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area belonged to SBC, our membership list would contain over 7000 names! It's something to think about.

TOP CHRISTMAS COUNTS

An all-time high species count was achieved by both Cocoa, Florida and San Diego, California in December's tally. The top eleven counts had lists ranging from 166 to 206 species and were located in either Florida (two), California (six) or Texas (three).

WOULD YOU BELIEVE AN ORIOLE?

If you saw a bird almost the size of a robin, with an all white tail, bright yellow back and wings, slightly yellow breast, and an olive head, would you believe a Baltimore Oriole? Well maybe you wouldn't, but what would you think if you saw another the following day similarly attired, but with some black in the wings? Still no help? Well then, how about it acting like a young bird and suddenly having an adult male Baltimore Oriole feed it?

This was the predicament of Dr. James Lade of Glenmont this summer as related in a recent letter. The letter further states that consultation with Ed Reilly of the State Museum produced the opinion that the birds were partial albino Baltimore Orioles.

CONDOR COUNT

According to the National Audubon Society, the California Condor count held October 18-19, 1966 by over 100 trained observers led to a tally of 51 birds. This count compares to 38 birds for the previous year. The increase is believed due to better count coverage.

AUDUBON CAMPS 1967

The National Audubon Society is now accepting applications for its three Audubon camps for 1967. The Maine camp is at the 333-acre Todd Wildlife Sanctuary on the coast. It has been in operation since 1936. The Wisconsin camp is a 330-acre tract at Hunt Hill Sanctuary on Devil's Lake 117 miles north of Minneapolis. These two camps will have four two-week sessions beginning July 2 and ending August 26. The fee for each session is \$135 and includes meals, housing, field trips and instruction.

The Connecticut camp is called a National Science Field Workshop and is held at the 430-acre Audubon Center of Greenwich about 35 miles from New York City. There are nine workshop sessions of one week beginning June 18. The cost is \$75 per session and includes meals, etc. like above. For further information or application blanks, please contact the editor.

EUREKA - A STARLING

A recent issue of THE WESTERN BIRD BANDER carried a banding report for 1965 for the various banders in the western United States. Included in the report was a very unusual recovery of a starling. The bird had been banded on January 7, 1964 in Eureka, Nevada and recovered in March, 1965 in Evans, New York. To know the wandering of that bird in between those dates would make quite a fascinating story.

The October, 1966 issue of BIRD BANDING carries a more scientifically valuable assessment of starling migration. The results are based on the banding of 16,676 starlings during the winter of 1963-64 at Columbus, Ohio. They confirm results of earlier studies showing that starlings immediately west of the Appalachian Mountains migrate in a NE-SW direction. So far 192 or 1.15 percent of the starlings banded have been recovered. Fifty-three of these were outside of the state of Ohio.

WHOOPING CRANES TALLIED

According to a December report of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge manager, 38 adult and five immature whooping cranes had settled for the winter at the Texas refuge. The 1966 spring flight from Aransas involved 44 birds.

PROTECTED VS. UNPROTECTED

Those of you who would like a nut-shell view of the present status of conservation law pertaining to protected and unprotected species of birds, mammals, reptiles, fish and amphibians, refer to the November-December issue of THE CONSERVATIONIST. Here in illustrated and literal form is a run down of New York's game and non-game species covered by law.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue will contain the conclusion to the Vischer Ferry story promised for the last issue, a summary of 1966 field trips, the fall and winter field notes and other material received by the May 12th deadline. Also included in the mailing of this coming issue will be an index to last year's volume and the SBC directory.

(Issue assembled April 1, 1967)

EDITOR:

Robert P. Yunick
1527 Myron Street
Schenectady 12309

**CIRCULATION:**

Mrs. John G. Leschen
1170 Mohawk Road
Schenectady 12309

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Robert P. Yunick, Peter P. Wickham

Membership: Sustaining \$5; Active \$3; Associate \$2; Student \$1; Family 50 cents per additional member. Membership chairman: Mrs. E. L. Thomas, 37-B Fuller Road, Albany, New York.

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.: Samuel R. Madison, President; Edward Koob, Vice-President; Mrs. Leo Norton, Treasurer; Mrs. Robert Wernick, Secretary.

Return Postage Guaranteed
SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.
MRS. JOHN G. LESCHEN
1170 MOHAWK ROAD
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12309

Non-profit Organization

CENTURY RUN HAS 161 AND ADDS HOUSE FINCH

Guy Bartlett
Compiler

One hundred and sixty-one species of birds were recorded on SEC's 22nd annual Century Run, held Saturday, May 13, with 51 participants in a dozen groups fairly widely covering the Mohawk-Hudson 11-county area. The total was surpassed only by the 162 in the preceding two years and tied the 161 of 1964. The house finch became No. 226 on the composite list. Two groups passed the century mark in counts, with maximum 100, and three other groups almost reached the magic figure.

There was plenty of early-morning frost in the more northern areas; vegetation was far from advanced; and total counts of many species were very low. Numerous species were yet to peak in their arrivals. Except for the house finch -- which Doc Yumick's banding had been indicating as a soon-to-be-established addition -- only five species were at all noteworthy:

The pintail was the first since 1962, canvasback first since 1956, white-winged scoter first since 1963, rough-legged hawk first since 1962, and white-rumped sandpiper first since 1948.

Among misses were: upland plover, first miss since 1963; semi-palmated sandpiper, first miss since 1961 (but found by Esly Hellenbeck the next day); nighthawk, first miss since 1959; golden-winged and Tennessee warblers, first misses since 1956; and parula warbler, first since 1963. As for owls, only two were listed, a horned and a barred, both at Jenny Lake by different groups.

Twenty-nine species were seen by one group only, and are shown in the tabulation. Twenty-five species were on all lists: herring gull, mourning dove, chimney swift, flicker, downy woodpecker, phoebe, tree and bank swallows, blue jay, crow, chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, catbird, robin, starling, myrtle warbler, house sparrow, red-winged blackbird, Baltimore oriole, grackle, cowbird, cardinal, goldfinch, chipping and song sparrows. Another eight species were on all except one list: mallard, killdeer, barn swallow, house wren, wood thrush, yellow warbler, meadowlark, and towhee.

Participants and Areas

Group A - Peggy McGuirk, Hazel Bundy and, part of time, Marjorie Foote; 5 am. to 9:30 pm. Vischer Ferry DAM, Stony Creek Reservoir, Rosendale-River roads, Lock 7, Hesperuna Midwaters, Round and Saratoga Lakes, Lurnt Hills and West Glenville, Central Park, Black Creek Marshes, Indian Ladder. 95 species; Cooper's and rough-legged hawks, magnolia warbler.

FEATHERS

MAY - JUNE, 1967

Group B - John and Stephen Muller, Lois and Douglas Norton, Helen Arnold, Betty Hicke, Mary Johnston, Mary Lynch; 5:30 am. to 9 pm. 96 miles by car, plus hikes. 100 species; green-winged teal, yellow-bellied flycatcher.

Group C - Mary B. Kilcawley and Mrs. Frances Worrell, Lexington, Mass.; 10 am. to 7:10 pm. Belle Avenue, Hoestekill, Hoyle Mills, Tamerack, Tonhannock Res. 41 species.

Group D - David and Michael Harrison; 4:30 am. to 8:30 pm. Scotia and vicinity. 64 species.

Group E - Gus Angst and Esly Hallenbeck; Collins Lake, Water-vliet Res; Hennessy, Tygart, Altamont, Meadowdale, Rosendale and River roads; Lock 7, Balltown Road. 75 species: double-crested cormorant, ring-necked duck, bobwhite, house finch.

Group F - Frances Adams and Elizabeth Macowley; 7 am. to 4:45 pm. Mohawk River, Meadowdale to Vly Reservoir. 45 species.

Group G - Pete Wickham, Paul Connor, Monte Gruett, Bill and David Gorman; 4:30 am. to 9:10 pm. Vosburgh Marsh, Vly Marsh, Catskill area, Kiskatom, North Lake, Black Dome Mountain, Alcove and Basic Reservoir, Black Creek Marsh, Nisk. Widewaters, Saratoga and Round lakes. 104 species; red-necked grebe, coot, dunlin, whippoor-will.

Group H - Dawne Spaulding, Dave Ellors; 5 am. to 8 pm. Alcove and Basic Reservoirs. 72 species; white-rumped sandpiper, yellow-billed cuckoo, blue-winged warbler.

Group I - Benton Seguin, Guy Bartlett; 5 am. to 5:30 pm. Saratoga Lake and north, including Craver Road, Yaddo, Lake Lonely, Route 87, Wilton, South Corinth and west, Corinth; Jenny, Efner and Fuller lakes; Black Pond Road. 96 species; canvasback, old-squaw, white-winged scoter, sharp-shinned hawk, barred owl.

Group J - Lillian C. Stonor, compiler, Pauline Baker, Helen Pudlow, Eleanor Byrne, Cornelia English, Byron and Margaret Hipple, John Ismay, Grace Liebich, Stella Novak, Helen O'Leary, Gladys Samuels, Alice Pauline Schaefer, Stephen Schryver, James Werkin; 7:30 am. to 8 pm. Albany's Washington Park, Gary Road, Slingerlands, Meadowdale, Solkirk, French's Mills road, Airport and Schenectady River (Mohawk) roads. 85 species; pintail, American widgeon, pectoral sandpiper.

Group K - Hollis Ingraham, Robert Kornis, Samuel Madison, Carl Parker (morning), Walton Sabin; 4:30 am. to 8:30 pm. Black Creek Marsh, Meadowdale, Indian Ladder, Watervliet Reservoir, Karners, Niakayuna Widewaters, Stony Creek Reservoir, Round and Saratoga Lakes, Jenny Lake. 99 species; great horned owl, blue-gray gnatcatcher, worm-eating and prairie warblers.

Group L - Bob Carman, Bill Huntley, Fred Klemm; 5 to 10:30 am. Lock 7 and Niskayuna Widewaters. 40 species; marsh hawk.

CENTURY RUN -- May 13, 1967 -- 161 SPECIES

Common Loon	ab	ghi k	Pied-billed Grebe	b	ghi k
Red-necked Grebe		h	Bl-cr. Cormorant		e
Horned Grebe	a e g	ijk	Gr. Blue Heron	a	hi

Green Heron	b d	gh k	Yel.-bel.Sapsucker	g ij
American Bittern	ab	g kl	Hairy Woodpecker	abc g ijk
Canada Goose	ab	g kl	Downy Woodpecker	abcdefg hijkl
Mallard	ab	defg hijkl	Eastern Kingbird	bc fgh j
Black Duck	ab	defghijk	Cr.Gr. Flycatcher	ab i
Kintail		j	Eastern Phoebe	abcdefg hijkl
Green-winged Teal	b		Yel.-b. Flycatcher	b
Blue-winged Teal	ab	g i k	Least Flycatcher	ab g ij
American Widgeon		j	Eastern Wood Peckee	d h
Wood Duck	b de	ghi k	Horned Lark	abcde g jk
Ring-necked Duck	e		Tree Swallow	abcdefg hijkl
Canvasback		i	Bank Swallow	abcdefg hijkl
Greater Scaup		g i k	Rough-w. Swallow	ab de ghijk
Lesser Scaup	a	g i k	Barn Swallow	abcde ghijkl
Bufflehead	a	ghi k	Cliff Swallow	a e gh j
Oldsquaw		i	Purple Martin	a i k
White-winged Scoter		i	Blue Jay	abcdefg hijkl
Common Merganser	a	gh	Common Crow	abcdefg hijkl
Red-br. Merganser	a	g i k	Bl-cap. Chickadee	abcdefg hijkl
Turkey Vulture	b	gh	Tufted Titmouse	ab d g j
Sharp-sh. Hawk		i	Wh-br. Nuthatch	abcdefg hijkl
Cooper's Hawk	a		Red-br. Nuthatch	i k
Red-tailed Hawk	ab	efghi k	Brown Creeper	ab ghi k
Broad-winged Hawk	a	e ghijk	House Wren	abcde ghijkl
Rough-legged Hawk	a		Winter Wren	b ijk
Marsh Hawk		l	L-bill Marsh Wren	ab g k
Osprey	ab	e gh jk	Mockingbird	b d j
Sparrow Hawk	ab	defg ijkl	Catbird	abcdefg hijkl
Ruffed Grouse	ab		Brown Thrasher	ab de ghijk
Bobwhite	e		Robin	abcdefg hijkl
Ring-n. Pheasant	abc	efg ijk	Wood Thrush	ab de ghijkl
Virginia Rail	b	e g	Hermit Thrush	a d g ijk
Sora	ab	g	Swainson's Thrush	ab k
Common Gallinule	ab	efg jk	Gray-cheek Thrush	f i
American Coot		g	Veery	ab d ghijkl
Killdeer	ab	defg hijkl	Eastern Bluebird	a e g ijk
American Woodcock	b	g jk	Blue-gray Gnatcat.	k
Common Snipe	ab	e i k	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	ab de ghijk
Spotted Sandpiper	ab	de ghijk	Cedar Waxwing	b d
Solitary Sandpiper	ab	e g ijk	Starling	abcdefg hijkl
Greater Yellowlegs	ab	c g k	Yel-thr. Vireo	b e l
Pectoral Sandpiper		j	Solitary Vireo	c hi k
Wh.-rump Sandpiper		h	Red-eyed Vireo	ij
Least Sandpiper	b d		Warbling Vireo	a d h j
Dunlin		g	Bl.ckh. Warbler	ab ghijk
Herring Gull	abcdefg hijkl		Worm-eat. Warbler	k
Ring-billed Gull	ab	defg ijkl	Bl.-wing. Warbler	h
Bonaparte's Gull	b	f i	Nashville Warbler	a d g jk
Common Tern	b e	i k	Yellow Warbler	ab defghijkl
Black Tern	ab	e g ijk	Magnolia Warbler	a
Mourning Dove	abcdefg hijkl		Cape May Warbler	bc j
Yellow-bill Cuckoo		h	Bl-thr. Blue Warb.	fghi k
Bl.-billed Cuckoo	ab		Myrtle Warbler	abcdefg hijkl
Gr. Horned Owl		k	Bl.-tar. Gr. Warb.	ab d ghijkl
Barred Owl		i	Blackburnian Warb.	g ij
Whip-poor-will		g	Chestnut-side Warb	abc g i
Chimney Swift	abcdefg hijkl		Prairie Warbler	k
Ruby-thr. Humming.	b	h	Palm Warbler	c g
Belted Kingfisher	ab	e ghijkl	Ovenbird	ab de ghi kl
Yel.-shaft. Flick.	abcdefg hijkl		No. Waterthrush	ab d g i
Pileated Woodpeck.	b	hi jk	Lo. Waterthrush	g i k

Yellowthroat	ab de gh jk	Purple Finch	abc ef ijk
Yellow-br. Chat	b g	House Finch	e
Canada Warbler	b i	American Goldfinch	abcde fghijkl
American Redstart	de g j	Rufous-side Towhee	acde fghijkl
House Sparrow	abcde fghijkl	Savannah Sparrow	ab e fgh k
Bobolink	b e g j	Grasshopper Sparrow	jk
East. Meadowlark	abcde fghijk	Menslow's Sparrow	b k
Red-w. Blackbird	abcde fghijkl	Vesper Sparrow	ab de ghi
Baltimore Oriole	acde fghijkl	Slate-colored Junco	b g ijk
Rusty Blackbird	ab e k	Tree Sparrow	b f
Common Grackle	acde fghijkl	Chipping Sparrow	abcde fghijkl
Br.-hd. Cowbird	abcde fghijkl	Field Sparrow	ab de fghijkl
Scarlet Tanager	d h	White-cr. Sparrow	bc e g j l
Cardinal	abcde fghijkl	White-th. Sparrow	ab d fghijkl
Rose-br. Grosbeak	abde g ijk	Swamp Sparrow	ab defg ijk
Evening Grosbeak	ij	Song Sparrow	abcde fghijkl

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Samuel R. Madison

President

Club members know that our plans for the future which are being gradually worked into shape by the planning committee include increased activities in nearly all aspects of the club's endeavors. This is a report on the present status on two such proposed steps: (1) our endeavors to acquire sanctuary lands, and (2) the proposed corporate reorganization and renaming of our Club.

It has been hoped that the sanctuary lands would be centrally located and have the capacity for development as various types of habitat. We envision constructing a new headquarters building on the site. For several years the planning committee's subcommittee on site selection, under the chairmanship of Pete Wickham, has been searching the tri-city area for suitable lands. Pete's committee has searched by car, foot and plane. Numerous possible sanctuary sites have been discovered, explored and evaluated from all angles. After much work, all the sites except one, were found wanting in one or more important aspect. A site lying between Route 7 and River Road near Euhmster Road appeared ideal for all purposes. Its acquisition was recommended by the site selection subcommittee, the planning committee and your board of directors. Negotiations were undertaken with the owners of the land and have recently been concluded unhappily from our standpoint. The asking price and offers made by others for the land are far in excess of what we can afford to pay.

A corporate reorganization is necessary in order that our basic corporate charter may accurately reflect our aims and purposes. The Schenectady Bird Club has grown far beyond the corporate limits set forth by those who originally organized it. Our interests have expanded beyond birds alone. We are becoming more and more interested in other aspects of nature and their inter-relationships. In addition, the use of Schenectady is no longer accurate. Our membership encompasses the entire tri-city area and environs. For many years the majority of our nine-man

board of directors has lived outside of Schenectady County. Recently only one or two members of the board have been residents of Schenectady County. Our new name should reflect our broadened interests and our expanded geographical area. I am continuing to serve as chairman of the finance and reorganization subcommittee and would appreciate receiving any and all new names which you may wish to suggest.

* * * * *

1966 FIELD TRIP REVIEW

Peggy McGuirk

Field Trip Chairman

Last year we had a record number of trips with various attractions including trees and flowers as well as birds.

Two innovations were added. One was a series of nature walks in the Lisha Kill Preserve, emphasizing the changes in each season. The other was a series of three seminars - designed to improve our skills in identifying birds of a particular group.

The year started off with the winter finches present in good numbers, as told in our Troy Christmas Count. One of the most popular trips was to Cape Ann, Mass. It was there that we saw, almost too close for camera range, a rock wren. It is a bird from the Rocky Mountains. Another stranger was an eared grebe. These among 52 other species made this a most exciting trip for all.

As winter turned to spring, the warblers arrived. The pancake breakfast was very well attended by birders and birds. Some of the species seen on that trip were blue-gray gnatcatcher, Virginia rail, sora, green heron, and ten species of warblers.

The summer seemed cooler than usual to many but the weatherman reported normal temperatures. To me the highlight of the season was the trip to Jenny Lake. The most thrilling moment was when the famed mourning warbler appeared. Everyone there got an excellent view of the bird.

The fall season was delightful at times but also discouraging. It brought no great waves, yet I found it to be both picturesque and exciting. Several trips stand out in my mind. Trapp Mountain, where the olive-sided flycatcher and the red-bellied woodpecker made the day. Pleasant Valley was where two friendly palm warblers greeted everyone as we started up the trail, where the trees in all their splendor of color blew about in the gentle fall breeze. Finally there was Hawk Mountain. I don't believe there are words to describe just how perfect a trip can be. The climb to the top of the mountain to see the spectacular golden eagle was a sight never to forget.

We are looking forward to next year's trips with a number of new places and ideas. See you then!!!

Trip Key

a Annual Duck Count, Jan. 8	o Jamaica Bay, Aug. 13
b Cape Ann, Mass., Jan. 29-30	p Vischer Ferry, Aug. 20
c Feeder Open House, Mar. 5	q Karner, Sept. 10
d Lower Hudson, Mar. 19	r Trapp Mountain, Sept. 17
e Vischer Ferry, Apr. 3	s Columbia County, Sept. 24
f Round-Saratoga Lake, Apr. 16	t Vischer Ferry, Oct. 9
g Alcove Reservoir, Apr. 17	u Tomhannock Reservoir, Oct. 12
h Greene County, Apr. 30	v Pleasant Valley, Mass., Oct. 15
i Meadowdale, May 7	w Hudson Highlands, Oct. 22
j Niskayuna, May 21	x Hawk Mountain, Pa., Oct. 29
k Cherry Plain, May 28	y Alcove Reservoir, Nov. 6
l Consalus Vly, Jun. 5	z Round-Saratoga Lakes, Nov. 12
m Delphus Kill, Jun. 18	a Tomhannock Reservoir, Nov. 19
n Jenny Lake, Jun. 25	b Pelham Bay Park, Dec. 3

Common Loon	b	fg		u	xyz
Red-throated Loon					z
Red-necked Grebe	b				y
Horned Grebe	b	fg			yz
Eared Grebe	b				
Great Cormorant					b
Double-crested Cormorant	b				b
Great Blue Heron		h	op	u	z
Eastern Green Heron		i	op		
Little Blue Heron			o		
Common Egret			op		
Snowy Egret		j	o		
Louisiana Heron			o		
Blk-cr Night Heron			op		
Yellow-cr Night Heron			o		
White Ibis			o		
Mute Swan		h			
Canada Goose	b	d fgh		u	x b
Brant		j			
Mallard	ab	defghi	op	u	yz b
Black Duck	ab	defghij	op	u	yzab
Gadwall		j	o		y
Pintail	a	defg	o	u	y
Green-winged Teal		de	k	o	y
Blue-winged Teal		efgh	op		
American Widgeon		d fgh			z b
Shoveler		e	j	o	
Wood Duck		def hi	p	v	
Redhead			o		z
Ring-necked Duck	a	de gh			y
Canvasback	ab		o		yz b
Soaup		efg		u	yz b
Common Goldeneye	b	def h			yz b
Bufflehead	b	fg	o		yzab
Oldsquaw	b				yz
Common Eider	b				
White-winged Scoter	b				z
Surf Scoter	b				
Common Scoter	b				a
Ruddy Duck			o		yz
Hooded Merganser		efg	o		yz
Common Merganser		def h			yz
Red-breasted Merganser	b	e			

Turkey Vulture		b		rs		x	
Goshawk						x	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				r		x	
Cooper's Hawk				s		x	
Red-tailed Hawk	a	efghi		m p rs		xyza	
Red-shouldered Hawk				n		x	
Broad-winged Hawk				rs			
Rough-legged Hawk							z
Golden Eagle						x	
Bald Eagle						x	
Marsh Hawk	b	e ghi			u	x	
Osprey		f h		rs	u		
Pigeon Hawk						x	
Sparrow Hawk	ab	efghi		qrs	uv	y	
Ruffed Grouse			j		s		a
Bobwhite			i	o			
Ring-necked Pheasant	b	de	i	p	s	wx	b
Clapper Rail				o			
Virginia Rail		hi					
Sora		hi					
Common Gallinule		hi		op			
American Coot		f		o		yz	
Killdeer		de	ghij	m opq	u	ya	
Black-bellied Plover				o			
Ruddy Turnstone				o			
American Woodcock				q			
Common Snipe		de	hi			y	
Spotted Sandpiper				op			
Greater Yellowlegs			i	o	u		
Lesser Yellowlegs				o			
Purple Sandpiper	b						
Pectoral Sandpiper				o		y	
White-rumped Sandpiper						y	
Least Sandpiper				o			
Dunlin					u		
Short-billed Dowitcher				o			
Semipalmated Sandpiper				o			
Sanderling				o			b
Northern Phalarope				p			
Glaucous Gull		b					
Iceland Gull		b					
Great Black-backed Gull	ab	de		o			b
Herring Gull	ab	defgh	k	o	u	w yzab	
Ring-billed Gull	ab	defg			u	yzab	
Laughing Gull				o			
Bonaparte's Gull							z b
Common Tern				o			
Least Tern				o			
Black Skimmer				o			
Dovekie		b					
Mourning Dove	ab	cdefghij		m opqrs		wx z b	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			j				
Snowy Owl		b					
Chimney Swift			hi k m o				
Ruby-thr Hummingbird				n q			
Belted Kingfisher			fghijk	op	u	y	
Yellow-shafted Flicker	a	d	fghijklmnopq	s	vw	b	
Pileated Woodpecker		d					
Red-headed Woodpecker				r			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				k n	s		
Hairy Woodpecker	a	def		l n	rs	vw z b	
Downy Woodpecker	ab	cdef	hij	mnopq	s	w zab	

