



OUR SANCTUARY NEEDS OUR HELP

Robert P. Yunick

The Henry G. Reist Sanctuary committee consisting of Marion Ford (399-4701), Betty Hicks (785-7960), Will Merritt (371-5787), Walt Sabin (439-1144) and myself (377-0146) have begun formulating plans for the sanctuary. The responsibilities have been divided among these members so that each is serving as a subcommittee chairman with a specific responsibility.

Marion Ford is chairman of publicity which will include handling visitors' inquiries, literature distribution, providing guide service for various children's groups and related duties. Betty Hicks is chairing a subcommittee on natural history. This subcommittee will catalogue the flora and fauna of the area and keep records of changes in abundance, and the locations of various kinds of flora. A bird checklist will be maintained, and any special studies of the denizens of the property will also be this committee's responsibility.

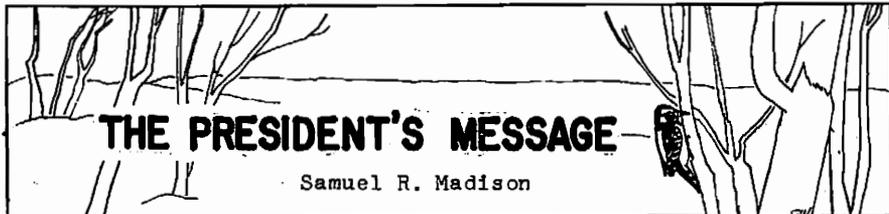
Will Merritt has charge of the trails subcommittee whose job it will be to map the area, and to create and maintain a trail network and to maintain the overall protection of the physical site. The land will be posted as a wildlife sanctuary and motorized vehicular traffic will be prohibited from the premises. Walt Sabin is chairing a subcommittee to handle the financial aspects of the sanctuary. The budgeting of funds for various projects, and public fund raising should it be necessary for a major undertaking, are the responsibilities of this subcommittee.

The sanctuary committee consisting of these four subcommittee chairmen will serve as the governing body of the sanctuary and is responsible to the HMBC board of directors. Some planning is underway, but as you can imagine the task will require many man-hours of effort from our members. Some subcommittees will require considerable member participation, and others may require very little. However, all these subcommittees will require volunteer help at one time or another.

Therefore, I am soliciting your services to assist in two ways. In the one case we need active committee members who would be willing to serve in the planning, and solving of problems associated with the sanctuary. For instance, people with special identification skills would be of considerable help to the natural history subcommittee. In some cases subcommittee membership will be limited by either the nature of the committee's responsibility or by choice of the chairman. Secondly we need "pairs of hands". As various plans are formulated, someone will have to take charge, and will require help to effect them. If you feel you can devote

a few weekends per year to help with trail maintenance, tree marking, scout troop guiding, etc., we need your help. If you have the interest and the time, please call either the subcommittee chairman or myself at one of the numbers listed above.

This appeal was made at the Christmas meeting and a number of people volunteered. We need more. In this day and age when most groups are fighting to save areas from despoliation, working on this sanctuary offers the unique opportunity to do something positive with an area so preserved.



For years our bird club has been one of many organizations sounding the call for conservation measures - protection of natural areas, purification of our waters, preservation of all forms of wild life and wild flowers, and general improvement of our surroundings. For a long time, we seemed to be talking in vain. Now people give evidence that they have heard. The quality of our environment is the concern of the many, not the few. Hope is in the air.

Does this sound like the headline of a recent newspaper? It does only because our efforts, in concert with those of many other organizations, have contributed to this worthwhile result.

Bob Yunick writes on page 1 that our new sanctuary needs your help. And there are many other opportunities for you to make a meaningful contribution to our club and its aims. You need only to determine the area in which you choose to serve.

It was our concerted efforts in seeking to obtain a sanctuary, albeit greatly aided by the generosity and foresightedness of the Reists, which produced our first sanctuary. Our activities will bear other beneficial results in the future but only with the assistance and cooperation of all.

And you can learn while helping. You need not be an expert ornithologist to serve on the records committee, or even to be its chairman. You can contribute much even though you may be only a beginner and at the same time gain a store of birding knowledge for yourself.

Or you could serve on our program committee which runs our Audubon screen tour program. This is immensely important. Practically all of our present funds were produced by year in and year out application to this activity. Without the reassurance of this cash balance we could not have entertained the idea of acquiring a sanctuary. Without that cash reservoir we could not have considered acquiring such a large parcel of property, with its attendant financial responsibilities, even as a gift. If you would

help with the program committee we can continue to seek other sanctuaries and plan and dream of constructing a headquarters building.

The key factor is that most aspects of our club's activities produce benefits far beyond their immediate impact: when I compare various dry reports, such as our annual report to the Attorney General, our report to the Internal Revenue Service, as a charitable corporation, and others, I have in my mind's eye not the pages of figures which I am producing at the time, but the natural areas and club headquarters which those to come shall enjoy only because we cared enough to do something now.

There are many other ways in which you can help. The present editor of FEATHERS has contributed much for years and should be permitted to devote more time to other activities. In short, we need a new editor. Can you volunteer? Or if you are qualified, can you conscientiously fail to offer your services?

We don't want to have our key offices in a few hands. Rotation of service is good for the organization as well as the individual. Practically any of our positions can be yours for the asking. Only you can give yourself. Write me at 326 Wellington Road, Delmar, N. Y. 12054, or call 439-4753 and let me know how you wish to help.

* * * * *

SCHENECTADY COUNT DISAPPOINTING

Guy Bartlett

Compiler

Schenectady's Christmas Count of 1966 had only 37 species; this year's list of 39 is the only other one since 1953 when the total did not exceed 40. Gulls, blackbirds, finches, grosbeaks and other "winter" species were nil, excepting the goldfinch. No new species were listed. Highlights were an Oregon junco, previously seen in 1963 only, and a field sparrow, recorded previously only in 1968. There were new high counts for mallard, black duck and mockingbird.

Snow was relatively deep on the ground; roads were open for non-parking traffic; and walking was poor off the highways themselves. The very deep snow made it difficult to cover some of the usual territory. Cattail marshes which usually offer refuge to holdovers were so buried that they did not offer their usual open water and hiding places, and were abnormally vacant.

The Oregon junco was for weeks at the feeder of Miss Dawn Force, Mill Road. In female plumage (gray head, brown back and sides), it frequently fed on the ground or snow separated from the slate-colored. It was still there in early January. The field sparrow was at a different feeder; it's too bad Schenectady's 15-mile circle stops short of Betty Hicks' home - she had five of them at her feeder.

The high count of mallards was made at the Burnham farms, Old Miskayuna Road. Their 30 to 40 "tame" mallards were joined by

200 or more wild mallards along the roadside open stream, in the nearby uncut corn fields, and at the "barnyard" corn feeders. With the subzero freezeup of January 8 and 9 the wild birds took leave, apparently augmenting those wintering on the lower Mohawk and the Troy-Waterford area of the Hudson. The black ducks were in the 6-mile Waterworks and Shaker Creek areas.

SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS COUNT - DECEMBER 26, 1970

	TOTAL	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	X
Mallard	200							(7)		200
Black Duck	66							66		
Goshawk	1					1				
Red-tailed Hawk	19		4	3	1	9		1	1	
Rough-legged Hawk	4	1	1	1				1		
Sparrow Hawk	17	2	1	5	2	5		2		
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	1	1							
Common Snipe	1							1		
Mourning Dove	276	68	102	12	1	22		6	15	50
Great Horned Owl	4		2						2	
Belted Kingfisher	2			1	1					
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1		1							
Pileated Woodpecker	2		1			1				
Hairy Woodpecker	23	2	9	2	1	4	2	2	1	
Downy Woodpecker	60	11	14	6	3	15	3	4	4	
Horned Lark	78			12		66				
Blue Jay	150	42	27	30	8	20	6	14	3	
Common Crow	857	144	183	45	3	396	6	80		
Black-capped Chickadee	165	26	40	20	21	29	12	6	11	
Tufted Titmouse	14		3		1	1	2	2		5
White-br. Nuthatch	44	9	9	6	4	7	5	1	3	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3				1		2			
Brown Creeper	7	1	5				1			
Winter Wren	1		1							
Mockingbird	6	2	1	2	1					
Robin	7	1	5	1						
Cedar Waxwing	20	20								
Starling	931	172	300	150	26	118	46	54	65	
House Sparrow	517	117	80	50	20	126	74	38	12	
Cardinal	71	7	24	4	1	18	4		2	11
American Goldfinch	92	1	8			72	11			
Slate-colored Junco	117	17	20	10	17	22	19	6	6	
Oregon Junco	1									1
Tree Sparrow	211	47	75	25	2	40	3	9	10	
Field Sparrow	1							1		
White-throated Sparrow	16	1	11		3					1
Song Sparrow	41	3	12	4	5	8	1	5	1	2
Lapland Longspur	1			1						
Snow Bunting	13								13	
Total Species	39	22	27	21	20	20	16	20	17	7
Total Count	4042	695	940	390	122	980	197	306	149	270

SCHENECTADY, N. Y. 42°45' N, 73°55' W (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Lydius St. and Lone Pine Road in Guilderland as in previous years). Dec. 26; 6:40 am. to 5 pm. Partly cloudy; temp. 12° to 25°; wind NW, 0 to 10 mph. Up to 30-inch snow cover, ponds frozen, streams partly open. Twenty-three observers in eight groups, plus feeding-station and home-area observers. Total party-hours, 41 (14 on foot, 27 by car); total party-miles 265 (13 on foot, 252 by car). Total, 39 species,

about 4042 individuals. Seen in area during count period, but not on count day: killdeer, golden-crowned kinglet, brown-headed cowbird, evening grosbeak.

KEY TO GROUPS

Group A - Hazel Bundy, Willi Joynson, Robert McCullough. Saratoga side of Mohawk to Wildlife Management area. 8 am. to 1 pm. 20 miles by car. 22 species, 695 count; cedar waxwing.

Group B - Edward Koch, Harvey Spivak, Rudolph Stone, Robert Yunick. Rosendale Road, Mohawk River from Niskayuna Landfill to Mohawk View. 6:40 am. to 1:40 pm. 5 miles afoot, 25 by car; 6 hours afoot, 1 by car. 27 species, 940 count; flicker, winter wren.

Group C - Guy Bartlett, Harry Guyon, William Huntley, Benton Seguin. Watervliet Reservoir and environs. 7 am. to 1 pm. 2 miles afoot, 25 by car; 1 hour afoot, 5 by car. 21 species, 390 count; Lapland longspur.

Group D - Mildred Crary, Alice Holmes. Scotia, and Campbell and Schermerhorn Roads. 9 am. to 1 pm. 2 miles afoot, 38 by car; 1 hour afoot, 3 by car. 20 species, 122 count.

Group E - Audrey and Samuel Madison, Indian Ladder, Meadowdale, Voorheesville. 8 am. to 5 pm. 2 miles afoot, 82 by car; 3 hours afoot, 6 by car. 20 species, 980 count; goshawk.

Group F - Irene and Stephanie Podrazik. Central Park. 10 to 11 am. 8 miles by car. 16 species, 197 count.

Group G - Margaret and Byron Hipple, Mary Linch, Betty Hicks. Six-mile Waterworks, Albany Airport and environs. 8 am. to 2 pm. 2 miles afoot, 40 by car; 3 hours afoot, 3 by car. 20 species, 306 count; black duck, common snipe, field sparrow.

Group H - C. W. Severinghaus, Beverly Waite. Altamont, Dunnsville and Settle Hill roads. 1 to 4 pm. 3 hours and 14 miles by car. 15 species, 149 count; snow bunting.

Group X - Feeding stations and local areas; W. S. Budlong, Jr., Dawn Force, Esly Hallenbeck, Mary Johnston, Milton Lang. Oregon junco.

RENSSELAER COUNT MEDIOCRE

Monte D. Gruett

Compiler

To no one's surprise, the 1970 Southern Rensselaer County Christmas Bird Count revealed that far fewer birds are spending their winter with us this year. A total of only 51 species were recorded (63 last year). Most notable among the absentees are the various members of the finch family. Only 89 evening grosbeaks were counted against 497 last year. We have only about one-third as many goldfinches (97 vs. 212) and half as many tree sparrows (570 vs. 1075). Purple finches, pine grosbeaks, redpolls and crossbills were missed entirely. Bluejays and cowbirds also showed significant decreases. When one notes that the weather on count day for the two years was comparable and that coverage was

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY CHRISTMAS COUNT - DECEMBER 27, 1970

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	TOTAL
Mallard									6	6
Black Duck			1				1			2
Common Merganser							2			2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	4	4	1		3	2		19
Rough-legged Hawk			1				1			2
Marsh Hawk							1			1
Sparrow Hawk	2	1	4	3		3	4	2		19
Ruffed Grouse			4			1			8	13
Ring-necked Pheasant			10		1	1	1		21	34
Herring Gull			7			7	1			15
Mourning Dove	12	14	4	14	30	6	42	4	129	255
Screech Owl			1							1
Great Horned Owl			1			1	2	1		5
Barred Owl				1						1
Long-eared Owl			1							1
Belted Kingfisher							1			1
Pileated Woodpecker						1	2	1		4
Hairy Woodpecker		5	6	2	7	2	11	2	22	57
Downy Woodpecker	7	8	12	1	15	6	16	8	58	131
Horned Lark	15	100	4	13	9	50	167	30		388
Blue Jay	25	24	9	27	18	4	14	5	117	243
Common Crow	30	36	15	45	10	45	43	20	2	246
Black-capped Chickadee	10	40	20	50	126	27	40	15	206	534
Tufted Titmouse			1		1	1	2		19	24
White-br. Nuthatch	3	6	15	3	14	5	7		59	112
Red-breasted Nuthatch				1	2				7	10
Brown Creeper	1		2	2	5	1	6			17
Mockingbird			2	2		1			5	10
Robin	1			2					1	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	4	2		2					12
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					1				2	3
Cedar Waxwing						5			12	17
Northern Shrike		1	1							2
Starling	100	52	70	285	38	150	220	50	227	1192
House Sparrow	25	125	20	293	68	25	90	100	193	939
Red-winged Blackbird									1	1
Brown-headed Cowbird							15		13	28
Cardinal	5	1	6	7	5	6	8	3	85	126
Evening Grosbeak	2	60	4	1	5				17	89
Pine Siskin									1	1
American Goldfinch	40	11	8			7	21		10	97
Rufous-sided Towhee				1						1
Vesper Sparrow			1							1
Slate-colored Junco	6	8	36	13	14	34	12	21	135	279
Tree Sparrow	20	5	50	69	47	16	105	15	243	570
White-crowned Sparrow									1	1
White-throated Sparrow			1	1					6	8
Swamp Sparrow							1			1
Song Sparrow		6	4	6	1	3	41		9	70
Lapland Longspur							2	2		4
Snow Bunting						15	1			16
Total Species	19	20	33	24	22	26	32	17	29	51
Total Individuals	311	509	327	846	420	423	883	281	1615	5615

