



—(Gazette Photo)  
**GIFT FOR NATURE LOVERS** — The donation of the 108-acre H. G. Reist estate, lying off St. David's Lane, to the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club Inc., for the establishment to a sanctuary for all forms of wildlife, was completed this week by Mrs. H. G. Reist, center. Accepting the deed is Samuel R. Madison, left, president of the club, and looking on are Dr. Robert F. Yunick, vice president of the club, Walton B. Sabin, former president of the club, and Roy Peters, right, attorney for Mrs. Reist.

## Mrs. Reist Donates Niskayuna Plot Of 108 Acres for Wildlife Sanctuary

Mrs. Henry G. Reist of 1188 Avon Road has donated approximately 108 acres, appraised at \$140,000, to the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club Inc. for the establishment of a wildlife sanctuary.

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Located on the southwesterly side of St. David's Lane near Heather Road, Niskayuna, the property will be open to the public. The grant stipulates that the property will always remain a bird sanctuary and nature preserve.

All forms of wildlife will be

included in the sanctuary, which will be called the Henry G. Reist Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club Inc. plans to lay out trails where nature lovers and students may observe and study flowers, birds and other wildlife and to build a clubhouse as a center for educational programs.

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Both Mrs. Reist and her husband, who died in 1942, were very interested in bird life. Since her husband's death, Mrs. Reist has rejected numerous of-

fers for the property for residential purposes.

Mr. Reist, a mechanical and electric engineer who had pioneered in the development and design of alternating current generators with the General Electric Co. for many years, purchased the land in 1909.

A change of zoning for the property, which was originally classified as residential, was unanimously approved by the Niskayuna Town Board following a public hearing earlier this month.

# HMBC ACQUIRES A SANCTUARY

Samuel R. Madison

President

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Schenectady Bird Club on March 9, 1964, a committee was appointed to prepare a statement of policy and a plan for future progress of the club. The committee, which consisted of Bob Yunick, Betty Hicks and myself as chairman, rendered a nine-page report to the Board making a series of recommendations. The report, which was unanimously approved by the Board, and thereafter by the full membership at a special meeting held for that purpose on June 15, 1964, has been called our Plan for Future Progress. One of the key features of the plan has been the acquisition of a site suitable for a sanctuary and a club headquarters building.

In the intervening years your Board has conducted an intensive search for such a property. So many individuals have worked diligently on this project that it is not feasible to name them. The capital district area has been searched by road, scoured by foot and scouted by air. Many parcels of land have been considered, but for one reason or another, have failed to meet all our needs. Several tracts of land have been satisfactory but have been priced beyond our means. Finally, about two years ago we learned of the possible availability of the Reist parcel, a 109 acre tract located on St. David's Lane in the town of Niskayuna and owned by Mrs. Henry G. Reist of Schenectady. It is centrally located. It is mostly wooded with some open areas. It has interesting trees, shrubs and wild flowers growing on it. It has areas which can be developed as ponds for waterfowl. It is an excellent spot on which to erect a headquarters building. With all of these advantages, there had to be a hitch and there was -- its value and apparent price was beyond our means.

When we learned that Mrs. Reist was extremely interested in nature and that she and her late husband had been interested in preserving the property in its natural state, we entered into serious discussions with Mrs. Reist. After careful consideration the Board decided that we should make an offer for the tract in which the prime consideration we would be holding out was our ability to properly look after the property and preserve it as a nature sanctuary for future generations. On October 30, 1968 the Board made a formal offer in writing to Mrs. Reist for the property. The following extracts therefrom speak for themselves:

"We recognize that this price is far below the value of the parcel on the open market. However, we understand you are interested in ensuring that the property remain in its natural state. The greatest consideration which the Schenectady Bird Club can offer for the property is the service we will render in properly taking care of it and our commitment that it will be maintained and preserved as described in the enclosure.

The property would be conveyed to Schenectady Bird Club or its successor. The Club expects to reincorporate in order to more clearly and definitely spell out its non-profit and educa-

tional purposes and to hold the property free of real estate taxes.

The Schenectady Bird Club has the ability and the organization to care for property like your tract. It is a growing organization consisting of nearly 300 individual members many of whom are active in its affairs.

The Schenectady Bird Club is willing to commit itself to permanently maintaining your property as a nature and bird sanctuary. To that end, the Club is willing to take title to the property subject to a suitable reversion clause whereby in the unlikely event that it or its successors should fail or be unable to maintain the tract as a bird sanctuary and nature preserve, title to the property would revert to an organization such as the Nature Conservancy, or some other similar organization to be determined by the courts.

For the purpose of assisting you in evaluating this proposal, there is enclosed herewith a brief description of the Schenectady Bird Club including its purposes, aims and activities. The enclosure demonstrates why we are interested in acquiring a tract of property to preserve as a natural area and why your property is ideal both in location and condition for our objectives. We believe we have also demonstrated that the Schenectady Bird Club is fully qualified to permanently care for your property and preserve it in perpetuity in a manner consistent with your desires and the wishes of your late husband.

We shall be happy to discuss this matter in person with you and your representatives at your convenience."

Further negotiations were held with Mrs. Reist and her advisors and in hopeful anticipation of a successful outcome SBC was reincorporated as the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, Inc. in April of 1969, with the consent of the Commissioner of Education. Last August we received a favorable ruling from the Federal Internal Revenue Service that we were a tax exempt organization. (See FEATHERS vol. 31, p. 69) The property was appraised and Mrs. Reist was advised that it had a market value of \$140,000. In the meantime, the discussions with Mrs. Reist were continuing and after she had determined to convey the property to the club, she decided, in her generosity, that she would make an outright gift of the property. An application was made to the Town Board of the Town of Niskayuna for rezoning and on December 9, the Board adopted a resolution reclassifying the property as a Land Conservation District. That action became effective on December 22, 1969 and on that same day HMBC was presented with a deed to the property by Mrs. Reist. It was promptly recorded and the property is now ours.

It was my privilege to receive the deed on behalf of HMBC along with Vice President Bob Yunick and Past President Walt Sabin. The picture of the ceremony, which appears on page 1, was published in the Schenectady Gazette. At the time Mrs. Reist handed me the deed, I presented her with a copy of a resolution adopted by the club at its Christmas meeting on December 8, 1969 expressing our appreciation for her most generous act. The full text of the resolution follows:

WHEREAS, the late Henry G. Reist, a prominent mechanical and electrical engineer who had pioneered in the development and design of alternating current generators with the General Electric Company for many

years, had the vision and foresight to acquire a tract of land in the Town of Niskayuna, County of Schenectady, in 1909, and

WHEREAS, Henry G. Reist maintained and preserved this parcel over the years until his death in 1942, leaving it to his wife, Margaret B. Reist who has continued to maintain it in its natural state, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Henry G. Reist desires to ensure the perpetual maintenance of this parcel as a sanctuary and nature preserve and at her request the Town Board of the Town of Niskayuna has rezoned it as a Land Conservation District, and

WHEREAS, the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit tax exempt organization interested in acquiring property and maintaining it in its natural state for scientific, educational and esthetic purposes for the benefit of the public, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Henry G. Reist has determined to convey this sanctuary tract to the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, Inc., for the aforesaid purposes, said property to be named the Henry G. Reist Wildlife Sanctuary in honor of her beloved late husband.

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved by the membership of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, Inc., that it accept with deep gratitude the generous gift from Mrs. Henry G. Reist of a tract of approximately 109 acres of land in the Town of Niskayuna to be owned and managed by the Club and to be named the Henry G. Reist Wildlife Sanctuary, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that in appreciation of the generosity of Mrs. Henry G. Reist she is hereby made an honorary life member of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, Inc., and in acknowledgment of her great appreciation of the ladyslippers growing on this property that there be set aside on said sanctuary a trail amongst the ladyslippers to be known as the Margaret B. Reist Ladyslipper Trail, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution expressing appreciation of the generosity of Mrs. Henry G. Reist be adopted, that the Secretary be directed to enter this resolution upon the minutes, and that a suitably engrossed copy thereof be presented to Mrs. Reist as a token of our appreciation.

Done this 8th day  
of December, 1969

*Samuel R. Madison*

We have our sanctuary. With it we have the concomitant duty and obligation of fulfilling our commitment to Mrs. Reist. This calls for much more than the work in laying out trails, creating pondage and labeling trees. We must do much intensive mapping, planning and studying at the outset. The initial steps in these endeavors are underway. At the annual meeting to be held on February 23 you will hear more about the composition of a new Sanctuary Committee which shall be charged with these responsibilities.

HMBC and each of its members owes an everlasting debt of gratitude to Mrs. Reist for her most generous gift. Words cannot adequately express our appreciation of her unselfish act.

Our actions over the ensuing years can be the best testimony of our appreciation of Mr. Reist's vision and Mrs. Reist's generosity.

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## SCHENECTADY ADDS WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

Guy Bartlett

Compiler

Fifty species and about 9809 individuals were listed on Schenectady's 41st Christmas Count on Saturday, December 20. Of particular interest were a white-crowned sparrow, which became No. 104 on the composite list, a wood duck, two yellowthroats, and three rufous-sided towhees.

The white-crowned sparrow, previously listed "on near dates only", was present several days at the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. Roy O. Dunham of Scotia. The female wood duck, on a bit of open water where the Poentic enters the Mohawk and still there two days later, was listed only once previously, in 1954. One yellowthroat was along Settle Hill Road and the other, a very pale female, was very secretive at the Niskayuna Coal Pocket marsh; previous records of two in 1959. The three towhees were in widely separated areas; there were records of one in 1958 and two in 1967.

The boreal chickadee, the first since 1963, was at the Pollak's feeder in Niskayuna; and all the 37 cowbirds were similarly at Niskayuna-Colonie feeders. The herring gull was missed for the first time since 1963, and only one pheasant was seen.

There were new high counts for four species: red-tailed hawk 21 (19 in 1968), sparrow hawk 12 (8 several years), downy woodpecker 74 (65), and starling 5262 (4342). This year's grand total of 9809 was also record-breaking, there had been 8469 in 1967; the crow and starling counts did much to swell that total.

The list of 50 species is second-high, tied with the 1965 count. The 1963 count of 57 species is the only higher one.

The Schenectady count was made on the first date set by Audubon, which was a good break. The wind was occasionally objectionable but snow was minimum and blowing negligible; there was the usual "minimum of open water." Then came the Blizzard of '69 with its two to three feet of snow, winds, new subzero records, and crippled traffic. Follow-up trips in the area were impossible, and the eight "near dates only" addition to the 50 species were mostly of feeder visitors.

The record, in National Audubon Society form:

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. (42°45'N, 73°55'W) (15-mile circle centered at Lydius Street and Lone Pine Road, Town of Guilderland, as in previous years. Dec. 20, 6:45 am. to 4:30 pm. Clear, to light snow; temp. 20 to 27 deg.; wind W to N, 5 to 25 mph.

SCHEMECTADY CHRISTMAS COUNT - December 20, 1969

	T	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	X
Black Duck	6							6			
Wood Duck	1						1				
Red-tailed Hawk	21	5	6	3	3	1	3				
Rough-legged Hawk	4		2		1	1					
Marsh Hawk	1				1						
Sparrow Hawk	12	2	3		4		1	1			1
Ruffed Grouse	2			1			1				
Ring-n. Pheasant	1			1							
Ring-billed Gull	1				1						
Mourning Dove	224		114	45	17	3	9		4		32
Gr. Horned Owl	2			2							
Belted Kingfisher	2	1					1				
Yel-shaft. Flicker	1									1	
Pileated Wpcker	1									1	
Hairy Woodpecker	26	4	4	5	1	3	2		1		6
Downy Woodpecker	74	5	5	14	12	7	5	1	3	8	14
Horned Lark	28	5	21		2						
Blue Jay	159	14	13	20	21	8	39	2	5	9	28
Common Crow	1346	305	636	201	67	1	16	106	7	4	3
Blk-cap. Chickadee	383	52	26	40	31	50	92	32	12	19	29
Boreal Chickadee	1			1							
Tufted Titmouse	21			2	1	9	4	1	1		3
White-br. Nuthatch	48	2	4	9	5	4	8	2	3	6	5
Red-br. Nuthatch	25					1	10	5	2	4	3
Brown Creeper	16	1		7	1	3	3		1		
Mockingbird	3				2						1
Robin	3			1		1	1				
Gold-cr. Kinglet	10	1		1			6	2			
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	2						1				1
Cedar Waxwing	50			9		12	28				1
Starling	5262	430	1297	1585	277	150	1217	163	35	37	71
Yellowthroat	2			1						1	
House Sparrow	618	30	69	55	137	10	162	39	60		56
Red-w. Blackbird	2			2							
Common Grackle	3			1			1				1
Brown-hd. Cowbird	37			37							
Cardinal	44	1	1	9	7	3	5	1	3		14
Evening Grosbeak	68	2		3		50					13
Purple Finch	2			1			1				
Common Redpoll	280	12	152	79	1		29		3		4
Amer. Goldfinch	79	2	3	8		3	7		8		48
Red Crossbill	9							9			
Rufous-s. Towhee	3		1		1		1				
Slate-col. Junco	196	25	8	12	15	5	69	1	12	6	43
Tree Sparrow	624	120	179	75	62	8	59	2	5	66	48
White-cr. Sparrow	1										1
White-thr. Sparrow	62		2	21	7	3	12			3	14
Swamp Sparrow	2			2							
Song Sparrow	39	2	1	14	1		11	3	2	2	3
Snow Bunting	2		2								
Total Species	50	21	22	33	25	22	31	17	18	14	25
Total Count	9809	1021	2549	2267	678	336	1805	376	167	167	443

Three-inch snow cover, ponds and river frozen, streams partly open. Twenty-five observers in nine groups, plus feeding station and home-area observers. 55 hours afield (28 afoot, 27 by car); 317 miles afield (34 afoot, 283 by car). Total, 50 species, about 9809 individuals. Seen in area during count period, but not on count day: goshawk, yellow-bellied sapsucker, winter wren, hermit thrush, eastern meadowlark, pine grosbeak, fox sparrow, Lapland longspur.

#### KEY TO GROUPS

Group A - William Huntley, Benton Seguin. Watervliet Reservoir and environs. 7 am. to 12 noon. 1 hour afoot, 4 by car; 2 miles afoot, 38 by car. 21 species, 1021 count.

Group B - Samuel Madison, Walton Sabin. Voorheesville, Guilderland Center, Altamont, Meadowdale, Thacher Park. 7:15 am. to 3:30 pm. 2 hours afoot, 6 by car; 8 miles afoot, 53 by car. 22 species, 2549 count; snow bunting.

Group C - Ronald P. LaForce, Aaron and Harvey Spivak, Robert P. Yurick. Miskayuna and Colonie -- Rosendale Road (with Pollak's feeder), River Road to Mohawk View, Mohawk River north of Rt. 7. 8 hours afoot, 1½ by car; 10 miles afoot, 20 by car. 33 species, 2267 count; pheasant, great horned owl, boreal chickadee, red-winged blackbird, cowbird, swamp sparrow.

Group D - Francis and Hazel Bundy, Robert McCullough. Saratoga County, Riverview Road through Vischer Ferry to Game Management Area. 8 am. to 1:30 pm. 2 hours afoot, 3½ by car; 2 miles afoot, 20 by car. 25 species, 678 count, marsh hawk, ring-billed gull.

Group E - Mildred Crary, Alice Holmes. Scotia and Schermerhorn Road. 9 am. to 1 pm. 1½ hours afoot, 3½ by car; 2 miles afoot, 20 by car. 22 species, 336 count.

Group F - Douglass M. Allen, Peter F. and Dr. Ann Leeds (NYCity). South Schenectady and Rotterdam. 7 am. to 4:30 pm. 5½ hours afoot, 4 by car; 5 miles afoot, 90 by car. 31 species, 1805 count; wood duck.

Group G - Betty Hicks, Byron and Margaret Hipple, Mary Lynch. Six-mile Waterworks, Fuller Rd., Colonie H.S.; Sand Creek, Wolf, Old Miskayuna and Wade Rds.; Albany Airport, Ann Lee Home and pond, Shaker Rd., Rts. 151 and 155, Karner. 8:45 am. to 1:45 pm. 4 hours afoot, 1 by car; 3 miles afoot, 23 by car. 17 species, 376 count; black duck, red crossbill.

Group H - Stephanie and Irene Podrazik. Central Park, Parkview Cemetery, Municipal Golf Course. 10 am. to 1 pm. 1½ hours afoot, 3 by car; 1 mile afoot, 9 by car. 18 species, 167 count.

Group I - Charles W. Severinghaus, Beverly Waite. Settle Hill Road and environs. 12 noon to 2:30 pm. 2 hours afoot, ½ by car; 1 mile afoot, 10 by car. 14 species, 167 count; flicker, pileated woodpecker.

Group X - Feeders; urban and suburban. Philip L. Alger, Guy Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Burnice Bedford, Edgar Brower, Mr. and

Mrs. Roy O. Dunham, Harry Frink, Esly Hallenbeck, Barrington Havens, Grace and Harold Jonson, Anne Thompson, Mrs. Robert P. Yunick. 25 species, 434 count; white-crowned sparrow.

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## RENSSELAER HAS NEW HIGH COUNT

Monte D. Gruett

Compiler

Once again, the gods smiled favorably upon the Southern Rensselaer County Christmas Bird Count. Count Day, December 21, opened with mild temperature, very light breeze, and about noon the sun emerged. The next day, December 22, brought the first of our two major snowstorms. Records fell as a total of 63 species of birds piled up. Last year's record total was 57 species. Another "finch" winter is apparent. Evening grosbeaks and goldfinches were especially abundant. Pine grosbeaks, redpolls, red crossbills, purple finches and a single pine siskin were also reported.

This year's most unusual bird, carefully identified by Mr. Seguin and Mr. Guyon, was the wood thrush at West Sand Lake. Since he appeared to be in good health, why was he not in Mexico or Central America where all self-respecting wood thrushes should be at this time of year? Another exciting find was the dickcissel seen at Mrs. Sandberg's feeder. This midwestern bird normally winters in Central America but is occasionally seen in winter along the Atlantic coast. For many of us, the dickcissel was a "life" bird. The Iceland gull in first winter plumage spotted near Dunn Memorial bridge by Bill Gorman and son Dave was interesting because few "white-wing" gulls occur this far inland. Some other unusual birds reported were the sharp-shinned hawk, red-shouldered hawk, bobwhite, barred owl, boreal chickadee and Lapland longspur.

Field birds again appear to be somewhat down in numbers. In the case of the ring-necked pheasant, this is due in part to the curtailment in stocking operations by the State Conservation Department. The Department is experimenting with Korean and Japanese pheasants, so perhaps in the near future we shall be counting them.

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY, N.Y. (42° 37' N, 73° 38' W) All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Best, at intersection of Route 152 and Best-Luther Road, to include part of Troy, Poestenkill, Averill Park, Nassau, narrow belt of Albany County west of Hudson River; deciduous woods 30%, conifers 10%, fields and pastures 30%, marshes 15%, orchards 2%, river 3%, towns 5%, city 5%. December 21. Twenty-two observers in seven parties; 25 feeders. Total party-hours, 49 (11 on foot, 38 by car); total party-miles, 481 (21 on foot, 460 by car).

### KEY TO GROUPS

Group A - Glenmont. Robert Kornis. 5 miles afoot, 25 by car; 2½ hours afoot, 1½ by car.

## FEATHERS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1970

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY CHRISTMAS COUNT - DECEMBER 21, 1969

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	TOTAL
Mallard	1								1
Black Duck		2							2
Hooded Merganser					1				1
Sharp-shinned Hawk							1		1
Cooper's Hawk				1	1				2
Red-tailed Hawk		2	4	4	2		1		13
Red-shouldered Hawk						1			1
Rough-legged Hawk				1	1				2
Marsh Hawk						1			1
Sparrow Hawk	1	4	7	4	1	1			18
Ruffed Grouse	1		1					1	3
Bobwhite								1	1
Ring-necked Pheasant			2	1				17	20
Iceland Gull			1						1
Gr. Black-backed Gull		1							1
Herring Gull	5	6	21	22	8				62
Ring-billed Gull		2	3	1	7				13
Mourning Dove	3	1	2	5	44	3		21	79
Screech Owl			1						1
Great Horned Owl	1				3				4
Barred Owl					1				1
Belted Kingfisher					1				1
Yel-shafted Flicker		1	2	2					5
Pileated Woodpecker	1			2					3
Hairy Woodpecker	8	5	7	8	4	2	3	23	60
Downy Woodpecker	3	2	11	12	11	3	4	45	91
Horned Lark	120	30		99	20	44	30		343
Blue Jay	11	31	15	25	70	42	50	125	369
Common Crow	15	8	15	40	31	5	50	4	168
Blk-capped Chickadee	42	32	19	21	79	38	100	176	507
Boreal Chickadee			1					1	2
Tufted Titmouse	1		2	1	1			21	26
White-br. Nuthatch	4	3	9	3	4	7	4	43	77
Red-br. Nuthatch					2	1		11	14
Brown Creeper	1		5	2	1			2	11
Mockingbird	1								1
Wood Thrush		1							1
Golden-cr. Kinglet			1	3	2			1	7
Ruby-cr. Kinglet						2			2
Cedar Waxwing	10								10
Starling	1000	240	4000	820	334	119	300	306	7119
House Sparrow	50	56	35	135	196	42	100	247	861
Eastern Meadowlark					12				12
Red-winged Blackbird			1	2	1			1	5
Common Grackle								2	2
Brown-headed Cowbird				25				57	82
Cardinal	4	5	5	8	2	10	4	41	79
Dickcissel								1	1
Evening Grosbeak	5	200	19	14	65	42	3	149	497
Purple Finch		5				12		5	22
Pine Grosbeak								3	3
Common Redpoll		50	2	22					74
Pine Siskin				1					1
American Goldfinch	3	25	6	40	5	1		132	212
Red Crossbill					29				29
Slate-colored Junco	28	8	9	11	23	6	25	118	228
Tree Sparrow	8	24	13	410	208	53	100	259	1075

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	TOTAL
White-thr. Sparrow			2	1		2		5	10
Fox Sparrow								1	1
Swamp Sparrow				1					1
Song Sparrow	1	4	1	18	5	1		8	38
Lapland Longspur		2							2
Snow Bunting		60		1					61
Total Species	26	28	31	35	33	23	14	32	63
Total Count	1328	810	4222	1766	1175	438	774	1828	12341

Group B - North Greenbush. Harry Guyon and Benton Seguin. 77 miles by car; 5 hours by car.

Group C - Northwest E. Greenbush, Rensselaer. David and William Gorman. 6 miles afoot, 87 by car; 5 hours afoot, 6 by car.

Group D - Western E. Greenbush and western Schodack. Paul Connor, Monte Gruett, Richard Phillion and Harvey Spivak. 3½ miles afoot, 49 by car; 1½ hours afoot, 8½ by car.

Group E - Eastern E. Greenbush, parts of Schodack and Sand Lake, Menands. Douglass and Judy Allen, Peter and DiAnn Leeds, Walton Sabin. 3 miles afoot, 77 by car; ½ hour by foot, 9½ hours by car.

Group F - Town of Sand Lake, part of Nassau. Katherine Bordt and Betty Hicks. ½ mile afoot, 90 by car; ½ hour afoot, 5 by car.

Group G - Southeast Schodack and southern Nassau. Edward and Shawn Cummings, Edgar Reilly, Jr., Andrew and Edward Somers, and Orville Sondberg. 3 miles afoot, 55 by car; 1 hour afoot, 3 by car.

Group H - Feeder Reports: Total 25 feeders - Mrs. Addie Ashline, Joseph Baum, Fred Bordt, Mrs. Jean Chenette, Robert Christiansen, Mrs. Marguerite Clickner, Mrs. Charles Danahy, Mrs. Robert Don, Mrs. Beryl Drobeck, Mrs. Floyd Grandjean, Mrs. Edna Gorman, Mrs. Donna Gruett, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hall, Mrs. Rolf Jensen, Robert Johnson, Herbert Lange, Stanley Laskowski, Mrs. Barbara Legg, Helmut Neumann, Robert Pearce, Mrs. M. T. Reichard, Mrs. Philip Sandberg, Mrs. Gladys Saupe, Mrs. Mary Van Auken, Oscar Widstrand.