Eastern Kingbird	ijk mn p
Great Crested Flycatcher	klmn p
Eastern Phoebe	fghijk n q s uv y
Traill's Flycatcher	k
Least Flycatcher	ijk p
Eastern Wood Pewee	j lmn
Olive-sided Flycatcher	k r
Horned Lark	b
Tree Swallow	efghijkl op rs u
Bank Swallow	i mn p
Rough-winged Swallow	h
Barn Swallow	ghi
Cliff Swallow	ijklm op
Purple Martin	j o
Blue Jay	abcdefghijklmnpqrstuvwxyzab
Common Crow	abcdefghijklm oqrstuvwxyzab
Black-capped Chickadee	abcdefghijklmn pqrstuvwxyzab
Tufted Titmouse	a h
White-breasted Nuthatch	bdefghij lmn p s wxyzab
Red-breasted Nuthatch	k n a
Brown Creeper	d hi m v z
House Wren	ijk m q
Winter Wren	s v
Long-billed Marsh Wren	i
Short-billed Marsh Wren	i
Catbird	ijk mn pq st
Brown Thrasher	b hi m o q
Robin	ab defghijklmnpqrstu wxy b
Wood Thrush	ijklmn rs v
Hermit Thrush	b kl n v
Veery	ijklmn
Eastern Bluebird	b i s w
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	i
Golden-crowned Kinglet	t v x z
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	hij uv b
Water Pipit	u y
Cedar Waxwing	c k nop st w
Starling	abcdefghijklm opqrstuvwxyz b
White-eyed Vireo	l
Yellow-throated Vireo	j
Solitary Vireo	k n
Red-eyed Vireo	klmn q v
Warbling Vireo	j
Black-and-White Warbler	hi k n q
Golden-winged Warbler	l
Blue-winged Warbler	k
Tennessee Warbler	i
Nashville Warbler	k
Parula Warbler	i q
Yellow Warbler	hij l p t
Magnolia Warbler	jk n q s
Black-thr Blue Warbler	h n q
Myrtle Warbler	b hi k n uv z
Black-thr Green Warbler	k n q v
Blackburnian Warbler	jk n q s
Chestnut-sided Warbler	ijklmn
Blackpoll Warbler	k q
Palm Warbler	v
Ovenbird	ijklmn pq
Northern Waterthrush	ijk
Mourning Warbler	n

Yellowthroat		ijk	mnpq	t	
Canada Warbler		jk	n	q	
American Redstart		ijk	nopq		
House Sparrow	abcdef	hij	lm	opqrs	u wxyz b
Bobolink			k	m	
Eastern Meadowlark		fghi	ijklm		u w
Red-winged Blackbird		defghi	ijklmnop		tu wxy b
Baltimore Oriole			ijklm	p	
Rusty Blackbird		ef	i		s
Common Grackle		cdefghi	ijklmnopq		s wx
Brown-headed Cowbird	a	e	ghijk	mnp	s u w b
Scarlet Tanager			ijklmn	q	
Cardinal	b	defghi	j	m	st x z b
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			ijklm	pq	
Indigo Bunting				m	
Evening Grosbeak	a c	f	i		
Purple Finch			hi	k n p	s v xy
House Finch					b
Pine Grosbeak	a				
Common Redpoll		bod			
Pine Siskin		c			
American Goldfinch	cd		hijk	mn	pqrst vw yz b
Rufous-sided Towhee			h	ijklm	o q s
Savannah Sparrow			i	m	
Seaside Sparrow					o
Vesper Sparrow			h		
Slate-colored Junco	abc	f	h	k n	uvwxyz a
Tree Sparrow	ab	de			yzab
Chipping Sparrow			hijkl	n	pq s
Field Sparrow			ghi		q s w
White-crowned Sparrow			i		t w
White-throated Sparrow			hijk	n	stuvwxyz b
Fox Sparrow			i		t b
Swamp Sparrow			hijk	p	t v
Song Sparrow	b	defghi	ijklmnopq		stuvw yz b
Lapland Longspur	b				
Snow Bunting					y

* * * * *

BRIEFING THE RECORD

LACK OF BIRDS NOTED

Peter P. Wickham
Records Chairman

December was nearly average in temperature and precipitation (all data taken at Albany Airport), averaging 27.3°, 0.8° above normal, and totaling 3.04 in. of precipitation, 0.45 in. above normal. January was mild throughout, averaging 27.0°, 4.3° above normal. Precipitation totaled only 1.22 in., 1.24 in. below normal. February and March, on the other hand, were both consistently cold months, averaging 18.0° and 29.0°, 5.7° and 4.0° below normal, respectively. Precipitation totaled 1.76 and 2.56 in., 0.44 and 0.16 in. below normal, respectively.

LOONS-DUCKS

Common Loon: one remained at Lock 1, Hudson R nr Troy to at least Jan. 8 (sbc); no Mar. reports.
 Red-throated Loon: last Dec 24, TR (PC).
 Horned Grebe: last Dec 18, SL (bsh); first spring Mar 31, NWW (PFW, MDG).
 Great Blue Heron: one at Green Island Jan 8 (sbc) unusual; winter records have been very few over the past several years.
 American Bittern: one was at NWW Mar 31 (HMS).
 Canada Goose: last reports Dec 24, TR (PC) and Dec 25, West Sand Lake (overhead) (fide PFW)-this may have been the same flock. Returning birds noted in small groups March 26-31.
 Snow Goose: only report- eight, SS, Mar 30 (ad).
 Mallards and Black Ducks were reported sparingly through the winter.

GADWALL: eight, AR, Dec 11 (PM, SM, HFB)-rather late.
 American Widgeon: first Mar 27, SS (PFW).
 Pintail: four were on the UH Dec 31 (tcc); no winter reports; first spring Mar 11, SS (PFW); marked influx Mar 27-31.

COMMON TEAL: one male observed in the company of about 20 male green-winged teal at SS early in the morning on Mar 27 (PFW)-only the second regional record of which I am aware.
 green-winged Teal: observed through Dec 31 (tcc); first spring Mar 11, SS (PFW), with large influx Mar 27-31.
 Wood Duck: first Mar 19, NWW (bsh), late.
 Redhead: only report- one Dec 11, SCR (bsh).
 Ring-necked Duck: reported to Dec 18, UH (HFB, SM, PM); first spring Mar 27, SS (PFW).
 Canvasback: observed well into Dec, including 60 Dec 11, AR (HFB, PM, SM), last Dec 31 and Jan 8, UH (sbc); twelve (mostly males), returning, were at SS Mar 27 (PFW).
 Scaup: recorded to Dec 4, SL (bsh) and Dec 11, AR (SM, PM, HFB); a few observed at SS and NWW Mar 27-31; those in Mar which were identified were greater scaup (EH, PFW, MDG).
 Common Goldeneye: last Dec 18, SL (bsh); no winter reports; first Mar 12, Lock 7, Mohawk R (RFY); gradual influx observed through rest of month.
 Bufflehead: observed to Dec 18, SL (bsh); only spring reports- Mar 27 and 29, SS (PFW, SM, PM).
 Oldsquaw: four to five remained on SL through Dec 18 (bsh); no other reports.
 White-winged Scoter: a small group remained on SL through Dec 18 (bsh); no other reports.
 Common Scoter: one female, SL, Dec 1 (bsh)- the lone report.
 Ruddy Duck: last- one Dec 11, RL (bsh) and five Dec 11, AR (PM, SM, HFB).
 Hooded Merganser: a few reported into Dec, last Jan 2, nr Castleton (srcc); first spring Mar 18 (bsh) with marked influx Mar 24-31.
 Common Merganser: reported to mid-Dec, but none of the local Christmas Counts; one female observed Jan 8, UH (sbc) the only winter record; returning birds appeared from Mar 11 on.
 Red-breasted Merganser: only reports, Mar 29 and 31, VFG (EH).

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: first spring Mar 11, Kiskatom (gc).

All observers registered disappointment at the low numbers of many species of land birds present this winter. The Schenectady Christmas Count attained the lowest number of species - 37 - since 1950. One local field trip held one January afternoon near TR attracted about 20 observers who identified five species! "What has happened to the birds?" was a common plaint.

Nevertheless, this negative outlook does not represent a true summary of area winter bird populations in 1966-1967. Populations of most small land birds, especially the sparrows, seemed generally low. In addition, the winter finches (as expected) were virtually wholly absent from the area. Open country species, however, were well represented; for example, mourning doves, horned larks, meadowlarks and snow buntings all wintered in well above average numbers. Fruit-eating species such as robins and cedar waxwings also seemed more plentiful than usual. Finally, as a further optimistic note, southern species such as the tufted titmouse, mockingbird, and cardinal are on the increase in the area, with the cardinal, especially, enjoying a spectacularly rapid increase. Only 11 years ago (1955), the Schenectady Christmas Count recorded its first!

To those tired of winter, March offered little solace. Only two breaks in the generally cold weather were afforded - on March 10-11, when temperatures reached the high 50's, and on March 25-31, after a two-week cold period, when they reached the 50's again. It was not until this last week in March that ice really began leaving most streams and tidal marshes. Spring influx of land birds and waterfowl was very much correlated with these two mild periods; major movements of early land bird species were associated with each, while a minor movement of ducks and gulls was associated with the first and a widespread movement including many more species of waterfowl was associated with the second.

Highlighting the unusual species seen in the area were a sandhill crane and a painted bunting - the former coming to a cornfield, the latter to several feeders. Other rare or unusual species included gadwall, common teal, short-eared owl, Carolina wren, varied thrush and palm warbler.

Abbreviations used: (gc)-Greene County Bird Club record; (sbc)-Schenectady Bird Club field trip record; (scc)-Schenectady Christmas Count; (srcc)-Southern Rensselaer County Christmas Count; (tcc)-Troy Christmas Count; AR-Alcove Reservoir; max-maximum count(s) of period; nr-near; NWW-Niskayuna Wide Waters; R-River; RL-Round Lake; SCR-Stony Creek Reservoir; SL-Saratoga Lake; SS-Stockport Station; TR-Tomhannock Reservoir; UH-Upper Hudson R (between Troy and Stillwater); VFG-Vischer Ferry area; WR-Watervliet Reservoir.

Observers: (GA)-Gus Angst; (GB)-Guy Bartlett; (HFB)-Hazel Bundy; (FC)-Paul Connor; (WG)-William Gorman; (EDG)-Monte Gruett; (EH)-Esly Hallenbeck; (MK)-Marcia Kent; (CK)-Clarissa Ketcham; (SM)-Samuel Madison; (PM)-Peggy McGuirk; (WBS)-Walton Sabin; (BRS)-Benton Seguin; (HHS)-Harvey Spivak; (PPW)-Peter Wickham; (RFY)-Robert Yunick; (bsh)-Buy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barrington Havens; (mob)-many observers.

- Goshawk: four reports, Jan 2-Feb 7, from widely separated areas.
 Sharp-shinned Hawk: only reports nr 1, Catskill (gc) and Mar 25, BRS (MSB).
 Cooper's: only three reports, all early winter.
 Red-tailed: most common winter hawk, reported from most areas, max 12 Mar 19, Meadowdale area (bsh).
 Red-shouldered: two reported in Jan, Chatham Center area (sd), one nr Delmar Jan 15 (SM, H), and one nr 12, Meadowdale (sd)- only reports.
 Rough-legged: widely seen throughout winter, max 20 Mar 19, Meadowdale area (bsh).
 Marsh: five reports scattered through period.
 Sparrow Hawk: widely reported, max 12 (tcc) Dec 31.
 Ruffed Grouse: widely reported, but appeared less common than in other recent years.
 Bob-white: reported from Meadowdale; one also appeared at a feeder in East Greenbush Jan 5 and fairly regularly through rest of period (MDG).

SAND HILL CRANE: one was observed feeding in a cornfield of standing corn and roosting in a nearby open field about two miles east of Whitehall. The overall gray color, dull red patch on the forehead above the bill, long legs, large size and piercing resonant call were among field marks noted (WBS, BRS, SM, GB, FPW et al.). The bird was present from at least mid-Feb through Mar 26 in the same locality and, I believe, is a first record for the area.

Virginia Rail: up to two were seen at Tygert marsh nr New Salem Jan 7- Mar 19 (mob).

American Coot: a flock of 50 was still at AR Dec 11 (SM, PK, HFB) and one of 100 remained at SL through Dec 18 (bsh), last TR Dec 24 (PC).

Killdeer: observed into early Dec, last Dec 31, TR (tcc).
 Returning birds seen Feb 26, Catskill (gc) and from Mar 10 on elsewhere.

Am. Woodcock: first Mar 11, Cedar Hill (fide WK), widely Mar 22 on, max 20 Mar 31 Old Chatham (PW).

Common Snipe: two remained at Tygert marsh throughout winter (mob); probable migrants from Mar 11 on.

Great Black-backed Gull: rather few in Dec, last Dec 18, UH (H, SM, HFB). No winter records, first spring Mar 11, several areas; heavy influx last week in Mar.

Herring Gull: numbers increased and decreased along the Hudson R during the winter depending on the weather conditions and amount of river ice present; gradual influx from Mar 11 on.

Ring-billed Gull: a few reported during Dec; last, ten Jan 8, UH (sbc); late in arrival, first Mar 26, NWW (sbc).

Mourning Dove: reported as wintering in almost all reporting areas, max 301 (tcc) Dec 31.

Screech Owl: only report in hand- two throughout Jan, East Greenbush (WG, FPW).

Great Horned Owl: a few widespread reports, max five TR Dec 31 (tcc).

Snowy Owl: one nr Catskill Jan 10-11 (gc) and one at West Lebanon, Rensselaer Co, Feb 12 (B.R. Carman) the only reports.

Barred Owl: only report- one road-kill found in Jan in Greene Co (gc).

SHORT EARED OWL: observed Dec 31 nr Mechanicville (WBS, HFB) and Mar 5, Meadowdale (BRS, GB).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING

- Belted Kingfisher: reported wintering in at least three areas; a few returned in late Mar.
- Yellow-shafted Flicker: a few reported throughout winter.
- Fileated Woodpecker: scattered reports of 1-2 from many areas throughout period.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one male appeared Feb 18 at a Niskayuna feeder where the species has occurred in previous winters.
- Eastern Phoebe: first Mar 11, East Schodack (MDG); marked influx Mar 29-31.
- Horned Lark: many flocks noted, max 401 (srcc) Jan 2.
- Blue Jay: one land bird which seemed up in numbers this winter; counts included 416 (tcc) Dec 31 and 343 (srcc) Jan 2.
- Common Crow: fairly common, max 437 (scc) Dec 24.
- Black-capped Chickadee: common, max 421 (tcc) Dec 31 and 454 (srcc) Jan 2.
- Tufted Titmouse: still apparently slowly increasing.
- White-breasted Nuthatch: max 94 (tcc) Dec 31 and 90 (srcc) Jan 2.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce outside of sections where it is a permanent resident.
- Brown Creeper: most observers saw few, max 14 (scc) Dec 24.
- Winter Wren: at least five were reported from Center Brunswick, East Greenbush, Malden Bridge and Tamarack during the period--an unusually high number.
- CAROLINA WREN: one reported at SS Mar 31 (FDM, BDI) marks the second successive year the species has been reported in Mar at this locality.
- Mockingbird: becoming more common in almost all lowland areas; approximately 20 reported this winter.
- Catbird: an individual which had lost its tail was observed nr Speigletown Dec 18, but not subsequently (PH, SK, HFB).
- Brown Thrasher: singles observed at feeders in Troy (Ross and Leila McCarney) and Burden Lake (WBS).
- Robin: widely reported in flocks of up to 20 in several areas; heavy influx Mar 10 and subsequently.

- VARIABLE THRUSH: another male appeared this winter, this time at several feeders in West Glenville, Schoenectady Co, sporadically from Jan 9 through (at least) Mar 24 (mob, including bsh, WBS, RPY, HFB, FM). This is only the second record for the area.
- E. Bluebird: reported in late Jan from Greenville (CK) and Meadowdale (EH); very late spring movement.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet: few reports, no pattern.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one was observed in Chatham Center through Dec 12 and another appeared at a feeder in Averill Park in early Jan (fide Katherine Bordt).
- Cedar Waxwing: more common this winter with flocks of 15-75 reported from several areas throughout period.
- Northern Shrike: at least ten reports of at least five individuals, Dec 24-Mar 12.
- Migrant Shrike: reported at Meadowdale Mar 5-19 (bsh, GA).

VIREOS-SPARROWS

- Myrtle Warbler: singles reported at Schodack Center Dec 2-5 (Noel Albertson) and at Cocksackie Feb 15 (gc).

- PALM WARBLER:** a dead individual in fresh condition was picked up by Harry Guyon on Jan 25 after hitting a winder of the General Electric Research Laboratories in Niskayuna (RFY); the specimen was turned over to the State Museum in Albany.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** many more than usual reported, max "up to 50", Schodack Center (gc) and 25 (srcc) Jan 2.
- Red-winged Blackbird:** 17 were still roosting in the Castleton marshes Jan 2 (FC) and a few birds wintered at feeders locally; very light influx Mar 4-5, followed by a major movement with moderating weather on Mar 10-11 when hundreds were observed. Interestingly, red-wings seemed "on territory" everywhere far up into Washington Co Mar 11-12, suggesting that almost all of the area was occupied in this movement.
- Rusty Blackbird:** winter reports Jan 8, UH (sbc), Jan 10-11, Catskill (gc) and Jan 21, Warren Co (bsh); return movement Mar 10 and subsequently.
- Common Grackle:** a few winter reports totaling about 15 individuals; general influx Mar 10-11 with the other blackbirds.
- Brown-h. Cowbird:** a count at the Albany roose Jan 2 showed 332 present; birds seemed more widespread than in some recent winters.
- Cardinal:** noticeably more common, with up to five males and six females seen at one feeder in East Greenbush and almost every feeder in the area attracting at least a pair; max 95 (tcc) Dec 31 and 69 (srcc) Jan 2.
- PAINTED BUNTING:** an adult male- absolutely resplendent with brilliant red breast, purplish head, green back and scarlet rump- visited several feeders in the Hudson area from late Dec through at least mid-Mar (mob, including WBS, PFW, MDG, PM). The origin of this bird is not known, but its ability to withstand an upstate winter is remarkable.
- Evening Grosbeak:** extremely scarce- only five reports of up to 20 birds for the whole period.
- Purple Finch:** very few records, about eight for the period.
- Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins:** went unrecorded, except for a block of 150 of the former at Meadowdale Mar 5 (G.B, BRS) and a few of each species in the Durham area in Feb and Mar. Even goldfinches seemed few and far between.
- Red Crossbill:** one coming to a Scotia feeder throughout the winter (mob) was unique this year.
- Rufous-s. Towhee:** one came regularly to a feeder nr Burden Lake (fide Katherine Bordt); possible early record- one Mar 13, Coxsackie (gc).
- SPARROWS**
- Savannah:** one each (tcc) Dec 31 and (srcc) Jan 2; only other reports- Mar 11, Meadowdale (EH) and Kiskatom (gc)- may indicate returning birds.
- Slate-colored Junco:** considered by many observers as scarce, max 184 (tcc) Dec 31 and 158 (srcc) Jan 2.
- Tree:** present in good numbers, max 930 (tcc) Dec 31.
- Field:** scattered individuals or pairs observed throughout the winter, although rare.
- White-throated:** at least 13 individuals, widely scattered, reported during the winter.
- Fox:** last two Jan 2, (srcc); reported in Catskill Mar 7 (gc) and in many sections from Mar 10-11 on. The birds appeared more plentiful and more ready to remain in local areas than in most spring migrations.
- Swamp:** fewer wintered than usual, reported only from Castleton

marshes and MFW (FC, HHS)- total of four.
 Song: wintered widely at feeders, sparingly in marshes, max 57 (tcc) Dec 31.
 Lapland Longspur: reported Dec 17, Schodack, Dec 31, TR (tcc), Jan 7 and 21, nr WR (bst) and Feb 5, Guilderland (SM, FM) in groups of 1-4.
 Snow Bunting: reported throughout winter, occasionally in large flocks, max 300-400 Feb 13, Greenville (CM) and 400+ Mar 18, nr Kinderhook (sbc).

* * * * *

VFOR - II

Robert P. Yunick

(Ed. note: This is the completion of the article begun in the November-December issue on VF Operation Recovery.)

In 1966, Walt, Dave Stoner and I banded at VFOR. While our results exceeded all previous ones with 1273 birds of 59 species, they were nonetheless a little disappointing. Our coverage of the area was increased with more nets and more time, but the bird take did not go up proportionately.

One way to measure bird take is by the number of birds caught per net-hour. Net-hours are determined by multiplying the number of nets by their time in use. For instance, two nets in use for ten hours represent 20 net-hours. The yield for 1965 was 0.7 birds per net-hour. The figures broken down by month showed August, 0.65; September, 0.58; and October, 0.76. The more productive coastal stations average about one bird per net-hour. In 1966 the VFOR figures were 0.39 for August, 0.28 for September and 0.64 for October for an average of 0.39 or nearly one-half the yield of 1965. Two apparent phenomena contributed to this lower yield. First, the weekend weather was too balmy and pleasant, thus suppressing migration, and it appeared that major flights occurred during the week when the station was not operated. Secondly, prolonged high water from the spring dredging on the river resulted in overly wet ground and caused the corn planting to fail. The weeds simply took over and grew so thickly that neither bird nor man could easily penetrate the growth. Sparrows abandoned their usual haunts.

Once again, some of the birds that escaped figured prominently in the more memorable happenings. It isn't often that a bittern hits one's nets. On August 20 one did and rather than fight the net, the bird simply lay perfectly still - that is until I came to within ten feet of it on a dead run. Then with its powerful wings and feet, it lifted out of the net and lumbered off across the pond to settle and gain its composure. It was a disappointment to be sure. However, the experience was later rectified, and also superceded by an even more maddening experience.

The latter tragedy occurred on September 24 when on the second or third check of the nets along the dike leading to the west field, I came to a net full of red-wings with the bottom shelf especially sagged by an immature Virginia rail. Quickly I secured the bird and began removing it from the net feeling that my 1964

defeat at the hands of a foxy rail had been settled. I admired the bird in my hand and felt pretty good about the whole thing. Then as fate would have it, I was transferring the bird from one hand to the other to put it in the holding cage and the bird struggled and I was "railless" once again. It flew, hit the net, bounced off, landed on the ground and ran for all it was worth through the brush into the cattails and there it splashed victoriously in its native habitat. Next season, water level permitting, there is going to be somebody else splashing around in those cattails with his nets.

The bittern disappointment of August 20 was settled at the rate of two for one in grand style. The net along the dike that lost the bittern payed off with a least bittern on September 3rd and an American bittern on September 29th. The least bittern was the first bird to be caught that foggy morning as it flew over the dike. The American bittern capture was more exciting.

It was Thursday of a week's stay at VFOR that had been disappointingly marked by few birds, poor weather and a couple of calls back to work. I was making the first round of the nets along the north edge of the west field. There were three nets connected in series and as I came to these, I saw a very peculiarly colored bird ahead of me just barely in the corner of a bottom shelf. I ran to the bird and sure enough, my distant identification of this ochre and slatey-grey bird had been correct - a sharp-tailed sparrow - a lifer. I carefully extricated the bird and decided not to place it in the already full gathering cage, because I wanted to photograph it and did not want its feathers disarranged. My day had been made already and I joyfully walked back to the barn. As I came to the end of the field and glanced ahead at the nets on the dike, I saw the bittern in the far net struggling and on the verge of escape. I ducked under the net to be on the same side as the bird and ran frantically toward the bird, put down the cage, grabbed the bittern and stood there with a sharp-tail in one hand and a very irate, struggling, formidable bittern in the other hand. I could not help but stare at the beauty of this bird. It became quickly apparent that a bittern is taken too much for granted. All too often it is simply checked off on a day's list as it is heard pumping in the cattails or seem clumsily flying over a marsh. One cannot begin to appreciate what a splendid bird it is until seeing one in the hand. The plumage is one of the most exquisite splashes and blendings of browns, tans, buffs, ochres, chestnut and black that one could ever see.