somewhat better this year, these figures become meaningful. Since all of these birds breed in the north and migrate to our area (our winter jays are probably not the same individuals as the summer ones), these declines suggest an abundant food supply in Canada.

What perhaps was unsuspected however, is the fantastic decline in the population of starlings, a non-migrating species. Although still our most abundant bird, only 1192 of these little pests were counted against 7119 last year. A decrease of the same order was noted in the Schenectady Count (930 vs. 5262 last year). The figures from the Troy Count are not complete yet but it appears that they too are abnormally low. No explanation can be offered at this time for this surprising discovery.

The most significant gain this year was made by the mourning dove which increased to 255 from 79 last year. This represents a return to the 1968 level. Song sparrow numbers nearly doubled and mockingbirds continue to move into our area. Best birds of the count were the two shrikes, the long-eared owl, the vesper sparrow and the white-crowned sparrow at Joe Baum's feeder.

One tragic note. While the Gormans were attempting to identify the long-eared owl, it was shot down out of the tree by two hunters who suddenly appeared. They said they thought it was a "partridge" (ruffed grouse).

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. Included are East Greenbush, North Greenbush, Sand Lake, Rensselaer and parts of Troy, Poestenkill, Nassau, Schodack and a narrow belt of Albany County west of the Hudson River. December 27. Twenty observers in eight parties; 36 feeders. Total party-hours, 57 (15 on foot, 42 by car); total party-miles, 490 (26 on foot, 464 by car). An eastern meadowlark was seen during the count period, but not on the count day.

KEY TO GROUPS

Group A - North Greenbush. Guy Bartlett, Harry Guyon and Benton Seguin.

Group B - Poestenkill Area. James Covert and Richard Philion.

Group C - Northwest E. Greenbush, Rensselaer. David, Dianne and William Gorman.

Group D - Eastern E. Greenbush, parts of Schodack and Sand Lake. Mrs. Elizabeth Ellis and Samuel Madison.

Group E - Town of Sand Lake, part of Nassau. Mrs. Katherine Bordt and Miss Betty Hicks.

Group F - Glenmont. Robert Kornis.

Group G - Western E. Greenbush, western Schodack. Paul Connor, Monte Gruett, Harvey Spivak and Peter Wickham.

Group H - Southeast Schodack and southern Nassau. Edward and Shawn Cummings and Edgar Reilly, Jr.

Group I - Feeder Reports. • N. F. Albertson, Joseph Baum, Fred Bordt, H. B. Britton, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Buble, John Carlson, Mrs. Jean Chenette, Robert Christiansen, Mrs. Marguerite Clickner, Mrs. Harriet Coffey, Mrs. Muriel Danahy, Mrs. Thelma Daniels, Mrs. Robert Don, Mrs. Beryl Drobeck, Mrs. Edna Gorman, Mrs. Floyd Grandjean, Mrs. Donna Gruett, Mrs. Lois Hunsdorfer, Mrs. Rolf Jensen, Robert Johnson, Herbert Lange, S. C. Laskowski, Mrs. Barbara Legg, Mrs. Louise Leshner, David Messer, Helmut Neumann, Mrs. Charles Neville, R. A. Pearce, Mrs. Jessie Plume, David Rosi, Mrs. P. V. Sandberg, C. H. Stratton, William Thielking, Mrs. Mary Van Auken, Oscar Widstrand and David Wood.

TROY ADDS THREE TO COMPOSITE LIST

Harvey Spivak

Compiler

Well, at last it happened - the Christmas Counts came and Troy didn't have to open the field guides to see birds. Actually, we did well the past couple of years in spite of discouraging weather. This year, however, with special co-operation from the ducks, Troy tallied 58 species, to break the 1965 record of 57.

The outstanding accomplishment of that January 2 was the addition of three names to the composite list - not bad for a count with a 22-year history. The 101st through 103rd names are horned grebe and bufflehead by group A on the Hudson River in Troy and a very exciting blue-winged teal in Waterford by group H. Two pied-billed grebe and an oldsquaw also were found.

The small number of blackbirds and finches were expected; we had similar results on the two previous counts this year. But we had a surprise with the mockingbirds. Prior to this year, the Troy circle had produced a single mockingbird just two times. This year we found 9! Perhaps soon we will actually become used to having the mockingbirds around our gardens in the same way we have grown accustomed to the cardinals, which also, incidentally, were found in record numbers this winter.

Once again the feeders came through with a good deal of help, contributing about 30% of the individual birds tabulated. We possibly have the greatest amount of assistance from feeders of any of the several hundred counts across the continent. Our thanks once again go to Lois Norton for handling the feeder reports.

TROY CHRISTMAS COUNT - January 2, 1971

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	TOTAL
Horned Grebe			1							1
<u>Pied-billed Grebe</u>			2							2
<u>Mallard</u>			70	3						73
Black Duck			300	16						316
<u>Blue-winged Teal</u>								1		1
<u>Lesser Scaup</u>			1							1
Common Goldeneye				2						2
<u>Bufflehead</u>			1							1
<u>Oldsquaw</u>			1							1
Hooded Merganser			1							1

FEATHERS

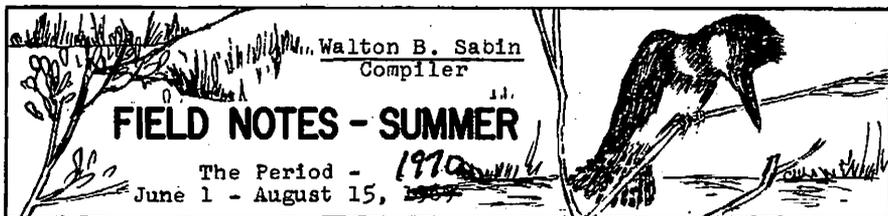
JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1971