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## TROY ADDS BOBWHITE AND DICKCISSEL

Harvey Spivak

Compiler

For the second year in a row, the Troy Christmas Bird Count was hit below the belt by an insensitive Mother Nature. Snow storms, which were followed by more snow storms, forced us to postpone the count twice. This is certainly an area record for bad luck with a Christmas Count.

TROY CHRISTMAS COUNT - January 1, 1970

	A	B	C	D	E	TOTAL
Mallard		307				307
Black Duck		546				546
Pintail		1				1
Red-tailed Hawk		6	5		1	12
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	1			3
Sparrow Hawk		2	3		1	6
Ruffed Grouse	4	1		3		8
Bobwhite				1		1
Ring-necked Pheasant					47	47
Mourning Dove	10	27	2	26	123	188
Yellow-shafted Flicker		1				1
Pileated Woodpecker	1	1	1	1	1	5
Hairy Woodpecker	5	1	1	4	33	44
Downy Woodpecker	7	10	4	15	45	81
Horned Lark		5	6	1	1	13
Blue Jay	22	45	35	36	122	260
Common Crow	11	20	3	14	7	55
Black-capped Chickadee	68	76	20	72	124	360
Boreal Chickadee		1				1
Tufted Titmouse		1		1	6	8
White-breasted Nuthatch	7	9	4	9	32	61
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3			2	1	6
Brown Creeper	4	2		1	1	8
Mockingbird				1	1	2
Robin	4					4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3			2		5
Northern Shrike				1		1
Starling	15	165	105	150	162	597
House Sparrow	56	186	181	75	482	980
Red-winged Blackbird					1	1
Common Grackle					12	12
Brown-headed Cowbird					7	7
Cardinal	4	18		7	66	95
Dickcissel					1	1
Evening Grosbeak	20	119		19	312	470
Purple Finch					2	2
Common Redpoll	2	8	27	68	1	106
Pine Siskin		2			8	10
American Goldfinch	4	4		4	88	100
Rufous-sided Towhee					2	2
Vesper Sparrow			1			1
Slate-colored Junco	3	17	1	8	92	121
Tree Sparrow	15	59	11	75	166	326
Field Sparrow					8	8
White-crowned Sparrow					1	1
White-throated Sparrow	4	7			1	12
Fox Sparrow					4	4
Song Sparrow	2	13	4	3	7	29
Snow Bunting		7		2	1	10
Total Species	24	32	19	27	37	49
Total Individuals	275	1668	415	601	1970	4929

Both the feeder watchers and those who took to the field deserve plenty of thanks. The road conditions were so poor that it became difficult to park a car, let alone drive one. It forced at least one group to completely change its plans for the day and forced another group to abandon its efforts entirely.

But by no means was the picture entirely unpleasant. The Bundys found a vesper sparrow in Saratoga County, and towhees and a dickcissel were found at feeders. Other especially interesting species were a bobwhite and a boreal chickadee. We can be proud to announce that, after 21 years, the Troy count has amassed a composite list of exactly 100 species. We added two this year: bobwhite (Colonie) and dickcissel (Spieglestown feeders).

Of course, the count's results reflect the invasions of the northern finches we experienced this winter. Only once before have the number of evening grosbeaks been higher than they were this year; had we been allowed to cover the territory as thoroughly as usual, we surely would have beaten the 1965 record of 511 which is presently the all-time high. Surprisingly, the number of redpolls was high for the second consecutive year. Never before has the Troy count recorded so many redpolls for two years in a row. Generally, if they are counted at all one year, we can be fairly certain they will be completely absent from the next year's list.

Unfortunately, the odd amount of coverage the circle received on account of the uncontrollable meteorological circumstances distorted the counts of other species, making it difficult to base any conclusions upon our figures. The robin figure, for instance, suffered because of the lack of usual coverage of the circle. Neither can we take heart from the relatively low starling and house sparrow counts. If we have any better luck with the rest of the count next year, the figures for these two species will shoot up, also.

Mainly because of the weather, the feeders turned in excellent records for us this year. Of the 49 species recorded on the count, 10 were reported only by participants with feeders. That was a lot of help!

While waiting for this count next year, let's keep our fingers crossed. To quote last year's report, we "look forward to a better count (with better weather!) next year."

TROY, N.Y. 42°50'N, 73°40'W (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centered at River and Turner Roads in Schaghticoke). January 1; 8:15 am. to 4:40 pm.; temperature -18 to 15°F; wind W to NW, 0-7 mph.; snow accumulation of 44 inches, nearly all waters frozen. Ten observers in four parties plus 34 feeder reports. Total party-hours, 27½ (11½ on foot, 15 3/4 by car); total party-miles, 134½ (14½ on foot, 120 by car).

#### KEY TO GROUPS

GROUP A - Tomhannock Reservoir. Dianne and Bill Gorman, Monte Gruett, 11:00 am. to 2:30 pm.; 1 mile afoot, 12 by car; ½ hour afoot, 3 by car.

GROUP B - Hudson River. Sam Madison, Ginny and Walt Sabin.

9:00 am. to 4:30 pm.; 1 mile afoot, 44 by car; 2 hours afoot, 5½ by car.

GROUP C - Northwest Quadrant (Saratoga County). Hazel and Francis Bundy, 8:15 am. to 3:30 pm.; ½ mile afoot, 64 by car; ½ hour afoot, 6 3/4 by car.

GROUP D - Colonie-Dunsback Ferry. Aaron Spivak (half-day), Harvey Spivak, 8:15 am. to 4:40 pm.; 12 miles afoot, 0 by car; 8½ hours afoot, 0 by car.

GROUP E - Feeder reports. Lois Norton, et al. Total of 34 feeders.

\* \* \* \* \*

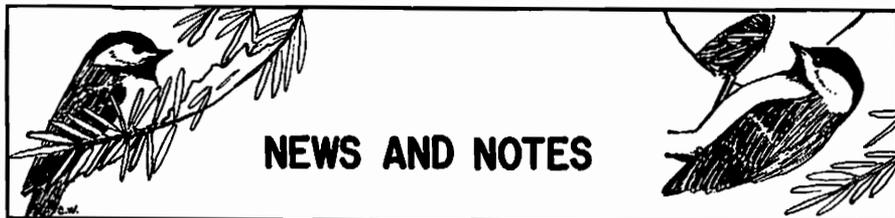


Dr. Robert P. Yunick, Editor of FEATHERS and Chairman of HMBC's Publications Committee for the past five years, notified the Board of Directors early in 1969 that he wanted to relinquish these positions at the end of the year. Bob's outstanding services in these capacities will be missed, but he has more than earned a respite from these duties. Knowing Bob's unbounded energy and enthusiasm we expect no lessening of his efforts on behalf of HMBC, merely a rechanneling of them into other areas.

Hazel Bundy is succeeding Bob as our new editor, effective with this issue, and as Chairman of the Publications Committee. Hazel has served the club exceptionally well for several years in many areas, particularly as a member and Chairman of the Records Committee and Co-Chairman of the Program Committee. She is leaving both of these positions in order to devote her time to this publication. I am sure that you will extend to her every cooperation in her new endeavors.

Marion Ford has agreed to assume the chairmanship of the Records Committee and Douglass Allen has accepted the co-chairmanship of the Program Committee in conjunction with Ruth Bates. Both Marion and Doug are comparative newcomers to HMBC, but both have unbounded interest in birding. I am pleased that they have agreed to inject their youth and vigor into our endeavors.

I am particularly satisfied that our club is so well supplied with talent that important personnel changes like these can be effected easily and with complete assurance that the excellent jobs which have been done in the past will continue to be performed well in the future.



### AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

The third of our Audubon Wildlife Films will be shown at Niskayuna High School auditorium at 8 pm. Wednesday, February 18. The film, "Allagash Country", portrays the sometimes placid, sometimes treacherous waters of the Allagash River in northern Maine, and the plants and animals who make this northern wilderness their home.

The fourth film of the series, "Central California's Coastal Plain," will be presented Thursday, March 26, and pictures a conservation program along a narrow strip of rugged coastline where pigeon guillemots and cormorants nest by the thousands and are joined in the fall by numerous other species including the beautiful emperor goose.

The fifth and final film of the series, "The Vanishing Sea," will be presented Wednesday, April 29, and dramatizes the dependence of all life upon water. The Great Salt Lake is the focal point and among the animals visited are the pelican, desert kit fox, kangaroo rat, and western grebe.

Season tickets for these three films will be available at the door for \$3. Single admissions \$2.

--Douglass Allen

### CHRISTMAS MEETING

More than forty members of HMBC assembled at the First Methodist Church Monday evening Dec. 8 for the annual Christmas meeting. The main business of the meeting, as in previous years, was the organization of the three Club-sponsored Christmas Counts. Guy Bartlett coordinated the Schoenectady Count, Monte Gruett the Southern Rensselaer, and Lois Norton, substituting for Harvey Spivak, the Troy Count.

Walt Sabin showed a beautiful Walt Disney film on water birds, giving an impromptu, informative commentary in the absence of a film track.

A social hour followed, with refreshments served by Audrey Madison.

### RADIO PROGRAM

Dr. Robert P. Yunick was the guest of Steve Fitz on his WGY Contact program on the evening of Jan. 13, with the discussion centering around birds. A great variety of questions and comments were phoned in, and enthusiasm for the subject under dis-

cussion ran high. There were many remarks about the excellence of the show. Numerous questions were asked in regard to the feeding of birds, and referral was made to our publication, "Wild Birds at Your Feeding Station", by Barrington S. Havens. Dr. Yunick has been urged to make a repeat appearance, and will be willing to do so when time permits, perhaps within a few weeks.

### RECORDS

The winter reporting period for field observations is Dec. 1 to March 31. The records committee would appreciate reports immediately after the end of March, in order for the regional editor to meet the "Kingbird" deadline. Please note that records are to be sent to our new records committee chairman, Miss Marion Ford, 155 Van Buren Road, Scotia 12302. Tele: 399-4701.

### FROM THE OUTGOING EDITOR

As some of you already know, the last issue of FEATHERS was my last as editor. The five years of my editorship have been memorable and interesting to me, and ones for which I thank the HMBC for the opportunity to have been editor. I hope that you the reader have profited as much from scanning these pages as I have from the experience of preparing them.

More importantly I want to thank the numerous people who have assisted in the preparation of this publication, and those of you who have cooperated in seeking and supplying material for these pages. I have appreciated also your encouraging remarks and criticisms. Hopefully the content, the encouragement and the criticism have fused to produce a product that has served a useful purpose and benefited you as members of HMBC.

Rather than dwell on the past, however, I should like to issue you a challenge for the future. My challenge to you is to assist in everyway our new editor, Hazel Bundy, to improve FEATHERS and to make it better serve the needs of our organization. No editor can sustain a publication of a volunteer organization without the assistance and wholehearted cooperation of members within the organization. Beyond the point of merely existing as an organization and having a publication, the extent of cooperation given an editor dictates the quality of the publication.

We have a new editor, a new sanctuary, a new decade and new horizons ahead of us. HMBC needs your renewed support. Thank you for your assistance on horizons past. --Robert P. Yunick

### IN APPRECIATION

The new editor deeply appreciates the generous and invaluable help of Guy Bartlett and Bob Yunick, previous editors, in the preparation of this issue of FEATHERS, and wishes to thank also Clara Belle Scott for aid with typing.

### TABLE CORRECTION

A portion of Table II on p. 84 of the Nov.-Dec. issue was typed in error. Enclosed is a four-page insert including pages 83, 84 and 101, 102 containing a corrected Table II. Your issue may be corrected by removing the staple and replacing the four-page insert with the enclosed corrected one.

FUTURE ISSUES

The editor would gratefully welcome further help from members - in contribution of articles - long or short, with suggestions, or with typing or other chores. Deadline March 1 for the March - April issue.

ENCLOSED MAILING

With the mailing of this issue is included the notice of the annual meeting to be held February 23, 1970 in Fellowship Hall, First Methodist Church, Schenectady. Members are urged to attend, and non-members are welcome.

Also enclosed is the Index for Volume 31, 1969, once again prepared by Guy Bartlett, and acknowledged with appreciation.

FINAL DUES REMINDER

The 1970 Directory will be made up about March 1, and will be comprised of those members who have paid their dues, thus signifying their desire of being HMBC members this year.

(Issue assembled January 18, 1970)

**EDITOR:**

Mrs. F. P. Bundy  
R. D. 1, Box 55  
Scotia 12302

**CIRCULATION:**

Mrs. Edward Koch  
58 Goode Street  
Burnt Hills 12027

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

**ART EDITOR:** Carol Wernick

**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.

**HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.:** Samuel R. Madison, President; Robert P. Yunick, Vice-president; Miss Elizabeth Macauley, Treasurer; Mrs. Elizabeth Ellis, Secretary.

Address Correction Requested

HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

MRS. EDWARD KOCH

58 GOODE STREET

BURNT HILLS, NEW YORK 12027

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PUBLISHED BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

## MADISON ELECTED PRESIDENT

Libby Ellis

Secretary

The annual meeting of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club was held on February 23, 1970 at the First Methodist Church in Schenectady, with 47 people attending.

Lois Norton, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the following slate of officers;

President: Samuel R. Madison  
 Vice-president: Robert P. Yunick  
 Secretary: Judy Allen  
 Treasurer: Elizabeth Macauley  
 New Directors: Elizabeth S. Ellis ('72)  
                   Monte Gruett ('72)  
                   Will Merritt ('72)

There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was elected unanimously.

Sam Madison expressed to Mrs. H. G. Reist the gratitude of the club for her donation of the property for our new sanctuary and the members of the club applauded as he presented her with a resolution of our appreciation which had been beautifully framed by Marion Ford. The president also indicated that more than ten members had volunteered to serve on the sanctuary committee to plan the development of trails, water resources, etc. on the property and that Bob Yunick and Walt Sabin had consented to be committee chairman and vice-chairman, respectively.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$17,692.37 and the program committee chairman announced that the club had made a profit of about \$300 on the Audubon films this year. Highlights of other committee reports were:

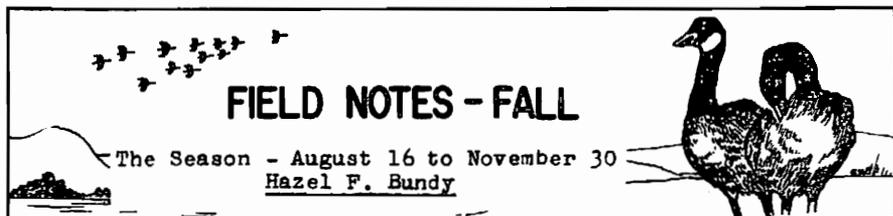
Records Committee - Hazel Bundy noted that between 235 and 240 species of birds had been sighted in our 11-county area in 1969, including a Wilson's phalarope, Bohemian waxwings, pine grosbeaks and boreal chickadees. Marion Ford, the new chairman of the records committee, had received a report of a young barn owl and many sightings of crossbills.

Youth Activities Committee - Lois Norton reported that many requests for speakers on birds and wildflowers had been made, and that slide lectures have been scheduled to take care of all of them.

Membership Committee - Lenny Thomas read the names of 21 new members, who were then accepted into the club by the members present.

All present had been eagerly awaiting Bob Yunick's presentation of slides on "The Four Seasons at Vischer Ferry", and the president interrupted the business meeting for this program. Bob outlined the history of the game management area and then portrayed the seasons around the year with many beautiful slides of the trees, shrubs, wildflowers, animal tracks. Especially stunning were the close-up views of some of the common "weeds". But where were the birds? We saw bird boxes, woodpecker holes and bird tracks, but not a single winged creature until the very end when Bob treated us to some lovely views of a male prothonotary warbler he had banded at Vischer Ferry.

Mary Linch, Mary Johnston and Ginny Sabin served refreshments after the meeting.



The average temperature for the last half of August was close to normal, although the extreme temperatures varied considerably; there was virtually no rainfall. The first half of September was unseasonably warm, with a reverse trend of unseasonably cool weather from the 18th on; rainfall was only 2.06 inches - 1.52 inches less than normal; three-fourths of the precipitation occurred on the 6th, 7th and 8th. October was a little cooler than usual, and still dry, with 1.55 inches of rainfall - 1.22 inches less than normal. November brought much rain and snow, with an excess precipitation of 3.01 inches, just about making up for the deficiency in September and October. (Weather data taken at the Albany Airport)

Major migration movements included September 5 and 6, when large numbers of warblers were reported, and several days beginning with September 19, when cold weather triggered considerable activity. Conditions were highly unfavorable for shore birds - virtually no mud flats in the area, with the expected result of very few records of shore birds, except for the unusual appearance of many dunlin.

There were many bright spots in the fall report. Several red-necked grebes were reported instead of one or none as in the last three years. Waterfowl were in good supply, with a considerable increase in the numbers of oldsquaws and white-winged scoters. Several goshawks and sharp-shinned hawks were recorded. There appeared to be a minor invasion of boreal chickadees. The warbler count was much higher than usual, especially for black-polls. Purple finches, common redpolls, slate-colored juncos, and white-throated sparrows were abundant, and a large flock of red crossbills was observed.

Of unusual note were reports on the following: snow goose, golden eagle, and yellow-breasted chat.

Observers cited more than once: DA--Douglass Allen; GB--Guy Bartlett; HFB--Hazel Bundy; L&VB--Lee and Virginia Burland; JB--James Bush; PC--Paul Connor; JC--Juanita Cook; RD--Roland Droune; P&GE--Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; MFP--Mabel W. French; M&AG--Murray and Alice Giddings; WG--William Gorman; EH--Esly Hallenbeck; MK--Marcia Kent; CK--Clarissa Ketcham; RMcC--Robert McCullough; WDM--Will Merritt, Jr.; MM--Mary Mickle; PM--Philip Mickle; ER--Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.; WBS--Walton Sabin; BRS--Benton Seguin; NS--Natalie Snare; M&WU--M. and W. Ulmer; RPY--Robert Yunick; bsh--Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin, Barrington Havens; ADBC--Alan Devoe Bird Club; HMBC--Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.

Area compilers: Rena Dodd, Betty Laros, and Clarissa Ketcham.

Abbreviations: AR--Alcove Reservoir; BC--Basic Reservoir; Cton--Castleton; CL--Collins Lake; GL--Galway Lake; GR--Greenville; KPBB--Karner Pine Barrens; Mville--Mariaville; Nisk--Niskayuna; SL--Saratoga Lake; Sch Ctr--Schodack Center; SCR--Stony Creek Reservoir; TR--Tomhannock Reservoir; VFG--Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WPWS--Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary.

### LOONS--DUCKS

Common Loon: from Sep 28 SL (BRS) thru period.  
 Red-throated Loon: three reports, all at SL - 1 Oct 26 (HMBC); 1 Nov 8 (bsh); 2 Nov 27 (BRS).  
 Red-necked Grebe: reported from three different lakes - 1 Oct 30 CL (EH); to end of period SL with max 3 Nov 8 (bsh); 2 Nov 1 GL (HMBC).  
 Horned Grebe: 2 Oct 18 TR (HMBC) thru period; max 30 Nov 8 SL (bsh).  
 Pied-billed Grebe: reports from several areas - from Sep 7 Cton (JC) to Nov 30 Columbia Co (ADBC).  
 Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Sep 19 flying north over Mville (DA).  
 Great Blue Heron: frequent reports; max 12 Sep 26 VFG (RPY); last 1 Nov 13 SCR (EH).  
 Green Heron: a few reports from four different areas; last Oct 5 Cton(JC).  
 Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 seen and 2 heard at dusk Aug 20 Mohawk R at Nisk (RPY).  
 American Bittern: Sep 16 Ghent (P&GE); Sep 30 WPWS (ER).  
 Canada Goose: first flock - 50 Oct 1 Gr (CK); most flocks between 150 and 250, in general smaller than those of the previous year.  
 Snow Goose: in unprecedented numbers; three reports for Nov 3 - 250 Saratoga Co (bsh), 500 Saratoga Co (fide MK), and 450 Rensselaer Co (fide MK); a spectacular flock of 1500 Nov 4 over Watervliet Reservoir (bsh); singles reported from three other areas.  
 Mallard: good numbers seen.  
 Black Duck: large numbers reported, including 600 Nov 15 AR and BR (HMBC).  
 Gadwall: 1 Oct 26 Gr (CK); 4 Nov 22 SCR (bsh); 4 Nov 27 SCR (BRS).  
 Pintail: from 2 Sep 21 SCR (EH, RMcC) to 3 Nov 15 AR (HMBC).  
 Green-winged Teal: 20 Sep 16 SCR (EH) thru period; max 40 Nov 15 (bsh).  
 Blue-winged Teal: last report late - 4 Nov 15 WPWS (ER).  
 American Widgeon: in small numbers - from Sep 28 SCR (BRS) to Nov 15 BR (HMBC).  
 Wood Duck: reports include - max 50 Sep 24-30 CL (EH); 200 Oct 25 WPWS (ER); late date of Nov 18 WPWS (ER, RD).

Redhead: 1 Oct 25 SL (bsh); 2 Nov 27 SL (BRS).  
 Ring-necked Duck: several Nov reports; max 90 Nov 1 GL (HMBC).  
 Canvasback: 2 arr Oct 26 SL (HMBC); max 45 Nov 15 AR and BR (HMBC).  
 Scaup: 5 Oct 18 TR (HMBC) thru period; max 175 Oct 26 SL (HMBC)  
 and 150 Nov 15 AR and BR (HMBC).  
 Common Goldeneye: Oct 26 SL (HMBC) thru period; max 250 Nov 23  
 SL (EH, RMC).  
 Bufflehead: 30 Oct 26 SL (HMBC) thru period.  
 Oldsquaw: more numerous than usual; 13 Oct 26 SL (HMBC) thru  
 period; max 30 Oct 29 SL (bsh).  
 White-winged Scoter: 5 Oct 27 SL (BRS) thru period; max 30 Nov  
 15 AR and BR (HMBC). Surf Scoter: 2 Oct 18 TR and 1 Oct  
 26 SL (HMBC).  
 Common Scoter: from Oct 17 Queechy L (MM) thru period; max 26  
 Oct 20 Featherstonehaugh L (DA).  
 Ruddy Duck: several scattered reports from Oct 5 SCR (BRS) thru  
 period; Nov 1-30 Queechy L (RD).  
 Hooded Merganser: Oct 4 WPWS (ER) to 6 Nov 28 GL (EH); max 20  
 Oct 29 SL (bsh).  
 Common Merganser: 6 arr Sep 26 Hudson R in Warren Co (EH); max  
 50 Nov 29 SL (bsh).  
 Red-breasted Merganser: 24 Oct 26 SL (HMBC) thru period.