The sharp-tail went in the cage after all and by now the bittern had his sharp claws painfully sunk into my hand, so we walked hand in hand to the barn. Here I relieved myself of a cage full of sparrows and thought about what to do with my friend. I decided to put some of the unused wood duck nesting boxes to use, for I had no other holding cage for this vigorous chap. In he went, with cover on, propped along the wall with two other boxes and a 4 X 4 to prevent any tipping and escape. Quickly I processed the more routine members of my catch and then devoted my time to admiring, noting and photographing my two "catches." It was like dessert after a grand feast. The bittern had remained very quietly in solitary confinement, however, when removed he became active. I never knew that a bittern had a ruff that can make the bird's head look three or four times larger, and, with its beady stare of the eyes, very awesome. I had great difficulty photographing this ruff fully extended, because every time I ducked behind the

camera, the ruff lowered. After many attempts, I found that the bittern remained calm with me behind the camera, however, when my eyes appeared he became very defensive and watched my eyes constantly. For this reason he was held at arm's length and in a while felt heavy indeed. The photographing was difficult at best. I needed more than an arm's length to get the whole bird in the frame. After doing what I could with the close-up shots, I decided to try something.

Realizing that I dare not expose my eyes to ruffle this fellow, I hid behind the camera, gently placed the bittern on the ground and moved my hand slowly away, moved back to about four feet and shot pictures at will - it had worked! In fact I could even re-approach the bird or move back to six or seven feet. The bird stood mesmerized by the whole thing. Finally I began taking liberty to see what it would take to send the bird flying. The tance began to wear off slowly and the bird carefully lifted a foot, snaked it forward and slowly took another step. Its wings drooped to the ground and its body rocked to and fro in a peculiar crazy dance as the bird cautiously, step by step, sneaked away. By now I had lowered the camera. Suddenly the bird's attention was caught by something else and it quickly glanced away and then back to me. With this, the spell was broken and the bird gave a jump and was airborne. As it flew away it became just another bittern, but the memory of our encounter was something special.

Again the song sparrow led the list with a take of 368 or about 29 percent. Eight species of sparrows totaled 709 or almost 56 percent of the birds banded. 1966's take of Lincoln's sparrows was 15 and could have been higher had nets been put in more open places. While the Lincoln's sparrow is secretive, it does not like the thickest of cover. Banding has shown that this bird is not as rare as believed. One other highlight of 1966 was a saw-whet owl which Walt removed from a net immediately next to the east corn field at dawn on October 16.

In three years, 1915 birds of 74 species have been banded at VFOR. Of these, 617, or 32 percent, have been song sparrows, 232 swamp sparrows and 194 white-throats. The total sparrow take has been 1141 or about 60 percent of the total. Outstanding among these sparrow bandings is the fact that only one open-field species, the field sparrow, has ever been banded. All the other sparrows that have been banded are typically birds of the hedges and woody cover.

Only two warbler species are well represented in the modest take of 183 warblers of 15 species. They are the myrtle and yellowthroat with 45 and 78, respectively. Warblers do not find VF to their liking. There is not adequate tree cover and no real funneling of warblers into the area.

Thrushes similarly are not common although four species including wood, Swainson's, hermit and gray-cheeked have been banded. Swainson's has been the commonest. Catbirds have been common with 130 tallied so far.

Noticeable migrations of robins, blue jays, red-wings, grackles and rusty blackbirds occur, but these species do not readily frequent the netting areas and are not very well represented in the banding totals except for the red-wing with a total of 76.

What about recoveries? So far there have been three and all quite interesting. A barn swallow banded on August 29, 1964 was recovered on board a ship, where it later died, off the coast of Panama on October 12, 1964. A killdeer banded also on August 29, 1964 was caught in a trap near Bath, North Carolina in January, 1965. Most coincidentally, however, was the third recovery. It involved a purple finch banded October 10, 1965 and retrapped by another bander on February 7, 1966 in Charleston, West Virginia within two miles of where I used to live! This woman was one of the banders with whom I used to band and the bird was her first foreign recovery! So far the only returns have been on song sparrows banded in previous years.

A number of SBC'ers have helped gather birds, carry equipment and generally contribute to the success of the operation. It has been a lot of work and great fun and I hope it will continue. Several more years ought to provide some interesting results and more insight on certain phases of local migration.

* * * * *

BONAPARTE'S GULL STUDY

Large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls have been reported from the Niagara Frontier Region. As many as 30,000 have been reported for one day (AUD FIELD NOTES: 14:1). The path that these gulls take to the Atlantic Coast is not known. In fact, it seems that the wintering range has not been clearly defined.

We plan to study the migratory path that these gulls take southward by capturing them with a cannon-net trap, and marking the gulls with dyes and leg bands.

At this point we are collecting data from field observers concerning the status of the Bonaparte's Gull during the year throughout New York State. We are particularly interested in early arrival dates, late departure dates, and the normal and maximum numbers for various times of the year.

All information relating to any future numbers and locations of these gulls would be extremely helpful. Any unusual color marked Bonaparte's Gulls and all distribution data should be reported to:

Joanna Burger, Dept. of Biology
State University College
1300 Elmwood Ave.
Buffalo, N.Y.

We would appreciate your views and observations. Naturally any data used would be properly noted to the actual observer. We would appreciate your forwarding this letter to anyone else in your area that you feel could help us with this beginning research.

* * * * *

BIRDING WITH BEEZER IN FLORIDA

Barry Havens

This is a very concise (I hope) report of the results of a February vacation in Florida this year, the second half of the month with the help of Beezer Seguin. His very considerable expertise in the identification of water and shore birds made it possible for me to add about 20 more or less hard-to-get species to my life list.

Those species with an asterisk were new to my life list.

Some comments:

1. We had to go to the Keys to get the great white heron, roseate spoonbill, and scissor-tailed flycatcher.
2. The mottled and Florida ducks are the same species but different races. Authorities seem to differ on which is the common one of the two in Florida. The Audubon Florida checklist lists only the mottled, Peterson's entry is "mottled or dusky duck" with the note that the local race in Florida is better known as Florida duck, though calls it mottled with Florida in parentheses afterwards, and the Golden Field Guide (Robbins, Bruin, and Zie) lists it only as mottled. Yet, Sprunt and Kowright say it is the Florida race that is normally found in Florida, with the mottled race accidental.
3. The lesser scaup is abundantly found in the salt water, greatly outnumbering the other web-footed species.
4. The purple gallinule breeds in Florida but virtually disappears from the state in winter. We found it only in Everglades National Park -- just two individuals.
5. The coot is abundant in all waters, and it and the gallinules come out on land and feed in grassy fields.
6. The laughing gull is the common blackhead in Florida, and can be readily found in what we know only as summer plumage.
7. We found the smooth-billed ani, a striking bird, near Homestead, with the help of a local member of Florida Audubon.
8. The red-cockaded woodpecker, like the brown-headed nuthatch, is supposed to inhabit pine woods. I had been searching for it for years without success, but this year I found it near a feeding station in Englewood, by a stroke of fantastic luck. We did, however, find the brown-headed nuthatch where it was supposed to be found; not only that, but we found its nest.
9. Florida is a splendid place to learn to tell common crows from fish crows. The latter are much more abundant, with the former relatively rare. As Peterson says, their notes give them dead away. The fish crow sounds like the young crows we hear up north, while the common crow is the only one with an honest-to-goodness "caw". We were able to hear them both sounding off at the same time.

10. The robin, believe it or not, is described by some authorities as being a rare Florida bird in summer, although it is plentifully found there in winter.

11. The loggerhead shrike, together with the sparrow hawk, mockingbird and bluebird, seem to be the common roadside "wire" birds in Florida.

* * * * *

SUMMER FILM FESTIVAL - 1967

A series of free film showings will be offered by the New York State Museum in Albany during the summer months. Movies will be shown on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from July 3 to August 25 at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in Banner Hall of the museum. All films will be in color. Each showing will last approximately 45 minutes. The public is invited.

July 3, 5, 7	Antarctic Biology Conquest of Izalco
July 10, 12, 14	Beaver Valley Secrets of the Plant World
July 17, 19, 21	Eruption of Kilauea Large Animals of the Arctic
July 24, 26, 28	Prowlers of the Everglades Loon's Necklace
July 31, August 2, 4	The Sea Pygmies of Africa
August 7, 9, 11	Valley of the Standing Rock Whales and Whalermen
August 14, 16, 18	Lapland The Story of Poisonous Snakes
August 21, 23, 25	Indians of Early America Wood Duck Ways

* * * * *

OFF THE BOOKSHELF

Edited by
Elva Link

Rickett, H. W.; WILD FLOWERS OF THE UNITED STATES. 5vol., vol. 1.
\$39.50. 1966, McGraw-Hill.

Big, beautiful and expensive describes this new flower book, and to see it is to want it. It's really wonderful.

This is the first volume of a projected series and it covers the northeastern states from the Atlantic west to Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri; and from the Canadian border south to Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri. 1700 of the 300 species that grow in this area are included. Excellent color photographs follow along with the text.

The book is geared to the average person, comprehensive but not too technical. Bits of folklore and history add interest to the flower descriptions.

The key to identification is set up on the basis of the number of petals the flower has, and then on the number of stamens and other easily determined characteristics. The families of flowers are grouped in the book on the same basis. It is a quick process to get from the key to the section of the book having the pictures and descriptions -- assuming you don't get tripped up by sepals that look like petals.

Physically the book is pretty cumbersome, measuring 10 X 13 in. It is bound in two parts each about 1 1/2 in. thick. Needless to say it is nothing to take along on a field trip, but it surely is nice to bring a flower home to, assuming it is one your conscience lets you pick.

* * * * *

SCHENECTADY'S 2nd - 6th..... HOUSE FINCH

Robert P. Yunick

May 5, 1964 was a busy day at 1527 Myron Street. Schenectady's first house finch, a male, had been caught, banded, photographed and was the subject of a rare bird alert that brought several people to see it. Each spring since, I have watched eagerly from mid-April to mid-May when purple finches appear at our feeder, always looking for that "purple finch" that doesn't look quite right. That one whose rosey color is a little too bright, somewhat restricted and brightest on the upper breast.

On May 5, 1967, coincidentally three years to the day, my vigilance payed off. It was a cool, overcast, raw day typical of our unseasonably late spring. At about 5:30 pm., I looked out the kitchen window inspecting the several purple finches at the platform traps which serve as feeders. There was considerable activity as several males sparred. Occasional visits by a blue jay intent on taking sunflower seeds and hiding them in neighbor's yards sent the purple finches scurrying frequently to the plum tree. Suddenly one male in the plum tree caught my eye.

The binocular was upstairs and I took the stairs three at a time to get it. There in my view was indeed a male house finch with the fine striping on the flank and the rose pattern differing from that of the purple finch. I called Pete Wickham to tell him the news. The house finch was doing all the chasing. He acted very unlike the 1964 bird. Then it occurred to me that all the male and female purple finches were being chased by the house finch, with the exception of one bird well in the trap. I put

the glass on her and she was not a purple finch. She was dark, slim and finely striped by comparison - his would be mate, and with a band, not mine, on her leg! This called for action.

I went out on the porch to man the pull string to catch the pair, but the competition from the blue jays and grackles, and the male's belligerence, prevented me from getting both birds far enough in the trap simultaneously. The other trap had been partly tripped by a blue jay and when I went out to fix it, hoping to relieve the pressure on the first trap, the finches flew away. I waited and nothing returned, so I sat down to a hurried, by now cold, dinner.

About 6:15, the female returned and things were much quieter - the jays had gone. However, the male continued to fight off the purple finches one by one. Any number of times I could have had the female, but waited for both to be in the trap. I felt that if I caught the female, she might leave and certainly the male would follow. Finally the last of the purple finches retreated and the male settled to feed. Rather than feed in the trap, he would pick a seed and hurry to the trap edge to keep a watchful eye for competition. On one of his forays into the trap, I pulled the string and hoped for the best, because the trap doors had been jamming as of late. Fortunately, both birds were caught! I hurried to secure my catch. I called Pete Wickham to tell him I had the birds. I banded and processed the male and recorded the female's number with a minimum of fuss and released the birds.

The following day I awaited their appearance at the feeder. At about 10:30 I saw a lone, dark, slim, sprightly finch at the feeder. I called to Anne to tell her that the female was back. However, when I put the glass on the bird, she bore no band! A third bird! On the porch I waited for her to enter the trap and I pulled the string ending up with a broken pull string, but fortunately not without tripping the trap. So I had my fourth house finch. She was banded and released quickly with the hope that she, like the purple finches, would return to feed.

I called several people to tell them of the happening and asked if they wanted to be called should the birds return. One person was Gus Angst. He called back on May 7th and 8th to inquire, but no birds had shown up. Finally on May 9th, he called to tell me that he definitely had a male house finch at his feeder and possibly there was a female coming also! It really makes one wonder how many people had them?

Of course the female's band number was reported to the Fish and Wildlife Service. However, such a report only commences a two- to three-month wait, so I immediately sent out post cards to several house finch banders on Long Island, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. On May 9th came a rapid reply from Mrs. McEntee in New Jersey that birds with bands only one and two hundred removed from that of the female had been caught by her and the bands had originated from Gordonsville, Virginia where a Mrs. Babcock was banding house finches. I wrote to Mrs. Babcock. In the meantime, Dick Cohen of Long Island replied that he too had a house finch band, not far removed in the same series, from Mrs. Babcock.

During all this correspondence, on the morning of May 12th before I left for work, still another unbanded male came to our feeder. He was left uncaptured, but like the banded house finches,

never reappeared, whereas banded purple finches were repeatedly retrapped until about May 20. On May 13, Gus' house finch became the first ever logged on an SBC Century Run. Gus was wondering, based on plumage differences, whether he had two males.

On May 16th came confirmation from Mrs. Babcock that the band was hers, and had been placed on a house finch at Gordonsville on December 26, 1966. I sent her the details of the capture and on May 22 back came a newsy letter about her experiences with house finches.

It told how she banded her first house finch on December 24, 1965 and it, like mine, brought a number of birders to the house - Christmas Eve notwithstanding. Not all presents come in packages. By May, 1966 she had banded about 150. This past winter they arrived November 17th and departed by April 1st with 110 banded. Also included were 16 returns of the previous year, and two birds originally banded by Mrs. McEntee in New Jersey which spent the winters of '64-'65 and '65-'66 at Gordonsville! Another banded by Mrs. Babcock that first winter was recovered by Mrs. McEntee in the Spring of 1966 and then retrapped by Mrs. Babcock the following winter. Up to 200 were at Mrs. Babcock's feeder during snow storms this past winter. Gordonsville represents the furthest southern penetration of the species in large numbers. This year, single birds were reported further south at Roanoke, Norfolk and Williamsburg.

It is ironical that a species which is so common in California, so as to be the target of poisoning campaigns to control its numbers, is followed so zealously in the East as a curiosity. It would appear that much remains to be written about the house finch. Sometime soon we can no doubt expect still another chapter - the house finch in the Midwest.

* * * * *

NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

AUDUBON MEETING

The 62nd convention and annual meeting of the National Audubon Society held in Sacramento in November, 1966 was deemed the 'best'. Attendance was about 1200 compared to about 900 in Boston in 1965.

Dr. Buchheister gave his last presidential convention speech, as he is due to retire in 1967. Society membership is now at 45,000 compared to 30,000 in 1959 when Dr. Buchheister became president.

Important topics covered included the continued rapid decline of the birds of prey and the need for Audubon effort in Latin America where many North American species migrate and where protective bird laws hardly exist.

The field trips featured walks among the giant sequoias, new birds at state and federal refuges and a chance to watch migrating salmon negotiate races, and being artificially spawned.

BLACK DUCK DECLINE

Have you noticed a decline in recent years of black ducks? Dirck Benson of the Conservation Department discusses this very subject in the October-November, 1966 issue of THE CONSERVATIONIST. "Despite a cut in number and season allowed hunters, fewer birds are showing on the flyway and biologists weigh pesticides, pollution and habitat for the answer." This very interesting and pointed article is worth your reading.

MOHAWK RIVER POLLUTION

Also from the December-January THE CONSERVATIONIST:

By the end of this year (1967) every major polluter along the 150-mile Mohawk River will be under State order to end his pollution within five years. The Health Department has issued stop-pollution orders to six major polluters.

Seage treatment facilities in the Mohawk Valley will approximate \$75 million and under the Pure Waters Program, the State will finance \$45 million of the cost, leaving \$30 million to be financed by the communities involved. Major industrial polluters of the Mohawk River must spend added millions of dollars for industrial waste treatment facilities pursuant to abatement orders.

The first automatic water pollution monitoring device has been placed in the Mohawk River. This monitor is the first of 60 planned for every major waterway throughout the State.

FIELD TRIP NOTICE

July 15, Sat. - JENNY LAKE: a somewhat-later-than-usual visit to a somewhat-northern summer birding area, with hermit and Swainson's thrushes, sapsuckers, purple finches, evening and rose-breasted grosbeaks, juncos, white-throats, mourning and other warblers good possibilities. Come anytime and bring your lunch if you wish. At Corinth take road west and up, toward Hunt, Jenny and Efner Lakes and Sacandaga Reservoir. Enter camp entrances at Box 211. Barry Havens and Guy Bartlett, coordinators; mail RD 2, Box 211, Corinth, or phones 654-6397 or 654-6396.

Due date for next issue, July 15.

(Issue assembled June 14, 1967)

EDITOR:

Robert P. Yunick
1527 Myron Street
Schenectady 12309

CIRCULATION:

Mrs. John G. Leschen
1170 Mohawk Road
Schenectady 12309

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Robert P. Yunick, Peter P. Wickham

MEMBERSHIP: Sustaining \$5; Active \$3; Associate \$2; Student \$1; Family 50 cents per additional member. Membership chairman: Mrs. E. L. Thomas, 37-B Fuller Road, Albany, New York.



AN RBA STORY

Walton B. Sabin

On Monday morning March 6, 1967, I received a call in my office from Regional Game Manager Asa H. Smith of Warrensburg telling me that what was purported to be a sandhill crane (Grus canadensis) had been observed near Whitehall (Washington County), New York. Furthermore, the crane had more or less taken up residence in an unharvested four-acre cornfield. The bird allegedly was subsisting on this unpicked corn!

Since Asa relayed a rather convincing description of this bird, I swung into action. First I called Guy Bartlett and agreed upon 12:30 pm. that very day as the time of departure from my office for a try at seeing this accidental visitor. Bart called Esly Hallenbeck and they showed up at the appointed time. In the meantime I had called several other SBC'ers but none could get away. I also contacted local Conservation Officer John Brooks in Whitehall and arranged to meet him at his home at 1:30 pm.

We arrived in Whitehall at 1:45, picked up John Brooks and drove southeast out of town on the Poulteney Road (Route 273) to the first road turning to the right. We then proceeded about three-quarters of a mile on this road to the first farm house, which was on the right side of the road.

John indicated that this was the place, so I parked at the side of the road in front of the Woodruff's farm house. We got out and were greeted by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Woodruff who reported that they hadn't seen the bird for several hours. After a fruitless search of the cornfield as well as numerous other fields in the direction in which the crane was last heading, John suggested we drive around the area to see if we couldn't spot it. We continued on this same road about one-half mile until we reached the next farm house, also to the right. This was the home of the Hatch family, parents of Mrs. Woodruff. Just as we were directly in front of the Hatch's, John said, "There it is!" We had our first look at a New York State sandhill crane even though it was in an open field at least one-half mile distant. After about a minute the bird took to the air, circled, bugled and flew back over to the cornfield. We returned to the Woodruff's, set up the telescope and looked at it the best we could since it had its head down most of the time eating corn. All pertinent field marks were seen and the identification confirmed.

I might mention that the temperature was in the low twenties, roads were plowed, and about 15 to 18 inches of snow lie on the ground.

After we were satisfied that we had seen a sandhill crane, we

drove home. I then called Pete Wickham to give him the details and to set the RBA system in motion. The system worked very well and the round was completed.

In the next few weeks many SBC members drove to see the bird and were not disappointed. The bird was last seen by the Woodruffs on Wednesday, April 26, 1967. All in all the bird was present for an estimated 72 days. I say estimated because the exact date of its arrival in the area is not known. The best guess is that it appeared about February 15th.

In all the time it was present it was never reported more than a mile or so from the Woodruff's home, except once on April 24th when it was seen on the Hollister farm, located about three miles due north. This was undoubtedly indicative of the fact that spring was arriving and the bird would soon be off to its nesting ground in central Canada.

A further note on the bird's occurrence by another observer will be published in THE KINGBIRD.

* * * * *

SCARLET O'HARA OR A VARIED THRUSH

Hazel Bundy

Now I think it hardly fair to ask anyone at all to write about the varied thrush of this past winter, for who could hope to match the lovely, fanciful account entitled, "The Thrush and the Lion," written by Don Tucker and appearing in the March-April, 1966 issue of FEATHERS?

Be that as it may, a varied thrush (could it be the same one?) did appear about February 5 at the McCullough home in West Glenville, and was eventually given the name "Scarlet O'Hara" by Mr. Bob McCullough, when it was found, after some very high winds, that he -- yes, he -- had vanished, and indeed "gone with the wind."

However, he had not gone far. On Saturday, February 18, several members of SBC located Scarlet about one-half mile north of the McCullough residence at the Parker home. As luck would have it, we came upon Mrs. Arthur W. Parker setting up a camera in her driveway, focusing it on a nearby feeding area. And for what else than a varied thrush which had been appearing for a couple of days! Mrs. Parker cordially invited us into her many-windowed kitchen where we had perfect views of feeders 20 feet away. It was like Grand Central Station, with downy woodpeckers, chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, cardinals, purple finches, juncos, tree sparrows, and song sparrows flying constantly in and out, and nary an English sparrow. Then the big moment came -- the varied thrush appeared far away on a tree in a field, then flew to a tree near the kitchen window, where we could examine him closely and admire his beauty; and then, much to the photographer's delight, he flew to the ground directly in front of the camera. Much satisfaction all around!

This varied thrush was as stunning as the one seen during the previous winter, with his bright-colored breast contrasting with the grey-brown of his upperparts. He was seen by only a few

members of SBC, because his habit of moving around from time to time to various feeders made it difficult to locate him. However, this habit of his did delight many inhabitants of West Glenville, who were thus able to observe him closely. He had chosen well this spot for his winter visit, for there were many people interested in birds, and many feeders in the village. About April 4th, Scarlet vanished again, and indeed this time, he was truly "gone with the wind."

* * * * *

CONSERVATION CONSENSUS

Paul Connor

Conservation Chairman

Oil Pollution

Oil pollution of sea and coasts by man is an old problem. But the accidental grounding and breakup of the huge tanker Torrey Canyon off Land's End, Cornwall, Southwest England, this past March was the greatest oil disaster of all time. Millions of gallons (about 100,000 tons) of crude oil spilled into the sea, causing immeasurable damage to a great variety of sea birds, fish and other marine life over a vast area. Species of alcid, including local colonies of razor-billed auk, were especially hard hit among the thousands of birds which perished.

This tragedy was followed in April by oil slicks off the New Jersey coast, and a series of slicks which washed ashore along much of the outer coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Many hundreds of dead and dying migratory waterfowl, including numerous loons, scoters, and red-breasted mergansers washed up along the beaches of these states. These additional disasters were probably caused by the practice of tankers dumping oil at sea in the routine cleaning of tanks. An old sunken World War II tanker finally releasing its oil may have caused the Massachusetts' pollution.

This combination of events, which involved damage to recreational areas, received wide publicity and seems to have aroused the public as never before on this matter. At the international level, representatives of maritime nations have already met in London and have recommended proposals to strengthen regulations applying to tankers. The National Audubon Society has urged U.S. initiative in the matter of international controls.

The Torrey Canyon accident is a foreboding of possible future disasters of this nature on a colossal scale. Several oil companies have already ordered super-tankers several times the size of that large vessel. International agreements will be needed to closely supervise these ships and assure quick action if an accident occurs.