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	TOTAL
Common Nighthawk				2						2
Goshawk					1	1				2
Cooper's Hawk	1	2								3
Red-tailed Hawk	3	4	2	6	4	3	8	1	5	36
Red-shouldered Hawk				1						1
Rough-legged Hawk	2						1	1	1	5
Sparrow Hawk	2	1	3	1	2	1	4	2	3	19
Ruffed Grouse		5								5
Ring-necked Pheasant	1		1						44	46
Herring Gull			2							2
Mourning Dove	67	4	3	6	16		12	7	279	394
Screech Owl		1								1
Great Horned Owl		2								2
Belted Kingfisher							1			1
Hairy Woodpecker	4	10	1	2	6	4	1	2	31	61
Downy Woodpecker	4	13		18	8	13	7	9	58	130
Horned Lark		50		30	26	10	129	30	8	283
Blue Jay	20	30	12	15	34	34	63	28	219	455
Common Crow	44	250	18	6	11	13	62	29	39	471
Black-capped Chickadee	13	50	6	70	53	47	14	51	275	579
Tufted Titmouse		2		2		1	1	2	13	21
Wh-breasted Nuthatch	6	20		10	8	11	5	9	66	135
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	2								4
Brown Creeper	1	4		2	1	4		1	4	17
Winter Wren							1			1
Mockingbird		1	2					3	3	9
Robin	2	1			3					6
Golden-crowned Kinglet		17						2		19
Cedar Waxwing					6	1	1			8
Northern Shrike					1		2		1	4
Starling	386	34	110	407	76	250	242	326	267	2098
House Sparrow	191	29	80	111	95	65	313	190	839	1913
Eastern Meadowlark	5	1			1		1		8	16
Red-winged Blackbird							1		1	2
Common Grackle	1						1		5	7
Brown-headed Cowbird				1					3	4
Cardinal	11	9	5	6	32	11	6	16	102	198
Evening Grosbeak		9		12	1				71	93
Purple Finch									1	1
Common Redpoll									22	22
American Goldfinch	29	5		6	9	4			29	82
Slate-colored Junco	1	9		8	17	1	3	16	123	178
Tree Sparrow	118	14	3	25	70	35	36	64	127	492
Field Sparrow							1		3	4
White-throated Sparrow	2	1				2	4		16	25
Swamp Sparrow							1			1
Song Sparrow	3	5	1		4	3	21	1	9	47
Snow Bunting	150	150					201			501
Total Species	26	31	24	25	25	21	29	22	33	58
Total Individuals	1069	735	626	768	485	515	1142	790	2677	8807

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 2; 6:25 am. to 4:30 pm.; temperature -7 to 25°F; wind S, 0-3 mph.; snow cover to 20 inches, most waters frozen. Twenty-four observers in eight parties plus 40 feeder reports. Total party-miles, 413 (21 afoot, 391 by car, 1 by snowshoe); total party-hours, 63 (28 3/4 afoot, 34 1/4 by car).

KEY TO GROUPS

- Group A - Hudson Highlands. Betty Hicks, Margaret and Byron Hipple, Doug Norton. 10 am. to 5:15 pm.; 1 mile afoot, 47 by car; 5 hours afoot, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ by car.
- Group B - Tomhannock Reservoir. Bill Gorman, Monte Gruett. 3 miles afoot, 90 by car; 3 hours afoot, 7 by car.
- Group C - Hudson and Mohawk Rivers in Troy and Cohoes. Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin, Harry Guyon. 2 miles afoot, 26 by car; 1 hour afoot, 2 by car.
- Group D - Hudson River from Waterford to Stillwater. Sam Madison, Bill and Maria Brooks. 2 mi. afoot, 53 by car; 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs afoot, 4 car.
- Group E - Center Brunswick. Paul Connor. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles afoot, 65 by car; 2 hours afoot, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ by car.
- Group F - Mohawk View-Colonie-Dunsback Ferry. Ron LaForce, Aaron and Harvey Spivak; 7 mi. afoot, 0 by car; 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. afoot, 0 by car.
- Group G - Northwest Quadrant (Saratoga County). Hazel and Francis Bundy, Walt Sabin, Willi Joynson. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles afoot, 60 by car; 1 hour afoot, 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ by car.
- Group H - Waterford area. Doug and Judy Allen, Peter and Dianne Leeds. 3 miles afoot, 60 by car, 1 mile on snowshoes; 4 hours afoot, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ by car.
- Group I - Feeders and local reports. 40. Compiled by Lois Norton.



Weather was about normal for the period. The last ten days of June however were quite cold averaging some 9.3° below normal. This came at a time when many young birds were hatching and were highly susceptible to chilling. Eleven or more breeding bird surveys were conducted in the regional area. No significant trends or changes were noted.

Significant or unusual records were: nesting common loon, peregrine falcon, long-billed dowitcher and migrant shrike.

Abbreviations: BCM-Black Creek Marsh; JL-Jenny Lake; NWW-Niskayuna Wide Waters; VFWM-Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area.

Key to observers: RA-Robert F. Andrie; GB-Guy Bartlett; HB-Hazel F. Bundy; L&VB-L&V Burland; PC-Paul Connor; MF-Marion J. Ford; WG-William Gorman; WH-William Huntley; CK-Clarissa Ketcham; PK-P. E. Kilburn; WS-Walton B. Sabin; BS-Benton R. Seguin; S&RS-S&R Silverman; RY-Robert P. Yunick.

LOONS - DUCKS

- Common Loon: bred at a small reservoir near Mayfield, Fulton Co. (BS), apparently a new breeding locality.
- Great Blue Heron: post breeding movements showed up at VFWM beginning Jul 25 (BS).
- Common Egret: 1 Jun 19-20 JL (WH,GB,BS); 1 Jul 23 Greenville (CK).

HAWKS - OWLS

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 Jul 17 Schodack (L&VB).
 Cooper's Hawk: 1 Jun 19 Saratoga Springs vicinity (BS).
 Osprey: first southbound migrants 1 Aug 8 VFWM (RY).
 Peregrine Falcon: 1 Jul 30 East Berne (BS).

Because of water drawdown at VFWM a number of shorebirds were either recorded for the first time in our area or were more abundant than heretofore. Most species reported here were present through end of period.

Semipalmated Plover: 1 Aug 9 to 5 Aug 15 (BS).

Killdeer: 52 Aug 9 (BS).

Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Jul 25 (HB) to 10 Aug 8 (BS).

Greater Yellowlegs: 1 Jul 25 (RY) to 3 Aug 9 (HB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 6 Jul 25 (HB) to 40 Aug 2 (BS).

Pectoral Sandpiper: first Jul 25 to 10 Aug 8 (BS).

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 Jul 25 (HB); 6 Aug 1-15 (BS).

Least Sandpiper: first Jul 25; 35 Aug 1 (BS).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 Aug 2, 8 and 9 (BS).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 Aug 1 (BS) - full description of plumage and call notes supplied.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 4 Aug 9 (HB)

Away from VFWM:

Upland Plover: last Jul 1 near Schenectady (BS).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Aug 7 and 9 Greenville (CK).

Common Tern: 3 Jul 12 NWW (BS) in immature plumage (does not breed in Region 8 to our knowledge).