HAWKS--OWLS

Turkey Vulture: last report - 3 Nov 15 WPWS (ER).  
 Goshawk: 1 Oct 12 near Hadley (Barrington Havens); 1 Slingerlands  
 and 1 KPB Nov 23 (WBS).  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles - Oct 7 Catskill (JB); Oct 19 (EH);  
 Oct 25 and Nov 2 Schodack (L&VB).  
 Cooper's Hawk: three scattered reports.  
 Red-tailed Hawk: max - 20 Nov 16 and 22 Nov 23 (bsh).  
 Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Aug 21 Saratoga Co (EH); five scattered  
 reports from Sep 21 to Nov 15.  
 Broad-winged Hawk: six reports; last Oct 5 Jewett (CK).  
 Rough-legged Hawk: arr Oct 26 in two localities; max 4 Nov 30  
 Coxsackie (JB).  
GOLDEN EAGLE: 1 observed at Hillsdale for four hours Oct 24  
 (NS); 1 found dead in the same area Nov 6, and identified  
 at the Delmar Game Farm (ADBC).  
 Bald Eagle: 1 observed soaring over the General Electric plant  
 in Waterford Aug 25 (John Bradley, John Saville).  
 Marsh Hawk: frequent reports from Sep 7 to Nov 16.  
 Osprey: Aug 23 VFG (RPY) to Oct 9 W. Glenville (EH).  
 Sparrow Hawk: seemed scarce.  
 Bobwhite: reported only in Columbia Co (mob).  
 Virginia Rail: 1 Aug 20 Mohawk R at Nisk (RPY); 1 imm Sep 3  
 Gr (CK).  
 Common Gallinule: missed entirely!  
 American Coot: arr Sep 20 Old Pond (H. Tank); small numbers thru  
 period, with max 30 Nov 1 GL (HMBC).  
 Semipalmated Plover: only one - Oct 19 Sacandaga Reservoir (DA).  
 Killdeer: widely reported; max 50 Oct 15 TR (PC); last Nov 16  
 (bsh, EH).  
 American Woodcock: last - 12 Oct 17 Catskill (JB).  
 Common Snipe: max 9 Oct 30 CL (EH).  
 Upland Plover: last at Craig School Nisk Aug 21 (RPY); last re-  
 port - Sep 12 Sch Ctr (PC).  
 Spotted Sandpiper: only two reports, both singles - Aug 24  
 Warren Co (EH); Nov 1 Sacandaga Reservoir (DA).  
 Solitary Sandpiper: only one - Sep 24 Ghent (P&GE).

- Greater Yellowlegs: Sep 6 (CK) to Nov 8 (bsh); max 28 Oct 19 SCR (EH).
- Lesser Yellowlegs: only three reports - last Oct 31 (bsh).
- Pectoral Sandpiper: 15 Oct 5 Medusa Swamp (CK); six additional reports of 1 to 4 individuals; last Nov 1 GL (HMBC).
- Least Sandpiper: only two reports - 2 Sep 14 Papscaanee Creek (PC) and 1 Oct 15 TR (PC).
- Dunlin: 4 Oct 15 TR (PC) to 4 Nov 16 GL (EH); large flocks - 30 Oct 18 TR (HMBC), 30 Nov 1 GL (HMBC), and 40 Nov 8 GL (EH); four additional reports.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 Oct 9 GL (EH).
- Bonaparte's Gull: singles - Oct 25 and Nov 3 SL (bsh).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Sep 16 and 24 Ghent (P&GE).
- Black-billed Cuckoo: singles Sep 20 and 27 banded VFG (WDM, RPY).
- Screech Owl: reported from 7 areas.
- Great Horned Owl: reported from 7 areas.
- Barred Owl: heard in Jenny Lake area (GB); 1 Oct 20 Chatham (M&G).
- Saw-whet Owl: only one - banded Oct 19 VFG (WDM, RPY).

GOATSUCKERS--STARLING

- Common Nighthawk: unusual migration reports of 200+ Aug 29 Gr (CK), and 100 Sep 28 over Old Chatham (ER).
- Chimney Swift: max 50+ Sep 20 VFG (RPY); last Sep 28 VFG (RPY).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 54 netted VFG banding station from Aug 2 to Sep 28, a considerable increase over previous year (WDM, RPY).
- Belted Kingfisher: frequent reports.
- Yellow-shafted Flicker: max 4 Nov 9 (bsh).
- Pileated Woodpecker: reported from at least 5 areas.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: reported from 4 areas; last Oct 18 WPWS (ER).
- Eastern Kingbird: last Oct 13 Chatham (M&G).
- Great Crested Flycatcher: last report - 1 banded Sep 27 VFG (WDM, RPY).
- Eastern Phoebe: to Nov 10 Gr (CK).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Sep 4 and 5 Loudonville (MWF); 29 banded from Aug 3 to Sep 13 VFG, a considerable increase (WDM, RPY).
- Traill's Flycatcher: 16 banded from Aug 1 to Sep 6 VFG (WDM, RPY), an increase recouping the loss of the previous year; 2 Sep 11 Nisk (RPY).
- Least Flycatcher: declined significantly at VFG banding station (RPY).
- Eastern Wood Pewee: last Sep 30 (EH).
- Tree Swallow: last Sep 21 (EH, RMCC).
- Bank Swallow: last - 4 Sep 28 (BRS).
- Rough-winged Swallow: to Sep 7 Hillsdale (NS).
- Barn Swallow: to Sep 21 (EH, RMCC).
- Black-capped Chickadee: max 50 Oct 18 TR (HMBC).
- Boreal Chickadee: 2 Nov 15 thru period at Mr. Pollak's feeder Nisk (fide RPY); 6 Nov 30 Tygert (bsh).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 30 Oct 15 TR (PC).
- Brown Creeper: early migrant Aug 9 VFG (WDM, RPY).
- House Wren: last Oct 10 (WG), with the exception of a very late date of Nov 29 at Leeds (Jeffrey Carlton).
- Winter Wren: reported from about 10 areas.
- Long-billed Marsh Wren: last - 1 banded Oct 5 VFG (WDM, RPY).
- Catbird: last - Nov 15 WPWS (ER). (cont. on P. 28)

## BIRDS IN BRITISH HONDURAS

Lillian C. Stoner

Did you ever hear of the red-footed booby, the potoo, or the paraque? I never did until I took a trip to Belize, British Honduras, Central America February 2-9, 1969 with 15 other people on a Florida Audubon Society Tour.

Nor did I know about the king vulture. We see turkey vultures here occasionally in the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club area and also see it and the black vulture in Florida. While our bird books say that the king and the turkey vultures are about the same size it seemed to me that the king vulture looked larger as we watched it soaring around high above us when we were on a rather high place in British Honduras.

I didn't know that there was a roadside hawk until I saw it near the highway on three field trips. It looks something like the red-shouldered, only a little smaller in size and with a longer tail which has six narrow bars across the underside.

The ruddy crake which someone saw, I found in looking it up, is sometimes called red rail. It stands and walks much like the sora rail which is slightly larger.

Did you ever hear a laughing gull when it gives its varied calls? One of these sounds is much like a good imitation of a person's laugh. This gull was seen daily, usually near some water, but as it was in its winter plumage it was not so striking looking as in the summer when it has a black head.

It was good to see the mourning dove on one trip and the little ground dove, which is so common in Florida, on four days, but the other four doves listed were new to me.

The people who own orange groves in British Honduras do not especially like parrots (we listed five kinds) as they are very destructive of the fruit on the trees. A parrot will pierce a deep hole in an orange to get juice, then it does the same thing to other ripening oranges. This of course spoils the fruit for the market. The parrots and parakeets are very noisy, and their chatter is heard when small flocks fly into the orange groves.

A dugout canoe ride on a beautiful river to see the boat-billed herons was most enjoyable on the Tennessee Farm trip. A few of us at a time went some distance in the canoe down the river. At first a small motor was used, then the native boy paddled, guiding the canoe and making little noise. We were cautioned to be quiet so as not to frighten these seldom-visited birds as we went into Burrell Creek Lagoon where the boat-billed herons nested in the tops of the tall trees. There was quite a colony of these 18-20 inch birds which have big, wide, flattened but slightly boat-shaped bills. Our stay was short so as not to frighten these rather rare birds before the other canoe loads had a chance to see them. Along the bank one of our members saw another rather rare bird - namely, the sun grebe. It is about the same size as the pied-billed grebe.

Also we saw mangrove swallows on this canoe trip; some were flying quite close to the water, then one suddenly disappeared in the end of a dead branch that overhung the river. When it came out we even saw a few feathers so the nest was near the opening. The mangrove is slightly smaller than our tree swallow and nearer the size of the bank swallow, both of which we listed on several occasions. It is easy to tell the mangrove when in flight as it has a large white patch at base of the tail and is glossy-green above and on wings. At times in bright sunshine the color seemed steel-blue.

A howling monkey, yes, I heard a wild monkey as it gave a brief howl. It was in the not too distant forest. This was before dark in the evening of the Tennessee Farm Trip when we stopped to see and hear birds as Dora Weyer, who lives now in Belize, took three of us in her Landrover (car) out to see the water birds come in to roost in the tall trees.

As it was growing darker we saw flock after flock of birds flying toward the river. There were flocks of cattle egrets, common, snowy and some Louisiana herons; then the yellow-crowned night herons flew in such numbers as to far outnumber the black-crowned. It was a beautiful sight to see the flight of the hundred and hundreds of birds coming in for the night; they noisily settled in the tops of the tall trees by the river. As this was a swampy place, it seemed to us that there were hundreds and hundreds of mosquitoes and other biting insects that enjoyed us as we sat in the Landrover watching the birds but we did not enjoy their bites and stings.

After dark as we drove along the river we first heard the paraque, then it settled in the road in front of us and facing us; we plainly saw the two bright eyes in the light of the headlights of the car. This was an unforgettable sight for me. We next watched for the potoo but missed it; this is in a family closely related to the nightjar or nighthawk family. The potoo, evidently frightened by our presence, did not come to its usual resting spot at the end of a dead limb. As it rests parallel to the upright stick and at the tip of it, it looks almost like an extension of the stick. This strictly nocturnal bird which perches upright along a post or at the end of a limb is 14 inches long, so a little longer than the bright-eyed paraque that we had seen in the same area near the river.

Did you know that some hummingbirds are called white-necked Jacobin, fork-tailed and white-billed emeralds, red-billed azure-crown and long-tailed hermit? And oh was it hard to focus glasses on them, as these long-billed small birds are so quick as they fly around flowers and leaves.

Two birds quite different in size, I saw well through the telescope on one of the country trips; the volaceus trogon sat up so straight and for so long a time on a branch of a tree so the long tail with underparts so evenly barred black and white were plainly seen. Then the white-necked puffbird was perched on a limb in another tree beside the road. It was so hunched up so looked small and much like a puff ball, but it is actually nine inches long; but we were able to see the white neck and a little of the black band across the abdomen.

A collared aracari, - what is it? This is a toucan with the big bill; the thick bill may be three to four inches long on a bird that has a total length of 15 inches. We see them mainly in a zoo in the United States.

What is the difference between the woodpeckers and the woodcreepers? While some woodpeckers are seen on the bark of trees for short periods, the woodcreepers, that are rightly named, do cling to the bark with their sharply curved toe-nails and they prop themselves upright (woodpecker fashion) with their stiff spiny tails. The names are quite descriptive of these species; on our list we had ruddy, wedge-billed, barred, ivory-billed and streak-headed woodcreepers.

I surely wish that I could have seen the six-inch-long barred antshrike which was reported by the leaders on one trip. The male is described as boldly barred, as the black and white bars are so prominent; it is also called an antbird so we can guess what it feeds on.

The tropical kingbird reminded us of our kingbird, only it is more colorful and larger in size. It and the tropical mockingbird were seen daily. The common cardinal was listed on two trips.

To me, the two most outstanding members of the 18 kinds of flycatchers on our combined list were the vermilion flycatcher and the great kiskadee. The small six-inch vermilion with its scarlet breast and top of head and black wings and underparts was just as beautiful here as the ones I saw in Mexico and which I first observed in Texas several years ago. The other flycatcher is the kiskadee, a rather plump bird. The head is prominently marked as it has a white bar above and white throat below the black bar through the eye, and a black bar on top of the head. The white throat passes abruptly into the bright yellow breast, upper parts are mainly brownish in color. This nine-inch spectacularly beautiful bird has a loud call much as though it is trying to say its name kis-ka-dee. It was heard daily and usually seen in the top of a tall tree.

It seemed strange not to see common crows or the common blue jay. However, we did see the white-tipped brown jay four days; it is larger as it is 16-18 inches while our blue jay is 11-12 inches in length. This Central American jay, like ours, was noisy with calls given frequently.

I had only a fleeting view of the black catbird which is the same size as our catbird (which we saw in several localities); it is glossy black in color.

We didn't see the American robin here but we listed two others, namely, the white-throated and the clay-colored robins.

The airplane ride of 150 miles from Belize to Punta Gorda, the most southern city in British Honduras, was interesting as we flew over orange groves, banana plantations and rice fields. We were then taken 25 miles in private cars provided by Reverend and Mrs. Paul Beals, who are now located here but formerly from Georgia, to the Forest Research Station at the Columbia Forest. This laboratory or research station is the headquarters for the research workers who are to come from the University of Florida; they will cooperate with the Belize government and the Florida

Audubon Society. After eating lunch here, some of our group went down into this nine-square-mile Columbia Forest Sanctuary, which Florida Audubon Society had recently acquired, and saw many tropical birds. They reported seeing a squirrel cuckoo, an antshrike, antwren, antbird, honeycreepers and other birds. Near the laboratory building I watched a ruby-crowned kinglet with and without glasses for some time as the bird flew about the tops of some bushes. It gave no song which we hear here in spring but only a chirp as it busily hunted for food on this hot day.

En route to and from the airport we saw many patches of rice as they say rice grows any place they plant it in this soil. We also saw mahogany trees but saw cutters cutting them down so they could ship these valuable trees to markets and sell them for a big price. At the rate the trees are being cut down they are fearful that there will not be many left. We did also see a few mahogany trees in other localities. As there were no lights at Belize airport, this unusual bird trip ended as we landed safely at the airport before dark.

The myrtle was the one warbler seen every day and the magnolia, Cape May, and American redstart were observed on five days each; some 14 other warblers were listed on some of the trips.

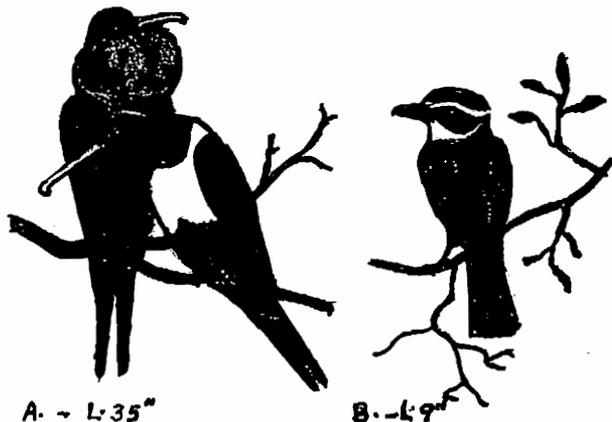
Boat-tailed grackles were recorded every day, but red-wings only two times. But the queer bird to me was the melodious blackbird seen on four trips; it is 10-11 inches long and slightly glossy-black; authorities say it is fairly common in lower altitudes. Sorry not to hear it when I saw it, but I presume it received its name from its song.

A bus trip on our last day to a high point was to see the 800 foot Hidden Valley Waterfall. While it is not wide like Niagara Falls (which is some 160 feet high) it is much higher; so many tall trees are on this high point and surrounding valley so it is rightly called Hidden Valley Waterfall. While eating our lunch here we not only enjoyed the beautiful scenery of the surrounding tree-topped mountain peaks but near us was a Grace warbler acting much like a myrtle, and en route thru pine-ridge area we had seen different woodpeckers. Since the bus broke down on the return trip we returned by another bus back to the hotel for a late dinner on this last bird trip.

The Government Yacht trip especially to see nesting colonies of two tropical birds will long be remembered. The two-day boat trip taken on the first and second days after our arrival in Belize was quite unusual and a most enjoyable experience. The Premier, George Price, turned over his yacht which was staffed with an engineer, a cook and two other helpers for the trip. Dora Weyer and Meg Craig, the sister of the Premier, had made all arrangements for this trip, even to bringing five delicious home-made pies on board for one of our meals.

After the boat left the harbor we passed over the coral reef which extends along the shore of British Honduras for 200 miles; it also is quite wide. It is next to the longest coral reef in the world. Many kinds of fish (some found only here) use this as a nursery as they find safety in and around the 26 kinds of corals which scientists have identified here.

We saw several kinds of herons and gulls and later pairs of osprey as well as boat-tailed grackles, kingfishers and others, but we heard no killdeer from the islands. We also, on this 70 mile trip, saw dolphins and flying fish jumping out of the water. Quite a few of the islands we passed had many dead trees standing; some had huge cone-shaped ant nests attached to them. These trees had been damaged and killed by the hurricane of a few years ago.



- A. Man-o'-war or Frigatebirds - inflated bright red pouch on male in courtship  
 B. Kiskadee

I am indebted to Mrs. Florence Vieta, former President of the Venice (Florida) Area Audubon Society for the above sketches.

It was a six-hour ride to Half Moon Cay (island or key to us). As we got near to the rightly named Half Moon Cay we saw red-footed boobies and the magnificent frigatebirds (often called man-o'-war birds) flying overhead. Loletta, the yacht, was anchored off shore so everyone was taken to shore in a small row-boat. Although it was only one-half hour until it would be dark many of our group walked the sandy and brushy mile to the nesting colonies of birds. Here, the magnificent frigatebirds and red-footed boobies nested in rather low trees or bushes, at height only slightly above a person's head; the nests were so close together that it is reported that sometimes one species fed the young of the other species. The flashing light on the lighthouse did not disturb these two species nor the ospreys which had a nest on top of the lighthouse tower, but the big beam of light helped guide the big ocean vessels coming in or going out to the ocean.

Only four families lived on Half Moon Cay so the estimated 3000 boobies and 400 frigatebirds were not often disturbed by man (it was reported that there was twice this number of both species here before the hurricane).

The red-footed booby has bright red webbed feet and short legs; it is 29 inches in length and in flight it appears mainly white but it does have black primaries on the long wings, and a white tail. This good flyer can drop from quite a height to pick up a fish or some other food in the water as its food is mainly found in the sea.

The frigatebird too is a poor walker but a most graceful flyer. It measures 35 inches in length and it is easy to identify in flight because it has a long deeply-forked tail and a bend or crook in the long narrow wings. The male mainly has blackish plumage but it has a throat-pouch which is bright red when greatly distended in courtship. The female is mainly blackish but has white sides of neck and breast pure white. As I sat in the boat watching these birds soaring round and round above me the wings were motionless, but they frequently uttered a rather deep-pitched squawk squawk; they would quickly dive to water to pick up food. Both of these species have rather long bills and big eyes with remarkable sight to spot their food many feet below them in the water.

The return trip on the second day was windy and rough and the boat was tippy so it was difficult to walk unless you held onto something. We stopped to eat our hot fish lunch between two islands where the water was fairly calm. There had been a fish line out for the entire trip so in trolling we caught a six pound tuna and two barracudas, one of which was 18 inches long. Not too many birds were seen on the windy stormy return trip.

Mr. Lionel Kissling, one of the Government photographers, accompanied us on several of our trips; he took many pictures which later were to be used showing the first ornithological trip by Americans to Belize, British Honduras.

Especially interesting was the organization meeting one evening at the Premier's house when he and others welcomed us after which a new chapter of Florida Audubon Society was organized with 56 charter members; the officers were immediately elected for the Belize Audubon Society. Mr. Russell Mason and Mrs. Mina Steffee, both staff members of the Florida Audubon Society and the leaders of our trip, had helped in getting this new group started, but much credit goes to Mrs. Dora Weyer for work done before and after our arrival, both for getting the new group formed and for the successful completion of our field work. We also wish to thank Mrs. Meg Craig for her help, especially for all the good lunches she prepared for our daily field trips.

The combined list of birds totaled 222 species for the six days on the trips by bus, Landrover (some of the time on Hummingbird Highway, yes, that was the name on the map), airplane, dug-out canoe, rowboat and yacht. We greatly appreciated the guidance of our leaders and the cooperation of the Government officials of Belize, British Honduras, Central America.

\* \* \* \* \*

- Brown Thrasher: last Nov 3 Catskill (JB).  
 Robin: max 100+ Oct 17 Mville (DA); most disappeared by Nov 7  
 Wood Thrush: last Oct 5 Gr (CK). (bsh)  
 Hermit Thrush: from Oct 5 VFG (WDM, RPY) to Nov 29 Nisk (RPY).  
 Swainson's Thrush: Sep 20 Ghent (P&GE); Sep 5 - Oct 12 VFG  
 (WDM, RPY).  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 banded Sep 27 VFG (WDM, RPY).  
 Veery: last Oct 5 VFG (WDM, RPY).  
 Eastern Bluebird: reported thru Nov Columbia Co (RD); max - 15  
 Oct 15 Gr (CK), and 12 Oct 18 Catskill (JB).  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Sch Ctr Oct 5 (PC).  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: first Ghent Sep 11 (P&GE); throughout  
 period.  
 Water Pipit: reported widely; from Sep 24 Ghent (P&GE) to Nov  
 10 Cton (JC); max 100 Oct 24 Cton (JC).  
 Cedar Waxwing: large flocks, including the following - 147  
 banded in one day, Sep 27 VFG (WDM, RPY); 200 Nov 4 (bsh);  
 100 Nov Troy (E. and H. Long).  
 Northern Shrike: Nov 1 GL (HMBC); 1 imm banded Nov 8 and another  
 imm observed Nov 12 Rexford (WDM); Nov 27 Chatham (PM).  
 Migrant Shrike: Oct 4 WPWS (ER); Nov 22 Saratoga Battlefield  
 (bsh). In addition a shrike (sp?) was seen on Nov 23, and  
 one (sp?) in a different area Nov 24 (DA).

VIREOS--WARBLERS

- Yellow-throated Vireo: four reports; last Sep 29 WPWS (ER).  
 Solitary Vireo: bandings - 1 Sep 20, and 2 Oct 4 VFG (WDM, RPY);  
 also, 1 Oct 12 Chatham (M&WU).  
 Red-eyed Vireo: last - 3 banded Oct 25 VFG (WDM, RPY).  
 Philadelphia Vireo: a pair found nesting in second-growth near  
 open field, and observed both on and off nest Aug Ghent  
 (P&GE); 6 banded Sep 6-28 VFG (WDM, RPY); 1 Sep 27 WPWS (ER).  
 Warbling Vireo: last Oct 8 Cton (JC).  
 Black-and-white Warbler: only one report - 4 Sep 6 KPB (HMBC).  
 Tennessee Warbler: 1 banded very early, Aug 2, and other singles  
 Sep 13, Oct 5 VFG (WDM, RPY); 1 Oct 4 WPWS (ER).  
 Nashville Warbler: Aug 22 Warren Co (EH) to Oct 12 E. Greenbush (WG).  
 Parula Warbler: three singles - Sep 22 Loudonville (MWF); 1 found  
 dead, along with other species of warblers on a foggy morn-  
 ing, Sep 30, at the base of the Education Building in Albany  
 (PC); Oct 4 WPWS (ER).  
 Yellow Warbler: marked decrease at VFG banding station, last one  
 Aug 23, with an unusually high number of adult captures  
 suggesting a massive breeding failure (RPY); last Sep 25  
 Hillsdale (R. Silverman).  
 Magnolia Warbler: from 2 Sep 5 Sch Ctr (PC) to Oct 5 Berne (NK);  
 max 10 Sep 6 KPB (HMBC).  
 Cape May Warbler: more reports than usual - 1 Aug 29 Sch Ctr  
 (PC); 6 Sep 6 KPB (HMBC); Sep 16-25 Cton and Ghent (JC, P&GE).  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler: Sep 6 Gr (CK) to Oct 8 Cton (JC).  
 Myrtle Warbler: from Sep 6 KPB (HMBC) thru period; max 50 Oct  
 15 TR (PC).  
 Black-throated Green Warbler: from Aug 30 VFG (WDM, RPY) to Oct  
 12 E. Greenbush (WG).  
 Blackburnian Warbler: five reports - from Aug 26 Loudonville (MWF)  
 to Oct 4 WPWS (ER); max 10 Sep 6 KPB (HMBC).  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler: several reports; last Oct 5 VFG (WDM, RPY).  
 Bay-breasted Warbler: from Sep 5 VFG (WDM, RPY) and KPB (HFB) to  
 Sep 20 VFG (WDM, RPY); max 10 Sep 6 KPB (HMBC).