Since the April disasters, senators and representatives from the seaboard states have spoken out on the subject, and bills have been introduced covering many aspects of oil pollution control. In early June the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution, Senate Committee on Public Works, held hearings on proposed amendments to the Oil Pollution Act of 1924. Bills under consideration include S1604 (Sen. Clifford Case, N.J.) which would

amend the Act. An important objective of this and several similar bills would be to restore the original language to the bill and eliminate the word "grossly" which is said to make the act unenforceable. As now worded, the government must show that a vessel was "grossly" negligent in territorial waters, with the result that not one oil pollution case has been filed since the law was amended last year.

It is hoped that better safeguards will be worked out soon in this entire area. Some oil companies have adapted techniques making it unnecessary for tankers to discharge waste oil; there is hope that other companies can follow suit. As for the birds, it is difficult to save even a small proportion after a major dumping of oil where flocks occur. Special facilities are required and many people are needed to help, since the birds must be washed by hand and then held in confinement for several months.

Constitutional Convention and the Forest Preserve

The delegates to New York's Ninth Constitutional Convention have been meeting in Albany since April 4. The leaders, Convention President Anthony J. Travia, and Earl W. Brydges the Republican minority leader are committed to concluding the convention by September 26 so that proposals can go on the ballot at the November 7 general election. The various proposals are expected to come out of committee to be debated and voted on in the coming weeks.

The conventions of 1821, 1846 and 1894 resulted in major revisions of the constitution. In 1894 the protective Article 14, the "Forever Wild" provision, was written into the constitution (adopted in 1895). The oft-quoted Section 1 states in part that, "The Lands of the State, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the Forest Preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands."

Most early testimony has been in favor of retaining the State's rigid protection of the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves according to Charles F. Stockmeister, Chairman of the convention's Committee on Natural Resources. By late June the controversy had heated up a bit with a number of delegates and others speaking out on the issue. On June 12 Travia came out flatly in favor of continued constitutional protection of Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves, terming our forest one of the state's greatest natural resources and stating that the "Forever Wild" provisions are more important today than ever before.

Another prominent Democrat however, Judge Francis Bergen of Albany, has taken an opposite stance, that in favor of greater use of the wilderness and would establish the highest officers of the state as trustees. He terms the present "Forever Wild" provision as "negativism". R. Stewart Kilbourne, State Conservation Department Commissioner, recently came out in support of Article 14, with the exception of lifting "Forever Wild" restrictions from preserve land outside the so-called "blue line". This change would permit sale by the state of certain areas deemed unsuitable on the fringe of the Adirondack and Catskill parks.

A TRIP TO JAMAICA

Lillian C. Stoner

Yes, I enjoyed the six-day trip to Jamaica, B.W.I., January 11-22, 1967 which was sponsored by the Florida State Audubon Society. It was most interesting in several ways but mainly because of the many birds seen and heard on this tropical island.

Fourteen of us, which included the two leaders, namely, Margaret Hundley and Doris Mager, flew from Miami, Florida to Kingston, Jamaica. En route as we flew over Cuba, we could distinguish little more than land and water areas.

Our first glimpse of Jamaica was a brief stop at Montego Bay, which is located on the northwest section of this 144-mile long and rather narrow island. Our continued flight of one-half hour was over and around the mountain to Kingston, which is in the southeast section of the island.

Most of our stay in this capital city was spent in field trips for birds, so we had little opportunity to visit the Jamaica Institute, the famous straw market or the stores.

As our hotel accommodations both at Kingston and later at Montego Bay were in hotels which had plantings of beautiful blooming flowers, shrubbery and trees, we saw and heard certain birds here. However, we did see many more on the field trips which started at eight o'clock each day. The Jamaica drivers of the cars were the same three men who had driven their cars in past years on previous Florida State Audubon Society trips. On several all-day trips we went from 50 to 60 miles to different habitats. Of course many stops were made to observe birds.

Near my hotel window I saw and heard my first bird, a banaquit (one of the honey creepers) which is very common here. James Bond in his book BIRDS OF THE WEST INDIES gives 14 common names for this bird. Perhaps the most descriptive of these is "banana bird" or "sugar bird." It is seen and heard near houses; in fact friends told me that one morning while they were having breakfast on the hotel veranda, a banaquit flew directly to their table to get sugar out of the open sugar bowl. The distinctive field markings on this little four- to five-inch bird are the conspicuous white superciliary stripes and the yellow rump and breast. The song, a trill, is uttered frequently. On our first day we visited the grounds of another Kingston hotel and from the veranda I watched two birds that we SBC members see here in summer. The male redstart (a winter resident in Jamaica) was fluttering about in a tree top. Then, a green heron, a resident here, flew to a perch on the rim of a sizeable iron goldfish container that was on the other side of the driveway in front of the hotel. Here it stood still for some time while it looked intently for goldfish in the water.

It was near this same hotel that we first saw two of the three hummingbirds that are recorded for the island. Immediately beside the foot of the veranda steps we heard a squeaking note and saw a small (almost like an insect) bird hovering and probing the flowers for food. This was the vervain hummingbird, which measures

two and one-half to two and three-quarters inches in length; it was green above and whitish below. It fluttered about so intent in its search for food that it was not disturbed by nearby bird watchers who could see it plainly even without the aid of bird glasses. On other days we listed this smallest, except for the bee hummingbird of Cuba, hummingbird in several different habitats.

The beautifully spectacular streamertail, our second hummingbird, was seen flying about on lower branches of trees not far from the same hotel. This bright green-plumaged bird with its black crown has a total length of ten inches from the tip of the red bill to the end of the two, long (six inches), black tail feathers. It can utter a rather loud call note, but one hears mainly the humming sound the two long, crossed tail feathers make when it is flying. This strikingly colored bird is endemic so it is found in different habitats. It is commonly called "doctor bird" or "long-tailed doctor bird." The streamertail is said to be the state bird for Jamaica. The young males, also brightly colored, do not have the long tail feathers, nor do the duller-plumaged females.

Our first all-day field trip was up 5000 feet of the 7000-foot high Blue Mountain. It was a little startling to ride up this mountain with the driver going on the left side of the road. While the paved road was fairly good, the turns were many and often very sharp, so the reported 365 turns seemed like many more to some of us. Of course frequent stops were made to look for birds. En route, we passed banana plantations and saw natives walking with bananas, grape fruit or some other load balanced on their heads. They eagerly sold fruit to passers before they reached the market. An interesting stop was made at the military training grounds where 60 men were doing exercises in their drill work.

At noon, we found picnic tables, one with a covered straw or thatched roof, in a small park. Here, on this beautifully clear sunny (hot yet breezy) day, we enjoyed both our hotel-prepared box lunch and the beautiful view. At this height of 5000 feet we could see many miles and the immense amount of green foliage on trees and shrubs in heavily wooded areas was most impressive. The graceful flight of the turkey vultures added to this scenic view. A few smaller birds were seen and heard at this stop and more were observed by the group who walked further on the trail. Birds recorded on this day included sparrow hawk, black-and-white warbler, parula, palm and other warblers. Most of these are winter residents. We also recorded some species we see in Florida, namely, the ground dove, smooth-billed ani and mockingbird. The northern mockingbird was listed daily but only once did we see the Bahama mockingbird on another trip; it was perched on a telephone wire out in country near a beach.

Next day our trip was to different habitats out in the country and to river districts. Bird songs, many of them so different and new to us, could be heard much of the time. The hopping dick, so called because it hops along, is really the white-eyed thrush of Jamaica; it is about the size of our robin. Several times as we drove around a sharp turn we had glimpses of the bird ahead of us on the paved road before it flew off to protective covering. Reports say that its beautiful song is usually heard from wooded areas.

During our next few days' stop at Montego Bay, in the north-western part of the island, we again saw some of the same species, but many more water birds. Here also were birds of lawns, pasture, sugar field, seashore, pond and river. Many cattle egrets were noted, often in numbers in pastures near cattle. Little blue and green herons were also recorded. Other members of the heron family that were not so frequently observed were common and snowy egrets, Louisiana and yellow-crowned night herons.

Some coots and a few gallinules were seen, but greater numbers of plovers, including the turnstone and killdeer and several species of sandpipers, including greater and lesser yellowlegs were seen in a swampy pond area. Here we had ample time to watch, both with and without field glasses, many black-necked stilts. There were some 40 of these winter visitors in the group feeding at the shallow water edge.

On our compiled list we had one tern, the royal tern, and no gulls (to my surprise) although the laughing gull has been reported on another part of the island. Other species on our list were different doves; swifts; woodpeckers including the Jamaican woodpecker which is much like our flicker in action, but with different plumage; flycatchers and swallows.

New to us was the American jacana which was really different in appearance and action to other water birds. The cackling note was heard first before we saw the yellow frontal plate and bill of this dark-plumaged plover-like bird. The long legs and elongated toes enabled this seven-and-one-half- to nine-inch bird to walk or run on leaves floating in a pond. It is quite like our upland plover when it alights as it raises its wings high so as they almost meet above the body, and in so doing the wide, bright-yellow band is plainly visible. Common names are "pond coot" or "river-chink."

Another unusual bird to us was the chestnut-billed cuckoo known as the "old man bird." I had only a glimpse of this 19- to 20-inch bird but I heard its deep note as it flew up in a tree along the road. This long-tailed bird is larger than our cuckoos that measure 11 inches in length.

On an early afternoon trip an observer called, "Here come two jabbering crows." This was a welcomed call for we were near the Cockpit Country where we had been watching for these rather rare birds to fly out of the heavily wooded area. The Jamaican crow which is black-plumaged and about the same size as our common crow is rightly named jabbering crow, for it surely made many jabbering harsh sounds. It was interesting for us who so often see our crows to watch for, see and hear this bird which is found only in a few localities in Jamaica.

Soon after this two parrots flew over us so fast that I was unable to see them well. Birds do have that habit as we all well know. Our leaders listed both yellow-billed and black-billed parrots on the report. I did see and hear several times the parakeets, commonly called "Jamaica parakeet" but it is really termed olive-throated parakeet. A small flock was first heard then seen as it circled about and then settled high in a roadside tree near our parked cars, but it didn't stay long and soon flew away. Later we heard and saw this noisy species over a sugar field. Our driver told us that plantation owners some times erect

scarecrows to try to protect their sugar or banana crops from the birds just as our farmers often put up scarecrows in corn fields to try to frighten crows and blackbirds. These parakeets are colorful but different in plumage from our caged birds.

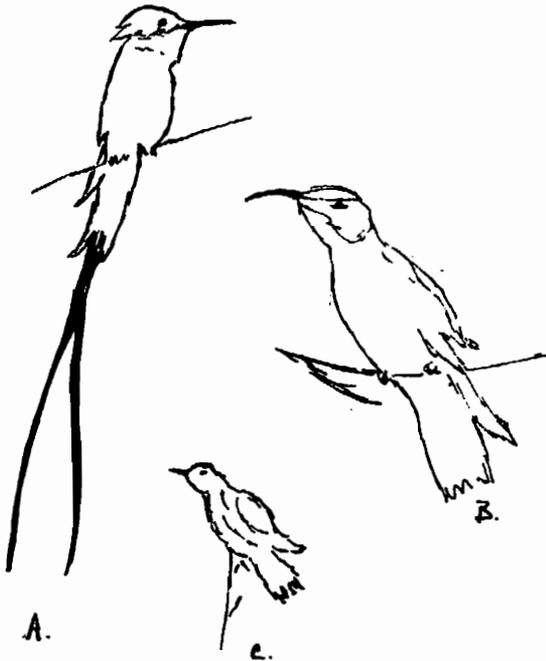
Other members of our group saw many other species such as the Jamaican tody and different grassquits, so the compiled list of our leaders numbered a total of 105 for our time on the island.

We enjoyed meeting and learning much from two resident ladies who are active in bird work. Mrs. Audrey Downer bands indigo buntings during their migration visits in winter to Jamaica. Miss Lisa Salmon maintains a two-acre sanctuary at her hillside home which is eight miles from Montego Bay. She is a member of the American Ornithologists' Union and interested in natural history of birds, flowers, shells and horticulture. Her place is interesting not only to ornithologists but also to tourists. The many types of bird feeders both under the porch roof and on the sunny patio attract numbers of several species. The plantings both under cover and around add to the attractiveness of the place. For many years Lisa Salmon has filled much of her time with nature work. Quite recently the officials of Jamaica honored her as they consider her the most outstanding conservationist of the island. One could write a book about the birds, flowers and trees in her sanctuary which is called "Rockland Feeding Station." Her printed list of birds that have been seen in Jamaica numbers 252. It was at Lisa Salmon's place that we watched and fed the streamer-tail and Jamaica mango as these beautiful birds flew around and around and were not too frightened by the many people who were seated and talking all the time. At times they stopped to feed at one of the many hanging six-inch bottles which was filled with honey-sweetened water. These bottles were in a tipped position so the opening and water drippings were accessible to these long-billed birds.

We, as well as other visitors, took turns at standing as motionless as possible on the patio while we held one of the bottles in a tipped position near our other raised hand, the pointed on this hand serving as a perch for the little bird as he tried to get the sweetened water from the bottle. We were well rewarded with a close-up view when individual birds did light on our finger. It really was a thrilling experience for me to see eye to eye (as the alert little bird watched me for any motion) with first the beautiful bright green-colored streamertail, and then the more somber-plumaged Jamaica mango. The orangequit, another endemic bird, was also seen flying around the feeders on the porch. This beautiful five-and-one-half-inch male bird with a plumage that looked so blue in the bright sun shine, except for the colorful orange throat feathers, was plainly seen without bird glasses. Other birds observed were doves feeding on scattered food on the ground and in low branches of a nearby little tree. The vervain hummingbird was flying around, scolding and acting like it was protecting a nesting place.

Most of the hummingbirds have a common name of "doctor bird" such as "long-tailed doctor bird" for the streamertail and "little doctor bird" for the vervain hummingbird and "doctor bird" for the Jamaica mango. This is partly explained in a book which was published in London in 1847 with authors listed as follows: Philip Henry Gosse, assisted by Richard Hill Esq., of Spanish-Town. We saw little of this former capital of Jamaica which is 12 miles from Kingston, the present capital. The

following account from page 89 refers to the Jamaica mango: "The appellation by which the mango hummingbird is familiarly known to the Negroes in the colony, is that of 'doctor bird',... It is thus explained by Mr. Hill: ...'In the old time, when custom was more observed than now, ... the black livery among the gayer and more brilliant Trochilidae represented the doctor. It might with equal propriety have been the parson, but parsons were less known than doctors, in the old times of the colony.'" The Jamaica mango is a five-inch, rather stout bird with long curved bill and prominent dark purple patches on cheeks and undertail feathers. This color contrasts with the dark greenish plumage above and black underparts, thus giving the bird a more somber appearance.



JAMAICAN HUMMINGBIRDS

A- Streamertail, B- Vervain Hummingbird, C- Jamaica Mango

Another popular explanation for hummingbirds being called "doctor birds" recently came to me in a note from Miss Lisa Salmon via mutual friends. She tells that the countryman thinks that the hummingbird, when it moves from flower to flower, punctures the flower and in doing this it is "doctoring" the flower. This explanation makes a plausible story.

The Greater Antillean grackles which are about the same size as our common grackle were noisy birds in high trees around

I am indebted to M. E. Donner for the above hummingbird sketches, and to Dr. Edward Riley for the English book reference.

Chatham hotel. Mr. Foster, the proprietor, who is greatly interested in birds, provides seeds which are regularly scattered on the lawn near the building. This food attracts many saffron finches and they come in great numbers chattering as they feed. This bright yellowish-plumaged bird, which is five-and-one-half inches long, reminded us of our smaller American goldfinch.

As our trip ended, and also during our stay on the island, we were appreciative of all the detailed work and management which was done by our two lady leaders. It had all been a most enjoyable experience and especially did we enjoy seeing three colorful hummingbirds and saffron finches. Credit should also go to Mr. C. Russel Mason, executive director of the Florida Audubon Society as he has promoted not only this trip, but several other bird study trips to different localities.

* * * * *

1966 RECORDS SUMMARY

Monte D. Gruett

Member, Records Committee

A total of 240 species of birds was reported in our eleven-county area for the calendar year 1966. This compares with 243 observed in 1965.

The most deficient groups both in numbers of individuals and of species appeared to be the hawks and owls while sandpipers appeared in wider variety than in recent years. Twelve species reported in 1966 but not in 1965 were: least bittern, mute swan, willet, purple sandpiper, dowitcher, stilt sandpiper, short-billed marsh wren, varied thrush, Connecticut warbler, painted bunting, hoary redpoll and sharp-tailed sparrow. The 15 species reported in 1965 but not seen in 1966 were: scarlet ibis, European widgeon, surf scoter, black vulture, golden eagle, gyrfalcon, Iceland gull, barn owl, long-eared owl, red-bellied woodpecker, gray jay, Bohemian waxwing, Kentucky warbler, western tanager and Harris's sparrow.

In the following complete list for the year, species which are known to nest in our area are indicated by an asterisk. A few species marked with an asterisk and a question mark are suspected to breed here but no nest has been found.

LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon: Apr. 2-May 25; Sept. 18- Dec. 31.
 Red-thr. Loon: Apr. 2- May 11; Nov. 5- Dec. 24.
 Red-n Grebe: Apr. 9-10; Nov. 5.
 Horned Grebe: Mar. 20- May 14; Oct. 2- Dec. 10.
 Pied-b Grebe: Mar. 8- Nov. 27.
 Dol-crested Cormorant: Apr. 19- June 13.
 Great Blue Heron:* Mar. 25- Nov. 24.
 E. Green Heron:* Late Apr.- Sept. 25.
 Cattle Egret: May 8; Nov. 5.
 Common Egret: Apr. 10; Aug. 14- Sept. 10.
 Black-cr Night Heron: May 8; Aug. 20- Sept. 23; Nov. 24.
 Least Bittern:* June 4- Sept. 3.
 Amer. Bittern:* Apr. 17- Nov. 24.
 Mute Swan: Mar. 20- July 3.

Whistling Swan: Nov. 11.
 Canada Goose:*(where introduced) Mar. 5- early July; Sept. 24-
 Nov. 2.
 Brant: May 23.
 Snow Goose: Apr. 17; Nov. 26.
 Mallard:* Permanent resident.
 Black Duck:* Permanent resident.
 Gadwall: Nov. 6; Dec. 11.
 Pintail: Mar. 4- May 1; Sept. 25- Nov. 19. Also several
 winter records.
 Green-w Teal:?? Mar. 8- June 21; Sept. 3- Dec. 31.
 Blue-w Teal:* Mar. 22- Oct. 16.
 Amer. Widgeon: Mar. 6- Apr. 29; Oct. 8- Nov. 26.
 Shoveler: Mar. 31- Apr. 23.
 Wood Duck:* Mar. 8- Oct. 16.
 Redhead: Mar. 28; Nov. 8- Dec. 11.
 Ring-n Duck: Jan. 1- 19; Mar. 8- May 14; Oct. 16- Dec. 18.
 Canvasback: Jan. 8- Apr. 17; Nov. 5- Dec. 31.
 Greater Scaup: Feb. 5; Mar. 19- May 15; Sept. 25- Dec. 11.
 Lesser Scaup:
 Common Goldeneye: Lv. May 8; ar. Nov. 5.
 Bufflehead: Mar. 23- May 25; Oct. 16- Dec. 18.
 Oldsquaw: Mar. 20- May 8; Oct. 23- Dec. 18.
 White-w Scoter: Mar. 27- May 13; Oct. 16- Dec. 18.
 Common Scoter: Apr. 24- May 8; Nov. 2- Dec. 18.
 Ruddy Duck: Mar. 8- Apr. 24; Oct. 18- Dec. 11.
 Hooded Merganser:* Mar. 10- Dec. 11.
 Common Merganser: Lv. May 14; ar. Nov. 5.
 Red-br. Merganser: Mar. 26- May 19; Nov. 19- 26.

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture:?? Mar. 10- Oct. 6.
 Goshawk:* (Intermittantly) Mar. 6; Nov. 13.
 Sharp-sh. Hawk:* Jan. 15- May 19; Oct. 9.
 Cooper's Hawk:* Permanent resident.
 Red-t Hawk:* Permanent resident.
 Red-sh Hawk:* Feb. 12- Oct. 8.
 Broad-w Hawk:* Apr. 26- Sept. 24.
 Rough-l Hawk: lv. Apr. 3; ar. Nov. 6.
 Bald Eagle: Apr. 8; Apr. 30.
 Marsh Hawk:* Permanent resident, fewer in summer and winter.
 Osprey:* (Intermittantly) Apr. 15- May 15; Aug. 14- Oct. 15.
 Peregrine Falcon: Jan. 1.
 Pigeon Hawk: Jan. 2- Mar. 6.
 Sparrow Hawk:* Permanent resident.
 Ruffed Grouse:* Permanent resident.
 Bobwhite:* Permanent resident.
 Ring-n Pheasant:* Permanent resident.
 Turkey:* Permanent resident where introduced.
 Virginia Rail:* Mar. 17- Sept. 24.
 Sora:?? Apr. 23- May 15; late Aug.- Sept. 1.
 Common Gallinule:* Apr. 6- Oct. 9.
 Amer. Coot:?? Apr. 9- May 14; Sept. 4- Dec. 24.
 Semipalmated Plover: May 14- 31; Aug. 28- Sept. 26.
 Killdeer:* Mar. 3- Dec. 31.
 Golden Plover: Sept. 20- Oct. 15.
 Black-b. Plover: May 14; Sept 8- Oct. 8.
 Ruddy Turnstone: Sept. 18.
 Amer. Woodcock:* Mar. 6- Oct. 25.
 Common Snipe:* Feb. 5- Dec. 24.
 Upland Plover:* Apr. 30- Aug. 14.

- Spotted Sandpiper:* Apr. 22- Sept. 25.
 Solitary Sandpiper: May 7- 27; July 10- Oct. 25.
 Willet: May 17.
 Greater Yellowlegs: Apr. 23- May 26; Aug. 19- Oct. 15.
 Lesser Yellowlegs: May 7- 31; Jul. 10- Oct. 15.
 Purple Sandpiper: Nov. 20.
 Pectoral Sandpiper: May 14; Sept. 18- Nov. 5.
 White-r Sandpiper: May 31- June 2; Sept. 20- Nov. 5.
 Least Sandpiper: May 14- June 4; July 14- Oct. 8.
 Dunlin: May 11- 31; Sept. 18- Oct. 15.
 Dowitcher: May 22; Sept. 17- 20.
 Stilt Sandpiper: Sept. 30- Oct. 15.
 Semipalmated Sandpiper: May 19- 31; Sept. 20- 26.
 Sanderling: Sept. 18- 26.
 Northern Phalarope: Aug. 20- 30.
 Glaucous Gull: Jan. 1.
 Great Black-b Gull: Jan. 1- 8; Mar 4- May 14; Nov. 26- Dec. 18.
 Herring Gull: Observed throughout year.
 Ring-b Gull: Observed throughout year.
 Bonaparte's Gull: Apr. 17- May 18; Aug. 1; Oct. 16- Nov. 26.
 Common Tern: Apr. 24- May 14.
 Black Tern: May 7- 19.
 Mourning Dove:* Permanent resident.
 Yellow-b Cuckoo:* ar. May 6.
 Black-b Cuckoo:* May 23- Sept. 15.
 Screech Owl:* (Intermittantly) Permanent resident.
 Great Horned Owl:* Permanent resident.
 Snowy Owl: Nov. 24.
 Barred Owl:* Permanent resident.
 Short-eared Owl: Feb. 20; Dec. 31.
 Saw-whet Owl: two Apr. reports; July 13; Oct. 8- 16.