Barn Owl: two nests $\frac{1}{2}$ mile apart reported in Jul near Adamsville, Washington County (Don Bain, fide Marcia Kent) - both nests were in top of silos, one had two young, other seven.

GOATSUCKERS - STARLING:

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 adult Aug 1, 1 immature Aug 14 (both banded at VFWM) (RY).

Carolina Wren: 1 Jun 7 East Berne (HB and BS).

Short-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Jun 14 near Salem, Washington Co. (PC).

Swainson's Thrush: early fall migrants banded Aug 7, 14 and 15 VFWM (RY).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 Jun 24, 1 near West Fulton, other near Broome Center, both in Schoharie County (RA) - report did not state if species was suspected of nesting there.

Migrant Shrike: 1 on unusual date Jun 4 at Athens, Greene County (S&RS).

VIREOS - WARBLERS:

Black and White Warbler: 1 Jul 25 VFWM (RY) - first fall migrant (banded).

Parula Warbler: 1 singing male Jun 25 near Athol, Warren County (WS) - no definite evidence of nesting.

Mourning Warbler: 1 adult female banded Jul 17, recaptured Jul 25, 1 immature banded Aug 8, all VFWM (RY).

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Jun 12 BCM (BS) - "nesting"?

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

House Finch: 1 Jun 19 on Maxwell Drive, Schenectady (PK); 1 male Aug 5 and 6 Niskayuna and female Aug 15 same place (RY).

Red Crossbill: several remained after a good "finch winter"; Jun 3 on Maxwell Drive, Schenectady; again at same place Jun

16 and 17 with three fledglings (PK); pair Jun 4 East Green-bush (WG); reported nesting at Scotia (MF); no actual occupied nest ever found at any of these reported sightings of fledgling red crossbills.
 Savannah Sparrow: 1 Aug 8 VFWM (RY), early migrant, does not nest on VFWM.
 Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows: more reports than for last year or two.

* * * * *

ENCLOSED MAILING

Notice of the annual meeting to be held Feb. 22.
 Information regarding the Poentic Meadows.

(Issue assembled January 17, 1971)

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. Douglass Allen, Secretary.

Address Correction Requested

HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.
 MRS. EDWARD KOCH
 58 GOODE STREET
 BURNT HILLS, NEW YORK 12027

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

Mr. John Bull
 Dept. of Ornithology, Am. Museum
 Central Park W. and 79th St.
 New York, N.Y. 10024



PUBLISHED BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

WALT SABIN ELECTED PRESIDENT

Judy Allen

Secretary

The annual meeting of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club was held on Monday, February 22, 1971 at the First Methodist Church, State Street, Schenectady. Twenty-six people were present.

President Sam Madison noted with regret the passing away of Mrs. Reist, the donor of our sanctuary. He reported that the executive committee had arranged to give \$100 to a Memorial Fund Mrs. Reist had established in memory of her husband at the Unitarian Church, Schenectady.

Bob Yunick gave a report for the sanctuary committee. He showed a large map of the sanctuary, outlined a few plans, and asked for volunteers and suggestions.

Elizabeth Macauley reported a cash balance of \$17,373.71 in the treasury. Contributions amounted to \$31.75 this year and were mostly received from groups who had asked members of the club to lecture for them. The president noted that a real property tax was paid on the sanctuary property last year because we took ownership too late to be tax-exempt for that year, but from now on we are tax-exempt.

Doug Allen reported that the Audubon Film Series this year had a profit of \$933.38 compared to last year's \$254.41. He attributed increased attendance, in part, to the appearance of Roger Tory Peterson on the series.

Youth Activities involved people from ages 6 to 86, according to Lois Norton. She thanked the volunteer speakers in her report.

Will Merritt reported on two things concerning conservation. First, he discussed a study commissioned by Governor Rockefeller to determine the future of the Adirondacks. He proposed that the HMBC adopt a resolution supporting in general the findings and suggestions of the Commission Report. This was carried unanimously. Second, Will told about an article concerning the proposed Alaskan oil pipeline. After discussion it was decided to put the club on record as favoring a year's postponement in building the pipeline until further study could be made on the effects of such an undertaking.

Next on the agenda was a report by Doug Allen on progress being made in efforts to save the Poentic Marsh in downtown Schenectady. Mike DiGiorgio showed some of his drawings of the birds he had seen in the Marsh.

Hazel Bundy gave a report on the club publications during the past year. These included six issues of FEATHERS, a 5-year Index, the 1970 Directory, the 1969 Index, and the 1971 Field Trip Bulletin.

Walt Sabin explained that Dick Philion has agreed to take over as Records Chairman.

Thirty-nine members were accepted into the club.

The Nominating Committee's slate of officers was adopted unanimously as there were no nominations from the floor. The new officers are:

President: Walt Sabin
Vice-President: Will Merritt
Secretary: Audrey Madison
Treasurer: Elizabeth Macauley

Two new directors were elected for 2-year terms - Sam Madison and Paul Grattan.

Ward B. Stone, wildlife pathologist at the Wildlife Research Laboratory in Delmar, Department of Environmental Conservation, gave an interesting and informative lecture entitled, "Pesticides, Diseases, and Birds."

Refreshments were served by Dr. and Mrs. Milford Becker, and Mrs. Sam Madison.

* * * * *

THE DEATH OF A GRAND LADY, MRS. REIST

Philip L. Alger

Mrs. Henry G. (Margaret Breed) Reist, the sole honorary member of our bird club, died suddenly on February 4. She had been confined to her home for some weeks, following a fall, but had recovered well, and recently was receiving visitors and taking an interest in many affairs.

Mrs. Reist was a marvelous reminder of an earlier age: an age of patience coupled with determination; and tolerance coupled with clear purpose.

She was a graduate of Radcliffe College and of the Sorbonne in Paris. Coming to Schenectady more than 60 years ago, Mrs. Reist joined the First Unitarian Society and the Schenectady College Club in 1907. She served as president of the Unitarian Women's Alliance, the College Club, and the American Association of University Women, took an active part in many civic affairs and was a volunteer at Ellis Hospital for many years.

In 1969 Mrs. Reist gave to the bird club a 108-acre tract of land on the southwest side of St. David's Lane, that had been purchased by Mr. Reist in 1909. This area has now been named the Henry G. Reist Wildlife Sanctuary in honor of Mrs. Reist's husband.

She contributed a great deal to the cultural life of the city, bringing art exhibits here before the Schoenectady Museum was formed. Her home and beautiful gardens were always open to her friends. A memorial service was held for her at her home, 1166 Avon Road, on February 18.

The bird club has made a gift to the Henry G. Reist Fund of the Unitarian Society as a token of their appreciation for her many contributions to the cause of conservation.

* * * * *

CHANGING PATTERNS AT A FEEDER

Carol Wernick

I am prompted to write by articles (in the Syracuse paper, in Beverly Waite's column, and in the low winter counts recorded in FEATHERS), expressing concern over the absence of birds this winter.

We too have had a decrease in species and numbers of birds visiting our feeders this year compared to last.