Blackpoll Warbler: many reports including the following - increased very significantly at VFG banding operation, with max 30 Sep 27, and 22 Sep 28 (WDM,RPY); from Sep 10 daily to end of month, some days abundant Loudonville (MWF); arr Sep 6 KPB (HMBC); an unprecedented late record of 12 Nov 1, near Chatham (PM) - described as dull olive green, streaked pale yellow breast, two white wing-bars, white undertail coverts, pale legs and pale eye stripe; resembled bay-breasted, but had pale instead of dark legs, white not buffy undertail coverts.

Pine Warbler: reported by one observer on several dates - 5 Sep 18, 3 Sep 25-29, 1-3 Oct 3-8 Cton (JC).

Prairie Warbler: 2 Sep 6 KPB (HMBC).

Palm Warbler: from 3 Sep 27 WPWS (ER) to Oct 16, 17 Altamont (Florence Rogers, Beverly Waite); also, late date Nov 22 Pattersonville (DA).

Ovenbird: one very late report - Oct 26 VFG (WDM,RPY).

Northern Waterthrush: to Sep 28 VFG (WDM,RPY).

Connecticut Warbler: 1 Sep 13 and 2 Sep 20 VFG (WDM,RPY).

Mourning Warbler: an increase - 6 banded Aug 8 to Sep 21 VFG (WDM,RPY).

Yellowthroat: last Oct 19 VFG (WDM,RPY).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: previous fall reports very rare; four records of singles as follows - Sep 6 Gr (CK); Sep 13 Loudonville (MWF); Sep 17 CL (EH,RMC); first fall banding ever, Sep 20 VFG (WDM,RPY).

Wilson's Warbler: considerable increase; from Aug 22 VFG (WDM,RPY) to Sep 29 Cton (JC); max 4 Sep 6 and 4 Sep 12 VFG (WDM,RPY).

Canada Warbler: to Sep 28 Cton (JC); max 9 Sep 6 VFG (WDM,RPY).

American Redstart: to Oct 6 Gr (CK).

#### BLACKBIRDS--SPARROWS

Bobolink: last Sep 13 Gr (CK).

Eastern Meadowlark: thru period (bsh).

Orchard Oriole: Sep 1, 3 Cton (JC).

Baltimore Oriole: last Sep 20 VFG (RPY).

Rusty Blackbird: abundantly reported; from Aug 28 Warren Co (EH) thru period; max 60 Nov 16 (bsh).

Scarlet Tanager: to Oct 11 E. Greenbush (WG); max 25 Sep 26 Mville (DA).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: to Oct 9 Scotia (EH).

Indigo Bunting: only two reports; last date unusually early - Sep 4 Gr (CK).

Dickcissel: 1 at feeder Oct 21-26 in Colonie (Mrs. John Phillips, Mrs. Marjorie Gresens).

Evening Grosbeak: many reports, beginning Oct 30 Mville (DA); max 52 Nov 15 AR and BR (HMBC).

Purple Finch: frequent reports; large increase in banding operation, with 47 banded from Oct 11-26 VFG (WDM,RPY); max 100 Oct 19 Mville (DA).

House Finch: 1 female Oct 23 Nick (Gustave Angst); 28 taken at a feeder in a yard in Nisk and banded from Nov 5-30, with max 12 Nov 8 (same yard as similar report Nov 1968 (RPY)).

Pine Grosbeak: a few reports, beginning Oct 28 (bsh).

Common Redpoll: arr Oct 26 (bsh); many flocks reported, with largest 150+ Mville (DA).

Pine Siskin: began arriving Oct 4 VFG (RPY); max 40 Oct 15 TR (PC).

Red Crossbill: Nov 11-30, with max 10 Nov 16 E. Chatham (M&WU); flock of 65 Nov 13 Cheese Hill area, Rensselaerville (Dr. Anna Perkins).

- White-winged Crossbill: 6 Nov 8 (bsh); 7 Nov 27 Berne (MK); Nov 20-30, max 6 Nov 22 Chatham (RD).
- Rufous-sided Towhee: last Nov 3 Mville (DA).
- Savannah Sparrow: to Oct 25 Gr (CK).
- Vesper Sparrow: throughout period.
- Slate-colored Junco: flocks appeared Aug 31 Thacher Pk (MK); abundant last half of Oct, with 100+ Oct 17 and 300 Oct 19 Mville (DA), and 115 Oct 28 Berne (MK).
- Tree Sparrow: arr Oct 5 (EH).
- Chipping Sparrow: to Nov 18 Hillsdale (W. L. Stock).
- Field Sparrow: last Oct 28 Gr (CK).
- White-crowned Sparrow: scattered reports of small numbers; from Sep 19 Mville (DA) to Nov 20 Ghent (P&GE); 27 banded Oct 4-11 Rexford (WDM).
- White-throated Sparrow: increased significantly at VFG banding operation, with 167 banded Oct 5 and 91 Oct 11, with a total 510 banded Aug 9 to Oct 26 (WDM,RPY); also, there was further evidence of probable breeding at VFG (RPY); another large report, 70 Oct 15 TR (PC).
- Fox Sparrow: from Oct 1 Chatham (M&AG) to Nov 17 Nisk (EH).
- Lincoln's Sparrow: 5 banded between Sep 19 and Oct 5 VFG (WDM, RPY); Sep 20, 24, 27 Ghent and Chatham (P&GE,ER).
- Swamp Sparrow: to Nov 15 (bsh).
- Snow Bunting: arr Oct 23 Catskill (JB); reports from many areas, with flocks of up to 300 observed in Columbia Co (ADBC).

\* \* \* \* \*



#### MRS. EDWARD J. KILCAWLEY

Mrs. Edward J. Kilcawley, long a resident of Troy, and since 1957 a member of HMBC, died recently after a long illness. A retired high school teacher, Mrs. Kilcawley took part in community activities throughout her life. Among other things, she was active in the growth of youth projects of the Hudson Valley Bird Club and the Rensselaer County Junior Museum. She was a contributor to the Audubon Society magazine and other major publications.

Mrs. Kilcawley's work was far-reaching, and her enthusiasm influenced many people. She will long be remembered.

#### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

With 70 some inches of snow behind us and transportation problems easing up, the Youth Activities Committee is fast filling their calendar with appointments to show both bird and wildflower slides. Last month Mrs. John Todd, a new lecturer on our team, spoke to the Hugh Plat Garden Club. Nell Adams took the slides

to Schalmont School, Donna Gruett used them at Red Mill School, East Greenbush, and in the future we'll be speaking at Ballston Lake, Valley Falls and Schenectady schools and also to the R.P.I. Faculty Wives and Waterford Museum members. Notice the wide geographic area we are covering. I think these requests demonstrate the need for education in the natural sciences.

Any club members willing to show slides in their neighborhoods may call me at 235-0978. Soon children won't be saying, "There's a bird". They'll say, "There's a chestnut-sided warbler" and they'll be right.

--Lois Norton

### LAKE COLBY CONSERVATION CAMP

Each summer the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club sends a boy to a conservation camp for one week. The following excerpts are taken from a letter of appreciation to our club, written by George Reynolds III, whom we sponsored in 1969.

"Thank you for sending me to conservation camp. I learned a lot about conservation and natural resources. The classes were very detailed. They had good movies on the topics that were taught. I liked the lectures on fish management and wildlife the best."

One of the men from the Conservation Department told us the kinds of fish in Lake Colby. He told us the depths the fish lived at during the year. We took three field trips while studying fish management."

"They had a man speak on animals and their environment.... They taught us to shoot a 22 rifle and a 20 gauge shotgun.... Most of the boys received the Hunter Safety Training Certificate."

We also had some free time to play basketball, ping pong, and other games. It was a week of fun as well as being educational."

### FIELD TRIPS

There are many trips scheduled for April and May. We urge you to consult your Field Trips schedule, and join as many of these trips as possible. New members (and old) - you are urged to come and get acquainted. Visitors are always welcome.

### CENTURY RUN REPORTS

Please mail reports of this big, exciting day - Sat., May 16 - promptly to Bob Yunick. Results will be published in May-June FEATHERS, which will be printed and mailed as soon as possible after the reports are received and compiled.

### A REMINDER

Records are to be sent to our new records committee chairman, Miss Marion Ford, 155 Van Buren Road, Scotia 12302. Tel:399-4701.

### AUDUBON WILDLIFE LECTURES

During the 1968-69 season 41 lecturers presented 1494 programs in 43 states, 5 Canadian provinces, the Bahamas and Bermuda.

ENCLOSED MAILING

The Five-year Index for FEATHERS, Volumes 26-30, - 1964-1968, - is enclosed with this issue. This index was completely prepared for the printer by Guy Bartlett, and once again we thank Bart for the many hours he devoted to this task.

The editor appreciates very much the assistance of Florence Rogers in the compilation of the 1970 Directory which is also enclosed. Please inform the editor of any omissions or errors.

NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for the May-June issue is May 10. However, it is helpful to the editor to receive material long before the deadline.

(Issue assembled March 7, 1970)

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PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

ART EDITOR: Carol Wernick

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.

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BURNT HILLS, NEW YORK 12027

Non-profit Org. U. S. Postage PAID Schenectady, NY Permit No. 140
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## CENTURY RUN SETS NEW HIGH WITH 166

Guy Bartlett  
Compiler

Hudson-Mohawk's 25th consecutive Century Run, on Saturday May 16, had several items of particular interest:

166 species were recorded; previous highs were 162 in both 1965 and 1966.

The short-billed dowitcher became Species No. 229 on the composite list. Beezer Seguin found 30 of them, along with his other shorebirds, at the end of the old towpath to the east of Vischer Ferry GMA. (Along with the 229 species, the composite list also includes two hybrid warblers.)

The horned grebe was recorded for the first time as a local breeder. Will Merritt and Bob Yunick reported an adult with 10-12 young at the Clifton Park landfill and they "must have nested at the landfill or nearby Stony Creek Reservoir".

None of the three accipiter hawks were found, nor either of the cuckoos. Last years for the hawks were goshawk and Cooper's, 1968, and sharp-shinned, 1967. This was the first miss for the cuckoos in several years.

Winds were mostly strong and showers were frequent, particularly in the northern area. There were 33 observers in 9 groups, with three lists of more than 100.

Three of the species had been recorded only twice previously: red-throated loon, pigeon hawk, and fox sparrow. Five were on only three previous lists: brant, ruddy duck, great black-backed gull, mourning warbler, and orchard oriole. The lesser yellow-legs was the first since 1964, the pipit since 1966, and Philadelphia vireo first since 1965.

Only 12 species were on all 9 lists: mourning dove, tree swallow, chickadee, robin, wood thrush, veery, starling, red-wing, Baltimore oriole, grackle, cowbird and song sparrow.

Twenty-three species were seen by all except one group: black duck, killdeer, downy woodpecker, crested flycatcher, barn swallow, blue jay, crow, house wren, catbird, thrasher; yellow, myrtle, ovenbird and yellowthroat of the warblers; house sparrow, bobolink, meadowlark, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, goldfinch, towhee, chipping and white-throated sparrows.

At the other extreme, 27 species were recorded by only one group, and these are listed in the group summaries.

SUMMARY - The 9 Groups and 33 Participants

Group A - Peggy McGuirk, and Francis and Hazel Bundy; 4:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Vischer Ferry GMA, Stony Creek Res., Lock 7, Niskayuna Widewaters, Round and Saratoga lakes, W. Glenville, Wolf Hollow, Central Park, Black Creek marshes. 102 species - great blue heron, scaup (sp?), white-rumped sandpiper, gnatcatcher.

Group B - Robert Yunick; Vischer Ferry GMA banding station. 47 species, with 84 birds of 34 species banded (including 2 warblers and 1 sparrow not otherwise listed). Birds captured were: 1 hummingbird, 5 least flycatchers, 1 chickadee, 2 catbird, 2 robin, 2 wood thrush, 2 Swainson's thrush, 4 veery, 1 warbling vireo; warblers - 1 Tennessee, 1 parula, 18 yellow, 2 magnolia, 1 Cape May, 1 black-throated blue, 3 myrtle, 1 chestnut-sided, 1 bay-breasted, 1 ovenbird, 1 mourning, 4 yellowthroat, 2 Wilson's, and 2 redstarts; 5 red-winged blackbirds, 1 Baltimore oriole, 1 grackle, 2 cowbird, 2 purple finch, 9 goldfinch; sparrows - 2 white-throated, 2 Lincoln's, 1 swamp and 8 song. 47 species - Cape May and mourning warblers, Lincoln sparrow.

Group C - Mary Linch, Mary Ellis, Nancy Slack, George Prehmus, Betty Hicks; 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Black Creek marshes, Vly Res., Indian Ladder, Reist Sanctuary, River Rd., Lock 7, Ridge Rd. 88 species - great black-backed gull, cedar waxwing.

Group D - S. R. Madison, W. B. Sabin, H. Ingraham, R. Kornis; 4:20 a.m. to 10:10 p.m. Meadowdale, foot of Ladder, Voorheesville, Pine Barrens, Craig School, Lock 7, Niskayuna Widewaters, Stony Creek Res. 103 species - bufflehead, oldsquaw, Traill's flycatcher, cliff swallow.

Group E - Gloria Greene, 8:30 to 10 a.m. Home and vicinity, Greenfield Center. 31 species, including 19 at feeders.

Group F - Gus Angst, Bob McCullough, Esly Hallenbeck. 87 species - pigeon hawk, fox sparrow.

Group G - Beezer Seguin and Guy Bartlett; 5 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties, all north of Jenny Lake to 4 p.m., with 85 species listed, 120 miles by car. Seguin, 6 to 8:30 p.m., 25 miles by car, Central Park, Looks 6 and 7, Niskayuna Widewaters, Vischer Ferry GMA, Stony Creek Res. 121 species - broad-winged hawk, sora, lesser yellowlegs, short-billed dowitcher, semipalmated sandpiper, barred owl, yellow-bellied flycatcher, winter wren, pipit, pine warbler.

Group H - Lillian C. Stoner (compiler), Helen Budlong out all day; others not together and out part of day; Helen O'Meara, Leo and Stella Novak, W. L. Peterson, Gladys Samuels, Lee and Lenny Thomas; 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Washington Park in Albany, Cary Rd., Six-mile Waterworks, Albany Airport, Selkirk, south of Albany to Van Wie Point on Hudson River. 70 species.

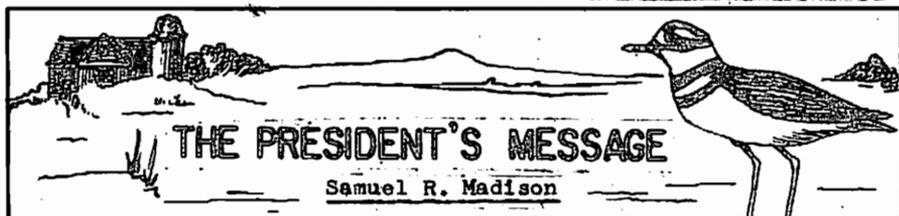
Group I - M. Gruett, W. Gorman, R. Pillion, D. and J. Allen; 3:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Vosburgh, Meadowdale, Indian Ladder, Alcover Res, Castleton, Cherry Plains. 97 species - pied-billed grebe, least bittern, screech owl.

CENTURY RUN -- MAY 16, 1970 -- 166 SPECIES

Common Loon	a d	i	Belted Kingfisher	a cd fgh
Red-throated Loon	a d		Yellow-sh. Flicker	a cd fghi
Horned Grebe	ab d		Pileated Woodpecker	a ghi
Pied-billed Grebe		i	Yel-bel. Sapsucker	gh
Dbl.cr. Cormorant	c fg		Hairy Woodpecker	a cdefgh
Great Blue Heron	a		Downy Woodpecker	a cdefghi
Green Heron	a od	ghi	Eastern Kingbird	a cd fghi
Least Bittern		i	Gr.Crested Flycatcher	abcd fghi
Amer. Bittern	a cd		Eastern Phoebe	a cd fghi
Canada Goose	a	i	Yel-bel. Flycatcher	g
Brant	a d		Traill's Flycatcher	d
Mallard	abcd fg i		Least Flycatcher	ab d fghi
Black Duck	abcd fghi		Eastern Wood Pewee	a c gh
Green-winged Teal		fg	Horned Lark	a fg
Blue-winged Teal	a c	g i	Tree Swallow	abcdefghijkl
Wood Duck	b d	g i	Bank Swallow	ab d fghi
Ring-necked Duck	a	g	Rough-winged Swallow	a cd f i
Scaup (sp?)	a		Barn Swallow	abcd fghi
Bufflehead	d		Cliff Swallow	d
Oldsquaw	d		Purple Martin	a d f
Ruddy Duck	cd f		Blue Jay	a cdefghi
Common Merganser	a d		Common Crow	abcd fghi
Red-br. Merganser	a c f		Blk-cap. Chickadee	abcdefghi
Red-tailed Hawk	d fghi		Tufted Titmouse	a fgh
Broad-winged Hawk		g	White-br. Nuthatch	c e fgh
Osprey	d g		Red-br. Nuthatch	efg
Pigeon Hawk	f		Brown Creeper	a g
Sparrow Hawk	a cd fghi		House Wren	a cdefghi
Ruffed Grouse	c fg		Winter Wren	g
Ring-necked Pheasant	abcd fgh		Long-b.Marsh Wren	a cd f i
Virginia Rail	od f		Mockingbird	a d f hi
Sora		g	Catbird	abcd fghi
Common Gallinule	b fg i		Brown Thrasher	a cdefghi
Amer. Coot	c	i	Robin	abcdefghi
Killdeer	a cdefghi		Wood Thrush	abcdefghi
Amer. Woodcock	a c	i	Hermit Thrush	e g i
Common Snipe	a cd g		Swainson's Thrush	bc h
Upland Plover	a cd g		Veery	abcdefghi
Spotted Sandpiper	a cd ghi		Bluebird	a d ghi
Solitary Sandpiper	a d g i		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	a
Lesser Yellowlegs		g	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	c h
White-r. Sandpiper	a		Water Pipit	g
Least Sandpiper		g i	Cedar Waxwing	c
Dunlin		g i	Starling	abcdefghi
Short-b. Dowitcher		g	Yellow-thr. Vireo	a d fg i
Semipalm. Sandpiper		g	Solitary Vireo	d fg
Gr.Black-backed Gull	c		Red-eyed Vireo	a cd ghi
Herring Gull	a cd fghi		Philadelphia Vireo	a f
Ring-billed Gull	a d fghi		Warbling Vireo	ab d fghi
Common Tern	d g		Black-&-white Warbler	a cd fg i
Black Tern	d fg		Worm-eating Warbler	cd i
Mourning Dove	abcdefghi		Golden-w. Warbler	a c fg i
Screech Owl		i	Blue-winged Warbler	cd g i
Great Horned Owl		d h	Tennessee Warbler	abcd g i
Barred Owl		g	Nashville Warbler	a c ghi
Whip-poor-will	a cd		Parula Warbler	b g
Common Nighthawk	a c fg		Yellow Warbler	abcd fghi
Chimney Swift	a cd fghi		Magnolia Warbler	b g i
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	bc	g i	Cape May Warbler	b

Blk-thr. Blue Warbler	b	g i	Common Grackle	abdefghi
Myrtle Warbler	abcd	fghi	Brown-h. Cowbird	abdefghi
Blk-thr. Green Warbler	a ed	hi	Scarlet Tanager	a cdefghi
Blackburnian Warbler	a d	g i	Cardinal	a cd fghi
Chestnut-s. Warbler	ab d	ghi	Rose-br. Grosbeak	a cdefghi
Bay-breasted Warbler	abcd	g i	Indigo Bunting	a d f i
Blackpoll Warbler	ed	i	Evening Grosbeak	fgh
Pine Warbler		g	Purple Finch	bd fg i
Prairie Warbler	od	i	Pine Siskin	d fg i
Ovenbird	abcdefg	i	Amer. Goldfinch	abcd fghi
North. Waterthrush	a d	g i	Red Crossbill	cd f
La. Waterthrush	a	g	Rufous-s. Towhee	a cdefghi
Mourning Warbler	b		Savannah Sparrow	a d g
Yellowthroat	abcd	fghi	Grasshopper Sparrow	g i
Yel-breasted Chat	d f		Vesper Sparrow	a c fg
Wilson's Warbler	b	i	Slate-colored Junco	c fgh
Canada Warbler	b d	fghi	Chipping Sparrow	a cdefghi
Amer. Redstart	abcd	fg	Field Sparrow	a ede ghi
House Sparrow	a cdefghi		White-cr. Sparrow	a e fghi
Bobolink	a cdefghi		White-thr. Sparrow	abdefg i
Meadowlark	a cdefghi		Fox Sparrow	f
Red-winged Blackbird	abdefghi		Lincoln's Sparrow	b
Orchard Oriole		hi	Swamp Sparrow	abcd fg
Baltimore Oriole	abcdefghi		Song Sparrow	abdefghi

\* \* \* \* \*



At the annual meeting last February, it was announced that a Sanctuary Committee would be established to administer and supervise our newly-acquired Henry G. Reist Wildlife Sanctuary. Bob Yunick and Walt Sabin have agreed to serve as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the new committee. At a meeting of the executive committee of the board of directors held early in May, it was decided to establish several subcommittees in order to carry out the many duties of the new committee.

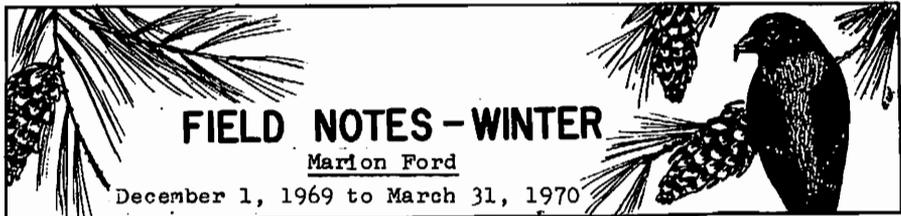
First and foremost it was determined to set up a Policy and Planning Subcommittee to head up and act as the committee's overall management group. Amongst the duties of this unit will be (1) the establishment of rules and regulations governing the method and manner of use of the sanctuary so that the purposes for which it was acquired will be satisfactorily carried out; and (2) determination of the site of a parking area suitably located to be properly graded.

Other working subcommittees will shortly be organized. We will need a separate group to be in charge of the sanctuary grounds - posting of the boundaries of the property, lay-out and maintenance of trails, etc. Others will be in charge of the var-

ious activities carried out at the sanctuary, the manner of its use and enjoyment, and dissemination of information about the sanctuary to the public. The membership of these various groups will be announced shortly.

The main task of the sanctuary committee is to properly organize our endeavors according to a well-established long-range plan. This is time-consuming work with a low initial pay-out, but thanks to the help of many volunteers we are confident that it will produce the best results in the long run.

\* \* \* \* \*



Undoubtedly the most significant weather factor for the winter was the record-breaking snowfall which began Dec 25 and continued until Dec 27 piling up to 36 inches on the ground on the 28th. There was only a total of four days the entire month of Dec that there was no snow on the ground. The average temperature for Dec was 21.6° with a minimum of -22°. The cold weather of Jan did little to melt the snow cover with the average temperature for the month of 9.7°. Additional snowfall, however, was very slight. Temperatures and snowfall in Feb and Mar were more nearly normal. Most bodies of water were frozen over by mid-Dec. Few lakes were open before almost the end of the period. On Mar 21 the Lower Hudson channel was open. Because of the heavy snowfall some Christmas counts were markedly affected; some were only token counts with few observers, few hours spent, and small area covered. One did not report.

The northern birds were in very plentiful supply all during the period. Red crossbills, some white-winged crossbills, evening grosbeaks, common redpolls, pine grosbeaks, purple finches, and boreal chickadees were regularly reported.

Highlights of the period were mute swan, several dickcissels, Iceland gull, yellowthroat, wood thrush, common teal, and black-backed three-toed woodpecker.