GOATSUCKERS - STARLING

- Whip-poor-will:* ar. May 7.
 Common Nighthawk:* May 14- Aug. 31.
 Chimney Swift:* Apr. 22- Sept. 25.
 Ruby-thr. Hummingbird:* May 14- Oct. 21.
 Belted Kingfisher:* Permanent resident, few winter.
 Yellow-sh Flicker:* Permanent resident, few winter.
 Pileated Woodpecker:* Permanent resident.
 Red-h Woodpecker:* May 7- Oct. 31. One bird wintered in Greene Co.
 Yellow-b Sapsucker:* Apr. 13- Oct. 4. Two birds repd. in Jan. and Feb.
 Hairy Woodpecker:* Permanent resident.
 Downy Woodpecker:* Permanent resident.
 Black-b Three-t Woodpecker: Jan. 26- 27.
 E Kingbird:* Apr. 29- Sept. 18.
 Great Crested Flycatcher:* May 6- Aug. 31.
 E Phoebe:* Mar. 23- Nov. 5.
 Yellow-b Flycatcher:*? May 30- Sept. 24.
 Traill's Flycatcher:* May 14- Sept. 10
 Least Flycatcher:* May 5- Sept. 17.
 E Wood Pewee:* May 14- Sept. 23.
 Olive-s Flycatcher:* (Intermittantly) May 24- 30.
 Horned Lark:* Permanent resident.
 Tree Swallow:* Mar. 25- Oct. 14.
 Bank Swallow:* Apr. 23- Sept. 3.
 Rough-w Swallow:* Apr. 22- Aug. 23.
 Barn Swallow:* Apr. 9- Sept. 25.
 Cliff Swallow:* Apr. 14- Sept. 3.

Purple Martin:* ar. Apr. 19.
 Blue Jay:* Permanent resident.
 Common Crow:* Permanent resident.
 Black-c Chickadee:* Permanent resident.
 Boreal Chickadee:*? Jan. 1- Aug. 27.
 Tufted Titmouse:* Permanent resident.
 White-b Nuthatch:* Permanent resident.
 Red-b Nuthatch:* Permanent resident.
 Brown Creeper:* Permanent resident.
 House Wren:* Apr. 27- early Oct.
 Winter Wren:* Permanent resident, few winter.
 Carolina Wren:* (Formerly) Jan. 5- Mar. 6.
 Long-b Marsh Wren:* May 7- late Nov.
 Short-b Marsh Wren: May 7.
 Mockingbird:* Permanent resident.
 Catbird:* Apr. 30- Oct. 9. Occasional rare winterer.
 Brown Thrasher:* Apr. 18- late Sept. Occasional rare winterer.
 Robin:* Permanent resident, few winter; main arrival Mar. 18.
 Wood Thrush:* Apr. 22- Oct. 16.
 Varied Thrush: Jan. 20- Mar. 17.
 Hermit Thrush:* Feb. 6- Oct. 24.
 Swainson's Thrush:* May 10- Oct. 2.
 Gray-ch Thrush:*? May 14- 16; Oct. 15- 16.
 Veery:* May 5- Aug. 30.
 E Bluebird:* Mar. 15- Nov. 8. Occasionally winters.
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:* Apr. 23- Aug. 14.
 Golden-cr Kinglet: lv. May 14; ar. Oct. 8.
 Ruby-cr Kinglet: Apr. 20- May 21; Sept. 26- Dec. 12.
 Water Pipit: May 14- 20; Sept. 17- Nov. 20.
 Cedar Waxwing:* Permanent resident.
 N Shrike: lv. Mar. 14; ar. Nov. 26.
 Loggerhead Shrike:*? Apr. 23- May 26.
 Starling:* Permanent resident.

VIREOS - WARBLERS

Yellow-thr. Vireo:* May 5- Sept. 18.
 Solitary Vireo:* Ar. May 6; no fall reports.
 Red-eyed Vireo:* May 14- Oct. 24.
 Philadelphia Vireo:* May 14- Oct. 24.
 Warbling Vireo:* Apr. 28- Sept. 24.
 Warblers- Black and white:* Apr. 23- Sept. 5.
 Worm-eating:* May 14.
 Golden-w:* Ar. May 14.
 Blue-w:* Ar. May 6.
 Brewster's: Ar. May 15.
 Tennessee: May 7- 18; Sept. 21- 25.
 Nashville:* May 6- Oct. 22.
 Parula:*? May 7- 22; Sept. 10.
 Yellow:* Apr. 30- Sept. 18.
 Magnolia:* May 6- Oct. 2.
 Cape May: May 7- 22.
 Black-thr. Blue:* May 6- Oct. 15.
 Myrtle:* Jan. 1; Apr. 26- Dec. 5.
 Black-thr Green:* May 1- Oct. 2.
 Cerulean:* May 27- July 2.
 Blackburnian:* May 6- Sept. 24.
 Chestnut-s:* May 6- Oct. 29.
 Bay-br: May 16- 24; Aug. 29.
 Blackpoll:*? May 14- June 3; Aug. 29- Oct. 15.
 Pine:*? Apr. 22- May 21.
 Prairie:* Ar. May 1.

Palm: Apr. 17- May 14; Sept. 30- Oct. 8.
 Ovenbird:* May 6- Sept. 17.
 Northern Waterthrush:* May 1- Oct. 27.
 Louisiana Waterthrush:* Ar. Apr. 27.
 Connecticut: May 14- 19.
 Mourning:* Ar. May 22.
 Yellowthroat:* May 6- Nov. 12.
 Yellow-br Chat:* Ar. May 14.
 Wilson's: May 6- 16; Sept. 2- 16.
 Canada:* May 7- Sept. 14.
 Amer. Redstart:* May 7- Sept. 14.

HOUSE SPARROW - SPARROWS

House Sparrow:* Permanent resident.
 Bobolink:* May 6- Sept. 17.
 E Meadowlark:* Permanent resident, fewer in winter.
 Red-w Blackbird:* Mar. 1- mid-Nov; a few winter locally.
 Orchard Oriole:* (Intermittantly) May 8- Sept. 10.
 Baltimore Oriole:* May 6- early Sept.
 Rusty Blackbird: Feb. 6- May 7; Sept. 24- Nov. 12.
 Common Grackle:* Permanent resident, few winter; main arrival
 Mar. 3.
 Brown-h Cowbird:* Permanent resident.
 Scarlet Tanager:* May 6- Sept. 18.
 Cardinal:* Permanent resident.
 Rose-br Grosbeak:* May 6- Sept. 24.
 Indigo Bunting:* May 14- Sept. 30.
 Painted Bunting: late Dec.
 Dickcissel: Jan. 1- Apr. 18.
 Evening Grosbeak:* Permanent resident
 Purple Finch:* Permanent resident.
 Pine Grosbeak: Jan. 1- Mar. 27.
 Hoary Redpoll: Mar. 20.
 Common Redpoll: Jan. 1- May 7.
 Pine Siskin:*? To May 22; July 16- 24; Oct. 8.
 Amer. Goldfinch:* Permanent resident.
 Red Crossbill: Jan. 1- June 12.
 White-w Crossbill: Jan. 1- Mar. 9.
 Rufous-s Towhee:* Apr. 16- Oct. 16.
 Sparrows- Savannah:* Mar. 23- Nov. 7; Dec. 31.
 Grasshopper:* Ar. May 7.
 Henslow's:* Ar. May 14.
 Sharp-t: Sept. 29.
 Vesper:* Apr. 10- Oct. 23.
 Slate-c Junco:* Permanent resident.
 Oregon Junco: Rare winter visitor.
 Tree: Lv. May 16; ar. late Oct.
 Chipping:* Apr. 17- Nov. 11.
 Field:* Mar. 24- Oct. 18. Occasionally winters.
 White-cr: Apr 20- May 29; Oct. 8- 24.
 White-tr:* Apr. 17- Nov. 29. A few winter here.
 Fox: Mar. 18- May 9; Oct. 17- Nov. 14.
 Lincoln's: May 12-17; Sept. 9- Oct. 24.
 Swamp:* Permanent resident; fewer winter.
 Song:* Permanent resident; fewer winter.
 Lapland Longspur: Feb. 26; Dec. 17- 31.
 Snow Bunting: lv. Feb. 27; ar. Oct. 23.

* * * * *

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Peggy McGuirk
Field Trip Chairman

NISKAYUNA WIDEWATERS

MARCH 26

It was a bright and sunny Easter morning and seven turned out for the trip. We started from Dyke Road toward Lock Seven. At Niska Isle where we made one of our stops, the waterfowl we saw looked like they were ready for the Easter Parade. With the sun to our backs and through our scopes they all looked appropriately dressed for the occasion. The winner was difficult to determine. Was it the stately Canada geese, the goldeneyes, common merganser, or the formally dressed hooded merganser? In my opinion it was the male hooded merganser. In his white top hat and suit of brown and black he stood out in the crowd. He certainly was the winner of the Easter Parade. We then left for home to don our own Easter outfits for the parade!

--Peggy McGuirk

VISCHER FERRY GAME MANAGEMENT AREA

APRIL 1

On the warm, sunny morning of April 1, a large group of 25 people gathered at the entrance to Vischer Ferry Game Management Area. We were glad to welcome seven "newcomers" to our field trip. Three of the number had driven over from the Cambridge area.

We were disappointed to find the ponds still almost entirely frozen over, but the sight and sound of our first tree swallows of the season soon cheered us. Everyone had ample opportunity to observe these birds closely, and many commented on their breath-taking beauty. Slowly but surely, our list grew as we made our way toward the river, where we picked up several species of ducks, gulls, and one lone pied-billed grebe.

There was some open water on both sides of the causeway at Stony Creek Reservoir, our next stop. The busiest individual on the water, as well as the smallest, was a dainty little female ruddy duck, who was diving often, and swimming around energetically, first in one direction, and then in another. A tiny, golden-crowned kinglet delighted us by alighting in a tree by the causeway.

At our third, and last stop, by the Mohawk River at the end of Ferry Drive, we added buffleheads and red-breasted mergansers to our list of species seen during the 2 3/4 hours of our trip, and found that our list totaled 47 species.

It was altogether a lovely morning.

--Hazel Bundy

ROUND AND SARATOGA LAKES

APRIL 15

Overcast skies and a light fog over the lake greeted nine birders as they gathered at Round Lake for the start of the Round-Saratoga Lakes spring field trip. Fortunately for all, the rain held off until late afternoon.

A total of 57 species was logged by the following participants:

Frances Adams	Peg McGuirk	Walt Sabin
Hazel Bundy	Al Kosinski	Harvey Spivak
Mary McFalls	Sam Madison	"Beezer" Seguin

Interesting finds at Round Lake were a red-necked grebe in breeding plumage and five snow geese that circled the lake, gave indications of landing, but then winged away through the mist.

Despite the fact that the ice had left Saratoga Lake sometime during the previous week, there was a good number of water birds present. Outstanding observations were a flock of eighteen oldsquaw at Stony Point and a log-posing comorant at the northern end of the lake.

Although this trip was basically for the observation of waterfowl, the thrill of the day was furnished by a member of the warbler family. While at Stony Point, three tailwagging palm warblers were good enough to allow us to obtain some close views of them. One of the warblers was joined by two singing ruby-crowned kinglets. The rather hesitant introductory notes of the kinglets followed by their characteristic "t'meecha, t'meecha, t'meecha" inspired at least one of the palm warblers to give forth with its song which was a trill similar to that of a fast singing junco. It was the first time that any of those present had heard a palm warbler sing during migration.

--B.R. Seguin

* * * * *

NEXT ISSUE

Material for the September-October issue will be due on September 1st. Notes and articles for that issue are most welcomed. Sit down and give a try to writing something about your summer experiences. Other members will surely enjoy hearing what you did.
(Issue assembled July 1, 1967)

EDITOR:

Robert P. Yunick
1527 Myron Street
Schenectady 12309



CIRCULATION:

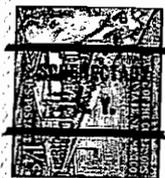
Mrs. John G. Leschen
1170 Mohawk Road
Schenectady 12309

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.

Return Postage Guaranteed
SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.
MRS JOHN G. LESCHEN
1170 MOHAWK ROAD
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12309

Non-profit Organization

Mr. Robert Yunick
1527 Myron St.
Schenectady, N.Y. 12309





1967 ANNUAL MEETING OF FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS AT OQUAGA LAKE

Walton B. Sabin and Mary Johnston
Delegates

Friday evening, June 2, 1967, was devoted to committee meetings. Delegate Walt Sabin attended THE KINGBIRD editorial committee meeting. Most of the discussion centered around standardizing terms of abundance and occurrence as well as how to evaluate unusual reports. A committee report or article for THE KINGBIRD will appear, hopefully, this year. Delegate Mary Johnston and Virginia Sabin attended the conservation committee meeting. This, an open meeting, attracts the widest participation by delegates and members of all committee meetings held on Friday night. Their comments were as follows:

Prof. Frank L. Eldridge, professor of music at Ithaca College and chairman of the Central New York Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, reported on several of its area projects. Ironsides Island in the St. Lawrence River, where there is a great blue heron heronry, was purchased. He also mentioned two other sites which should be preserved. These are Fiddlers' Green, a quaking bog two miles north of Hamilton, and Eldorado Shores at Eldorado Beach. It was also mentioned that the golden eagle nest site near Sabattis should be acquired.

Dr. James Dewey of Cornell University talked about pesticides. He remarked that the use of chlorinated hydrocarbons is beginning to slacken because of the pressure from conservation-minded organizations and individual citizens, backed up by the results of technical studies on the effect of pesticides in the environment. The Massachusetts Audubon Society advises spraying with methoxychlor, not DDT, for Dutch elm disease control even though the latter is about one-third as expensive. His assistant, Richard Pendleton, showed other slides showing how gypsy moths can defoliate an area. This defoliation persists for a period of at least two years.

The following pesticides should not be used: dieldrin, endrin, aldrin, toxaphene, and heptachlor. Limited use of DDT should not be ruled out when conditions call for it and where it will not get into the fish and wildlife to cause harm. Use of methoxychlor is permitted with care. It is biodegradable and therefore doesn't build up like DDT and the other chlorinated hydrocarbons. The whole problem of pesticides is magnified by modern agricultural practices. Now twice the

amount of apples are grown on one-half of the acreage by only one-fifth the number of farmers. This is true with all our other agricultural crops, though the percentages may change slightly. Mr. Pendleton, now working on pesticide-residues studies at Cornell, was formerly in the commercial spraying business. He understands the philosophy behind the commercial sprayers and therefore can speak "their language" when making spraying recommendations.

The council meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was held on Saturday morning, June 3, 1967, from 9 am to noon at Hanson's Hotel, Oquaga Lake, New York. After the roll call it was moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of last year's meeting since they were published, in THE KINGBIRD. Motion carried. Neil Moon read the treasurer's report in Dort Cameron's absence. It was approved as read. John Foster read the auditing committee's report in the absence of Al Kemnitzner. Approved. Harriet Marsi gave her corresponding secretary's report.

Dorothy McIlroy next gave her report on THE KINGBIRD. It was very favorably received. Sally Hoyt Spofford asked for copies of the January, 1963 and January, 1964 issues for completion of the Laboratory of Ornithology set. These issues are not available from THE KINGBIRD back-issue file. Our own Lillian Stoner offered the January, 1963 issue. Ed Reilly then gave the publications and research committee report. A request was made for more articles for THE KINGBIRD. Also, a questionnaire previously mailed to member clubs has been returned by only a few. Please get them in! It was mentioned that there was a dearth of bird clubs in the northern part of the State. This means that very sparse coverage and records, ornithologically speaking, are available for publication.

Bob Arbib reported for the state book committee that John Bull has started on the book. He would welcome all published material and any worthy unpublished data. There was no report of the January waterfowl count due to the absence of John Mitchell. It will be in the July issue of THE KINGBIRD, however. Jim Doherty, reporting for the membership committee, requested approval to drop 32 members for non-payment of dues. Approval was granted after it was brought out that these delinquent members had been contacted repeatedly with no success. Thirty-eight new individual members and the Olean Bird Club were voted in to membership.

Lillian Stoner, in Dick Sloss' absence, read the by-laws committee report. All proposed changes in by-laws were approved. These will have to be ratified by the member clubs before October 30, 1967.

Neil Moon reported the following slate of officers for 1968, for the nominating committee:

President - Watson B. Hastings
Vice-President - David B. Peakall
Corresponding Secretary - Harriet Marsi
Recording Secretary - Hortense Barten
Treasurer - Dort Cameron

They were duly elected. Also elected was the incumbent

auditing committee of Al Kammitzer and John Foster. The nominating committee, elected to draft a slate for 1969, consists of Bob Arbib, Alice Ulrich and Ed Reilly, chairman.

Max Wheat reported on the conservation committee meeting of the previous evening. (See report above.) He asked for and got approval of two proposals supporting the "Forever Wild" clause in the new constitution, one of which is included in a Conservation Bill of Rights. The council also approved his recommendations opposing (1) the Blue Ridge ski amendment because it uses Forest Preserve land and (2) the \$2,500,000,000 mass transportation bond issue because of its financial support for the building of two Long Island Sound bridges and other threats to conservation. In addition the council approved stands on seven national conservation issues. One of the seven was modified from the form proposed. This called for governmental restrictions (licensing) on sale and shipment of DDT on a controlled use basis rather than a strict prohibition basis as originally proposed in Senator Gaylord Nelson's (Wisc.) bill, S. 1025. Max also proposed the formation of a conservation council, one member elected from each member club, within the Federation framework, which would meet prior to the Legislature's conservation hearings usually held in February each year, and again concurrently with the Federation's annual meeting. This suggestion met with only limited support and will be studied further. It will be brought up again at next year's meeting. Another proposal advocated taking the Conservation Department out of politics by appointment of a blue ribbon commission which would select its own chairman. The council approved this as an amendment to the constitution, to be voted on in the new constitution.

Next year's meeting will be held at Rochester with the Genesee Ornithological Society and the Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club as host clubs.

It was reported that the Sassafras Bird Club of Amsterdam was no longer active.

The very interesting Saturday afternoon paper session was as follows:

1. Purple Martin Mortality in Western New York - May 1966 - Al Benton
2. New York State Breeding Bird Census - Marge Rusk
3. Walt Whitman: Poet's Use of Birds - Max Wheat
4. Observations on Predatory Birds - Joe Munoff
5. Current Status of the New York State Bird Book - John Bull
6. Woodbourne Forest - Gardner Griffin

One or two of these papers may appear in a future issue of THE KINGBIRD.

At the Saturday night banquet, which was interrupted by periods of power failure, Olin Pettingill showed a very interesting film on gull behavior. It was announced at the banquet that the very first recipient of the John J. Elliott Memorial Award of \$50 for the best article in THE KINGBIRD in the past year was awarded to none other than our editor, Bob Yunick, for his article on redpolls.

On Sunday there was a field trip to Woodbourne Forest, a Nature Conservancy project in Pennsylvania, about 50 miles south of Oquaga Lake. Here, after birding in a wooded area, a picnic lunch was enjoyed by all. Then, it was good-bye until next year at Rochester!

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Samuel R. Madison

In a recent issue I discussed the need for a corporate reorganization and the selection of a new name for our organization to reflect our wider geographical coverage and our broadened interests.

A few years ago several names were considered and none seemed to quite fill the bill. Recently several of us brainstormed for a while and came up with Mohawk-Hudson Naturalists Club. The two great rivers which bisect our territory depict our geography. Mohawk-Hudson is more euphonious than the reverse. Naturalists is difficult to pronounce, but Nature Club sounds like a nudists' colony. What are your reactions? Let me have them, whether pro or con.

We are sorry to lose the services of Dr. Paul Connor as conservation chairman. Paul has left our area to accept a teaching position in the Biology Department of the State University at Owego. He remains keenly interested in conservation and SBC and wants to return to active duty if his career brings him back to our region. Let's hope it does.

Will D. Merritt, Jr. of Rexford, a comparatively new member of the Club, has agreed to become the chairman of our conservation committee. Will has been active in the Adirondack Mountain Club for years and we are fortunate to have his experience at our disposal.

* * * * *

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS - 1967-1968

Hazel F. Bundy
Program Co-chairman

Good news! All five of the 1967-1968 series of Audubon Wildlife Films will be held in the auditorium of Niskayuna High School. The schedule is as follows, with all of the dates falling on Thursdays:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Oct. 19, 1967	Robert C. Hermes	Everglades-River of Grass
Nov. 16, 1967	Charles T. Hotchkiss	Tidewater Trails

Jan. 11, 1968	Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr.	New Zealand Spring
Feb. 15, 1968	Harry Pederson	The Bahamas-Top to Bottom
Mar. 21, 1968	Mary Jane Dockeray	These Things are Ours

The high calibre of the speakers and the variety of subject matter should make this series of great interest. The films are invariably beautiful, the photography excellent, and the speakers well-informed and interesting. Please spread the word about this series among any of your friends whom you think would enjoy it. Our continued large attendance is the best recommendation for these films, and we do want to thank every subscriber for his support of this series. Also we would like to thank all of the members who helped in the several tasks necessary to the project.

Miss Eleanor Byrne, co-chairman, is once again handling publicity and ticket sales. She will be mailing ticket order blanks to all members of the Schenectady Bird Club, as well as to former subscribers and other interested people, during the month of September. We can aid her in this time-consuming task by returning our order blanks promptly.

We hope we'll see you at these lectures!

* * * * *

BRIEFING THE RECORD

WEATHER DELAYS SPRING MIGRATION

Peter P. Wickham
Records Chairman

Once again April and May were cold months. April was the more "normal" of the two, with temperatures averaging (all weather data taken at Albany Airport) 43.5°, 2.7° below average. The high temperature of 71° occurred on April 1. The only other days the temperature reached even 65° were April 2 and 30. Precipitation totaled 3.69 inches, 0.92 in. above normal. May was extremely cold, averaging 50.4°, 7.5° below average. It was consistently cold as well; only three days (May 1, 2 and 19) were not below the normal average temperature for that date. The high temperature was a mere 81° on May 19, and on only five other days did the temperature reach 70°. Precipitation totaled 3.36 in., 0.11 in. below normal.

The cool weather during April did not appear to hinder the appearance of most early April species (e.g., the sparrows) but those species of land birds expected in very late April or early May were generally delayed. The low numbers of many species—even by mid-May—were unprecedented in my experience. "Waves" of some importance occurred on May 1, May 5 and 6, and May 13 and 14, but these were dwarfed by that on May 18, when a real flood of warblers and vireos finally appeared. After May 20, when another impressive wave occurred, the last part of the

month was not distinguished by waves so much as a continuous flow of birds into and through all areas.

Upon reflection, the lateness of appearance and especially abundance of many small passerines was almost certainly tied to the lack of the usual foliage, and consequently insects, expected at the usual arrival dates. This lag seemed generally about two weeks through almost all May. Incredibly enough, more than half the deciduous trees in the Taborton area in eastern Rensselaer County were not yet in leaf on May 27. The acute food shortage for the insectivores was also noted in numerous reports of warblers feeding on or next to the ground and in at least two reports of birds eating fruit-tree blossoms.

Unlike the previous few years, the shore bird movement was disappointing. Very little was observed during the last two weeks of May, at what should have been the peak of migration. This seemed primarily because there was little suitable shore-bird habitat in the area this year. Those shore birds which were seen - mainly in the first half of May - suggested that their migration was not noticeably slowed by the cold weather.

Other points of interest for the period were:

- (1) a continued increase in records of rails and gallinules;
- (2) a continuing very low population of cuckoos (both species);
- (3) a marked influx of purple finches including several house finches.

Other rare or unusual species recorded included snowy egret, mute swan, snow goose, goshawk, bald eagle, sandhill crane, dowitcher, white-rumped sandpiper, red-headed woodpecker, orange-crowned warbler, and a probable yellow-throated warbler.

Abbreviations used: (ad)-Alan Devoe Bird Club record; AR-Alcove Reservoir; arr-arrived; BCM-Black Creek Marshes; BR-Basic Reservoir; CM-Castleton marshes; (go)-Green County Bird Club record; IL-Indian Ladder; max-maximum daily count; nr-near; MR-Mohawk River; NWW-Niskayuna Wide Waters; SCR-Stony Creek Reservoir; SL-Saratoga Lake; TR-Tombannock Reservoir; VFG-Vischer Ferry Game Management Area.