Our home, located four miles west of the town of Oswego, is surrounded on one corner by a climax wood lot, on another corner an overgrown orchard--old fruit trees mixed with young mountain ash, beech, hawthorn, and much brushy undergrowth--low brush on the south side, and to the west, an expanse of field and marshy woods. The house is on a hill and faces west-northwest. The front "lawn" offered at least 40 species of wildflower last summer--a tangle of things from strawberries to cattail. There is a sheep farm a half mile away toward the lake--we hear the cock's crow--and down from the farm is the appropriately named Snake Swamp. Then, Lake Ontario, less than a mile as the crow flies from our front door.

With this varied habitat it is no surprise that we have seen much wildlife: deer, shrew, vole, weasel, fox. An opossum feeds under a tray of sunflower seed. Around the house or within a few minutes walk we have seen about 135 species of birds. This includes the many duck wintering in the Lake, as well as the spring sightings of nesting black tern, sora rails, bitterns, osprey to name a few.

It is not uncommon for us to see from our living room great blue herons silhouetted in dead elms against a tourist poster sky. (Skyscapes off Ontario are breathtaking) Or migrating strings of geese, clouds of gulls rising from the lake shore. During last spring's migration a sharp-shinned hawk killed itself against a picture window; its perfect skin is now at the Biological Field Station at the college.

There are many hawks about, most frequently the Cooper's and goshawk. Bob saw a peregrine in November. We once woke to the very early morning calling of a family of great horned owls, bathed in moonlight outside our bedroom. Shrike and mockingbird have fed in the gnarled crabapple trees, the mockingbird as late as mid-December.

Between November and March last year, in addition to the usual

residents, we had fed in turn, redpolls and evening grosbeaks, pine siskins, the red and the white-winged crossbills. And for two weeks in November 1969, feeding regularly among the house sparrows, a dickcissel!

Therefore, we were disappointed this winter: with the exception of the house sparrows, we didn't see any of the aforementioned birds. We grew alarmed and believed the pronouncements of the biologists and ecologists were finally realized. This is it: The loss of the birds. The road to loan.

But here is the point: misery does love company. At least, it became more objective as reports came in. The decrease in birds is part of a widespread pattern, and there is no need to panic. Yet. What is this year's pattern is not necessarily next year's.

We too have had an increase in tree sparrows. They came earlier, in larger numbers, and have remained all winter. I count 52 as I write this. We've had as many as 80 at a time--making dark patches in the snow like scatter rugs under the feeders. We see about eight house sparrows and that many starlings. Four regular blue jays, the faithful chickadees, a pair of nuthatches and cardinals. Occasionally a goldfinch, a junco, white-throats.

Not many species represented here. But there has been an increase in woodpeckers. I have seen five downies simultaneously pecking at the sweet birch branches, each waiting a turn at the suet. One male hairy visits daily. We haven't seen last year's pileated, but as compensation for his absence, we have had a RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER!

First spotted in the big woods behind our house in November, a flash of that unique red color, we could hardly believe it. By the time Bob got our binoculars (he the hero, I was supposed to keep my eye on it) it was gone. Remembering the red-bellied from Miami and quite convinced that only THAT bird has THAT color, I called George Maxwell at the Bio-Field Station. Yes. Red-bellied woodpeckers have been sighted in the area in the past. It is possible. So we looked. And looked. A month later, the bird returned, spent a morning exploring the old apple tree out the kitchen window, but disappeared again for two weeks. A day before the Christmas count, Bob saw the red-bellied at one of our tray feeders. Remarkably, the bird has been here every day since! We delight in his arrival. The children have become casual: "There's our friend". They comment for the record.

This red-bellied woodpecker has chased the starlings and jays. The downies and the hairy feel his presence and take off from the suet without contest. Chickadees and nuthatches keep a cautious distance. During the fiercest blizzards we can see him clinging or perched at any feeder. The wind around the house reaches such a velocity the blue jays are turned inside out--their ruffled-backward feathers looking grey-white in the storm.

In what looks like an explosion of snow, ice, branches and seed, where we can barely see our hands before our eyes, that patch of carmine-cherry tomato-Grumbacher red assures us there's life outside. There's a tenacity to survive in spite of all odds. The red-bellied reminds us also that creatures move, come and go, that the world does change, and if we give this fragile movement some positive support, we all might make it.

* * * * *



BAN DDT?

The following is quoted from a letter published in *Science*, Vol 170, p 928, 27 November 1970. It is in reply to an earlier letter condemning the use of DDT since other more safe substitutes are available. This letter is reprinted here in the hope that both sides of the DDT problem can be seen and in no way necessarily reflects the view of HMBC or any member of the board other than the conservation committee chairman. Rebuttals or expressions of agreement are invited.

"...Johnson therefore advocates the use of equivalent, 'nonpersistent' substitutes, but proposes none. The World Health Organization has critically examined over 1000 such possible substitute pesticides to replace DDT in the worldwide antimalaria program, and has found none that can meet the essential requirements of availability, efficacy, safety, stability, and cost.

The use of DDT in the malaria-control program in Ceylon was abandoned in the mid-1960's after some 15 years of virtual freedom from this major killer, in an area where malaria and its vector, the anopheline mosquito, had been endemic for millennia. By 1968 there were over 1 million cases of human malaria in a population of 10 million people, and no part of the island of Ceylon was free of the disease or its vector. The Singhalese government sent out an emergency call for 10 million pounds of DDT in 1969 to recover control.

Lettuce, lima bean, sweet corn, and a number of other crops have had to be abandoned in eastern vegetable production areas because of the inefficacy of the DDT substitutes to control major insect pests (such as *Heliothis zea*). Return to the discriminate use of DDT in these areas was recommended this year.

In Sweden, where DDT was first banned, its use was restored for control of certain forest insects, which could not be effectively controlled with the recommended substitutes, and which, if left uncontrolled, would have seriously injured the economy of that country's largest industry.

In the eastern states the gypsy moth is extending its epizootic relentlessly even in the face of the widescale use of the so-called DDT substitutes. Over 100,000 acres of hardwoods were ravaged in northern New Jersey alone in 1970 - up twofold from 1969 and up fourfold from 1968. Much of the repeatedly infested area is now permanently destroyed, including some 1 million oak trees. Apparently

the substitutes are ineffectual against the gypsy moth, although their impact on other wild life is more substantial.

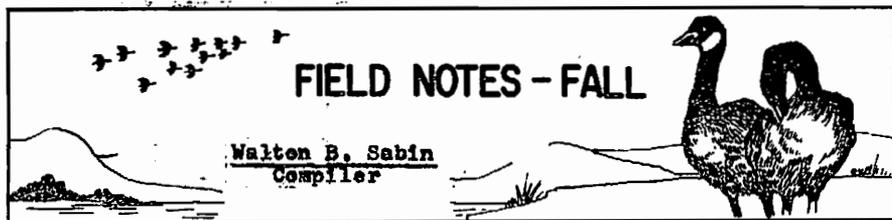
The domestic and wild bee colonies in areas sprayed with substitutes, for example, have been curtailed approximately 25 percent. This will be reflected in reduced pollination of both domestic and wild plants. In addition, the long-term pharmacology of the substitutes is considerably less known than is that of DDT.