Observers cited more than once: (DA)- Douglass Allen; (W&AK)- W. & K. Applegate; (bhs)- Guy Bartlett, Barrington Havens, Benton Seguin; (BS)- Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin; (T&EB)- T. & E. Brown; (HFB)- Hazel F. Bundy; (L&VB)- L. & V. Burland; (JB)- James Bush; (MJF)- Marion J. Ford; (MG)- Monte Gruett; (EH)- Esly Hallenbeck; (BH)- Barrington Havens; (HS)- Barrington Havens, Benton Seguin; (CK)- Clarissa Ketcham; (ML&MJ)- Mary Linch & Mary Johnston; (MM)- M. Mickle; (PM)- P. Mickle; (BRS)- Benton R. Seguin; (RPY)- Robert P. Yunick.

Area compilers: Rena Dodd, Betty Laros, Clarissa Ketcham.

Abbreviations: Emb- Embought; FC-Fish Creek; G1- Glenville; Gr- Greenville; Hoos- Hoosic River; LK7- Lock 7 Mohawk River; LH- Lower Hudson River; Mville- Mariaville; Mdale- Meadowdale; Nisk- Niskayuna; NWW- Niskayuna Widewaters; SS- Stockport Station; TR- Tomhannock Reservoir; UH- Upper Hudson River; srcc- Southern Rensselaer Christmas count Dec 21; tcc- Troy Christmas count Jan 1; scc- Schenectady Christmas count Dec 20; gcc- Greene County Christmas count Dec 28; hmbc- Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club record.

LOONS - DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: 1 Dec 6 SL (BS).  
 Horned Grebe: 6 Dec 6 SL (BS); 2 Mar 27 Emb (JB); 1 Mar 25, 28 LH (MM,PM,T&EB).  
 Pied-billed Grebe: first Mar 8 FC (BS).  
 Great Blue Heron: only report 4 Mar 29 Nott Rd. Sch'dy (HS).  
MUTE SWAN: first seen Mar 20 LK7 (EH); again Mar 21 & 22 (EH et al).  
 Canada Goose: 150 Dec 1 Berne (Marcia Kent); first spring arrivals Mar 8 LH (W&KA); max 300 Mar 25 Emb (JB).  
 Snow Goose: two reports 18 Mar 28 LH (T&EB); 1 Mar 28 Mdale (BS).  
 Mallard: present thru period; 307 tcc; 100 in Feb Cohoes Bridge (DA).  
 Black Duck: present thru period with mallards; 546 tcc; migrants 499 Mar 14 SS (DA).  
 Pintail: 1 all winter Cohoes Bridge (DA); max 25 Mar 21 (hmbc); first arr Mar 18 LH (MM,PM,T&EB).  
COMMON TEAL: 1 Mar 21 LH (hmbc).  
 Green-winged Teal: first arr Mar 18 LH (several observers); 15 Mar 21 LH (hmbc).  
 American Widgeon: 15 Mar 21 LH (hmbc).  
 Shoveler: one report 1 Mar 22 UH (BS).  
 Wood Duck: 1 scc "listed only once previously in 1954"; first arr 3 Mar 14 Athens (DA).  
 Ring-necked Duck: 8 Dec 6 SL (BS); first arr Mar 14 SS (DA).  
 Canvasback: 10 Dec 6-14 (bhs); 1 Feb 28 Stillwater (bhs); 15 Mar 14 Athens (DA).  
 Scaup: Dec 6-14 (bhs); 1 female Feb 21 UH (BS); Mar 8-29 (bhs); max 50 Mar 29 LK7 (HFB).  
 Common Goldeneye: 250 Dec 6-14 SL (bhs); first migrants 3 Mar 14 SS (DA); 100 Mar 21 LH (hmbc).  
 Bufflehead: 2 Dec 6, 14 (bhs); first arr Mar 8 LH (MM,PM,T&EB).  
 Oldsquaw: last date Dec 6-14 (bhs).  
 White-winged Scoter: 2 Dec 6-14 UH (BS).  
 Hooded Merganser: 1 wintered FC (bhs); first arr 2 Mar 14 SS (DA); 10 Mar 21 LH (hmbc).  
 Common Merganser: 20 Dec 6-14 FC (bhs); earliest 1 Jan 18 Cohoes Bridge (DA); other reports beginning Mar 14 max 60 Mar 25 LK7 (EH).  
 Red-breasted Merganser: last report 12 Dec 14 (bhs); 1 Feb 28 Hoos (bhs); several Mar 25 LK7 (EH).

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: 2 Mar 22 Kiskatom (JB).  
 Goshawk: 4 Jan 1 Riverview Rd. Sch'dy (BRS); 1 Feb 7 SL (HS).  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 srcc; 1 Dec 30 Gr (CK); 1 Jan 5 Gr (CK).  
 Cooper's Hawk: 2 srcc; 1 Jan 10 Scotia (EH); 1 Jan 14 Gr (CK); 1 Mar 12 Gr (CK); 1 Mar 15 G1 (EH).

- Red-tailed Hawk; fairly commonly reported over area from Dec 6 - Mar 28; max 27 Dec 7 (BS); albino reported Feb 14 New Lebanon (M&A Giddings).
- Red-shouldered Hawk: four reports of 1 each; srcc; Mar 21 Karner (BS); Mar 21 LK7 (EH); Mar 28 Mville (DA).
- Rough-legged Hawk: seen thru period and on all Christmas counts; max 6 Mar 22 Schodaack (L&VB).
- Marsh Hawk: 1 Dec 13 Duanesburg (DA); 2 on Christmas count 1 each srcc and scc; several in Mar.
- Sparrow Hawk: numerous reports - 1 Dec 10 at feeder "evidently after birds" (BH); max 18 srcc.
- Ruffed Grouse: few reports, several observers reported as uncommon thru period, max 8 tcc.
- Bobwhite: total of four reports - 1 each on srcc and tcc; 1 wintered near feeder from Dec 30 thru period East Greenbush (MG); 1 Jan 3 Middle Line Rd G1 (Francis Bundy).
- Ring-necked Pheasant: several observers reported as scarce this winter, perhaps because of decreased stocking by the Conservation Dept.; max 47 tcc.
- American Coot: 7 Dec 6 SL (BS).
- Killdeer: 1 Dec 19 Rotterdam (DA); first arr 1 Mar 13 Catskill (JB).
- American Woodcock: scattered reports from mid-Mar on.
- ICELAND GULL: 1 reported srcc in first-winter plumage Dunn Memorial Bridge.
- Great Black-backed Gull: 1 Dec 14 UH (BS); 1 srcc; first migrants 5 Mar 21 LH (hmhc).
- Herring Gull: 62 srcc; 4 Feb 25 LH "at Albany when ice has just gone out" (DA); migrants arrived from Mar 12 on.
- Ring-billed Gull: 13 srcc; 10 Feb 25 LH at Albany (DA); max 100 Mar 21 LH (hmhc).
- Mourning Dove: common thru area.
- Barn Owl: 1 downy nestling rescued by a conservation officer in Adamsville when nest in church belfry was destroyed on Sep 21, cared for, banded, and released in large barn in Dormansville by Marcia Kent in Berne in March (Walton Sabin).
- Screech Owl: 1 srcc.
- Great Horned Owl: 4 srcc, 1 scc; 1 heard Feb 13 Alplaus (fide HFB).
- Snowy Owl: 1 Jan 3 Jenny Lake (BH).
- Barred Owl: 1 srcc; 1 Jan 31 Altamont (Beverly Waite); 1 Feb 28 TR (hmhc).

GOATSUCKERS - STARLING

- Belted Kingfisher: several wintered in area; 1 srcc; 2 scc.
- Yellow-shafted Flicker: scattered reports thru area, max 5 srcc.
- Pileated Woodpecker: 1-5 reported on all Christmas counts; 2 reported daily Dec and Feb at suet feeder Gr (Gladys Wissisky).
- Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Mar 22 and 26 Catskill (JB).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Dec 20 and 25 (BH); 1 Dec 25 and Jan 1 Nisk at feeder for 6th or 7th consecutive year (RPY).
- Hairy Woodpecker: reported as fairly common by most observers; max 60 tcc.
- Downy Woodpecker: reported as common by most observers; max 81 tcc.
- BLACK-BACKED THREE TOED-WOODPECKER: 1 male Jan 31 and again Feb 13 Delmar in two dead pine trees (Virginia Puddicombe).
- Eastern Phoebe: two winter reports - 1 Jan 5, 9, 21, 22 Gr (CK); 1 Jan 10 LK7 Rd. (RPY); first spring migrants Mar 28 Chatham (E. Powell); Mar 31 Ghent (P & G Erlenbach).
- Horned Lark: several reports of fairly large flocks; 343 srcc; c. 500 including Lapland longspurs and snow buntings Dec (L&VB).

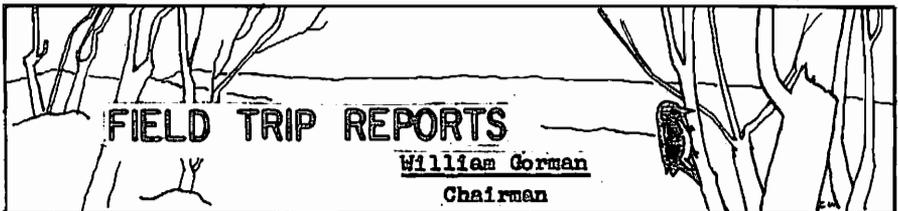
- Blue Jay: apparently regaining numbers over last year, total on four Christmas counts 1058 compared to total 713 for five counts last year.
- Common Crow: regular numbers reported, max 507 srcc.
- Boreal Chickadee: eleven reports; wintered thru period at one location Nisk (DA); 2 srcc; 1 scc; 1 tcc.
- Tufted Titmouse: regularly reported by most observers, max 26 srcc.
- White-breasted Nuthatch: regularly reported by most observers, max 77 srcc.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: numerous reports, one observer cited "com-com-good year for them" (DA); max 25 scc.
- Brown Creeper: occasional reports; max 16 scc.
- Winter Wren: two reports, 1 Dec 13 and Jan 24 (bhs); 1 gcc.
- Mockingbird: observed over area, some regularly in same place; max 3 scc.
- Robin: a few wintered, migrants returned in numbers from Mar 28 on.
- WOOD THRUSH: 1 srcc.
- Hermit Thrush: 3 individuals reported in three different locations.
- Eastern Bluebird: first seen 1 Mar 23 South Sch'dy (DA); 1 Mar 28 Mdale (bhs).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet: reported from seven or more areas, max 10 scc.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 srcc; 2 scc.
- Cedar Waxwing: few reports; most in Dec; max 50 scc.
- Northern Shrike: scattered reports, only 1 on Christmas counts.
- Starling: apparently regained numbers over last year's Christmas counts, the total for four counts was 13,139 and the highest max total of 5,262 for one year in counts for forty years for scc.

#### VIREOS - SPARROWS:

- YELLOWTHROAT: 2 scc - previous record 2 in 1959, seen in separate areas.
- Eastern Meadowlark: scattered sightings thru period; 12 srcc; migrants from Mar 14 on (DA).
- Red-winged Blackbird: scattered reports thru period; migrants arr 150 Mar 21 LH (hmbc).
- Rusty Blackbird: 1 Mar 1 Crouse's Swamp (ML&MJ).
- Common Grackle: a few winter residents; migrants arr Mar 15 Mville (DA).
- Brown-headed Cowbird: total four Christmas counts 158; first migrants Mar 12 Mville (DA); "abundant Albany downtown roost" (DA).
- Cardinal: generally reported in good numbers.
- DICKCISSEL: four separate reports 1 srcc; 1 tcc; 1 TR Feb 28 (hmbc); a female Mar 6 Alplaus (HPB).
- Evening Grosbeak: reported in good numbers from all areas; max 497 srcc; 1 all yellow (no black) was seen at feeder for third consecutive year on Dec 10 and regularly thru Jan Gr (CK).
- Purple Finch: scattered reports; max 22 srcc; daily Feb 17-Mar 31 Altamont (ML&MJ).
- House Finch: 3 Mar 18 Catskill (JB).
- Pine Grosbeak: scattered reports of small flocks; max 57 Mar 26 Mville (DA), "females outnumbered males at all times by 10-1" (DA).
- Hoary Redpoll: 1 Mar 11 identified at close range, described as generally light overall with pure white rump (BH).
- Common Redpoll: generally reported over area; max 280 scc; flocks up to 75 all Feb in Troy (E&H Long).
- Pine Siskin: max 12 Jan 17 (bhs).

- American Goldfinch: reports from most observers; 212 srcc.  
 Red Crossbill: larger numbers and reported from all areas especially during Jan and Feb max 175 Feb 7 Malta (HS); 100 Mar 29 Malta (HS).  
 White-winged Crossbill: several scattered reports; max 8 Jan 25 Mdale (BS); 1 female daily at feeder Jan 30-Feb 28 Gl (MJF).  
 Rufous-sided Towhee: several sightings over area; 3 scc "widely separated areas", previous records 1 in 1958, 2 in 1967; 2 tcc; 1 gcc; 1 at feeder Jan 12 for 2-3 weeks Gr (fide CK); "may be a trend toward a wintering bird" (Walton Sabin).  
 Vesper Sparrow: 1 tcc.  
 Slate-colored Junco: generally reported.  
 Tree Sparrow: present in usual numbers, total 2288 on four Christmas counts; 97 Feb 1 Berne (Marcia Kent).  
 Field Sparrow: a few scattered reports; 8 tcc; 2-6 Mar 1-31 Chatham and Ghent (MM, M&A @iddings).  
 White-crowned Sparrow: four reports; 1 scc "became #104 on the composite list", previously listed on near dates only.  
 White-throated Sparrow: thru area, some reported as "few", max 62 scc.  
 Fox Sparrow: a few scattered reports, 1 daily at feeder thru period Gl (MJF).  
 Swamp Sparrow: 1 srcc; 1 scc.  
 Song Sparrow: several reports seen daily thru period; total four Christmas counts of 121.  
 Lapland Longspur: 2 srcc; with flock of c. 500 horned larks and snow buntings Dec Columbia Co. (L&VB).  
 Snow Bunting: flocks reported thru area over period, max 248 gcc; 92 Dec 1 Berne (Marcia Kent); 213 Dec 15 Berne (Marcia Kent).

\* \* \* \* \*



LONG ISLAND

JANUARY 24-25, 1970

Long Island proved to be as good as or better than Cape Ann. The two-day list totalled 75 species, about 15 or so more than at Rockport and vicinity.

Saturday was truly a beautiful, clear, winter day with little or no wind and the temperature in the middle 20's. The biggest trouble, though, was that most fresh water ponds and salt water bays, coves, etc., were frozen over so that water birds, away from the ocean itself, were quite scarce. There was a goodly number at Montauk Point (on the ocean) including a couple of common eiders. Flocks of red crossbills were encountered at almost every stop. They were so tame that binoculars could not be focussed on the closest birds. Late in the day as we travelled along a back road toward Sag Harbor a ruffed grouse was seen "budding" in the top of a tree. At this point the Madison car

reported mechanical trouble. As it turned out the Madisons were through birding for the weekend while getting their car repaired.

Sunday was not the beautiful day of yesterday. Overcast and a strong northwest wind greeted us at every stop. At Jones' Beach we saw quite a few species including catbird, brown thrasher, towhee and long-eared owl. All the while the weather was worsening. We then went to the west side of Jones' Inlet at Point Lookout. After checking the breakwater unsuccessfully, for purple sandpipers, we checked a good sized flock of brant just west of the inlet, on the ocean side. Here, we (three of us anyway) were fortunate enough to find two male harlequin ducks. This made the weekend trip a success!

Shortly before we called it quits it started to rain.

--Walt Sabin

STATE MUSEUMFEBRUARY 1, 1970

The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club was represented by 15 people who took a behind the scene tour of the State Museum. Dr. Edgar Reilly conducted an informative presentation of the back rooms of the museum. Dr. Reilly discussed the features involved in hawk identification in response to a question. We were reminded that the collection of bird nests or bird skins is presently illegal. The laws affecting these practices were designed to prevent the killing of birds for the collection of skins and to prevent the collection of nests while they are still being used by the birds. We saw many mounted birds, nests, eggs, skeletons, and miscellaneous specimens. Dr. Reilly also showed us his office and the museum's collection of bird books and bird journals. Dr. Reilly offered his assistance to us in problems we might encounter in identifying birds, eggs, or nests. In short it was an enjoyable trip for which we again extend our appreciation to Dr. Edgar Reilly.

--William Gorman

TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIRFEBRUARY 28, 1970

On Saturday, February 28, 1970, a group of twelve birders met at Tomhannock Reservoir despite the presence of snow flurries. The first few stops produced areas of extreme silence and scarcity of birds. At first we found only crows and chickadees, then gradually added ruffed grouse, white-breasted nuthatch, common redpoll, and ruby-crowned kinglet. Birds seemed much more abundant as we approached farms or houses. At one farm we all had a nice look at a group of purple finch and some juncos and near another house we found a brown creeper and some woodpeckers. We trudged a quarter mile or so through a red pine grove looking for red-breasted nuthatch. The noise of the group allowed us to pick up only a few chickadees. As the group started back we dispersed a bit and finally found a few red-breasted nuthatch. Paul Connor, following up a few faint chips, found a flock of crossbills high in the red pines. Most of the group had at least short looks at part of the flock. The flock appeared to be mostly red crossbills, but contained at least two white-winged crossbills. Despite their usual friendly nature, the flock took off after a few minutes, circled a few times, and flew away. Later, the Nortons saw a barred owl that flew in front of their car. Several red-tailed hawks were seen at the north and west sides of the reservoir. On one of the high wind-swept fields we found a small flock of horned larks, but the strong cold wind made observation

difficult. While screening a flock of about 50 house sparrows near a farm house, a few of us saw a yellowish bird we identified as a dickcissel. Shortly after adding up our totals, we added a sparrow hawk as our final species.

Our grand total for the trip was 399 individuals representing 28 species. Although birds were scarce and hard to find and many of those found hard to see, we did have a successful day and did turn up several interesting species. --William Gorman

LOWER HUDSONMARCH 21, 1970

Perhaps because of a dismal weather forecast, only seven optimistic souls emerged from their comfortable beds to welcome the returning migrants. However, the seven faithful were amply rewarded. The morning was crisp but calm and often sunny. Newly arrived redwings sang brightly from their cattail towers in the Schodack marshes and sleek grackles floated by in small groups. Except for the main channel, the Hudson near Castleton showed only small patches of open water but these were often inhabited by mallards, black ducks, green-winged teal and bald-pates. Three wood ducks circled us at Staat's Island. Below Schodack Landing, the lesser river channels opened and here hooded and common mergansers fished, scaup slept, puddle ducks splashed about and goldeneye drakes gargled affectionately at their ladies.

At Stockport Station, two robins perched on a nearby limb and a flight of Canada geese rested on the river. The highlight of the morning occurred when Walt Sabin noted among a group of greenwings a teal-size duck with a prominent horizontal white stripe above the wing. This bird was the common or European teal, a life bird for most of us and only the third record of this species for our area. A rather chilly walk down the Central tracks at Stockport yielded many more mallards and blacks, more geese, baldpates, pintails, great black-backed gulls and one badly confused doe who was herself walking on the tracks and approached us to within 75 yards. --Monte Gruett

HENRY G. REIST WILDLIFE SANCTUARYAPRIL 5, 1970

Forty-five people, curious about the Bird Club's new property, turned out on a blustery but sunny April 5th to explore our sanctuary. Our initial fear that such an army of birdwatchers would scare off all the birds in the area proved unfounded, for we managed to observe 25 species in the hour and a half it took us to tramp around the property. The greatest treat was the three red-shouldered hawks (or was it 2 red-shouldered and 1 broad-winged?) that circled over the woods for several minutes, calling repeatedly. Other species were pretty much what could be expected at that time of year: downys and hairys, chickadees and both species of nuthatch, a brown creeper, juncos, tree and white-throated sparrows, purple finches, a few robins, jays and several black-birds. A ruffed grouse was seen by the Bedfords, who joined the group later. The pair of pileated woodpeckers I had seen the day before did not put in an appearance, but I hope they may nest in our sanctuary. The varied vegetation of birches, pines and hardwoods, and the first spring skunk cabbage were enjoyed by all.

--L. Ellis

\* \* \* \* \*

FIELD TRIPS

Consult your 1970 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE for interesting trips in July and August. The one for July 11 is located in a new area and sounds fascinating.

NEXT ISSUE

Please submit material for the next issue of FEATHERS before July 10. Reports of field trips for April and May are already on hand, and make interesting reading. They will appear in the July-August issue.

(Issue assembled May 25, 1970)

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PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

ART EDITOR: Carol Wernick

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.

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Non-profit Org. U. S. Postage PAID Schenectady, NY Permit No. 140
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 PUBLISHED BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.
 

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## A CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS

Lenny Thomas

Membership Chairman

In this month's issue of FEATHERS you will find an application blank for membership in the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. We have always been most anxious to welcome new members and now, with the newly-acquired sanctuary a dream come true, we will have so much more to offer.

There is much work to be done and each of us can begin doing his share by bringing a new member into the club. Won't you please do your best to interest a friend or neighbor in a HMBC membership? If each of us is able to do this, we will double our membership in a relatively short time.

More application blanks are available just for the asking. Call me at 489-2267 and I will be happy to forward them.

Good luck!

\* \* \* \* \*

## EBBA MEETING

Robert P. Yunick

President of EBBA

On June 12-14, 1970 the State University at Albany was the site of the 48th annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association co-hosted by SUNYA's Department of Biological Sciences and HMBC. The meeting drew about 110 participants who came from about 12-15 states from Maine to Florida and as far west as Wisconsin.

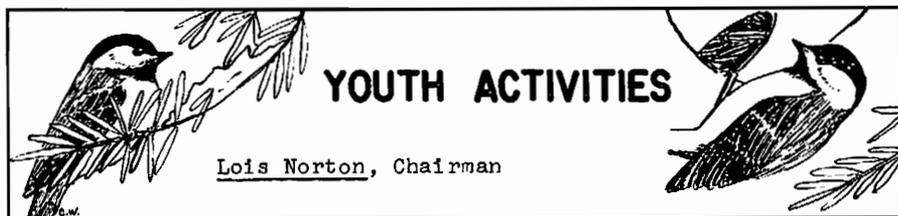
Friday evening there were equipment displays to view and a slide program on banding at Fire Island Light on Long Island. We were pleased to have long-time EBBA and HMBC member Lillian Stoner present to join the meeting. A pre-breakfast field trip on Saturday led by Walt Sabin to Black Creek marshes was highlighted by the calling of a Virginia rail out of the marsh almost to the observers' feet using a tape recording of the rail's voice. A business meeting and presentation of papers concluded the morning session. Included was a presentation on the Cornell-based North American Nest Card Program.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to workshop sessions concerned with identification problems and banding techniques, including a session on nest boxes by Don Wilkins, netting for beginners by Will Merritt and flycatcher identification by myself. Saturday evening's banquet was attended by Walt and Ginny Sabin, Sam and Audrey Madison, Will Merritt, my wife and myself. As president of HMBC, and on behalf of HMBC, Sam extended a welcome to the group.

Sunday morning was devoted to field trips to Vosburgh Marsh led by Monte Gruett, Don Wilkins' "bluebird farm" near Galway, and Vischer Ferry Game Management area led by Will Merritt and myself. The weather had been perfect under the influence of high pressure that brought clear skies and cool nights. The splendor of the State University, the accommodating weather and the scenic beauty of upstate New York, I believe, left a lasting favorable impression on the attendees.

Behind the scenes it was all made possible first by the support lent to the idea of hosting the meeting by Pete Wickham back in 1967, secondly by Walt Sabin and Hudson Winn who were able to obtain permission to use SUNYA's facilities, and finally to Walt, Hudson and Will Merritt who worked on the many arrangements that brought the meeting into being. A hearty thanks to all who helped.