Observers: (GA)-Gus Angst; (GB)-Guy Bartlett; (HFB)-Hazel Bundy; (PC)-Paul Connor; (MF)-Marjorie Foote; (MWF)-Mabel French; (WG)-William Gorman; (MDG)-Monte Gruett; (EH)-Esly Hallenbeck; (DH)-David Harrison; (MK)-Marcia Kent; (CK)-Clarissa Ketcham; (SM)-Samuel Madison; (PM)-Peggy McGuirk; (WBS)-Walton Sabin; (BRS)-Benton Seguin; (HHS)-Harvey Spivak; (PFW)-Peter Wickham; (RPY)-Robert Yunnick; (sbc)-Schenectady Bird Club record.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: observed through period to May 13, several areas (sbc). Red-necked Grebe: single individuals were at SL Apr. 15 (sbc), AR Apr. 22 (sbc) and BR May 13-14 (PFW, PC, WG, MDG, WBS). Horned Grebe: observed through period to May 13, SL (sbc). Pied-billed Grebe: many reports in both Apr. and May. Double-crested Cormorant: singles were at SL Apr. 15 (sbc), Lock 7, MR, May 13 (GA, EH) and AR May 14 (WBS). Great Blue Heron: rather few noted, but reports widespread; first Apr. 10, Palenville (gc). Snowy Egret: one was feeding in the MR just below Lock 7 on May 20 (EH, Ruth Fox, Ethel Young). No other egrets reported. E.

Green Heron: only about 15 reports, first Apr. 26, Ghent (ad) and NWW Apr. 30 (HHS). American Bittern: reported at VFG, NWW, Vosburgh Marsh and BCM during period. No Least Bitterns were reported.

Mute Swan: one was at NWW Apr. 1-2 (RPY, FM, EH); another was seen flying south over Rensselaer Apr. 13 (John Alexander, PFW). Canada Goose: flocks observed during Apr. and early May, last large flock 210 May 12, CM (PC), last one May 20, BR (fide PFW). Snow Goose: a good spring flight with five Apr. and one May report, max 175-200 Apr. 9 over SL (MK). A flock of 13- all immatures- first appeared at BR May 19 (WBS et al.) and remained there into June. Black Ducks, Mallards, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks commonly reported. American Widgeon: reported into May, last May 19-20, BR (WBS, PC, PFW). Pintail: most gone by end of Apr., last May 13, AR (Helen Budlong). Green-winged Teal: rapidly disappeared after Apr., last May 21, BCM (PFW, WBS, MDG). Shoveler: two to three were at NWW Apr. 22-29 (HHS, HFB), five were at Collins Lake Apr. 15 (EH), one was at TR Apr. 16 (sbc), one was at the Vly Apr. 29 (sbc) and one was at NWW May 20 (WBS et al.)- more reports than usual. Redhead: only report- one Apr. 16 TR (sbc). Ring-necked Duck: many Apr. reports, last May 13 (GA, EH). Canvasback: several Apr. reports, max 40 Apr. 8, Embought (gc), last May 13, SL (GB, BRS). Scaup: both species observed, last May 20, NWW (HHS). Common Goldeneye: reported through Apr., last Apr. 26, SL (HFB). Bufflehead: many reports in Apr. and well into May, last May 20, BR (PC, PFW). Oldsquaw: five reports, Apr. 3, Collins Lake- (EH)- May 13, SL (BRS, GB), max 28 Apr. 15, SL (sbc). White-winged Scoter: only scoter reported- May 13, SL (GB, BRS) and May 17, Sikuli Swamp nr Medusa (MK). Ruddy Duck: one Apr. 1-16 SCR (sbc) and five BR May 14 (WBS) the only reports. Hooded Merganser: reported through most of Apr.; only May record- two May 20, NWW (HHS). Common Merganser: many reports through Apr., last May 13, BR and SL (sbc). Interestingly, the last May records of each species were of a group of females conveyed by a single adult male.

HAWKS-OWLS Turkey Vulture: several reports, max 25 Apr. 15, Kiskatom (gc). Goshawk: only report- immature May 23 nr Greenville (CK). Sharp-shinned Hawk: five reported during period, four of these Apr. 16 from three scattered localities. Cooper's Hawk: reported Apr. 29 nr Catskill (sbc), May 12 BCM (WBS) and May 13, Burnt Hills (MF). Red-tailed Hawk: seen fairly commonly throughout period. Red-shouldered Hawk: five reports Apr. 3-29 and one May report- May 29 nr Scotia (RPY). Broad-winged Hawk: Apr. 12, SCR (EH)- end of period, more reports than has recently been the case. Rough-legged Hawk: reported Apr. 4, Ghent (ad), Apr. 23, CM (PC) and May 13, West Glenville (HFB, MF, FM). Bald Eagle: an immature in very shabby-looking plumage was apparently feeding on a dead fish at NWW May 23 (PFW, WG). Marsh Hawk: only four reports, last May 13 (SBC). Osprey: many observed, Apr. 11, Catskill (gc)- May 28, Greenville (CK). Bob-white: reported from Athens, BCM and East Greenbush. No Wild Turkeys reported. Virginia Rail: first Apr. 22, CM (PC) with other reports from NWW, BCM, Vly and Vosburgh Marshes. Sora: several reports May 6-13. Common Gallinule: first Apr. 16, CM (PC) with other reports from NWW, BCM, Vly, VFG and Vosburgh. At least 20 estimated present at Vosburgh May 20 (PC, PFW). American Coot: only reports- one May 13, SL (PFW, PG, MDG, WG) and one NWW May 20 (HHS). Sandhill Crane: The bird reported last period nr Whitehall remained in the same locality through Apr. 26. After this date,

it was not seen again. Common Snipe: reported from the usual localities; one also performed regularly at CM (PC). Upland Plover: first Apr. 22, Colonie (HHS), few reports. Spotted Sandpiper: first Apr. 23, NWW (HHS), few reports before May 13. Solitary Sandpiper: first May 6 with rapid influx thereafter. Greater Yellow-legs: one appeared at SCR Apr. 3 (EH); several other reports in Apr. and the first half of May, last May 18 (EH). Lesser Yellow-legs: notable movement May 13-14, several areas, when up to 15 were seen at once. Pectoral Sandpiper: only records- one NWW Apr. 27-28 (HHS), one May 13, nr Selkirk (Helen Budlong) and three BCM May 20 (WBS, SM, PM). Least Sandpiper: reported May 13-29, max. 12 May 19, Glenville (RPY). Dunlin: only reports- one May 6, BCM (sbc) and two May 13, BR (PPW, PC, MDG, WG). Dowitcher: one May 20 SCR (WBS, SM, PM). White-rumped Sandpiper: only report- May 13, BR (David Ellers, Dawne Spaulding). Semipalmated Sandpiper: only one May 14, NWW (EH). Great Black-backed Gull: a few reports through Apr., last May 6, Embought (gc) and May 20, Mohawk River (EH). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls seen throughout the period. Bonaparte's Gull: only reports- one Apr. 5, Collins Lake (EH), one Vly Creek Reservoir May 13 (Betty Hicks et al.) and May 13, SL (GB, BRS). Common Tern: very late arrival, observed May 13-20, many areas. Black Tern: May 13-28, many areas. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only reports May 13, AR (David Ellers, Dawne Spaulding) and May 21, BCM (WBS). Black-billed Cuckoo: somewhat more common; six reports- first May 7, Slingerlands (WBS). Screech Owl: reported only from Scotia (DH) and Niskayuna (HHS). Horned Owl: reported from several scattered localities; a family of two adults and three young observed at Karner during May (WBS et al.). Barred Owl: reported only from the Jenny Lake area (GB, BRS).

GOATSUCKERS - STARLING Whip-poor-will: arr. (or at least first heard) very late, May 13 nr SCR (FPW et al.). Common Nighthawk: first Apr. 26, Castleton (ad) and May 4, Berne (MK); other reports May 19 on. Chimney Swift: first Apr. 21, Vly (gc) and Apr. 29, Schenectady (WBS); most arr. May 1-7. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first May 6, Catskill (gc), major influx May 14-20. Pileated Woodpecker: many records from entire reporting area. Red-headed Woodpecker: two reports: one nr Delmar, May 16-17 (Dirck Benson) and one (possibly the same) at BCM May 21 (Ken Gruett, MDG, PFW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr. 12, Scotia (DH)- May 6, Scotia (DH), with many migrants observed. Flycatchers: all seemed late, especially in numbers (see table). Swallows: Tree: arr widely Apr. 1 on. Bank: first Apr. 22, BCM (PFW), widely by the end of Apr. Rough-winged: marked influx Apr. 21-23, many areas. Barn: first Apr. 13, Durham (gc); few records until Apr. 21-22. Cliff: first Apr. 21, Catskill (gc) and widely during next few days. Purple Martin: no Apr. reports; most nesting stations reported very poor numbers, with birds returning quite late. Tufted Titmouse: reported from many localities. Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported from the usual nesting areas; only one migrant noted- May 6, Scotia (DH). House Wren: first Apr. 16, Greenville (CK), appeared widely first week in May. Winter Wren: a few reports, first Apr. 13, Ghent (ad). Long-billed Marsh-wren: arr May 6, BCM (sbc) and other areas about the same time. Mockingbird: reports are continuing to come in from new localities in addition to previously known ones, suggesting a further increase in population. Catbird: a widespread wave occurred May 4-5 in many areas. Brown Thrasher: very scarce in Apr., first Apr.

15, Greenville (CK). A large number of thrashers appeared with the Catbirds on May 4-5. Hermit Thrush: migrants Apr. 12, SCR (HFB)- May 10, Schenectady (HFB) with later reports from usual nesting localities. E. Bluebird: occasionally seen, Apr. and May, but appeared somewhat less common (or more rare). Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers during Apr., last Apr. 29, Catskill (sbc). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: many reports, arr Apr. 15-16 in a marked influx; then commonly observed until May 20-22; last May 28, Niskayuna (HHS) and May 30, Galway Lake (DH). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: not as many as last year, first Apr. 29, Kiskatom (sbc); others observed at Catskill (two pairs, building nests- (gc), Indian Ladder (one) (WBS et al.) and Schodack Island (one) (PFW). Water Pipit: Apr. 7-8, Ghent (ad), Apr. 9, East Greenbush (PFW) and May 6, Coxsackie (gc)-only reports. Cedar Waxwing: erratic appearances, usually in small groups throughout period, max. 50 May 8, East Greenbush (MDG). Shrikes were reported from Chatham Center Apr. 11 (ad)-, Catskill Apr. 21 (gc) and Ghent May 13 (ad).

VIREOS - WARBLERS See table for most species. Orange-crowned Warbler: individuals reported on Apr. 30, Rensselaerville (Robert C. Galgleish) and May 21, Niskayuna (HHS)- in both instances the birds were actively flitting about in brushy thickets near water. Cerulean Warbler: one male observed May 18 in the Schodack Island area where it has summered the last two years (PFW, PC). Yellow-throated Warbler: a warbler described as having a "gray back, yellow throat, black streaks along sides, white underparts, white in wing, no white in the tail" observed May 19 in Greenville (CK) almost certainly this species. Prairie Warbler: first May 7, Vly (PFW), later reports scattered through month. Mourning Warbler: five reports, more than usual, of migrants; May 21, Loudonville (MWF)- May 30, Loudonville (MWF). Yellow-breasted Chat: only two reports- May 13, Catskill (PFW et al.) and Guilderland (John Fuller, Betty Hicks, Mary Linch et al.).

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS Orchard Oriole: only reports May 13, Catskill (gc) and May 15, Ghent (ad). Rusty Blackbird: many reports through Apr. into early May, last May 13, several areas (sbc). Evening Grosbeak: only reports from northern sections except two at a feeder in Slingerlands (Grace Liebich) into mid-May; other reports- pair nr North River Apr. 30 (DH); Jenny Lake area May 13 (BRS, GB). Purple Finch: heavy influx, late Apr. and early May, in all sections. House Finch: at least four (two males, two females) visited one feeder/banding station in Niskayuna May 5-9 during the height of the Purple Finch influx. Two of these were banded and another had previously been banded (Dec. 26, 1966 in Gordonsville, Va.) (RPY). A pair was also coming regularly to another Niskayuna feeder May 8-29 (GA). Sparrows: Savannah: widely reported, Apr. 9 on. Grasshopper: only reports from BCM, May 13 and 21 (sbc). Henslow's: only report, BCM, May 13; this species has been getting scarcer for several successive years. Vesper: first Apr. 2, Greenville (CK), several reports over next week. Tree: most left last week in Apr., last reports May 13 (sbc). Chipping: first Apr. 12, Catskill (gc); several reports on Apr. 15. White-crowned: again surprisingly common, Apr. 1, Castleton (ad)- May 27, VFG (RPY). White-throated: few reports early Apr., widespread Apr. 14- May 22, last May 28, VFG (RPY) aside from usual nesting areas. Fox: several late Apr. reports, last Apr. 30, Haines Falls (gc). Lincoln's: two reports- May 21, Altamont (WBS) and May 27, VFG (banded) (RPY). Swamp: first arr Apr. 9, Meadowdale (EH).

MIGRANT PASSERINES - 1967

SPECIES	FIRST DATES ^b		SECOND DATE	# PARTIES OBSERVED ^a		REMARKS
	1967	1966		5/13/67 (max 12)	5/14/66 (max 11)	
Eastern Kingbird	M 5	A 29	M 2	M 6	6	
Crested Flycatcher	M 5	M 6	M 2	M 6	3	
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	M 13	---	M 15	M 20	1	6 reps., May 25-30 widespread May 20
Traill's "	M 20	M 14	M 15	---	0	
Least "	A 26	M 5	A 25	M 5	5	
Wood Pewee	M 10	M 14	M 8	M 13	2	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	M 21	M 24	---	---	0	only one May 21, IL (SBC)
Swainson's Thrush	M 6	M 10	M 8	M 13	2	
Wood Thrush	M 1	A 22	A 24	M 4	10	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	M 13	M 14	M 2	M 20	2	five reps., May 13-22
Veery	M 6	M 5	M 5	M 11	9	
Yellow-thr. Vireo	M 6	M 5	M 4	M 12	2	
Solitary Vireo	M 13	M 6	A 27	---	3	uncommon all spring
Red-eyed Vireo	M 13	M 14	M 4	M 18	2	
Warbling Vireo	M 8	A 28	A 29	M 11	4	
Black and White W.	A 27	A 23	A 25	M 1	7	
Worm-eating Warbler	M 13	M 14	M 5	M 21	1	max 5, IL, May 21 (SBC)
Golden-winged Warbler	M 6	M 14	M 6	M 7	0	scarce, total 5 reports
Blue-winged Warbler	M 5	M 6	M 4	M 13	1	also scarce
Tennessee Warbler	M 18	M 7	M 10	M 20	0	present into June
Nashville Warbler	M 2	M 6	A 27	M 6	5	present into June
Parula Warbler	M 14	M 7	M 3	M 18	0	
Yellow Warbler	A 30	A 30	A 28	M 1	11	widespread by May 5
Magnolia Warbler	M 5	M 6	M 10	M 7	1	
Gape May Warbler	M 6	M 7	M 1	M 7	3	
Black-thr. Blue Warb.	M 6	M 6	M 2	M 7	5	
Myrtle Warbler	A 22	A 22	A 10	A 26	12	
Black-thr. Green Warb.	M 6	M 1	M 2	M 7	9	

MIGRANT PASSERINES - 1967 (Cont'd)

SPECIES	FIRST DATES ^b		# PARTIES OBSERVED ^a		REMARKS
	1967	1966	5/13/67 (max 12)	5/14/66 (max 11)	
Blackburnian Warbler	M 3	M 6	M 5	7	many reps. May 20-31 max 20 May, early last Apr. 25 (late), Chatbam (FM)
Chestnut-sided Warb.	M 6	M 3	M 7	4	
Bay-breasted Warbler	M 18	M 8	N 20	0	
Blackpoll Warbler	M 10	M 14	M 18	0	
Palm Warbler	A 15	A 17	A 18	2	3
Ovenbird	M 6	M 6	M 2	M 7	9
Northern Water-thrush	M 6	M 1	M 2	M 13	5
Louisiana Water-thrush	A 30	A 27	A 25	M 13	3
Yellow-throat	M 6	M 6	M 2	M 9	8
Wilson's Warbler	M 5	M 6	M 13	M 17	0
Canada Warbler	M 8	M 7	M 2	M 13	1
Redstart	M 12	M 7	M 5	M 13	4
Bobolink	M 9	M 6	M 4	M 11	4
Baltimore Oriole	M 1	M 6	A 25	M 2	11
Scarlet Tanager	M 12	M 6	M 8	M 13	2
Rose-br. Grosbeak	M 5	M 6	"late A"	M 6	9
Indigo Bunting	M 14	M 14	M 10	M 19	0

a "# Parties Observed" refers to the results from the SBC "Century Run" in 1966 and 1967; these are included to show how scarce most small landbirds were even by mid-May

b Note overall similarities between 1966 and 1967- both involving a cold first half of May- and difference from 1965.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Peggy McGuirk
Field Trip Chairman

TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR

APRIL 16

With our arrival at Tomhannock Reservoir came partly blue skies and bright sunshine. The temperature was 42 degrees and the wind between 10 and 15 mph. Our first 20 minutes was spent on Route 7 trying to determine whether one duck was a female bufflehead or a goldeneye.

There were other breeds to focus our three scopes on though, such as black ducks, mergansers, and a shoveler. We then started north on the east side of the lake picking up the common land birds as we went. Just as we were crossing "Too-Good" bridge (a name given it by fishermen) Betty Hicks suggested that we pull off for a short walk in a brush covered area. I slowed to about ten miles an hour just in time to see a pileated woodpecker fly across the road and light in a dead tree. All the cars stopped for a good look and then a second pileated flew. Both were males, big and beautiful.

At the north end of the lake we saw a loon and also a pair of red-breasted mergansers. At 11:30 we doubled back to John Snyder Road where we added a sapsucker, a brown creeper, savannah and field sparrows and three hawks - marsh, sparrow and red-tailed, to our list. At 1:30 with 47 species and a good start at a suntan, we finally headed for home.

--Lois Norton

DELMAR GAME FARM

APRIL 23

Brisk winds accompanied with above normal humidity gave a rather raw day. However, since most species observed were captive, the weather was not a hindrance. This trip afforded many a close up of various species of waterfowl rarely seen at other than telescope range in the wild.

--Steve Fordham

GREENE COUNTY

APRIL 29

Saturday, April 29th, burst upon the scene clear and blue -- the type of day when Rip Van Winkle would steal away to enjoy birding in the Catskill foothills. This is just what 15 members of the Schenectady Bird Club did.

Jim Bush of Greene Co. was our guide for the day. As we watched the nesting killdeer in Jim's field, little did we realize the greater climax it portended. The caravan of birders was led but a hundred yards, when bluebirds were spotted to start us on our way. Arriving at a swamp, we flushed a Wilson's snipe for a very good view. We could see the bill aimed downward and the white marking on the wings. Walking through the swamp caused quite a few ducks to take to the air. Among them were mallard, blacks and blue-winged teal. Later, atop the quarry, looking down on the swamp, we were excited to see a female shoveler in the scope, besides a green-winged teal and pied-billed grebe. A gallinule could be heard,

but eluded our sight. I think the best sighting was that of an osprey flying overhead.

From the quarry, we drove toward the Hudson River, enjoying the wild flowers blooming along the roadside. Most noticeable was the bloodroot -- the first I had noticed this spring. A large bird soared overhead, giving itself away as a turkey vulture, its wings slanted up from the body with its head dwarfed by the huge wings. Further on, we noticed bright goldfinches flitting about. When we stopped, a beautiful Cooper's hawk circled around and above us. The tide was high and waterfowl were absent in the river, so we wended our way back into the hills.

Here along the roadside, the trailing arbutus was blooming. Everyone bent down to smell the sweet perfume, which matches the tiny flowers. After observing a hawk sitting on her nest, one carload of birders, Peter Wickham, Paul Connor, Monte Gruett and his son, Kenny, departed for home. We were sorry to see them leave, but glad to hear Jim Bush mention "lunch". In a pinegrove near Palenville, all were revived with a quick repast.

With lunch over, the sun seemed warmer and the wind stopped, making the walk in and around a beaver pond most enjoyable. A couple of wood ducks surprised us, as they rose from the pond. In turn, we surprised a sparrow hawk carrying a snake in its beak. I was also delighted when a ruby-crowned kinglet displayed its crest. With regret, we left this serene place for our last stop of the day, where our biggest surprise waited, to be discovered by Harvey Spivak. With most of the group distracted at one side of the field, it took us a moment to notice Harvey madly signaling to us. Dashing to his vantage point, we all had a select view of the blue-gray gnatcatcher. A busy bird flicking here and there catching insects in the air, he performed for us, finally disappearing, uttering a "spee" as he left.

Sad to report, we could not conjur up a warbler for Mrs. Bundy, although we tried hard to hear a ghostly 'weeta'. It was quite a day, anyway! With about 50 species to remember, we said farewell to our host, Jim Bush, his wife and his daughter, Amy, as our caravan, consisting of Liz MacCauley, Fran Adams, Hazel Bundy, Harvey Spivak, Ginny Sabin, Mary Johnston, and Mary Linch wearily returned home. --Ed Koch

SPRING BREAKFASTMAY 6

The trip committee can schedule the "spring" breakfast for May 6 but past experience proves that the weatherman does not read our schedule carefully. After last year's experience some people may have been deterred for our number dropped from 42 to 32. The birds may have been delayed in their trip north by the cold, for both species and numbers were less. Only 63 were observed as compared with the 76 of last year. There is always some value in comparisons though if one looks on the cheerful side. The temperature was higher and the winds lower! If any eager birders continued the trip after the breakfast they found the sun pleasantly warm and the birds more active. One cannot outguess the weather though and the occasion is always fun and a time which attracts members seen rarely on other trips,

because this is a time-honored and special day.

For those who arrived to start at six o'clock, a Virginia rail called its greeting just as the group took to the tracks from the road. Some had not seen it before so an effort was made to flush it from the brush even though the rains had filled the low siding. No luck, so a view was hoped for later. For those and other elusive species, more were heard rather than seen.

By the first stream the three prevalent warblers - myrtle, yellow and yellowthroat - offered good views along with rusty blackbirds. Song and swamp sparrows were abundant as were red-wings and grackles. A bittern pumped and then flew overhead. Four Canada geese announced their flight and three Ospreys were aloft together.

At the second bridge blue-wing teals, blacks, mallards and wood ducks were found. The most interesting view for many observers was a dunlin in full spring dress! He was feeding on the only island in the "pond" to the left of the track, for the water was high. Three killdeer were forming a motionless triangle and we wondered at the source of their interest? A fourth was nearby and seemed unconcerned. A solitary sandpiper was almost hidden by the grass, for the usual mud flats were covered by water. We walked as far as the trestle bridge hoping the chat might be in. No sign, but we found the thrasher, saw a great blue sail over and heard the gallinules.

On the way back the swallows were gathering on the wire bordering the track and all species, except the purple martin, were present for easy identification. At the cars the people who were waiting had seen the black-throated blue warbler, proving Milton's couplet for this was the only one seen.

A few people left after the trip, having other commitments, and a few joined us so all enjoyed Howard Johnson's pancakes and perhaps even more the hot coffee! After our appetites had been satisfied the list was made and after socializing awhile longer the group left. From comments overheard the breakfast was its usual happy event and enjoyed by all. --Betty Hicks

INDIAN LADDER

MAY 21

The day dawned cool and somewhat cloudy, and at eight o'clock 19 intrepid birders gathered at the foot of Indian Ladder in eager anticipation of what the ascent of same would bring. With a clarion call from our zealous leader, Pete Wickham, off we trudged in twos and threes to see (and hear) what wonders Mother Nature had arranged for us on the trail.

Part way up we saw a wild strawberry patch in full bloom, prompting one of the members (at least) to ponder the possibility of a return trip in two weeks. As for birdlife, the more spectacular was a real good view of a scarlet tanager; spotting an olive-sided flycatcher; trailing a worm-eating warbler; peering at a black-throated blue on the ground, and a Canada warbler, which flitted up and down.