It is interesting to speculate how far this absurd campaign will go to replace effective, safe, and proven pesticides with ineffective, hazardous, and relatively unknown compounds. Major insect-vectored human diseases are spreading; we are losing essential food and feed crops accompanied by an escalated cost of living; vast areas of wildlands, forests, public parklands, and private estates are being devastated, with concomitant injury to wildlife; and there is a proliferation of vast hordes of flies, fleas, mosquitoes, cockroaches, termites, and myriad other annoying household and home garden insects. Will the afflicted public finally be aroused to return the administration of pesticides to those trained and experienced scientists, operators, and administrative officers who are obviously best qualified to exercise such jurisdiction?

Robert White-Stevens

Bureau of Conservation and
Environmental Science, Rutgers
University, New Brunswick,
New Jersey 08903 "

Reprinted by permission. Copyright 1970 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



The weather was generally warmer and drier than normal. Except for the last half of August temperatures averaged two or more degrees above the normal. Precipitation averaged a fraction of an inch wetter in August and September while October was a fraction of an inch dryer and November averaged well over an inch dryer. Unlike a year ago, we got through this period without any snowfall. November 24 to 26 inclusive were the only days when the average temperature for each day fell below the freezing point.

Low water conditions at Greenville and Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area produced the best shorebird conditions and observations in many years. Unusual bird species were: long-billed dowitcher, red phalarope, Wilson's phalarope and Acadian fly-catcher.

Key to observers: DA-DAllen; GB-GBartlett; HB-HBundy; JB-JBush; L&VB-L&Vburland; JC-JCook; KE-KEnders; LE-LEllis; MF-MFrench; MG-MGruett; M&AG-M&AGiddings; BH-BHavens; EH-EHallenbeck; WJ-WJJoynson; CK-CKetcham; MK-MKent; RMcC-RMcCullough; BS-BSeguin; NS-NSnare; S&RS-S&RSilverman; M&WU-M&WUlmer; BW-BWaite; RY-RYunick; hmhc-HMBC field trip.

Abbreviations: AR Alcove Reservoir; BCM-Black Creek Marsh (Meadowdale); CL-Collins Lake, Scotia; DGF-Delmar Game Farm; EG-East Greenbush; Gr-Greenville; HR-Hudson River; KPB-Karner Pine Barrens; Ldville-Loudonville; LH-Lower Hudson; LK6-Lock 6 Mohawk River; ML-Mariaville Lake; Nisk-Niskayuna; NWW-Niskayuna Wide Waters; Powell S-Wilson Powell Sanctuary (ADBC); Reist S-Henry G. Reist Sanctuary (HMBC); RL-Round Lake; SCR-Stony Creek Reservoir; SL-Saratoga Lake; TR-Tomhannock Reservoir; VFWM-Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area; WGl-West Glenville; ffm-first fall migrant(s).

LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon: present through Sep on small reservoir near Mayfield where species nested (BS); ffm Oct 3 SL (BS); max 9 Oct 25 SL (BS,BH).

Red-throated Loon: only 3 reports - 1 Nov 15 LK6 (BS,GB); 4 LK6 and 5 SL, both Nov 29 (BS,BH,GB).

Red-necked Grebe: ffm Oct 24 SL (BS,BH); 5 other reports through period.

Horned Grebe: several reports - Sep end of period; max 20 several dates SL (BS). One on unusually early date - Sep 9 HR (EH).

Pied-billed Grebe: ffm Sep 19 ML (DA); present through period.

Double-crested Cormorant: only report - 1 Nov 1 LK6 (BS,BH,GB).

Great Blue Heron: last Nov 22; max 30 Sep 5 VFWM (BS).

Green Heron: last Oct 24 Stockport (JC).

Black-crowned Night Heron: only report - 1 Sep 15 Chatham (M&AG).

American Bittern: last Oct 4 Gr (CK).

Canada Goose: good fall flight; ffm 35 Sep 24 Gr (CK); present through period.

Snow Goose: more reports than usual; ffm 30 Oct 29 Gr (CK); last 1 Nov 29 LK6 (BS,BH,GB); 150 Nov 13-22 Medusa Swamp; max 300 Nov 19 LH (fide JB).

Pintail: ffm 2 Sep 25 ML (DA); present through period.

Green-winged Teal: present through period; max 40 Oct 3 SCR(HB,WJ).

Blue-winged Teal: last Oct 25 SCR (EH).

American Widgeon: few reports - Sep 7 - Nov 3 (BS).

Shoveler: three reports Sep 27 - Oct 3 all VFWM (BS).

Wood Duck: last Nov 1 CL (EH).

Redhead: three reports - ffm 3 Oct 20 ML (DA); last 1 Nov 14 SL (hmhc).

Ring-necked Duck: three reports - ffm 6 Oct 20 ML (DA); last 12 Nov 22 Galway L (EH) and 6 Nov 22 SL (DA).

Canvasback: ffm 3 Oct 24 AR (hmhc); max 31 Nov 29 SL (BS,BH,GB).

Greater Scaup: fewer reports than usual; ffm Oct 24 SL (BS); max 100 Nov 28 (BS,GB).

Lesser Scaup: SL Oct 3 - Nov 29 (BS).

Common Goldeneye: ffm Oct 24 SL (BS); max 100 several dates, present through period.

Bufflehead: ffm 2 Oct 18 CL (EH); max 30 Nov 21 SL (BS,GB); present through period.

Oldsquaw: 5 reports - ffm 5 Nov 8 SL (BS,BH,GB); present through period.

White-winged Scoter: ffm 6 Sep 30 CL (EH); max 45 Oct 24 SL (BS); present through period.
 Surf Scoter: 3 reports - ffm 3 Nov 1 SL (BS,BH,GB); last 1 Nov 22 SL (DA).
 Common Scoter: ffm Oct 24 SL (BS); last Nov 22 Galway L (EH); max 35 Nov 8 LK6 (BE,BH,GB).
 Ruddy Duck: ffm Oct 24 3 diff areas; last Nov 15 SL (BS); also 3 Nov 14 SL (hmhc).
 Hooded Merganser: last 1 Nov 1 SCR (BS).
 Common Merganser: ffm Oct 4 (BS); max 35 Nov 28 RL (BS,GB) present through period.
 Red-breasted Merganser: unusually early report - 6 Sep 27 HR (FH); next report Nov 8 SI (BS); max 22 Nov 14 SL (hmhc); present through period.