\* \* \* \* \*



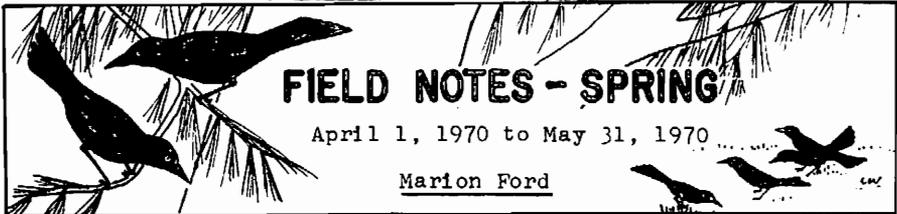
In the past ninety days, the Youth Committee gave 54 presentations which centered mainly on birds, small animals, and wild flowers. Most of these talks were given in elementary school classrooms, but one took place at the rustic 4-H Camp high in Alps village just south of Averill Park.

It was on June second that Katherine Bordt and I took the bird slides to this new locale. The day was warm and sunny but with a lovely breeze that kept us comfortable. We were greeted by 40 sixth-graders of Altamont School, all anxious to carry our equipment and escort us to the "Rec" hall where we would give our talk. These children were enjoying a science enrichment program and lived at the camp for three days with their teachers. Bird identification was just one segment of the special training they received.

Having noticed the dense foliage around the camp, I spoke to the children about identifying birds by sound as well as sight. I had just barely said the words when from a tree outside the window came a clear, harsh "Phoe-bee". The facts were there. We couldn't see the bird at that moment, but our ears told us that it was a Phoebe.

After showing the bird slides, Mrs. Bordt and I split the group and took a bird walk. The kids looked, listened and marked their check lists with enthusiasm. The woods were peppered with violets, foamflower, fern, and (unfortunately) red ants that bit when we trespassed on their ant hill. When we returned to camp the children had about twelve birds on their lists, but were most impressed by the Ovenbird who had called us by name, chanting "Teacher, Teacher, Teacher"!!

\* \* \* \* \*



The months of April and May were about normal in temperature and precipitation. The third week of April was cold and wet while spring really blossomed the last week with temperatures reaching the upper 80's. Migration appeared to be slightly behind until the first week in May when the warm weather appeared to bring it up to usual schedule. May as a whole was about normal for first dates of species reported. The day of the Century Run, May 16th, was cloudy and cool, with scattered showers. A total of 166 species was reported on the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club run by 33 observers, a new record total of species. A banding operation at Vischer Ferry Game Management Area covering the dates May 1,2,8,9,15,16,22,23 by three banders netted 58 species and 726 individuals banded. 145 myrtle warblers, 112 yellow warblers, 41 yellowthroats, 39 white-throated sparrows, 36 red-winged blackbirds, 35 song sparrows, and 33 American goldfinches were banded with other species in smaller numbers. Banded for the first time this year were black-and-white warbler, and blue-winged warbler.

After a winter when many northern species were present in large numbers in this region still many red crossbills, purple finches, and pine siskins were frequently being reported well into May. At the end of the period red crossbills were still present at several locations and several streaked fledglings were seen.

Significant sightings for the period were nesting orchard orioles, several double-crested cormorants, peregrine falcon, Lawrence's warbler, Brewster's warbler, and a prothonotary warbler.

Observers cited more than once: DA-Douglass Allen; HFB-Hazel F Bundy; JB-James Bush; PC-Paul Connor; MJF-Marion J Ford; MF-Mabel French; CK-Clarissa Ketcham; MK-Marcia Kent; ER-Edgar Reilly; WBS-Walton B Sabin; RPY-Robert P Yunick; adbc-Alan Devoe Bird Club; hmhc-Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club; cr-Century Run (May 16).

Area compilers: Rena Dodd, Betty Laros, Clarissa Ketcham.

Abbreviations: CP-Central Park Schenectady; ColP-Collins Park Scotia; Col L-Collins Lake Scotia; Emb-Embought; Gl-Glenville;

Gr-Greenville; IL-Indian Ladder; JL-Jenny Lake; Ldville-Loudonville; LH-Lower Hudson; LK-Lisha Kill; LK6-Lock 6 Mohawk River; LK7-Lock 7 Mohawk River; Mdale-Meadowdale; Mville-Mariaville; MR-Mohawk River; Nisk-Niskayuna; NWW-Niskayuna Wide Waters; PM-Peontic Marsh; Powell S-Wilson M Powell Sanctuary (adbc); Reist S-Henry G Reist Sanctuary (hmbc); R and SL-Round and Saratoga Lakes; SCR-Stony Creek Reservoir; SL-Saratoga Lake; Tab-Taborton; VFGM-Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; VM-Vosburgh Marsh; W Gl-West Glenville; Wvliet-Watervliet Reservoir.

LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon: max 8 Apr 11 R and SL (hmbc); also 8 Apr 26 Lake George (conservation officer Murray Grannell); last May 22 Mville L (DA).  
 Red-throated Loon: (cr) SL 2 groups reporting.  
 Horned Grebe: adult and 10-12 downy young May 16-18 Clifton Park Landfill (RPY).  
 Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 Col L (DA).  
 Double-crested Cormorant: Apr 21 Emb (JB); May 16-18 NWW (DA); (cr) reported by 3 groups 2 individuals together NWW.  
 Great Blue Heron: commonly reported Apr 11 on.  
 Green Heron: first Apr 22 Wvliet Res (DA) through period.  
 Little Blue Heron: (cr) (adbc) (ER et al).  
 Least Bittern: 2 (cr) only report.  
 American Bittern: 1 May 18 SCR (DA); 3 groups reported on (cr).  
 Canada Goose: max 1000 Apr 19 Emb (JB).  
 Brant: (cr) 2 groups reported - 1 LK7 and 20 SL.  
 Snow Goose: 3 reports in Apr; max 12 Apr 25 LH (DA).  
 Mallard: present through period.  
 Black Duck: present through period; max 100 May 3 VM (hmbc).  
 Pintail: 2 Apr 9 PM (DA); 3 Apr 11 R and SL (hmbc).  
 Green-winged Teal: reported as common Apr and May (DA).  
 Blue-winged Teal: reported as common Apr and May (DA).  
 American Widgeon: max 15 Apr 25 LH (DA).  
 Shoveler: 1 Apr 12 PM (DA).  
 Wood Duck: present through period.  
 Ring-necked Duck: max 20 Apr 11 R and SL (hmbc); last date 1 May 24 SCR (WBS).  
 Canvasback: 6 Apr 11 R and SL (hmbc).  
 Scaup: max 50 Apr 11 R and SL (hmbc); last May 18 SL (DA).  
 Common Goldeneye: 100 Apr 11 R and SL (hmbc).  
 Bufflehead: max 12 Apr 11 R and SL (hmbc); last (cr) 1 group reporting.  
 Oldsquaw: 2 reports - 2 Apr 9 Wvliet Res (DA); (cr) 1 group reporting.  
 Ruddy Duck: 1 Apr 12 MR (DA); (cr) 3 groups reporting.  
 Hooded Merganser: commonly reported; max 8 Apr 11 R and SL (hmbe).  
 Common Merganser: several reports; max 30 Apr 5 NWW (DA); (cr) 2 groups.  
 Red-breasted Merganser: max 22 Apr 11 R and SL (hmbc); (cr) 3 groups.

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: 2 Apr 20 IL (DA); Apr 14, 24, 26, 27 Northeastern Columbia County by 3 observers; max 10-14 May 11-29 Canaan, Chatham area (mob); (cr) (adbc).  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 banded Apr 4 Burnt Hills (RPY); 1 Apr 13 Berne (MK).

Cooper's Hawk: 1 Apr 3 and 17 Berne (MK); 1 Powell S (hmbc).  
 Red-tailed Hawk: reported from all areas through period.  
 Red-shouldered Hawk: 3 Apr 5 Reist S (hmbc); 1 Apr 24 Gr (CK).  
 Broad-winged Hawk: several reports; max 5 May 10 Tab (PC).  
 Marsh Hawk: 1 Apr 11 R and SL (hmbc).  
 Osprey: reported throughout region; max 6 Apr 28 LH (DA).  
 Peregrine Falcon: reported Apr 26 Powell S (ER).  
 Sparrow Hawk: max 15 Apr 22 Mville Mdale area (DA).  
 Ruffed Grouse: several reports including "occasionally early in morning drumming" Apr 18-30 Gr (CK).  
 Ring-necked Pheasant: few reports; "release of Korean race by New York State Conservation Department seen at VFGM" (RPY).  
 Virginia Rail: 1 Apr 25 Castleton Marshes (PC); 1 May 3 VM (hmbc); (cr) 3 groups reporting.  
 Sora: 1 heard May 6 Mdale (WBS); (cr) 1 group.  
 Common Gallinule: reported as fairly common during May (DA); max 20 May 3 VM (hmbc).  
 American Coot: (cr) 2 groups reporting.  
 Killdeer: common in all areas.  
 American Woodcock: fairly common; a nest with 4 eggs Apr 29-30 Greenport (W. L. Stock).  
 Common Snipe: fairly common.  
 Upland Plover: 1 Apr 28 Mville (DA); max 4 last week in May at Craig School (RPY).  
 Spotted Sandpiper: 1 Apr 25 Wvliet Res (DA); 2 May 3 VM (hmbc).  
 Solitary Sandpiper: May 9 VFGM (HFB); last May 18 at 3 locations (DA).  
 Greater Yellowlegs: 1 Apr 15 Mdale (DA); 1 May 3 VM (hmbc); 1 May 17 Gr (CK).  
 Lesser Yellowlegs: (cr) VFGM 1 group.  
 Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 Apr 22 Mdale (DA).  
 White-rumped Sandpiper: (cr) VFGM 1 group.  
 Least Sandpiper: earliest 2 May 9 Black Creek Marsh (WBS); 3 May 18 Walhalla Country Club (DA); 1 May 24 W G1 (hmbc); (cr) 2 groups.  
 Dunlin: (cr) 3 VFGM 2 groups reporting.  
 Short-billed Dowitcher: flock of 30 (cr) VFGM 1 group reporting.  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 (cr) VFGM 1 group reporting.  
 Great Black-backed Gull: 3 Apr 5 NWW (DA); 1 Apr 11 R and SL (hmbc); 2 Apr 25 LH (DA); last (cr) 1 group reporting.  
 Herring Gull: fairly common.  
 Ring-billed Gull: 100 plus Apr 5 and 200 Apr 8 VFGM "feeding off winter-killed fish in ponds" (RPY).  
 Common Tern: 4 May 3 VM (hmbc); (cr) 1 LK6 and 2 NWW 2 groups reporting.  
 Black Tern: 1 May 8 VFGM (MJF); 1 May 18 NWW (DA); (cr) 3 LK6 3 groups reporting; 6 May 23 VFGM (RPY); 1 May 28 VFGM (RPY).  
 Mourning Dove: common; "young out of nest and banded in yard" May 5 and 7 Nisk (RPY).  
 Black-billed Cuckoo: May 14 Gr (CK); May 21 W G1 (HFB); 2 May 31 Tab (hmbc).  
 Screech Owl: 1 Apr 5 Malden Bridge (S and R Silverman); 1 May 15 VFGM "lost from mist net" (RPY); (cr) 1 group reporting.  
 Great Horned Owl: 1 Apr 24 VFGM (DA); (cr) 2 groups reporting.  
 Barred Owl: (cr) 1 group reporting.

#### GOATSUCKERS - STARLING

Whip-poor-will: earliest Apr 29 Washington Park Albany (fide Lillian Stoner); heard May 6 Clarksville (CK); heard May 18 Galway Lake (MJF); heard May 18 Mville (DA).

- Common Nighthawk: common during May; 1 Apr 27 Berne (MK).  
Chimney Swift: first sighting Apr 27 Alplaus (HFB).  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: reported through area in May; 5 banded May 2 and 8 VFGM, considered "scarce" (RPY).  
Belted Kingfisher: first seen Apr 11 R and SL (hmbc).  
Yellow-shafted Flicker: reported through area; first Apr 2 Scho-dack Center (PC).  
Pileated Woodpecker: reported through period in all areas.  
Red-headed Woodpecker: several reports through area in May; 1 found dead May 4 Speigeltown, specimen turned over to the Biology Department of SUNY at Albany (John H. Murphy); 1 May 12 Mville (DA); 1 May 14 East Greenbush feeder (fide PC); also May 8 and 30 Chatham (M and A Giddings).  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 Apr 10 Ldville (MF); 3 Apr 18 Nisk "indicative of migration" (RPY).  
Hairy Woodpecker: reported in all areas.  
Downy Woodpecker: reported in all areas; "appeared to be moving on Apr 18 with sapsuckers" (RPY).  
Eastern Kingbird: reported as common in May.  
Great Crested Flycatcher: first Apr 27 Berne (MK); 6 May 31 Tab (hmbc).  
Eastern Phoebe: earliest 2 Apr 8 Mville (DA); 1 Apr 8 Ldville (MF).  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 3 (cr) JL 1 group reporting.  
Traill's Flycatcher: first May 15 VFGM (RPY); total 4 banded (RPY).  
Least Flycatcher: first calling Apr 27 VFGM (RPY); 5 banded May 2 and 3 VFGM, total 15 banded for period, "much more common" (RPY).  
Eastern Wood Pewee: first date May 2 Gr (CK).  
Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 heard May 16 then seen May 19 and the same day another observer a few miles away reported 1 seen (fide CK).  
Horned Lark: 1 Apr 24 Col P (DA); (cr) 3 groups reporting.  
Tree Swallow: first arr Apr 8 VFGM (RPY); occupancy of nesting boxes at VFGM only about 30% as compared to 70-80% usual (RPY).  
Bank Swallow: several nesting colonies of up to 366 holes in area (RPY).  
Rough-winged Swallow: first Apr 22 Mdale (DA); 1 May 5 LK7 (HFB); 2 May 9 VFGM (DA).  
Barn Swallow: common; first report 12 Apr 22 Mdale (DA).  
Cliff Swallow: first Apr 24 Col P (DA); 1 May 3 VM (hmbc); 1 May 9 VFGM (DA).  
Purple Martin: first of approximately 17 arrived about May 15, took up residence in two houses either side of small pond G1 (Bob McCullough).  
Blue Jay: common.  
Black-capped Chickadee: common.  
Tufted Titmouse: regularly reported.  
White-breasted Nuthatch: common.  
Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported through area.  
Brown Creeper: reported over area.  
House Wren: first arr Apr 24 (RPY).  
Winter Wren: 1 Apr 16 and 28 Mville (DA).  
Carolina Wren: 1 heard May 6 Mdale (WBS).  
Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Apr 28 Mville (DA); 2 May 3 VM (hmbc).  
Mockingbird: reported over area in preferred habitats max 6 May 9 VFGM (DA).  
Catbird: first date Apr 29 (HFB) also (MF).  
Brown Thrasher: first Apr 29 Schodack Center (PC); 1 banded VFGM (RPY).  
Wood Thrush: "noticeable influx morning of Apr 17 when 1 banded" Nisk (RPY).  
Swainson's Thrush: 4 banded VFGM (RPY).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: May 5 Reist S (HFB); (cr) Chatham (adbc).  
 Veery: first May 4 Gr (CK); 8 banded VFGM (RPY).  
 Eastern Bluebird: breeding in preferred habitats over area.  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4 Apr 25 and May 3 Catskill (JB); (cr)  
 VFGM 1 group reporting.  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet: 4 Apr 9 Nisk (RPY).  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: migrating Apr 24-27 VFGM (DA) and (RPY).  
 Water Pipit: 6 (cr) JL 1 group reporting.  
 Cedar Waxwing: first arr May 14 South Sch'dy (DA); a few seen  
 through May.

VIREOS - WARBLERS:

Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 caught May 8 VFGM 1 banded 1 return from  
 1969 (RPY); 2 May 31 Tab (hmhc).  
 Solitary Vireo: 1 May 9 LK (HFB); 1 May 10 Tab (PC); 1 May 31 Tab  
 (hmhc).  
 Red-eyed Vireo: from May 9 LK (HFB) through May but regarded as  
 "scarce" as only 2 banded VFGM (RPY).  
 Philadelphia Vireo: 1 May 5 Central Park (HFB); 1 banded May 2-23  
 VFGM (RPY); (cr) 2 groups reporting.  
 Warbling Vireo: first 1 Apr 30 Mville (DA); 5 banded May 2-23  
 VFGM (RPY); several other scattered reports.  
 Black-and white Warbler: more numerous this year than usual; 7  
 banded during May VFGM were first in 4 years (RPY).  
 Prothonotary Warbler: 1 (cr) (adbc, S and R Silverman) N. Hills-  
 dale.  
 Worm-eating Warbler: 1 May IL (DA); (cr) 3 groups reporting.  
 Golden-winged Warbler: first May 10 N. Hillsdale (S and R Silver-  
 man and M and A Giddings); others through period.  
 Blue-winged Warbler: 1 banded May 2 VFGM (RPY); 2 May 10 Mville  
 at unusually high elevation of 1300 ft. (DA).  
 Brewster's Warbler: 1 (cr) (adbc).  
 Lawrence's Warbler: 1 May 8 Gr (CK).  
 Tennessee Warbler: 1 May 21 W Gl (HFB); 3 banded VFGM (RPY).  
 Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 male seen singing May 9 VFGM (William  
 Huntley).  
 Nashville Warbler: first Apr 28 Schodack Center (PC); other re-  
 ports through May; 8 banded VFGM (RPY); reported as breeding  
 in Mville (DA).  
 Parula Warbler: first May 5 two locations (HFB); 2 banded VFGM  
 (RPY).  
 Yellow Warbler: reported commonly throughout area; first migrants  
 from Apr 27 on.  
 Magnolia Warbler: reported throughout area; 7 banded VFGM (RPY).  
 Cape May Warbler: first May 1 reported almost daily through May  
 Ldville (MF); 1 banded VFGM (RPY).  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler: reported over area; 9 banded VFGM  
 (RPY); remain through summer at Galway Lakw (MJF).  
 Myrtle Warbler: concentrated migration about May 2 reported from  
 more than one area; "250-300 must have passed through the very  
 small area at VFGM where we band" May 2 (RPY); 150 May 3 VM  
 (hmhc).  
 Black-throated Green Warbler: first Apr 30 Mville (DA); 7 banded  
 VFGM (RPY); reported through area through month.  
 Blackburnian Warbler: first May 2 Ldville (MF); 1 banded VFGM  
 (RPY); max 6 May 31 Tab (hmhc).  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler: reported through May over area; first  
 report May 5 3 locations (HFB); 5 banded VFGM (RPY).  
 Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 May 4 Ldville (MF); 2 banded VFGM (RPY).  
 Blackpoll Warbler: reported from mid-May on but reported as "less

- common this spring--migration mostly complete by end of May whereas stretched into June last year" (RPY).
- Pine Warbler: two reports May 9 Olana (ER); (cr) JL 1 group reporting; (cr) (adbc).
- Prairie Warbler: Apr 29 Catskill (JB) through (cr) 3 groups reporting.
- Palm Warbler: first Apr 19 Powell S (hmbc); last 2 May 3 VM (hmbc).  
Ovenbird: several reports through area; 6 banded VFGM (RPY).
- Northern Waterthrush: reported through May in several locations; 12 banded VFGM (RPY).
- Louisiana Waterthrush: first May 7 Woodlin Club (HFB); 1 May 18 Mville (DA); 1 May 24 near Wolf Hollow (hmbc).
- Mourning Warbler: 1 May 9 N. Hillsdale (S and R Silverman); 1 banded May 16 VFGM (RPY); (cr) 1 group.
- Yellowthroat: reported throughout area in May; 41 banded VFGM as compared to 24 last year (RPY).
- Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 banded May 2 VFGM (RPY); (cr) 2 groups reporting.
- Wilson's Warbler: first May 9 Mville (DA); 1 May 13 Gr (CK); 9 banded VFGM (RPY); (cr) 2 groups reporting.
- Canada Warbler: first May 9 Olana (ER); 6 banded VFGM (RPY); 6 May 24 W G1 (hmbc); 5 May 31 Tab (hmbc).
- American Redstart: first Apr 30 Mville (DA); other reports through month of May but also reported as "late in arriving in number - not present fully until 4th week of May" (RPY).

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

- Bobolink: first date May 15 W G1 (HFB); max 4 May 24 W G1 (hmbc).
- Eastern Meadowlark: reported through month of May
- Red-winged Blackbird: max 250 May 3 VM (hmbc).
- Orchard Oriole: several reports; (cr) (hmbc) and (adbc); successful nesting of pair in Norway spruce in W G1 first observed May 17 and almost daily thereafter (Bob McCullough).
- Baltimore Oriole: first 3 May 3 VM (hmbc); 7 banded VFGM (RPY).
- Rusty Blackbird: "many" reported from Apr 11 through month Gr (CK); 3 Apr 12 PM (DA).
- Common Grackle: ubiquitous.
- Brown-headed Cowbird: throughout area.
- Scarlet Tanager: max 4 May 24 W G1 (hmbc).
- Summer Tanager: (cr) Chatham (adbc by M. Gunn).
- Cardinal: throughout area.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak: first date May 2 Ldville (MF); 14 banded VFGM (RPY); peak numbers May 8 VFGM (RPY).
- Indigo Bunting: 3 reports - first Apr 30 Spencertown (E. Wadsworth); May 9 Gr (CK); (cr) 4 groups reporting.
- Evening Grosbeak: seen various places well into May; last 2 May 18 Berne (MK).
- Purple Finch: reported throughout Apr and May max 70 Apr 30 Mville (DA).
- House Finch: only 1 report May 3 (RPY).
- Pine Grosbeak: last report Apr 12 Chatham (M and A Giddings); last date Apr 12 Mville (DA).
- Pine Siskin: reports into mid-May; max 50-75 Gr (CK); last 10 May 18 South Sch'dy (DA).
- American Goldfinch: reported throughout area; 33 banded VFGM (RPY), peak may have occurred Apr 19-20 (RPY); 12 Apr 19 Powell S (hmbc).
- Red Crossbill: reported throughout May from several areas; max 100 or more SL May 19 (DA); fledglings seen two locations being fed by parent (DA).

- White-winged Crossbill: 1 banded Apr 4 Burnt Hills (RPY).  
 Rufous-sided Towhee: first Apr 8 SUNY campus (DA); max 10 May 31 Tab (hmbc).  
 Savannah Sparrow: first Apr 9 PM (DA); Apr 25,28,29 Powell S and Schodack (ER and L and V Burland); May 9 SCR (HFB).  
 Grasshopper Sparrow: first Apr 25 Powell S (ER); May 9 Moe Rd (HFB); May 23 Alplaus (HFB).  
 Vesper Sparrow: 4 Apr 12 Mville (DA); 2 Apr 19 Powell S (hmbc).  
 Slate-colored Junco: migration movements appeared to be around Apr 19 as reported by (RPY) and 100 or more Powell S (hmbc); max 150 Apr 19 Mville (DA).  
 Tree Sparrow: last date Apr 26 Ldville (MF).  
 Chipping Sparrow: reported from Apr 24 VFGM (DA).  
 Field Sparrow: Apr 7, 13-30 Schodack and Chatham (L and V Burland, M Mickle, and M and W Ulmer); 2 Apr 12 Mville (DA); max 4 May 3 VM (hmbc).  
 White-crowned Sparrow: reported from Apr 18 on through Apr in Columbia County by 3 observers; May 10-19 "various places, many" (HFB); 2 banded VFGM (RPY).  
 White-throated Sparrow: migrants most apparent about Apr 14-25; reported as breeding Mville (DA); present through May Galway Lake (MJF).  
 Fox Sparrow: last seen 2 Apr 19 Powell S (hmbc).  
 Lincoln's Sparrow: "much more common than usual" 12 banded VFGM (RPY).  
 Swamp Sparrow: 2 Apr 15 Mdale (DA); 16 banded VFGM (RPY); 1 May 24 W Gl (hmbc).  
 Song Sparrow: throughout area; 35 banded VFGM (RPY).