The view of the waterfall dropping from the top of the escarpment is always a breath-taking sight, and makes one realize again that showers, though inconvenient at times,

bring us blessings in many ways. A stop at the top to catch a breath or two before descending was used to record the numbers and species of birds and members. Then as we ambled down the trail, a Louisiana waterthrush emerged from the trees, delighting one and all, and making one more for the list.

It was a day well spent, and so were: Pete Wickham, Monte Gruett and Kenny, Ruth Bates, Nell Adams, (Bev and Val), Ruth Schottman (Katie and Timmie), Chris Casper, Mrs. Harrison (David and Michael), Bob McCullough, Esly Hallenbeck, Elizabeth MaCauley, Walt and Ginny Sabin.

A side trip was taken by Pete, Monte and Kenny, Bob McCullough and Walt and Ginny to the house of Dr. Milford Becker, who had issued the Club an invitation to see what bird-life his stream-swept, hilly forest might yield. We did see an owl, woodpeckers, sparrows, and if one was able to maneuver into position, a Lincoln's Sparrow. It was a delightful birding spot, which must attract many species as the seasons progress.

--Walt and Ginny Sabin

CHERRY PLAINMAY 27

Those who took the trip to Cherry Plain did not enjoy unusually warm weather, but the morning was warmer than many we experienced this spring.

On this trip the absence of some species was almost as notable as the presence of others. There were few swallows, swifts, or flycatchers. Also, the flies that plagued Ed Koch and company last year were almost nonexistent. Only two starlings were seen all morning and the only waterfowl was a single black duck.

I remember so well stalking a northern waterthrush with Sam Madison through a wet bog. This one acted so shady that my final reward was a three-second look. Meanwhile, Mr. Madison had gone off to look at a Cape May warbler which was gone by the time I arrived on the scene. But I really shouldn't complain - the waterthrush was a lifer for me.

The group totaled 14 different warblers during the morning, including Nashville, Cape May, Blackburnian, northern waterthrush, and Canada. We were fortunate enough to get a very good look at a yellowthroat. It's not every time the color of the throat can be seen well. A young purple finch seen at the beginning of the trip generated interest, also.

We saw a total of 59 species in the course of the morning.

I would like to mention here a broad-winged hawk we found dead by a roadside. He had obviously been killed by a car. I hardly know what to say about this, but it does merit a moment of our attention. It is hard to imagine the hawk being hit without the knowledge of the driver, so I wonder what he thought when the incident was over. I wonder what I would think if I became involved in such an accident.

--Harvey Spivak

PLEASANT VALLEY SANCTUARYJUNE 3

Accompanied by the fluted calls of the hermit and wood thrush, a small group of Schenectady Bird Club members started

off down the Hermit Thrush Trail at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary. We were delighted to walk within a few feet of a hermit thrush, and see a wood thrush singing. The song of the oriole high in the tree tops seemed to follow us through the lowlands, only to be taken over by the ovenbird, as we climbed higher in the forest.

It was a beautiful day--truly the first day of summer. The white cumulus clouds sailed across the sky to give the many different shades of new green leaves a perfect background. The forest was fresh and exciting with its new growth and we were pleased with the many songs issuing from its branches.

The chestnut-sided warbler was the first to greet us after crossing the rustic bridge over the beaver pond. Climbing higher, we still caught snatches of the elusive ovenbird's song. Wild flower and fern identification left me almost as confused as the bird songs emanating from the tall fir trees surrounding us. The delicate May star was identified as one of the wild flowers, growing prolifically near the path. Wood betony did have us confused, until we found it in "Dana" at home.

Forging across a small stream with our shoes on gave us all a feeling of "delight." As we squished across a small meadow, the tree swallows dove and then rose again swiftly into the air. We spied a kingbird and flickers here also.

From the meadow, we took the road back to the parking lot. We meant to take the trail, but the navigational mistake proved to be quite a happy accident. The open road with the umbrella of maples overhead afforded excellent bird cover. I was surprised to see cedar waxwings, and couldn't miss seeing a scarlet tanager. All of us had "warbler watcher's cramp". The black and white, yellow and worm-eating warblers were feasting high in the branches, so we did our best to identify them.

A picnic lunch in front of the museum was enjoyed, perhaps visually, by the broad-winged hawk, hunting high overhead. A tour of the museum was a fine conclusion to our day of birding in Massachusetts. Fran Adams, Ruth Bates and my family will not forget the trained crow with its entreaty, "Let's walk!?!?"
--Emmy and Ed Koch

BLUEBIRDS AT WILKINS'JUNE 10

7:30 am. found only Don Wilkins, who was our host, and myself ready to make a quick survey of the birds and their nests in the area of the Wilkins' home, located at the corner of Birchton Road and Maple Ave., about seven miles north of Charlton. A little later we were joined by Emmy Koch and sons Bruce and Mark.

Maple Avenue is a one-lane country road, with no traffic at all in the stretch just south of Birchton Road, with pasturelands bordering the road in some spots, and deep woods in others. It is the most delightful country walk imaginable, and always has birds to see and to hear. Also, there are many nesting birds to watch, for during the past five years, Don Wilkins has put out more than 200 boxes for tree swallows and bluebirds,

and on this date there were about 20 pairs of nesting bluebirds, and 60 to 80 pairs of nesting tree swallows. Bluebirds and swallows are Don's special interest, and he bands as many of these as possible. Of the 40 (20 pair) bluebirds nesting there and banded so far this season, 19 were banded in previous years and have returned to the same area to nest. Of these 19, seven were banded as nestlings in 1966. As is evident, about 50 percent of these 40 adults are returnees, and it is of interest to learn that in most cases there is only one returnee to each box.

This lovely walk of about two hours on Maple Avenue and through some of the woods gave us a list of 42 species.

--Hazel Bundy

SCHODACK ISLAND

JUNE 25

A cloudy Sunday morning with a slight wind and a chance for a shower greeted us. Insect repellent was very much in order for the day.

After a discussion of the plans for the trip, we left our meeting place, Joy's Dept. Store, for Schodack Island. A short, unscheduled side trip on the way, yielded several species of marsh birds.

On the so-called island itself, we came upon the object of the trip, the cerulean warbler, almost immediately. After dodging many mudholes, we came up with forty-six species or was it forty-seven? Anyway, I think it can be said the trip was a success which in turn made our coordinator happy.

--Bob McCullough

JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

AUGUST 12

"Chilly" was the word that morning. When we started from home there was more of late September in the air than mid-August. Bob McCullough and his wife and daughter, Monte Gruett and his son, and I traveled to Oyster Bay to meet Walt Sabin, his wife and son, and Sam Madison.

We rode down to Mill Neck where Walt Sabin had a mysterious package to open. It was a burlap bag containing one great horned owl. The owl had been trapped at the Delmar Game Farm and brought south in the trunk of a car. It was banded and freed. During the banding process quite a bit of attention was aroused. Some people were very enthusiastic about it and others were definitely not. After the owl had been released, Bob McCullough and I tried to explain to one woman in a car what we had done. She looked very puzzled and seemed disappointed in us for releasing the owl so close to her home. She shook her head sadly. "Psychic," she said, and drove off.

At Mill Neck, the biggest attention-getter was the flock of 30 mute swans. Also seen were a pair of greater yellowlegs and a wood duck.

Hérons were the big attraction at Jamaica Bay. To one who sees only a few at home, it looked as though they were mobbing us there. There were over 100 snowies (120 by rough count), two black-crowned night herons, one yellow-crown, and 40 glossy ibises. Also there were a dozen green herons and one great blue.

The list of ducks included gadwalls, scaup, and a lone female bufflehead.

There were quite a number of coots and common gallinules, including young. The downy young of the coots were seen best of all. Even the reddish coloration about the head and neck could be studied.

For sheer numbers the shore birds were on top. There were dozens and dozens of semipalmated sandpipers and plovers. They simply covered the spits of sand jutting into the bay. From a distance they looked like just so much refuse littering the shores. But by turning glasses or telescopes on the shore we could see these little birds packed shoulder to shoulder. Every so often something would startle them and into the air would go countless numbers of shore birds flying in unison, although in no particular formation. They would swing off, then back to the sand to stand as before.

Also, there were many, many dowitchers, least sandpipers, greater and lesser yellowlegs and a surprising number of ruddy turnstones. Seven sanderlings and a pair of spotted sandpipers were seen. Black-bellied plovers, as well as the turnstones, were particularly impressive for their coloration, and 10 knots contrasted with the dowitchers -- ruddier breasts and shorter bills. All of us had a surprise at the discovery of one particularly large bird. "He must be a curlew or godwit," we said to ourselves, but we couldn't tell -- that bill was constantly moving and preening feathers. Finally the bill was still for a "sixteenth of a sixteenth of a second" and gave the bird away as an Hudsonian godwit.

Laughing gulls were present all day, and at one time a black and a least tern appeared.

Of course the turnstones got the prize for coloration, but the ibises took the cake for the weirdest shape. In flight, the legs dangle behind, as is the case with herons, but the neck sticks way out in space. There is practically no visible head, just a long, thin bill protruding out and down in a curve. They flew back and forth over our heads continually, and cries of, "here comes an ibis!" were heard periodically throughout the day.

--Harvey Spivak

* * * * *

EDITOR'S NOTES

ANOTHER AUDUBON FILM SEASON

As fall comes upon us, many of us think of the coming Audubon film series which we enjoy so much. However, little do we think of the work that Hazel Bundy began last spring to bring this series to us, nor do we think too much about the tremendous burden that ticket sales in September and October represent to Eleanor Byrne and Mary Healy. To these gals and their helpers we owe a debt of gratitude for the efficient, competent job they do. This isn't to say that they cannot use help. They would

like to see a full house, so it's up to each member to help sell tickets. Secondly, be prompt in sending in money, or returning tickets you cannot use. This little courtesy makes their job much easier.

SECRETARY CHANGE

At its March meeting, the board of directors regretfully accepted the resignation of Carole Wernick as secretary. Her contribution to the board meetings will be missed. However, don't get the idea that she has gone into retirement. She has been busy as a bee this summer working on a new art format for FEATHERS. We shall look forward to it this winter.

Replacing Carole as secretary is Mary Becker of Altamont whom we welcome to the job.

CIRCULATION CHANGE - HELP WANTED

We are also sorry to lose the services of Betty Jane Leshohen and Marty Price who have worked diligently on assembling and mailing FEATHERS. My personal thanks go to them for the fine job they have done.

So far, attempts at locating their successors have not been successful. The work is best handled by a group of four or five people who can arrange to meet six times a year to collate, staple, stamp and sort the issues according to zip code. If anyone is interested in either helping or organizing such a group, please contact the editor at 377-0146.

IVORY-BILL DISCOVERY

Beezer Seguin has called our attention to an article in the August 27th NEW YORK TIMES regarding the Department of the Interior's announcement on the discovery of believed-to-be extinct ivory-billed woodpeckers in eastern Texas. The birds were located by John V. Dennis who estimates that five to ten pairs exist in the Big Thicket country. A more detailed accounting of Mr. Dennis' once-in-a-lifetime experience regarding the extraordinary find will appear in the November-December issue of AUDUBON magazine.

AUDUBON SOCIETY GROWTH

As evidence of the growing awareness of people to the conservation of our natural resources, the growth in membership of the National Audubon Society is typical. At mid-year the society's membership stood at 53,715 versus 43,940 a year ago and 36,084 two years ago according to the society's bulletin, "Conservation Guide." Not included in this total are the members of the 234 affiliated clubs, SBC included, round the country.

THAT WEATHER AGAIN

After experiencing on a day-to-day basis the cool weather of this past spring and more recently a rather frigid Labor Day weekend, we do not really need the weather bureau statistics to tell us it was cold. We knew that. However, the U.S. Weather Bureau statistics which Pete Wickham cites in his quarterly field note reports do tell us how cold it was. Further, it is interesting

to compare these figures with something our geologist friends tell us.

It isn't often that a month like May, 1967 comes along with temperatures averaging 7.5 degrees below normal. We cannot fully appreciate the profound affect such a phenomenon has on our surroundings and wildlife until we realize that geologists believe that a drop of nine degrees F. in our annual mean temperature will initiate an ice age comparable to the last one of about 35,000 years ago. This last ice age was known as the Wisconsin Ice Age and covered about one-third of the earth including all of New York State. The great ice sheet which accompanied this age retreated from our area about 12,000 years ago. It, and possibly others of its kind, left us richly endowed with our beautiful lakes and ponds.

NEXT ISSUE

Material is welcomed for the next issue by November 1, 1967. The next issue will contain the field trip schedule for 1968.
(Issue assembled September 9, 1967)

By

EDITOR:

Robert P. Yunick
1527 Myron Street
Schenectady 12309



PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Robert P. Yunick, Peter P. Wickham

MEMBERSHIP: Sustaining \$5; Active \$3; Associate \$2; Student \$1;
Family 50 cents per additional member. Membership chairman:
Mrs. E. L. Thomas, 37-B Fuller Road, Albany, New York.

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.: Samuel R. Madison, President; Edward Koch, Vice-President; Mrs. Leo Norton, Treasurer; Mrs. Milford Becker, Secretary.

Return Postage Guaranteed
SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.
ROBERT P. YUNICK
1527 MYRON STREET
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12309

Non-profit Organization



Mr. Robert Yunick
1527 Myron St.
Schenectady, N.Y. 12309



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

WHO BURGLER MY PORCH ?

Barry Havens

There's never a dull moment at Jenny Lake, where, among others, Guy Bartlett and I spend the summer in camp. Many of our compeers and confreeres in the Bird Club, having visited us there, can, I am sure, testify to some of the pleasures and possibilities of the area in question.

There's more to our nature study than bird life, some aspects of which have been reported on these pages. For example, one of the reasons my crocuses have steadily dwindled over the years is illustrated by the fact that, on more than one occasion, I have watched a snowshoe rabbit eat those plants right down to the ground, flowers and all. Some of my experiences with chipmunks have been superficially reported in this periodical. I could dilate at considerable length upon my brushes, pleasurable and otherwise, with the insecta

At the present moment, however, I find myself constrained to record for posterity the mystery that lies behind the title of this article.

How It Began

The roots go back to the summer of 1966. At that time I discovered a hole about the size of a silver dollar in one corner of the plastic screening that keeps the black flies, mosquitoes, and hymenoptera off my front porch. I suspected that one of my tame chipmunks had made this means of ingress as a path to peanuts that I had inadvertently left on the porch. This was something - in spite of my fondness for the little moochers - which I was determined not to tolerate. So I patched the hole with a small piece of plastic screening and promptly forgot all about the incident.

When, this past spring, the long winter finally over, I once more established myself in residence at the lake, I discovered that the patch over the hole had been opened, in its turn, to form a sort of hole within a hole. Now I was concerned. The situation had all the earmarks of becoming another of those contests between humans and lesser (?) life forms, and I knew I had to meet the challenge. I long ago decided that, in a choice between living in close association with wildlife on the one hand, and in relatively safe proximity thereto, the course of wisdom lies with the latter.

So I patched the hole again, and decided to keep some kind of watch on it in the hope of catching the culprit redhanded

("redpawed?") and taking, then, whatever measures seemed dictated by the circumstances.

I didn't have long to wait. At the time, I was engaged in remodeling my kitchen, and I was using the porch for laying out, sawing, and otherwise preparing lumber for paneling and cabinetry. There was quite an assortment of boards loosely scattered on the porch.

On the evening of the day when I repatched the hole, I sat reading in my living room when I heard a knock at the front door. I responded with a lusty, "Come in!" - but nobody took me up on it. So I went to the front door and turned on the porch light to take a look, but found nobody there. Concluding that my imagination was running away with me, I returned to my book, whereupon the knock came again.

This time I realized what had happened. There was a critter on the porch, and it was making the noise I heard by running over the boards.

So I went back out on the porch and looked for the culprit. I found a flying squirrel sitting on the roof plate that supports the roof beams of my porch. I gave him a long look, and he looked right back at me with those enormous eyes the species finds so useful in its nocturnal pursuits.

The Ultimatum

Now I yield to no man in my love for the denizens of the wild, but, as I have already intimated in a preceding paragraph, there is such a thing as being too broad-minded in a case of this sort. The squirrel simply had to go.

So I tried to shoo him out. I opened the front door and tried to chase him out through it, prodding him along with a stick, but he simply refused to leave. He'd run along the plate till he couldn't go any farther, then he'd turn around and run back the other way. The only time he descended below the level of the plate was to go to where the hole had been before I patched it up that day. Obviously he had been on the porch, presumably asleep, at the time I did the repair job, and now he considered himself trapped inside. Not being too fluent in squirrel language, I wasn't able to get across to him the idea that a door was for going out. I was getting nowhere by leaps and bounds.

So I called up Bart on the phone and explained the situation. "Hold everything!" he said; "I'll be over." True to his word, he drove up a few moments later wearing heavy gloves and carrying a trap he uses to catch thieving rodents so he can transport them to parts sufficiently elsewhere to rid himself of their annoyance.

"How are you going to get him into the trap?" I asked in all innocence. Without replying, he walked over to the squirrel, picked it up, and put it into the trap.

"They make good pets," he said; "why don't you keep him?" I told him I'd think it over. I like pets, but the trouble is I get to like 'em too well, and when the time eventually comes for parting, it bothers me. I decided to sleep on it. Putting some peanuts and water into the cage, I left it on the porch overnight.

In Search of a Home

As I lay in bed that night, thinking about the incident, it occurred to me that there could be more to the situation than I had at first realized. The more I thought about it, the more I felt that quite possibly the squirrel was nesting on the porch. The fact that he had made the hole the previous season, and remade it when I first patched it, seemed to me convincing evidence of this.

So next morning I searched the porch, and my overnight conclusion was proved to be correct. I found a nest of cotton batting the size of a huge grapefruit in one of the sleeves of a raincoat that hung from a hook near the hole in the screen. A tentative examination from the outside produced movement on the inside, whereupon I transferred the nest, raincoat and all, to the front steps outside the porch, closing up the entrance and exit of the sleeve with stones.

Again I phoned Bart. Again he came over. When it comes to handling a nestful of squirrels I admitted I was chicken, but good old Bart was equal to the occasion. He opened up the nest, took out three half-grown squirrels, and popped them into the trap with the parent - which, by this time, I decided could be more appropriately named Pauline than Paul.

"Didn't they bite?" I asked. "Oh, a little," he replied; "just baby teeth."

That's really there is to the story, except to say that I turned the nest, cage, and all four squirrels over to an elementary school teacher, and she kept them in her classroom for the entire term to the great enjoyment and education of the students. I don't know what happened to the squirrels when school closed, but I have no doubt they were well treated. The cage was duly returned to Bart.

Oh, yes; one more detail. The day before I closed camp on the 29th of October and returned to civilization, I turned over all the porch chairs and moved them back against the wall to protect the upholstery from the winter weather. In doing so, I noticed that the under part of the upholstery of one of them was tattered and much of the cotton stuffing was gone.

So now I knew where the flying squirrel got its nesting material.

* * * * *

AUSTRIA'S ROAD TO THE SKY

Donald J. Tucker

An intermittent light rain kept us confined to the tents for most of the day, but toward evening patches of blue began to appear in the northwest. Great swells of mist rose out of the forests on the mountain slopes about us, continually shifting

and curling about the ridges. To the south toward the high peaks, dense clouds covered all but the lowest slopes. But now and again a small break would appear in the overcast and the long rays of the late afternoon sun would catch the snowpacks of one of the northern slopes in a bright glow. During the brief periods of sunlight a flock of barn swallows appeared, twittering, swooping and turning, only to quickly disappear as mist again enveloped us. Though it was still only late afternoon, twilight descended quickly on the valley floor, which because of its north-south orientation, became shaded long before the higher slopes above us. Then as if to give our spirits a final lift, the clouds parted again to the north and the great limestone massif of the Breithorn and Birnhorn blazed golden for a brief moment before darkness descended on the valley. Above us the slurring cry of a buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) pierced the air echoing across the valley, and a lone swallow now in direct flight headed for his evening roost.

By dawn there was a distinct chill in the valley. During the night the clouds had lifted except for an occasional wift of mist rising out of dense stands of pine. In the high peaks the Wiesbachhorn and Kitzstein showed their snowy caps, but the Grossglockner, Austria's highest peak, remained obscured in clouds.

There are several ways over the high Alps which form an almost continuous barrier across southern Europe. In Austria, the most famous is Brenner Pass, south of Innsbruck in Tyrol. But the highest and most spectacular route is over Glockner Road which climbs to over 8300 feet where it pierces the highest ridges by a tunnel before beginning the long descent toward the Italian border. This is the highest part of the Austrian Alps. The surrounding peaks reach upwards ten to twelve thousand feet and the summit of the Grossglockner soars to 12,650 feet. At its beginning at Bruck the elevation of the road is about 2500 feet. The grade is at first gradual as it winds up through the Fusch valley, but beyond Ferleiten, it becomes quite steep with grades up to 12 percent.

It was midmorning as we drove toward the high pass, the valley was at no point very wide and steep slopes plunged off the high peaks into the great basin beneath the Wiesbachhorn which lay at the upper reaches of the valley. The slopes were sparsely forested and even though it was late summer, cascades poured down from melting snow. Long talus slopes scarred the mountainsides. In spite of the fact that local farmers mowed even the highest slopes with a scythe, there were great carpets of wildflowers. On the lower slopes the flowers were not unlike those in the northeastern United States. Indeed large numbers of species were imported from Europe mixed with the grass seed brought over by the early colonists, and are now so well established that we think of them as native to the United States. So there were many old friends in the lower meadows and along the wagon roads which meandered over the countryside. Red and white clover spread low mats above which waved daisies, and hawkweeds in varying shades of yellow and orange. Dandelions were common and clumps of utter and eggs toadflex were spread along the roadsides. Here and there, almost hidden in the tall grass, the purple racemes of vetch were fading and tall thistle heads added a soft contrast of pink to violet.

For generations the farmers there have constructed a type of lattice fence using lath boards and split logs, weaving them together. They soon become weathered adding a subdued grey to the landscape. Wild carrots and parsnip grow in abundance along these fencerows, along with beggar's ticks, wild geranium and mallows in shades of pink, and spikes of Verbascum or mullein with pale yellow petals and redbrown throats. Mints and nettles added lavenders, purples and pinks and along the roadsides the inflorescences of yarrow were both white and pale blue. St. Johnswort too was there, and on close examination the yellow, many-stamened flowers and leaves showed tiny black dots along their margins.

The wagon roads were much like trails and one traveled a slow pace when hiking them. Each curve, each rise and fall brought a new vista in miniature and time had to be taken for an unhurried look. How dull in comparison are the modern paved roads, where one must be always walking from one side to the other in order to see anything except the flat desert of concrete. On a trail a quarter of a mile can be an adventure, but on a paved road it is a chore, something to put behind, a distance ahead to reach a hilltop, and then another distance to reach the bottom beyond. The individual flowers, a clump of ferns, a butterfly, a lichen covered rock, all become lost in an endless array of field, forest and sky; and we have little concept of what the meadow or woodlot is like at all. Even on the trails in the high mountains, the vastness and grandeur are often so overwhelming that one forgets to look at the earth around him, and so comes away without the faintest idea of what rocks, flowers, trees or birds were there. One must make an effort to think small.

Eventually many of the wagon roads and trails wound up the slopes, ascending via switchbacks through stands of pine, spruce, and scattered larch. Along the trailside bluebells were abundant, along with pink to lavender cornflowers and bluebuttons. Now and again small rivulets crossed the trail and springs seeped from the banks. Here were the tiny bright blue flowers of myosotis or forget-me-nots, as refreshing as the clear water beside them. Nearby were stands of red campion or catchfly, with an inflated reddish calyx, dark pink flowers and a sticky downy covering from which has come the name catchfly. There was something new with almost every step, orange touch-me-nots, that grew in profusion; a yellow salvia with toothed heart-shaped leaves; and a pale yellow flower mottled with brown, resembling our turtleheads. A frenzy of note taking could not keep up. Further up the slope where dense stands of tall pine shaded the forest floor, there were woodferns, relatives of our own. And in open clearings where the pines had been lumbered, brambles were abundant, with raspberries in stages from flower to ripe fruit.

After leaving the lower valley, the quickly ascending Glockner Road soon left the limited forests behind and we entered the high mountain rock garden, with patches of krummholz, the low spreading dense mats of tree growth characteristic of tree line. Distances were deceptive in these vast expanses and the towering rock walls created an illusion of closeness, even though a substantial hike might be necessary to reach them.

It was necessary to look closely here in order to see the vegetation, even to the point of getting down on our hands and knees. At a distance there appeared to be little to see in the expanse of brown gravel and piles of crystalline rock. Yet, there were millions of flowers, their tiny leafy rosettes clinging closely to the ground, huddled between the rocks and pebbles, protected there in the microclimate of the surface. Even in summer only the flowers poke their heads up above this protective zone, and even then only a few inches. It was impossible to walk without crushing the beauty beneath our feet. Small alpine asters with lavender rays and a yellow disk vied for attention with a dainty pink primrose. Alpine cushion pinks spread low mosslike mats completely covered with small pink flowers. There were tiny yellow buttercups, the flowers no more than an inch above the ground; and alpine poppies, white spikes of Erinus and saxifrage. And as beautiful as any flower could be was a deep royal blue primrose with a touch of pale yellow about the throat.

As we neared the high pass, the weather became increasingly unstable, the clouds boiling and curling angrily about the peaks, swirling upwards and then downwards along stupendous rock walls. For a moment there would be a glimpse of the peaks but just as suddenly they would once more be enveloped in mystery. Cold winds blew unheeded across these upper ridges. Here was the transition between the warm Mediterranean influence to the south and the cooler continent to the north. The winds, water, ice and thaw had unceasingly attacked the very rock foundation of the mountains, crumbling them and sending them crashing down to pile up in long talus slopes of rock and gravel. As we looked outward, immense basins spread below us, their size almost incomprehensible. Huge rock slides scarred the walls and slopes, reminders of past avalanches, and everywhere there were the tracks of dry cascades, which in spring run full with torrents of water. Occasionally a raven soared out into this vast space, thousands of feet above the basin floor, wheeling and banking in the stiff breeze. A falcon suddenly sped around a promontory and was gone as quickly as it had appeared. A few alpine chough, crowlike birds with yellow bills, scavenged the cliff edges. By then it was late afternoon and we began the descent into the valley. That evening the clouds again enveloped the mountains and once more the rains descended. Far above us, obscured by rain and mist, the tiny alpine flowers huddled in the lee of countless rocks as they always had done.

(Editor's note: Don Tucker, former SBC treasurer, is presently serving with the U.S. Army at Bad Cannstatt. When not on duty, Don has a European travel plan to keep him busy. The above is a record of one such journey.)

* * * * *

BRIEFING THE RECORD

TWELVE BREEDING BIRD COUNTS CONDUCTED

THE SEASON - SUMMER - JUNE 1 TO AUGUST 15, 1967

Peter P. Wickham
Records Chairman

Following the extremely cold spring, the months of June and July were by contrast near normal in temperature and rainfall. Temperatures averaged 69.9° and 71.6° in the two months (all data taken at Albany Airport), 2.6° above normal and 0.5° below normal, respectively. Precipitation totaled 2.85 inches in June and 3.38 inches in July, 0.40 inches and 0.11 inches below normal, respectively.

Spring migration ended abruptly with the sudden onset of weather that was seven to eight degrees above normal on June 4. Late migrants observed June 3-4 included brant, and Tennessee, Nashville, Blackburnian and blackpoll warblers. No obvious wave of fall transients occurred until August 11-12, when Traill's and least flycatchers, Swainson's thrush, yellow warbler, Canada warbler and rose-breasted grosbeak appeared to be migrating at Vischer Ferry (RPY).

The results of 12 breeding bird counts conducted in the region for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are included. A total of 106 species was recorded. The twenty-five most abundant: red-winged blackbird, 1323; starling, 1283; robin, 788; house sparrow, 554; grackle, 517; song sparrow, 515; goldfinch, 387; barn swallow, 329; crow, 312; wood thrush, 235; chipping sparrow, 229; meadowlark, 205; red-eyed vireo, 203; cowbird, 182; Baltimore oriole, 180; yellowthroat, 173; veery, 157; yellow warbler, 143; blue jay, 137; mourning dove, 125; catbird, 126; bobolink, 118; house wren, 106; rufous-sided towhee, 101; ovenbird, 98. Of these 25 species, 22 repeated from last year's analogous list. New to the "top 25" are: Baltimore oriole, yellow warbler, and bobolink. Dropped from the "top 25" are: flicker, bank swallow, and chestnut-sided warbler.

Unusual species recorded during the period included brant, snow goose, barn owl, red-headed woodpecker, Carolina wren and house finch.

Abbreviations: BR-Basic Reservoir; BCM-Black Creek Marshes; max-maximum daily count; nr-near; NWW-Niskayuna Wide Waters; SCR-Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG-Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; BBC-breeding bird count conducted under auspices of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; (sbc)-Schenectady Bird Club record.

Observers: (MDG)-Monte Gruett; (EH)-Esly Hallenbeck; (MK)-Marcia Kent; (RSM)-Robert McCullough; (HHS)-Harvey Spivak; (WBS)-Walton Sabin; (PFW)-Peter Wickham; (RPY)-Robert Yunick.

LOONS--DUCKS:

- Common Loon: only report--two adults with young Jun 23 Lake George (fide MK).
- Pied-billed Grebe: no nesting reports; only record two Aug 6 SCR (PFW).
- Great Blue Heron: few reported, mostly single birds.
- Common Egret: only one Jul 18 NWW (HHS), very scarce. For the second summer in succession, no night herons were reported.
- American Bittern: about as usual; two Salem BBC Jun 17 (Paul Connor), new locality.
- Least Bittern: no reports.
- BRANT: two flocks heard flying north through Stony Clove nr Hunter Mountain about 10 pm. Jun 4 (PFW, MDG); one on BR Jun 5 (fide MK).
- SNOW GOOSE: the flock reported last period remained at BR through (at least) Jun 3 (fide MK).
- Mallards, Black Ducks, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks were present as breeding species.
- Common Merganser: one Jul 3 Hudson River in Warrensburg (EH)--only report.

HAWKS--OWLS:

- Cooper's Hawk: one seen frequently in West Glenville during period (RSM)--only accipiter report.
- Red-shouldered Hawk: only one--Jun 19, Austerlitz BBC (Georgia Erlenbach).
- Broad-winged Hawk: only four reports.
- An immature eagle (sp) was observed being chased by an osprey at VFG Aug 6 (PFW).
- Osprey: reappeared at VFG Aug 6 on.
- Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks were the only hawks reported regularly.
- Bobwhite: absent from BCM; reported from Catskill (James Bush) and Jul 17 from West Charlton (Emily Halverson).
- Virginia Rail: pair with ten young Jul 23 BCM, and one Jul 26 at VFG (EH).
- Common Gallinule: reported at BCM and VFG. Comm.
- Common Tern: one Jun 25 NWW (HHS), and three Jul 26 at Lock 7 (EH).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only nine individuals reported, still scarce.
- Black-billed Cuckoo: reported two or three times as frequently as the yellow-billed. Both species of cuckoo seem slightly more common than in 1966.
- BARN OWL: pair nested in a silo in New Salem and raised one young (Beverly Waite, WBS).
- Great Horned Owl: reported at Colonie (Mrs. W.H. Enos), and West Charlton (Emily Halverson).
- Barred Owl: reported from usual areas.

GOATSUCKERS--STARLING:

- Common Nighthawk: two apparently feeding on the ground in the company of ten killdeer the first part of Jul in Glenville (RSM) seems unusual.
- RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: only report--one adult Jul 25 West Glenville (RSM).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher: two June 5 Hunter Mt. (PFW, MDG):

- one Jun 24, North Creek BBC (WBS).
 Tree Swallows: nest boxes at VFG produced about as many young as in 1966 (RPY).
 Bank Swallow: as in 1966, fledging peaked about Jul 6, about ten days later than usual; some young still remained Jul 18 (RPY).
 Purple Martin: despite lower number of nesting pairs this year, a colony in West Glenville more than doubled its number during the summer (RSM).
 CAROLINA WREN: one was heard singing in late Jun, on the Durham BBC (Owen Knorr).
 Mockingbird: still increasing, reported from several new localities.
 Swainson's Thrush: again present in the Catskills; two immatures banded Aug 12 at VFG (RPY), very early.
 Gray-cheeked Thrush: late migrant Jun 2, East Greenbush (William Gorman); at least eight, probably breeding, were heard and seen singing around the summit of Hunter Mt. Jun 5 (PPW, MDG).
 Eastern Bluebird: in some areas, it is locally common, but is still generally uncommon; at least 20 pairs were nesting in a locality west of Ballston Spa (Don Wilkins); five pairs were nesting in the West Glenville area (RSM).
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: reported only from Catskill, where the nests of two pairs attempting to breed were destroyed, and nesting was not successful (James Bush); no reports from other areas where the birds have been reported regularly in the last two or three years.

VIREOS--WARBLERS:

- Red-eyed Vireo: a decided increase in the numbers reported in breeding bird counts; this increase was largely or entirely confined to the more mountainous areas; max 71, North Creek BBC (WBS). All vireos seem scarce in valley areas.
 Brewster's Warbler: one adult feeding two young Jun 27, South Berne BBC (Carl Parker).
 Cerulean Warbler: at least one still at Castleton through July (SBC).
 Blackpoll Warbler: most common warbler around summit of Hunter Mt. Jun 5 (PPW, MDG).
 Mourning Warbler: one singing Jun 5 Stony Clove, nr Hunter Mountain (PPW, MDG), new locality.
 Yellow-breasted Chat: only one--Jun 20, Cobleskill BBC (WBS).

BLACKBIRDS--SPARROWS:

- Cardinal: observed nesting in several new areas.
 HOUSE FINCH: a pair came to a Niskayuna feeder through early summer and into Aug (Gus Angst)--first summer record for the area.
 Henslow's Sparrow: no reports for second summer in succession.
 White-throated Sparrow: a singing adult was present at VFG through Jun and Jul, but no evidence of nesting was found (RPY).

RECORDS CONTRIBUTORS: please send your reports of birds you have seen to Hazel Bundy (Mrs. Francis P. Bundy, RD 1, Box 55, Scotia 12302) who will be collating the information. I should like at this time especially to thank Hazel for her considerable assistance in writing the last quarterly summary. She was in fact its co-author, and was indispensable in getting it out on time. -PPW.

ADDITIONS TO SBC BAEDEKER I

BERLIN MOUNTAIN

Peter P. Wickham

This, at 2798-foot elevation the highest peak in the Taconic Range, lies astride the New York-Massachusetts boundary, the summit just within Rensselaer County. In most places, the mountain is heavily wooded, generally clothed with a dense, varied mature hardwood forest. Surprisingly few conifers are found. The summit and Berlin Pass, however, are covered only by scattered brush and extensive patches of blueberry, and offer expansive vistas to the east, south and west, including views of Mt. Greylock, Albany and the Catskills (when clear).

The area is at its birding best in June and early July. At this time, 50-60 species may be readily recorded in one outing. There is a succession of open fields and brushy edge on both sides of the road leading from Berlin to the foot of the mountain. Least and Traill's flycatchers, bluebirds and bobolinks are among typical open country species which may be seen in this habitat. Nesting birds regularly seen or heard on the wooded slopes during a climb at this season include ruffed grouse, yellow-bellied sapsucker, hermit thrush, veery, red-eyed vireo, black and white, black-throated blue, black-throated green, blackburnian and Canada warblers, American redstart, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, purple finch and slate-colored junco. In the brushy areas at the pass and at the summit, chestnut-sided and Nashville warblers, indigo buntings, towhees, field sparrows and white-throated sparrows may be found. Swainson's thrushes and winter wrens are frequently heard or seen near the summit. In The saddle just south of the summit, there is a fine stand of spruce and balsam. Here, in addition to some of the species already mentioned, brown creepers, red-breasted nuthatches, magnolia warblers and myrtle warblers can also be found.

To reach Berlin Mountain, take Route (N.Y.) 22 to the village of Berlin. Turn east at the crossroads here and continue without turning to the end of the paved road (about five miles). Park the car here (elevation 1200 ft.) and continue up an easy grade on the same road, now dirt, on foot. Take a left fork, and then a right fork almost immediately thereafter, as you enter the woods. The trail leads via a gradual climb to Berlin Pass (about 1.5 miles), elevation 2200 ft. To reach the summit of Berlin Mountain, turn right at the trail junction on the Pass, and continue about one mile further. The "trail" referred to is actually a crude road, and may be negotiated by a vehicle with four-wheel drive. The Berlin quadrangle of the U.S. Geological Survey topographic map series covers the entire area discussed, and is recommended for initial exploration.

(Editor's note: at Pete Wickham's suggestion, this series on baedeker additions was begun. There are numerous birding areas which require further definition of geography and potential. Collecting these in FEATHERS will make the next

revision of the baedeker a far simpler job. Check to see whether some of your favorite birding spots are covered in the baedeker, and if not, give some thought to having them included in the next baedeker. Some areas that could be considered are Consalus Vly, Glenville, Hudson Highlands, Schodack Island, Taborton, Alcove and Basic Reservoirs, Lisha Kill and others which maybe only you know about.)

* * * * *

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Peggy McGuirk
Field Trip Chairman

BRIGANTINE AND CAPE MAY

SEPTEMBER 23-24

Eleven birders enjoyed a memorable weekend in the southern swampy regions of New Jersey.

We left the Albany area in three cars at various hours on Friday evening, September 22, 1967, and arrived at the designated motel at Absecon around midnight. The motel is on Route 9, a couple of miles south of the entrance to Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge.

We started out at 6:30 am. to have breakfast at a diner a short distance away, and then headed for Brigantine. A fourth car left Albany early Saturday morning and met us at Brigantine at lunchtime.

At Brigantine we were pleased to find a white-eyed vireo in the trees near the headquarters. We found the sharp-tailed and seaside sparrows not far from the dike. The first seaside we saw did not deserve the description dingy, which Peterson bestows upon him. His coloration was distinctly defined; the white jaw-line was much whiter than Peterson indicates and the various shades of gray were far more attractive. Several which we saw the next day were not as handsome, however. There were scores of cattle egrets along the dikes and on the marshland, many of which clearly bore their badge of brown. The clapper rail and whimbrel were seen, both several times. Fish crows were incessantly announcing their presence.

We left Brigantine after lunch and headed south. Enroute we saw many gulls, terns, including Forster's and royal, and shore birds with black-bellied plover and ruddy turnstone heading the list. At Stone Harbor's famed sanctuary we saw many waders. There were scores of glossy ibis but only a few yellow-crowned night herons. Two of our curious participants inspected the eastern side of the sanctuary and discovered a lark sparrow which was a lifer for most of our party as well as many others whom we led to it. We watched the herons and egrets coming in to roost and left for Cape May with our headlights turned on. Just west of the community the driver of the leading car spied two black skimmers in the fading light flying just over the water in a tidal channel paralleling the road. A short, mad dash for

the nearest safe parking spot which could accommodate four cars, and we got the 88th bird of the day! Fortunately, a cooperative third skimmer came lagging along for all to see. The next day we saw hundreds on our return visit to Brigantine.

On Sunday we birded at Cape May Point adding many land bird species to our list. We saw ten species of warblers, a late kingbird and a lone osprey. In the afternoon we returned to Brigantine for another tour. We added the Hudsonian godwit and a marbled godwit which we observed in flight below us displaying two beautiful tones of brown. As we were leaving the dike we saw one snow goose on the grass with the Canadians making it 106 for the day and 122 for the weekend.

See you next year!

--Sam Madison

GALWAY LAKE

OCTOBER 21

The trip to Galway Lake with Mr. and Mrs. B.D. Bedford and Mildred D. Crary as leaders lasted from 8:30 am. to 3pm. The weather was clear with a temperature at start of 40 degrees warming to about 50 degrees in the afternoon. Eighteen people were present. We met at Bedford's camp and from shore spotted several species. Then we traveled by car around to several spots on the west and north side of Galway Lake, and on to Butterfield Lake, a small body of water about three quarters of a mile north.

Thirty-three species were recorded including surf and white-winged scoter.

--Mildred D. Crary

ROUND AND SARATOGA LAKES

OCTOBER 28

The group meeting at Round Lake at 8:30 am. found a mirror-smooth and vacant surface, but the warmth of the sun and the lack of wind were welcome compensations. Two herring gulls, two rusty and several red-wing blackbirds, song sparrows, and goldfinches did appear while we waited and a great blue heron flying lazily by repaid us for our "courtesy interval".

Saratoga Lake seemed to promise more fishermen than waterfowl, but our cars did send up a large flock of robins as we parked at the first spot. Before scopes could be put into action the cry of "pileated" diverted everyone's attention from the water. As he flew across the road he presented a good view and several times again as he moved through the woods. The walk to the point was quiet with only juncos and goldfinches seen and white-breasted nuthatches and chickadees heard. Grebes, pied-billed, red-throated and horned, were in the cove and farther out a loon and a raft of scoters. These were the center of interest as we tried to determine which and how many? One loner was easily identified as a white-winged and the others were thought to be common. The order of the day for ducks seemed to be females and/or immatures with an occasional male to make sightings easier. The coming of heavy clouds and a high wind may have influenced the final decisions, but it was accepted agreement. A red-tailed hawk soaring during a brief moment of sun was a delight on the return walk.

Brown's Beach gave closer views of more white-winged scoters, buffleheads, blacks and ring-billed gulls, while two killdeer were the only shore birds to be found. The waves with their

white caps were rolling so hard toward shore that it was difficult to detect any living things and often a likely object proved to be a buoy! The north end was a favored spot and there the scaups and golden-eyes had gathered with a sprinkling of other kinds already seen. Rather than leave a locale unchecked we continued to the park, but added only coots so the list was made. The total was 34 species - so try as we did we could not manage two each for the 21 birders. Since observers are important to a trip they, too, deserve recognition - Hazel Bundy, Mrs. Forward, Esly Hallenbeck, Ed & Mark Koch, Ginny, Kenny & Walt Sabin, Mary Lou & Bob Shedd, Libby & Laura Brown, Eleanor Byrne, Pete Wickham, Gus Angst, Beatrice Van Stienburgh, Mary O'Niell, Kay Lee, Mark Shauholtz, Harvey Spivak and Betty Hicks.

--Betty Hicks

TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR

NOVEMBER 5

This was a beautiful Sunday morning. The temperature ranged between 32 and 45 degrees. The wind was strong, at least 30 mph. and very cold. There were eight in the group led by Pete Wickham.

When we started out, we did not think it was going to be a very productive day, but as we went around the reservoir, the list kept growing. We had a total of 44 species, including a very late tree swallow. There were 17 species of water birds including common scoter, ruddy duck, all mergansers, and herring, ring-billed and great black-backed gulls.

As we came along the west side, Walt Sabin took us on a dirt road that went along the ridge of the hill. The view of the hills and reservoir was beautiful. What a nice ending to a most enjoyable day!

--Fran Adams

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERSLenny Thomas

Membership Chairman

The following people have recently applied for membership in SBC.

Mr/Mrs Maurice B. Hayes
13 Pinewood Dr
Clifton Knolls
Elnora RD 2, 12065 877-7954

Mr Robert F. Berning
2973 Rosendale Rd
Schenecatdy 12309
377-9142

Mrs Louis J. Buchman
346 Loudonville Rd
Loudonville 12211
465-1702

Mr/Mrs John J. Ferry
RD 1
Delanson 12053
895-2420

Mrs Robert Wiley
RD 2 Goldfoot Rd
Scotia 12302
393-7191

Mr/Mrs George Y. Buerger
313 Lark St
Scotia 12302
372-6032

Mr/Mrs H.E. Brunelle, Jr.
8 Glen Terrace
Scotia 12302
399-1075

Mr/Mrs C.D. Philbrook
9 Pashley Rd
Scotia 12302
399-1677

Mr/Mrs A. Jacobson
405 Root Ave
Scotia 12302

* * * * *

CHRISTMAS COUNT SCHEDULE

SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS COUNT - Plan now to participate in the Schenectady Christmas Count. It will be held on Saturday, December 23, 1967. Come to the Christmas meeting for details, or call the compiler, Guy Bartlett, 393-0014. Let's all get out this year.

TROY CHRISTMAS COUNT - It is scheduled for Saturday, December 30, 1967. Participants for all or part of day welcomed. The count is centered near Melrose, and includes all or parts of Cohoes, Crescent, Waterford, Green Island, Clifton Park, Stillwater, Schaghticoke, Mechanicville, Brunswick, Raymertown, Melrose, Spiegeltown and Troy. Contact Paul Grattan, 237-0661, or Pete Wickham, 477-6345, co-compilers, if interested and/or attend SBC Christmas meeting.

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY CHRISTMAS COUNT - It is scheduled for Sunday, December 31, 1967. This count was conducted for the first time in 1966. Participants for all or part of the day welcomed. The count is centered at Best, about five miles east of Albany, in Rensselaer County, and includes the villages of Poestenkill, Averill Park, Nassau, Defreestville, West Sand Lake and East Greenbush as well as parts of Albany and Troy. Contact Monte Gruett, 477-6246, or Pete Wickham, 477-6345, co-compilers, if interested and/or attend SBC Christmas meeting.

* * * * *

EDITOR'S NOTES

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Accompanying the mailing of this issue is the field trip schedule for 1968. In examining it, I am sure that you will agree that the group that assembled it did not spare anything in attempting to bring to you an interesting, varied and stimulating array of trips. Gone is the old steadfast approach of going to the same old places year after year. After all, it isn't every bird club that schedules a trip to Lovers' Lane.

Congratulations to Peggy, Fran and Ed for the fine job they have done in attempting to interest as many members as possible in field trips. Why not reward them for their efforts with an interest that is commensurate with their enthusiasm.

HIGHWAY BEAUTY

Recently I had the opportunity to talk to an highway design engineer who designed part of the Northway. I posed the question to him about whether attempts were being made to preserve some of the natural character of the land in the planning of roadways. His reply was that designers were being "forced" to do so. The reason was public opinion. While many of us are still unhappy with the seeming ease of demolition and freedom of choice exercised by various construction projects, it is apparent that the public will be heard. It is just a matter of degree of who is "forcing" whom. Only by continued and frequent preaching of the conservation gospel will wise land use be realized. Keep talking and you shall be heard.

The matter of land value in highway planning appears to have aroused some federal attention. In a recent speech before the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Alan S. Boyd, secretary of the newly created Department of Transportation assured listeners that his department plans to effect the preservation of scenic and wildlife values in planning and building transportation facilities. He recognized the need for improved performance in the consideration of environmental factors.

DDT

As another example of how an aroused public can begin to overcome incredible odds, the proceedings of the recent National Audubon Society meeting in Atlantic City point to some interesting things to come. A motion was approved to form an Environmental Defense Fund to combat the use of DDT. This action stemmed from the successful prosecution by Victor J. Yannacone, Jr. of a DDT case on Long Island. Without further delay, and driven by the enthusiasm of the support at the Audubon meeting, this Long Island group pressed on on its own to form The Environmental Defense Fund, Inc. Its first order of business - on October 25 it filed suit in U.S. District Court, Grand Rapids, Michigan enjoining the use of DDT in Dutch elm disease control and dieldrin in Japanese beetle control by the state of Michigan.

A mighty task indeed, but the tide is turning. In this age of dissent, no one or no agency is out of the realm of vulnerability to public opinion. It's up to each and everyone of us to inform the public of the need for better care of our environment - land, sea and air. One man cannot carry the banner, but he can plant the seed of action in an army of banner carriers.

Not only will this battle occur in the courts. I personally await the day when a stock holder at an annual meeting of one of the DDT producers will move that the corporation cease the production and sale of DDT. Annual meetings will never be the same.

NEXT ISSUE

Due date for material for the next issue is January 15, 1968. Notes and articles are welcomed.

FEEDER TIME

In anticipation of what looks like an upcoming winter finch flight, it is time to stock up on seeds for these visitors.