\* \* \* \* \*



### SARATOGA-ROUND LAKES

APRIL 11, 1970

On a chilly, windy morning, 15 Bird Club members and one visitor gathered at Round Lake, and were disappointed to find that there was very little open water. The same icy condition prevailed at Saratoga Lake, also, with the exception of the lower end, where there was a rather extensive open area near the outlet. In spite of the discouraging conditions, we were able to find a few water birds in open water edging some of the shore-line, and in the one large area mentioned above. We were to tally 47 species before the field trip ended, with a few highlights as follows: beautiful views of common loons in breeding plumage; one great blue heron; a large flock of 440 Canada geese on our return to Round Lake at the end of the trip; 11 species of ducks; and the stirring call and subsequent sighting of a pileated woodpecker. It was also a thrill to see many common birds, which have reappeared for the breeding season - kingfishers, phoebes, and tree swallows among them. All in all - a very enjoyable trip. --Hazel Bundy

WILSON M. POWELL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

APRIL 19, 1970

Thirteen observers participated in a morning walk through this Columbia County sanctuary of the Alan Devoe Bird Club. We covered this largely wooded property on a network of well-marked trails (many labeled trees were handy for those wishing to brush up on tree recognition). We also visited a small headquarters building and bird feeders near the entrance, an overlook known as Dawson's Rocks, and an open marsh area. Choruses of spring peepers and wood frogs in woodland pools competed with the birds in making noise.

The bird list was not long -- 32 species. But the weather was fine, and spring birds, such as flickers, tree swallows, hermit thrushes, purple finches, fox sparrows, and a palm warbler were seen in good light at close range. Juncos were abundant, swarming over the ground in places. A small group of red crossbills was spotted flying over. Twice a Cooper's hawk passed close by. We first saw it as it swooped very low in the woods near the bird feeders, making a pass at small birds feeding on the ground; later it flew directly overhead, just above the tree tops as we walked along a trail.

--Paul Connor

VOSBURGH SWAMP

MAY 3, 1970

Drizzling rain greeted our arrival at Vosburgh marsh but in spite of threatening skies the weather cleared and all nine observers came away at least dry and perhaps rewarded for their perseverance.

Coming on the heels of two weeks of unseasonably mild weather the foliage was well advanced for May 3rd and the day promised to be fruitful. We were not disappointed.

Overlooking the marsh the air was alive with tree, bank and barn swallows, while the gallinule appeared to be underfoot each step of the way. Along the footpath nearly a dozen different warblers were seen including the ubiquitous myrtle, palm, chestnut sided, and several very obliging Cape Mays.

It is worth noting that Vosburgh offers a variety of habitats. Aside from the marsh itself there are orchards nearby, open fields, hedgerows and a commanding view of the Hudson River.

A total of 63 species was reported including osprey, Canada geese, warbling vireo, least flycatcher and a greater yellowlegs.

--Paul Connor

MEADOWDALE

MAY 6, 1970

Field trip "down the tracks" at Meadowdale. Seven club members and one guest should receive some special award for turning out for the evening bird song trip. We braved record breaking cold and a very brisk wind to listen to and record 15 species. Thanks to Walt Sabin's educated ears we heard a sora rail and a snatch of the song of the Carolina wren. We also were rewarded with a beautiful sunset.

--Bob and Mary Lou Shedd

BIRD BANDING AT VISCHER FERRY

MAY 9, 1970

True to the fisherman's adage, "You should have seen how they were biting last week," the 128 banding captures at Vischer Ferry Game Management Area on May 9th did not quite compare to the 246 captures of May 2nd. Even though we did not have May 2nd's yellow-breasted chat and other lovelies for display, there were enough birds, and confusing ones at that, to keep the interest of most of the approximately 75 people who came to watch the banding. Per usual, the bird in the hand kept them thumbing through their field guides.

There was more than enough bird processing and net clearing, so the help of my father, Will Merritt and Bob Pantle, who cleared nets and banded, was invaluable. Even at that there was not time to get to talk to many of the people who came. During the prime time we did have the opportunity to discuss difficult identifications - things like ovenbirds and female black-throated green warblers. With these hurdles past, we were able to devote time to some of the more elementary problems such as the notched sixth primary of the least flycatcher that most birders ably detect on the bird in flight, thereby differentiating this species from Traill's flycatcher. We also gave due consideration to the equally characteristic reduced tenth primary that separates the warbling and Philadelphia vireo "in flight".

Despite the comment that there must have been a whole new set of warblers invented since Peterson published his field guide, the point was made that bird identification relies on a systematic reduction of possible candidates until unequivocal identification is achieved. This did not stop someone, however, from suggesting that we really had an olive warbler. When the distance from Vischer Ferry to the olive warbler's more normal range in Arizona was factored into the problem, the hunt for the identity of the female black-throated green warbler continued.

In addition to the 128 birds of 29 species that were banded, we captured 25 birds returned from previous years and 67 repeat captures for a total of 220 captures. Included among the returns was a least flycatcher banded by Will on May 10, 1969 - the first return for this species at Vischer Ferry. Also highlighting the day's catch were eight Lincoln's sparrows - a new daily maximum for the species. The remainder of the list consisted of to-be-expecteds.

For those who found the spring beauties confusing, the ground rules make September 26th a whole new ball game.

--Robert P. Yunick

WEST GLENVILLE, WOLF HOLLOW, LOVER'S LANE

MAY 24, 1970

A group of twenty birders gathered at the meeting place in West Glenville this Sunday morning. A treat was in store for many of the group as they were to have the opportunity to observe an orchard oriole. It seems a pair of the same have taken up residence in the village and as of this writing the nest has been discovered.

The Wolf Hollow walk produced several flycatchers and an excellent view of a scarlet tanager. Because of the high banks on either side observing is somewhat restricted.

We left the "hollow" for the "lane" and found ourselves somewhat late in the morning to see the usual numbers of our feathered friends. One golden-winged warbler was especially cooperative and perched for several minutes on a power wire so all could observe its many poses.

A total of 58 species was recorded.

--Bob McCullough

#### IN APPRECIATION

Several members have kindly volunteered to help with typing for FEATHERS. The editor is indebted to Harvey Spivak for his help in assembling the current issue.

#### NEXT ISSUE

Items for the next issue of FEATHERS should be in by August 31.  
(Issue assembled July 15, 1970)

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PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

ART EDITOR: Carol Wernick

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.

HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.: Samuel R. Madison, President;  
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## ROGER TORY PETERSON ONE OF FIVE SPEAKERS

Douglass M. Allen  
Program Co-chairman

World-famous author, artist, and naturalist Roger Tory Peterson will present on November 5 an, as yet, untitled African film which he is presently filming on that continent. Other films of the 1970-1971 series will take us to the Australian bush, Canadian mountain wilderness, and the Florida Everglades.

All programs of this annual Audubon Wildlife Film Series will be given on Wednesday or Thursday evenings at the Niskayuna High School Auditorium, as in the past. Programs commence at 8 P.M. and, as before, admission is by season ticket.

Here is the schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Title</u>
Thurs., Oct. 1	Harold J. Pollack	Wanderings of a Naturalist in the Australian Bush
Thurs., Nov. 5	Roger Tory Peterson	"African Film" not yet titled
Wed., Dec. 2	William A. Anderson	Our Unique Water Wilderness- The Everglades
Wed., Feb. 24	Buzz Moss	Mule Deer Country
Wed., Apr. 21	Edgar T. Jones	Canada's Mountain Wilderness

Ruth Bates, co-chairman, is in charge of ticket sales again this year. Mary Healy will again be in charge of publicity. These and so many other persons whose energy and hard work makes the Audubon Wildlife Series possible need the help and co-operation of all club members.

Each member of HMBC will receive by mail publicity and an order form for this year's series. Please order your season ticket immediately and encourage your friends and relatives to do so, too.

The following members will be glad to have phone calls in regard to tickets: Ruth Bates, 439-4695 (after school hours); Esly Hallenbeck, 346-8579; Mary Healy, 346-2757; and Anne Yunkick, 377-0146.

## PANAMANIAN HIGHLIGHTS

Doris and Bill Copping

The 1970 March issue of National Geographic had an article "Panama, Link between Oceans and Continents" which we found especially interesting because we took a Florida Audubon Society tour, March 30 through April 9 to Panama.

Our Pan-American plane flight from Miami to Panama City was delayed four hours due to the Airplane Controllers strike and heavy wet snow in New York City. While we waited we were rewarded by seeing an orange-chinned parakeet and a Panama jay in a small park near our hotel. It was thought the birds had escaped from private owners; they certainly were enjoying their freedom. A spotted-breasted oriole that was sipping nectar from orchid blossoms on a tree added to our pleasure.

Our plane landed at Tocumen airport, Republic of Panama, late in the evening and we were taken by cab to Hotel El Continentale, a delightful place. Its picture is found on the 13¢ Panama stamp.

The following morning a chartered bus took our party to see the famous locks, a ship was just completing its transit of the canal, which, according to the official guide at Miraflores Lock, takes 8 hours if no waiting and costs \$6600. From our hotel balcony we could see ships lying off the Pacific beaches waiting their turns, so the magazine report of 15 hours could easily be average.

The bus next halted on the crest of the Continental Divide, at Summit Gardens, renowned for tropical plant life and birds. The pond lilies were beautiful, with an immature wattled jacana stepping daintily from pad to pad; yellow poinciana trees were in bloom; we were given a tiny piece of latex, pulled from a rubber tree. Many Wagler's oropendola nests hung like long stockings, swaying from the top branches of trees and the large birds flew about in a friendly manner.

One problem for our congenial leader was the fact that there is no Panama resource book on birds. A teacher at Panama University has been compiling descriptions and lists of birds; he allowed our leader, Doris Mager, to use the typed manuscript for reference. He felt there were many discrepancies that would need revision before it could be published. One of the men of our group had the tendency to challenge details when a bird was observed. He had a briefcase of books showing birds found in Central America, Mexico and Colombia that were useful in listing 190 different varieties. There was a combination of native birds, mostly South American in character and North American migrants that channel through the Isthmus of Panama.

Several of the shorebirds seen on the Pacific beaches we were able to recognize--such as gallinules, herons, grebes, gulls and sandpipers. There was no robin as we think of the bird, but they had clay-colored and white-throated robins. Not only were there scarlet and summer tanagers but seven other kinds, the blue-gray tanager was seen every day and the scarlet-rumped tanager was striking.

Lillian Stoner's interesting article "Birds in British Honduras" includes many birds that we saw in Panama also. The President of the Panama Audubon Society invited us to observe the colorful hummingbirds that came to sip pink sugarwater from vials hanging in their patio. We saw the rufous-tailed hummingbird every day in different localities. One day we followed the Gambia pipeline through Canal Zone property and watched frigate-birds diving after fish (stolen and otherwise),

We went up into the Blue Mountain area and were thrilled with the sight of over a thousand Swainson hawks in migration, soaring and "kettling" in the sky.

We flew from Panama City to David, then rode by bumpy Jeep to Boquete in the western highlands. From there we visited Collins' Finca, a coffee plantation, 5000 ft. altitude. We followed a bird call that sounded like a cracked bell and after a long search the three-wattled bellbird was located high in a tree, his favorite perch.

A railroad ride along the Canal and a launch took us one day to Barro Colorado Island in Lake Gatun, a tropical research station run by the Smithsonian Institute. The mountains of Colombia in South America could be seen in the far distance after we had climbed 203 steps to their buildings in the jungle. A squirrel cuckoo came to a tree nearby to be admired, a howler monkey was asleep on an iron pipe, while red spider monkeys swung from tree to tree. With our glasses we were able to watch a lazy three-toed sloth eating the leaves from a eucalyptus tree. We added several brilliant birds to our list, including the keel-billed toucan and collared aracari, and thought we were fortunate not to have seen the boa constrictor a lad at luncheon told of finding.

Another delightful day was spent at Cerro Punta, a mountain Bird Sanctuary at 6000 ft. elevation. Florida Audubon owns a cabin and acreage where birds are banded and researchers can stay nights. Near a Peace Corp woodworking school project we saw a motmot, a blue-crowned, jay-sized bird with a long tail, with two elongated fan tips that sat quietly for us to watch. It was the prize of the day.

The last day and night trip was to the "Panama Alps" Cerro Campano area and how it did rain with heavy fog. We did see a gorgeous red-legged honeycreeper and enormous frogs liked the wet. The tiny golden frog was supposed to be in that vicinity but did not appear.

The quetzal described and pictured in Birds of the World as "brilliant bronzy green with red and white underparts, measuring fourteen inches from bill to tail tip and two long plumes trailing two feet behind the tail" was sought for on several rocky trails where our Panamanian driver thought it would be seen, but we looked in vain. However, the whole trip will remain as a happy memory for us to relate to anyone willing to listen.

\* \* \* \* \*

## WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS

Robert P. Yunick

In the almost  $8\frac{1}{2}$  years I have banded, I have been impressed by the lack of song sparrow recoveries I have received. Considering how common the bird is and how readily it is found near human habitation - two factors that influence the incidence of band recovery - one would expect a moderate number of recoveries. Further, with the banding of nearly 2000 of this species, it is rather unexpected that I have not had a single recovery away from the place of banding, except for one bird I banded at Island Beach, New Jersey and recovered myself at Vischer Ferry Game Management area the following year.

I still remember vividly a comment made by a veteran bander when I was just starting banding about how he had banded hundreds of song sparrows and had never heard from a one. All this while, each year I have banded more and more of this species and I have wondered when a recovery would occur. Today in the mail came not only my first song sparrow recovery, but my first three song sparrow recoveries scattered about the Northeast. I was surprised and a little overwhelmed to say the least.

Considering the oldest banding first, a bird I banded at Island Beach, N. J. on October 27, 1966 was killed by a car in January, 1970 near Flemington, N. J. about 65 miles northwest of Island Beach. This bird was not aged at the time of banding, but had it been a young of the year at the time of banding, it would have been at least  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years old. A bird past its hatching year would have been at least  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years old.

The second one was a bird banded as an adult on Oct. 7, 1967 at Vischer Ferry and found dead on April 1, 1970 at Boyertown, Pa. about 220 miles south-southwest of the point of banding. This bird was one to two months short of being at least four years old. It was probably banded as a migrant since the first ten days of October represent the peak of the sparrow migration at Vischer Ferry. At Boyertown on April 1 it could have still been on its wintering grounds, or more likely was migrating north at the time.

The third recovery involved an adult banded August 30, 1969 at Vischer Ferry - most likely a breeding adult - which was caught due to an injury, and subsequently released, April 5, 1970 at Athol, Mass. about 100 miles almost due east of Vischer Ferry. This bird had obviously made a slight switch in breeding territory.

Already considerable data are on hand regarding returns to Vischer Ferry of breeding adults and reared young. Hopefully, more recoveries of this species will be made to determine the extent of its migration and distribution from this area. These three recoveries are a start.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE PUZZLING HOUSE FINCH

Robert P. Yunick

The house finch has earned the reputation of an ornithological curiosity in the East. Much has been written about its wanderings in the east. Locally I've had my own fun with this species when it has appeared at my feeders.

In the beginning, this species gave the appearance of coming north in the spring with purple finches. The first one I had experience with was a male banded on May 4, 1964. Then two were banded in 1967 on May 5 and 6. Another was banded on May 1, 1968. In 1968, the bird made a mysterious fall appearance in November, when I banded 20 between the 9th and 29th. Where these birds came from and where they went to was a mystery. In early December they departed seemingly for the winter. They were not seen all winter. In late April of the next year, the species appeared again, as was expected, and two were banded on April 23 and 30. In no case did the birds stay to breed near our yard, though other observers have reported breeding of the bird in the area. Again in November, 1969, the birds made another mysterious reappearance and 27 were banded between the 6th and 28th. As in 1968, the birds disappeared come December. The species was awaited in spring of 1970, and only one male appeared and he was not captured for banding.

During all this time, I caught one previously banded house finch that had been banded December 26, 1966 in Gordonsville, Virginia. This capture was made on May 5, 1967 and indicated the wide extent of migratory behavior in this species here in the East, contrary to its sedentary behavior in its western homeland. Now, another banding record has been established - namely the first return of a locally banded house finch has been reported.

I have just received notification from the Fish and Wildlife Service that a hatching year house finch banded in my yard on November 8, 1969 was found freshly dead on May 11, 1970 by the McKibbens at 1037 Baker Avenue, Schenectady about five or six blocks away. The possibility exists that the bird wintered in the area; however, the departure of the birds in December and a lack of winter records for any feeders in the area suggests a complete exodus from this area and return in the spring. It is interesting to establish that one of these fall birds, whose fall appearance is as yet unexplained, returned in the following spring, presumably to breed. Whether these fall birds are local breeders that have flocked together with their young before departing, or whether they are birds from the south that have wandered north after the breeding season is not known.

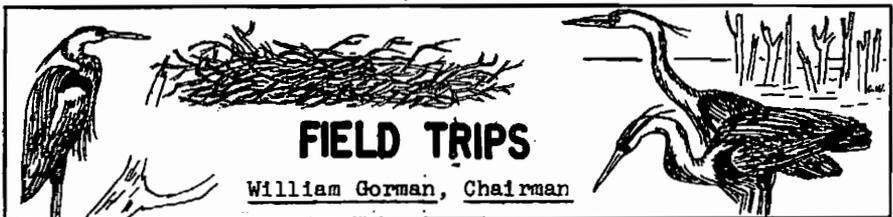
In discussing the recovery with Mrs. McKibben, I learned that what had to be a pair of house finches nested at the McKibbens' this past spring. Mrs. McKibben thought the birds were purple finches in the nest on her porch eave, but I told her that this nesting behavior was more characteristic of the house finch than the purple finch. As it turned out,

the adults abandoned the nest and the fate of the one young was never established.

In time the migratory behavior of this species will be more clearly defined as more and more band recoveries and returns are accumulated.

Editor's note: As observers become more aware of the possibility of house finches in the area, perhaps some of the "purple finches" observed may "turn into" house finches.

\* \* \* \* \*



### CHERRY PLAIN

MAY 31, 1970

On May 31, 1970 a small group from Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club met at 7:00 A. M. for a trip to Cherry Plain. It was a clear warm sunny day with very little wind. We spent several minutes watching a killdeer with three recently hatched young. We heard and saw two black-billed cuckoos and watched several ruby-throated hummingbirds. We listened carefully to red-eyed vireos, warbling vireos, and a solitary vireo, noting the song differences.

A broad-winged hawk circled close, giving everyone a good chance at observation. We listened also to redstarts, yellowthroats, Blackburnian warblers, Canada warblers, chestnut-sided warblers, black-throated blue warblers, black-and-white warblers, magnolia warblers, ovenbirds, northern waterthrush, and Nashville warblers, noting differences in the songs.. Least flycatchers and great-crested flycatchers were relatively common while kingbirds, phoebes, wood pewees, and Traill's flycatchers were sporadic. The Traill's flycatcher was only heard to give the wee-be-o call. Slate-colored juncos, white-throated sparrows, swamp sparrows, song sparrows, field sparrows, chipping sparrows, purple finch, and rose-breasted grosbeak were also heard well.

We saw many flowers including painted trillium, pink lady's-slippers, pinxters, etc. All in all we had a nice day and were able to leisurely hear and see many birds, most of which were carefully heard and seen by most of the group. --William Gorman

### HUNTER MOUNTAIN

JULY 11, 1970

At 10:30 one July morning, there were eleven members of HMBC flying up the southern face of the Catskills' Hunter Mountain with what seemed to some to be less than minimal mechanical assistance. Actually, we were using a ski lift working at a summer job.

After being hoisted to 3200 feet of elevation, we were on our guard. Not wishing to be overwhelmed by the yellow-bellied sapsuckers and olive-sided flycatchers, we kept alert. Everyone had one ear tuned to the birds and one to the group's banter, one eye on the trees and one on a trail that could sometimes have passed for a stream.

Monte Gruett introduced us to the mountain, which he had scaled once previously. The mountain happened to be a generally pleasant being, although he had us hoping all day that the surrounding clouds would not prove to be as ill-tempered as they sometimes appeared. The woods were filled more with sounds than sights of birds. We were run through intermediate to advanced parts of a bird-watcher's test as the participants strained to translate tiny noises into the languages of hermit and Swainson's thrushes and black-and-white, magnolia, blackpoll, black-throated blue, black-throated green, and myrtle warblers.

Those who followed the leader through the rarefied atmosphere were Hazel Bundy, Doris Price, Sam Madison, Carl Spencer, Walt, Ginny, and Ken Sabin, and myself. We welcomed two especially enthusiastic new-comers, Bill and Maria Brooks, who may prove to be active members of the club.

We were disappointed that the sapsuckers, olive-sided flycatchers, and gray-cheeked thrushes did not appear as advertised. The hike to the 4040 foot summit, however, was unanimously agreed to have made this an enjoyable summer day.

After taking the carnival ride down the mountain, we hurried through the check list filling ritual. The threat of rain had materialized and was advancing toward us from the mountaintop. We hurriedly gathered our belongings and, with varied exclamations, escaped into the cars.

--Harvey Spivak

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SHOREBIRD RECAPTURE OPERATION

Department of Biological Sciences  
University of Montreal  
C.P. 6128  
Montreal 101, Quebec, Canada

The above department has requested collaboration from bird watchers in a research project, the objective of which is to study the migration routes of north American shorebirds in relation to their flight range capabilities.

A field staff is undertaking a marking program on the Atlantic coast (Magdalen Islands and Sable Island) of southbound migrating shorebirds. Shorebirds will be mist-netted and banded from July 10 to Oct. 15, 1970. Furthermore, each bird will have its underparts color-dyed: YELLOW in Magdalen Islands and GREEN in Sable Island.

Please report to the above address any sight records of color-dyed shorebirds (underparts YELLOW colored or GREEN colored).

The water level at the Vischer Ferry Game Management Area is very low, and the resultant large area of mud flats is attracting many shorebirds. You will find it interesting to investigate the area, and could possibly have the added pleasure of observing and reporting one of these color-dyed birds. Good luck!

THIS ISSUE AND THE NEXT ONE

Bill Copping typed a portion of this issue of FEATHERS. Such help is always welcome and deeply appreciated. Deadline for the next issue is November 1. We expect to carry a report of the meeting of the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs, scheduled for September 11-13 at Watertown, N. Y.

(Issue assembled August 4, 1970)

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PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

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## 1970 FEDERATION MEETING

Walton B. Sabin  
Delegate

TWENTY THIRD ANNUAL MEETING  
NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION OF BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
SEPTEMBER 11-13, 1970  
HOLIDAY INN, WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

On Friday morning, Ed and Alice Reilly and I left the Albany area by car headed for Watertown and the Annual Meeting of the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs, Inc. We went up the Northway and Route 28 to Indian Lake village. From there we took the dirt road through the Moose River Recreation Area coming out at Limekila Lake not far from Inlet. Here we headed for Big Moose and again a dirt road toward Stillwater Reservoir. We by-passed Stillwater Reservoir, since the road to it is dead-end, but went through the hamlet of Number Four and on to Carthage and Watertown. It was truly a pleasant drive.

After becoming settled each of us renewed friendships and made new acquaintances.

Friday evening was devoted to committee meetings including the very popular Conservation meeting. Since I attended the Kingbird Regional Editors' Committee meeting, I missed most of the Conservation Committee meeting. At the Regional Editors' Committee meeting it was decided that the seasonal report section including "Highlights of the Season" should have a separate editor so the Kingbird editor could devote more time to the body of the magazine. Fritz Scheider of the Onondaga Audubon Society volunteered to be the seasonal report editor.

At the Conservation Committee meeting a group of resolutions were proposed for adoption at the Saturday morning council meeting. Some were as follows:

1. The Federation favors the Federal proposal for the New York City National Recreation Area. This should be very helpful in assuring the permanency of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge as well as saving and cleaning up the valued wetlands.
2. The Federation recommends State legislation to give hawks and owls 100% protection. Now, farmers, shooting preserves, etc., are permitted to destroy hawks and/or owls preying upon the owner's stock. This is now being abused through use of pole traps. Complete protection would ban this practice.
3. Offers moral support to the Nature Conservancy in completing the establishment of the Eldorado Shores Conservancy Area.

The John Burroughs Society rejoined the Federation. A list of individual memberships were voted in.

The By-Laws Committee reported on several proposals; at least two were approved after much discussion. These two were:

1. Establish a maximum membership fee of \$100.00 for clubs.
2. Change club representation upwards so that a maximum of six delegates could represent the largest clubs.

The new budget was read and adopted.

The new officers of the Federation were nominated and duly elected. They are as follows:

President	- *Dr. E. M. Reilly, Jr.
Vice-president	- *Mrs. Alice Ulrich
Cor. secretary	- Miss Elizabeth Feldhusen
Rec. secretary	- *Mrs. Mary Ann Sunderlin
Treasurer	- *Mr. James P. Karp

\*Incumbents.

In the afternoon the Technical Papers Session was held. The papers were as follows:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Pollution  | Dr. John A. Gustafson  |
| 2. Blue Herons on Ironside Island                   | Dr. George R. Maxwell II<br>James McAllister<br>James Parker |
| 3. Bird Populations of Bermuda                      | Dr. Kenneth Growell  |
| 4. Behavior of Rock Ptarmigan                       | Dr. S. D. MacDonald  |
| 5. Changing Bird Populations in<br>Upstate New York | John Belknap   |

In the first paper Dr. Gustafson expounds on the editorial he wrote for "Nature Study", the journal of the American Nature Study Society of which he is Associate Editor and Treasurer. His editorial will be found elsewhere in this issue of Feathers.

The second paper gave a detailed account of the great blue heron colony on Ironside Island, which is now protected by the 1970 amendment to Section 166 of the Conservation Law.

The third paper explained that most of the resident birds on Bermuda are the result of man's introductions. The catbird and sparrow hawk are two examples.

The fourth paper was by far the most interesting since it concerned a species with which very few of us, in New York, are familiar. Dr. MacDonald gave a slide talk covering the species activities throughout the year. His studies are sponsored by the National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.

The last paper was quite similar to my own article in the June-July 1970 issue of the Conservationist. Mr. Belknap did not include the snowy egret, glossy ibis, American oystercatcher, dickcissel or house finch. He did add, as far as northern New York is concerned, the black tern and blue- and golden-winged warblers.

On Sunday, Ed, Alice and I went on the field trip to the Eldorado Shores Nature Conservancy Area. The area lived up to its reputation for shore-birding. I had the best views ever of Baird's sandpiper through a Balscope at not over 50 feet and in good light. At the conclusion of the field trip we drove home, concluding a very enjoyable Federation meeting.



With this issue you are receiving the notice of our annual Christmas meeting on December 7th. At that time Bob Yunick will bring you up to date on the latest developments concerning our recent acquisition, the Henry G. Reist Wildlife Sanctuary.

There are many individuals and groups who contribute greatly to HMBC. Most of these are well known to you and their work is readily apparent.

Some of you may not be fully aware of the work done by our Youth Activities Committee chaired by Mrs. Robert Norton. Lois and her committee make frequent appearances before school classes and groups, Garden Clubs, YWCA clubs, etc. Lois' committee consists of Mrs. Beverly Adams, Mary Becker, Mrs. Frederick Bordt, Nancy Brown, Donna Gruett, Mrs. Will Merritt and Mrs. John Todd.

They do an excellent job of showing slides and giving an interesting talk to students and others. They address themselves to birds most of the time, but also have slides and give talks on wild flowers and animals. In a normal busy month someone on the committee is giving an illustrated lecture every other day! In fact, your directors have had to purchase an extra set of bird slides to enable them to meet the demand for their presentations.

It is heartwarming to read the letters of thanks we receive from the groups and individuals who enjoy these talks. Many thanks to Lois and her enthusiastic co-workers.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Once again this fall a program of bird slides, wildflower or small animal slides will be made available to schools or clubs in the Capital District thru the courtesy of the Rensselaer County Junior Museum and the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. The Junior Museum, located at 108 - 2nd Ave., now has exhibits on pollution, a colonial kitchen, geology, poison plants in your back yard, and live snakes. They are open Tuesday to Friday 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. Each year HMBC works with RCJM to conduct the Children's Spring Bird Count. The Count booklet, printed by the museum, goes out to several hundred teachers for use in the schools.

Last year our bird slides were shown to about 3000 children. This year we hope to reach double that number. Will you help? Contact Lois Norton, 235-0978. Please. --Lois Norton

STONY CREEK - VISCHER FERRY

AUG. 30, 1970

Twelve people, from points as far away as West Glenville, Rensselaer, and Greenville, gathered at the Vischer Ferry Game Management Area on this pleasant, partially cloudy, late-summer morning. There was no duck banding taking place as had been hoped. Nor did any "unusual finds", hopefully mentioned in the Field Trip schedule, materialize.

However, an enjoyable three hours were spent in the area - with ample opportunity to become well-acquainted with seven species of shore birds, and with the challenge of identifying a few very elusive fall warblers. Several ruby-throated hummingbirds delighted members of the group. Soft blue seemed to be the color for the day - with approximately 15 great blue herons seen during the morning, and with a dozen blue-winged teal observed feeding at close range, occasionally making short flights and thus revealing the delicate blue patches on their wings. --Hazel Bundy

KARNER PINE BARRENS

SEPT. 12, 1970

The morning was the first of the clear, crisp ones of the fall season - the group was small, but eager - the objectives were clearly defined..... only the warblers were missing!

In the absence of the designated leader, Hazel Bundy guided Margaret Griffel, Willi Joynson and Bob Marx in the direction of the Pine Bush. Even she admitted that the "usual" birding area had been built up during the past year, and we found a huge water tower in the place where the warblers used to be. In all, we counted twenty-five different species: common ones such as robins, blue jays, and black-capped chickadees, two immature rose-breasted grosbeaks, and then the excitement of a female indigo bunting. The warblers were just not moving, however, and we only put two black-throated greens, an ovenbird and a single Canada warbler on the record for the day.

Perhaps the finale to the expedition was an indication of the noise and emission pollution with which our feathered friends contend... as we walked through the Pine Bush, we were overtaken by a girl on a motorcycle, riding the sand pathways, into the depths of the woodland. Another year may turn up even fewer birds.

--Willi Joynson

SACANDAGA RESERVOIR

SEPT. 20, 1970

Starting in bright sunlight we disappeared into dense fog after being checked over by a killdeer in the school parking lot. The fog made birding somewhat difficult in a couple of spots but

we found sunlight again at Northville. At one stop to see some mergansers we looked on the other side of the road and discovered at least 12 bluebirds, both adult and young. (Don Wilkins later claimed them as his) This stop was the day's highlight as we found 11 of the day's 37 species there. Fifteen killdeer, 2 greater yellowlegs, several peeps and 6 sanderlings were the only shore birds seen on this shore bird trip. With the bluebirds, no one cared.

--Will Merritt

BIRD BANDING AT VISCHER FERRY

SEPT. 26, 1970

This trip report should be titled more appropriately, "The Case of the Two Banders Who Erred". Such a title sets the stage for a rather mysterious happening and accurately describes the performance of two people who should have known better. Beyond that, the 47 birders who attended will probably be somewhat chagrined to learn as of this reading that there was an Acadian flycatcher in their midst and neither they nor we knew it at the time. Since an Acadian flycatcher probably represents a life bird to over ninety percent of the people who were present, the magnitude of the error becomes apparent.

The morning was a moderately good one with 161 birds of 31 species banded. The previous week had been extremely hot with high pressure in the south pumping hot moist air northward. Brown outs were common as electrical suppliers strained to meet air conditioner demand. By weekend, a change was apparent and birds were moving ahead of an incoming cold front that swept through the area on Sept. 27 bringing relief from the heat.

The front was sweeping some birds into the area and others out of the area. We captured the last of a record catch of 106 ruby-throated hummingbirds for the season. In came the first winter wrens and the first invasions, in number, of the white-throated sparrow. That weekend we caught a record five gray-cheeked thrushes and had two that morning to be able to compare with Swainson's thrush. The catbird migration was at its peak.

Hopefully, those who attended learned something about plumage comparisons in the hand and had an opportunity to see close up some of the captivating detail of 13 species of warblers, and developed a deeper appreciation of these feathered mites. It is unfortunate that the identity and rarity of the Acadian flycatcher could not have been recognized at the time for all to observe and appreciate; however, here is how it happened.

A little before 0915, Will Merritt removed an inconspicuous greenish flycatcher from one of his nets. Back at the banding area, the problem of identifying the bird became a subject of discussion between Will, Hazel Bundy and Bill Gorman. The Empidonax flycatchers can be a tricky group to differentiate due to some of their subtle differences, and this bird was no exception, partly because its eye ring was not very conspicuous, thus raising doubt about it even being one of the Empidonax group. However, an Empidonax it was and Hazel brought over the bird to ask what I thought it was. The three common Empidonax flycatchers at Vischer Ferry are least, Traill's, and yellow-bellied - all of which I have learned to recognize fairly quickly by size, coloration and feel in the hand. In all cases these identifications have been borne out by detailed measuring and other criteria.

When Hazel first approached me with the bird I was immediately struck by the size of the bird and thought of it as a Traill's flycatcher. However, I was disturbed by the bird's greenish crown and back and yellowish wash to the underside. It looked like an overgrown yellow-bellied flycatcher which is a greenish bird compared to the olive-brown Traill's and smaller olive-brown and gray least flycatcher. The wing chord measured 71 mm. which was large and fit a Traill's, and the sixth primary was not notched, also fitting the Traill's. I told Hazel it was a Traill's flycatcher even though the greenish cast of the bird bothered me. I discounted this in my mind on the basis that these flycatchers are somewhat variable and this may have been an extreme case of greenish olive compared to the more usual olive-brown. Never once did it occur to me that the bird might be an Acadian. I had become too thoroughly ingrained with the separation of the least, Traill's, and yellow-bellied flycatchers to recognize something other than one of those three.

Later at home, I had to call Will about a notation on his record sheet and in the course of the conversation, he brought up this bird. Due to the morning's activity, we had not had a chance to discuss it. The instant he mentioned this mystery flycatcher, I reconstructed in my mind the size and the coloration of the bird and suddenly became painfully aware of the error I had made, because in that instant I knew the bird was not a Traill's flycatcher, but was it really a long-sought-after Acadian? - an Acadian that I thought the painstaking measuring would reveal without doubt at the time of banding, but which in this case had not.

We rechecked the measurements and other characteristics. We called Hazel and Bill to confirm that the bird had a white throat and that clinched its identity. The greenish back and crown, yellowish wash, large size, unnotched sixth primary coupled with other measurements and the throat color all confirmed characteristics of the Acadian flycatcher. The least flycatcher is much smaller, has a notched sixth primary and lacks the greenish coloration. Traill's flycatcher which is about the same size as an Acadian lacks the greenish coloration and yellow wash. The yellow-bellied flycatcher is quite similar having the greenish back and yellow wash. In this species the sixth primary is variably notched and this characteristic is of limited value. However, the yellow-bellied flycatcher has a grayish or yellowish throat and not a white throat. Further, I checked all my past data on yellow-bellied flycatchers and found that except for one spring bird with a wing chord of 70 mm., all other yellow-bellies had wing chords of 68 mm. or less, thus differentiating this bird as being distinctly larger than the usual yellow-bellied flycatcher. In addition, the previous week's weather is exactly the sort of weather required to bring one of these flycatchers out of its southern range this far north.

Such an experience will not soon be forgotten even if it takes another seven years of banding to see one of these birds in the hand.

--Robert P. Yunick

#### HUDSON HIGHLANDS

OCT. 3, 1970

The rain was pretty heavy at 8:30 A. M. Saturday but it started to clear at 9:00, so we all got into Ron LaForce's car and headed down Irish Road for the Hudson Highlands. In all, 24 spe-

cies were seen. These included hundreds of starlings and red-wings, several purple martins, and cedar waxwings, one myrtle warbler and a beautiful great blue heron. As Ron drove, Charlotte Ronish and I identified wildflowers such as viper's bugloss, New England asters and a stand of the rare fringed gentian. A good day!

--Lois Norton

### HAWK MOUNTAIN

OCT. 10-11, 1970

The periodic migration to the top of Hawk Mountain was made this year, but mostly by birders. A high which parked for several days off the East Coat brought southerly winds to the Kittatinny Ridge. With the unfavorable winds came warm temperatures and fog - persistent fog. Most of the hawks wisely sat the unfavorable weather out for several days. A few came thru after the worst of the fog lifted to reward the eleven HMBers who had sat and waited. Red-tails were the most numerous. Eight hawk species were observed and the individual count was 85, including one marsh hawk seen at Bake Oven Knob about 17 miles to the northeast. We had hopefully visited that locale Sunday afternoon after departing Hawk Mountain early. The complete list follows:

Turkey Vulture	26
Sharp-shinned Hawk	13
Cooper's Hawk	1
Red-tail	34
Red-shouldered	2
Marsh	4
Osprey	2
Sparrow	3
Total	85

Despite the brief list, the beautiful countryside, resplendent autumnal coloration and the enjoyable mountain top companionship made this a most memorable trip. However, based on this year's experience, plus two earlier not very productive scheduled visits to Hawk Mountain, it would appear to be far wiser to forego scheduling a field trip to Hawk Mountain in the future. Instead, we might better watch the weather maps and on a Wednesday or Thursday in October if favorable weather, especially northerly winds, appears promising decide at the last moment to go hawking.

--Sam R. Madison

### ALCOVE RESERVOIR

OCT. 24, 1970

Only five birders appeared on this mild, cloudy, autumn day to observe what was on and around Alcove Reservoir. The pileated appeared as scheduled, flying across the northern end of the reservoir as we stood on the moat, and perching on a bare tree for all to observe. We picked up ten species of ducks, including four ruddies. Three dunlin worked a food-filled spot in along an old stone wall. We watched them from an excellent viewing spot both elevated and about 80 feet distant. Out movements and conversation didn't disturb them in the least. One late spotted sandpiper brought the total species count to 40.

--Sam R. Madison

\* \* \* \* \*

## WHAT CAN I DO ?

from the NEW HAMPSHIRE AUDUBON NEWS  
Vol. 4, No. 10, July 1970

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Audubon Society of New Hampshire

For years representatives of a wide variety of disciplines (occasionally public officials) have warned of the dangers inherent in the slow but steady destruction of our environment. They have warned of the physical dangers of pollution, of the psychological effects of over-crowding, noise and the deterioration of the quality of life. Now that the effects of these negative social, industrial and technological habits are becoming quite obvious more and more people are asking...what can I do? This is a difficult question to answer since the solutions to our environmental problems are multi-disciplinary and often beyond the capacity of any one individual. But individuals can organize together and use their talents and numbers to speak more loudly and effectively about those things which concern them. This is one of the purposes of our organization. But the individual must help to keep the fires-lit by writing letters, talking and keeping environmental issues hot topics of public debate.

In the end it will take more than new laws, federal spending and education - these are absolute necessities, but there must also be a dramatic social and cultural awakening to the hard realities of Life. It will require a change of attitudes, priorities and approach to some of the fundamental traits of our society. We cannot, for instance, continue consuming resources at the present pace. We are a materialistic people...our technology and consumer appetite gobble up more than half of the resources consumed in the world each year.

We must become less materialistic. We must become more concerned with the quality of our lives rather than our little piles of possessions - three-fourths of which we throw away each year. We will have to sacrifice some of the conveniences we've become accustomed to. And, in the final analysis, we must reduce the size of our families to assure our children's children the opportunity to live in a world of reasonable quality. These changes, for all society, will take time - but the move toward change must begin within each individual. We offer the following suggestions as to what you can do at home and in your community to start that change.

**EDUCATION** is the basis for responsible action. Read, observe your environment, educate others, and set a good example. Have facts and be prepared to discuss them intelligently. Make sure your library, bookstores, reading rooms, doctors' offices and schools have a good ecology library. JOIN a local or town organization, a state-wide group and a national conservation organization.

**BUY SELECTIVELY.** There is a tremendous amount of waste created by over-packaging. Let your grocer know that you prefer products that aren't overwrapped and, when possible, stick to goods that present the least amount of throw-away. Buy only products in returnable bottles, or containers that break down. Avoid, when possible, soft plastic containers made from polyvinyl chlo-

ride (PVC). These produce lethal hydrochloric acid when burned. Carry string shopping bags that can be reused. Simple things like using cloth napkins (instead of paper), buying plain bathroom tissue (coloring dye pollutes) and jumbo-size product containers (one large container is more efficient than three small). When possible buy the best non-food items, these may be more expensive but will need replacing less often. Buy fresh foods, especially fruits and vegetables; these usually aren't over-packaged. Never purchase clothes trimmed with fur from endangered species and boycott stores that sell such items.

RECYCLE newspapers that eat up a city's trash disposal funds and facilities, save them for a paper drive, or have a collection yourself. Reuse glass jars, paper bags and consider re-use possibilities of everything before you throw away. Take coat hangers back to the cleaners instead of throwing away. Share magazines with friends. Flatten boxes and cans to take up less space if you must throw away.

PICK UP litter and be tactful but unafraid to chide litterers.

When WASHING use soap or low phosphate detergents. Measure carefully what soap you do use. Don't leave water running unnecessarily and fix any leaking faucets or pipes promptly.

DON'T USE pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers unless absolutely necessary. Learn organic gardening; marigolds with your tomatoes and nasturtiums with your radishes keep bugs away. Encourage birds in your yard, they eat great numbers of insects each day. Work fertilizer into the ground so it won't hose off into the water system. Make compost from leaves and clean garbage.

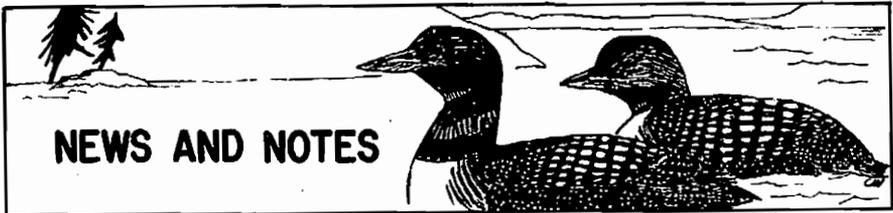
AUTOMOBILES are a major cause of air pollution, noise pollution and congestion. Do you have to have such a large engine? Buy non-leaded gas, have exhaust emission controls in good order, and use your horn only when necessary. Walking or cycling, almost forgotten arts, are pleasant and you see so much more of your world. Set up car pools to work. Turn off your engine when waiting. Avoid rapid acceleration.

BOATS can pollute. Avoid fuel spillage by using a rubber hose on your gas can. Never throw junk overboard. Never over-power a small body of water with unnecessarily large engines. Don't run outboards on streams - it ruins the bottom. Use sanitary holding tanks not flush-away toilet units. Avoid copper-based paints on your craft, copper is deadly in a marine environment.

POWER. We need electricity but do you need to use so much? Air conditioners left running all summer, electric can openers, lights left on unnecessarily all drain power sources and create needs for new facilities. Use electricity efficiently.

Don't cut down trees unnecessarily, do plant them whenever possible. Clean up stagnant water areas around yards. Don't use backyard incinerators. Do write letters to local, state and federal officials. Encourage local and national media for more programs and articles on the environment.

\* \* \* \* \*



## NEWS AND NOTES

### WHAT'S YOUR E-S.Q.?

The theologian Karl Barth is quoted as saying "All Europe is baptized - so what?" So what, indeed! Barth was painfully aware that being baptized does not often result in changed behavior - and the mark of a Christian is the way he lives, not the ceremonies he's been through or the creed he espouses. Europe's (and America's) "hypocrisy quotient" is still pretty high.

Now that we've been "baptized" by the deluge of environmental pronouncements, so what? Has YOUR behavior relative to the environment changed any? What's your \*E-S.Q.?

By now, we're all aware of the fact that the Earth is a finite body; that its natural resources are limited; that it has a carrying capacity for only so many of us and no more. We're familiar with the idea of cycling, of food chains, of interdependence. Some of us have been giving speeches on these topics! But have we changed our behavior? Have the people we've talked to changed the way they live?

How many of us have switched to un-leaded gasoline? Or intend to turn in our present car for a four-cylinder model? How many have given up buying soft drinks in non-returnable containers? Have we substituted muscle-power for electric power? Have we given money to planned parenthood and other population control groups? Has that pollution inventory been finished in YOUR town? Have you cut down on the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers?

The battle to save the Earth is only going to be won by **CHANGED INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR**. Don't expect Government or Industry or Big Business to do the job.

The mark of a true environmentalist is the way he lives.  
What's your E-S.Q.?

--Dr. John A. Gustafson

\*Eco-Sensitivity Quotient

(Editor's Note: the above article is the one referred to in the first article of this issue)

### CONSERVATION CAMP

A letter of appreciation has been received from Dan Connor, a boy whom we sponsored this past summer at a New York State Conservation Department Camp. Here is the letter: "Dear Mr. Madison, I would like to thank you and the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club for sending me to Conservation Camp. I had a lot of fun and learned a lot. I took courses in boating safety, gun safety, fisheries, forestry and game management. Thank you again for this opportunity. Sincerely, Dan Connor."

RECORD CORRECTION

Additional information has been received which indicates that the report appearing on the Century Run list (Feathers, Vol. 32, No. 3 (1970)), and later in the quarterly field note review (Feathers, Vol. 32, No. 4 (1970)), regarding a breeding horned grebe at the Clifton Park Landfill was in error. The report should be deleted. The exact identity of the bird is in doubt. While most characteristics matched those of the horned grebe, a white wing stripe, not shown or described in the usual field guides or related texts, was not present, but came to light as an important field mark as a result of correspondence on the bird's description with John Bull of the American Museum of Natural History.

--Robert P. Yunick

CORRECTION

A letter to the Editor follows: "Just recently I noticed in FEATHERS (July-August, 32 (4): 54) that my name was given as author of a field trip report I did not write. This was the Vosburg Swamp trip of May 3, 1970. I am quite sure that Richard E. Phillion wrote it. It was a fine report, and I don't mind seeing my name there, but I wish the real author could be credited for it..... Paul Connor". The editor appreciates this correction, and regrets the error.

DUES ARE DUE

Please note the enclosed pink sheet, at the bottom of which is a handy form for your membership renewal. Prompt renewal is of great help to the Treasurer. Memberships run for the calendar year, which means that every member's dues are payable by the first of Jan., with the exception of new members who joined late in 1970, and who are thereby considered to have paid for 1971. The membership list is published as soon after the first of the year as possible, and in it appear only the names of those who have paid their membership dues for 1971.

FIELD NOTES

Notes of your field observations for the period Aug. 16 - Nov. 30 should be sent to Walt Sabin, 652 Kenwood Ave., Slingerlands, N. Y. 12159.

ENCLOSURE

The field trip schedule for 1971 is enclosed. Be sure to put it in a handy place, consult it often, and join as many trips as you can. The Field Trip Committee has planned about 30 trips for the year, and all of them sound most enticing.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM

The third of the Audubon Wildlife Film Series will be given on Wed., Dec. 2 at the Niskayuna High School Auditorium at 8 pm. Mr. William A. Anderson will show a film and speak on "Our Unique Water Wilderness - The Everglades." Tickets will be available at the door.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEETING

Your attention is called to the enclosed pink sheet for details of the Christmas meeting Dec. 7.

CALENDAR OF FIELD TRIPS

Dec. 5, Sat.- Niskayuna Widewaters: one of the last chances to see ducks here before the winter freeze. Perhaps goldeneye, merganser, bufflehead or even an owl or shrike. Meet at Lock 7 at 8 a.m. Coordinator, Libby Ellis, 393-5920.

Christmas Counts - see enclosed pink sheet.

(Issue assembled November 8, 1970)

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PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

ART EDITOR: Carol Wernick

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.

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Robert P. Yunick, Vice-president; Miss Elizabeth Macauley,  
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Address Correction Requested

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Non-profit Org. U. S. Postage PAID Schenectady, NY Permit No. 140
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