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: 7 Sep 1 Sikuli Swamp, Medusa (MK); last Oct 1 Gr (CK).
 Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Oct 4 (banded) and 1 Oct 17 VFWM (RY); 1 Nov 2 Catskill (JB).
 Cooper's Hawk: 1 Nov 7 Catskill (JB).
 Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Sep 9 SCR (BS).
 Broad-winged Hawk: last 1 Oct 14 Catskill (JB).
 Rough-legged Hawk: ffm Oct 23 Castleton (JC); also 1 Nov 1 Appleton Road (BS,BH,GB).
 Bald Eagle: 1 Sep 27 NWN (BS), in dark immature plumage.
 Marsh Hawk: 1 Sep 19 VFWM (BS); last Nov 4 Catskill (JB).
 Osprey: last 1 Oct 24 VFWM (BS); max 6 Sep 29 VFWM (HN,LE).
 American Coot: ffm Oct 14 ML (DA); present through period; also 20 Oct 24 AR (hmhc) and 44 Nov 14 SL (hmhc).
 Semipalmated Plover: last Sep 7 VFWM (BS); max 6 Aug 23 VFWM (BS).
 Killdeer: present through period; max 125 Aug 23 VFWM (BS).
 Black-bellied Plover: 2 Sep 4 TR (DA); 3 Sep 17 and 19 VFWM (BS); 1 Sep 30, Oct 3, 24, 25, 2 Nov 1, 3 Nov 7 SCR (BS).
 Common Snipe: last Nov 14 Gr (CK).
 Spotted Sandpiper: 1 Oct 24 AR (hmhc); last 1 Nov 1 RL (BS).
 Solitary Sandpiper: last Oct 29 Gr (CK); max 8 Aug 22 VFWM (BS).
 Greater Yellowlegs: last Nov 15 Gr (CK); max 12 Aug 23 VFWM (BS).
 Lesser Yellowlegs: last Nov 3 (BS); max 78 Sep 19 VFWM (BS).
 Pectoral Sandpiper: last Nov 1 (BS); max 46 Sep 19 VFWM (BS).
 White-rumped Sandpiper: last Oct 3 (BS); max 6 Sep 19 VFWM (BS).
 Least Sandpiper: last Sep 20 (BS); max 72 Aug 23 VFWM (BS); also 1 rather late Oct 29 Gr (CK).
 Dunlin: 1 Sep 30 and Oct 3 VFWM (BS); 3 Oct 24 AR (hmhc); 1 Nov 1 TR (hmhc); last 1 Nov 4 LH (DA).
 Short-billed Dowitcher: last Sep 26 VFWM (HB,BS).
 Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 Sep 20 and 27 VFWM (BS).
 Stilt Sandpiper: Sep 19 - 27 VFWM (BS); max 10 Sep 20 VFWM (BS,EH,HB).
 Semipalmated Sandpiper: last Oct 5 Gr (CK); max 30 Sep 17 VFWM (BS).
 RED PHALAROPE: 1 freshly dead Oct 1 Carman Road Schenectady (BW), specimen saved.
 Wilson's Phalarope: 1 Sep 5 VFWM (BS,HB,WJ); completely satisfactory description supplied, first fall record and only second record for Region 8.
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Oct 5 Gr (CK).
 Black-billed Cuckoo: last Oct 1 Castleton (JC).
 Saw-whet Owl: 1 (car kill) Nov 1 Malta (BS,BH,GB); 4 banded VFWM, 1 Oct 4, 2 Oct 17 and 1 Oct 25 (RY).

GOATSUCKERS - STARLING

Common Nighthawk: 2 Sep 21 Hisk (BS); last Oct 13 Castleton (JC).
 Chimney Swift: last 6 Oct 6 VFWM (DA).
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird: as many as 50 in one day VFWM (RY);
 last Sep 26 VFWM (BS); also 1 Sep 30 Gr (CK). At Gr young
 fledged, from a late nesting, on Sep 3 (CK).
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last Oct 25 Powell S (S&RS).
 Eastern Kingbird: last Oct 11 Stockport (S&RS).
 Great Crested Flycatcher: last Sep 17 Catskill (JB).
 Eastern Phoebe: last Oct 24 VFWM (DA).
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 10 banded between Aug 21 and Sep 19
 VFWM (RY).
 Acadian Flycatcher: 1 banded Sep 26 VFWM (RY).
 Traill's Flycatcher: last Sep 5 VFWM (RY).
 Least Flycatcher: 18 banded between Aug 21 and Sep 25 VFWM (RY).
 Eastern Wood Pewee: last Sep 25 ML (DA).
 Tree Swallow: last Oct 13 (BS).
 Bank Swallow: last 7 Oct 5 ML (DA).
 Rough-winged Swallow: last Sep 5 Hillsdale (NS).
 Barn Swallow: last Oct 13 (BS).
 Cliff Swallow: last 3 Sep 9 Catskill (JB).
 Purple Martin: 24 departed Sep 7 WGI (RMcC); last 1 Sep 10 Kin-
 derhook (KE).
 House Wren: last Oct 11 Stockport (S&RS).
 Winter Wren: ffm Sep 26 VFWM (RY).
 Long-billed Marsh Wren: last Sep 19 VFWM (RY).
 Catbird: last Oct 25 VFWM (RY).
 Brown Thrasher: last Oct 25 VFWM (RY).
 Wood Thrush: last Oct 11 VFWM (RY).
 Hermit Thrush: ffm Oct 3 VFWM (RY); last Nov 7 Catskill (JB).
 Swainson's Thrush: last Oct 31 Chatham (M&WV).
 Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Oct 10 VFWM (RY).
 Veery: last Sep 18 VFWM (RY).
 Golden-crowned Kinglet: ffm Sep 28 ML (DA); last Nov 3 Catskill
 (JB); also 10 Nov 1 TR (hmbc).
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: ffm Sep 25 ML (DA); last Oct 30 Castleton
 (JC).
 Water Pipit: ffm 2 Sep 30 SCR (BS); last 75 Nov 3 Hoosic River
 (BS,GB).
 Cedar Waxwing: last Nov 11 (BS,BH,GB).

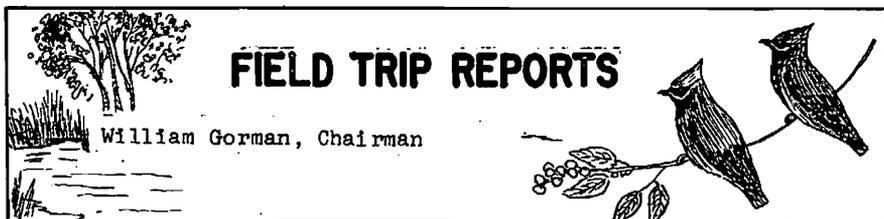
VIREOS - WARBLERS

Yellow-throated Vireo: last Sep 29 Hudson (S&RS).
 Solitary Vireo: last Oct 11 VFWM (RY).
 Red-eyed Vireo: last Oct 10 VFWM (RY).
 Philadelphia Vireo: 5 banded between Sep 4 and Oct 10 VFWM (RY).
 Warbling Vireo: last Sep 28 ML (DA).
 Black and White Warbler: last Sep 28 ML (DA).
 Blue-winged Warbler: last Sep 5 Ldville (MF).
 Tennessee Warbler: last Sep 12 VFWM (RY).
 Nashville Warbler: last Oct 6 ML (DA); also 1 unusually late Oct
 29 Altamont (BW) sets a new late date record for Region 8.
 Parula Warbler: last 1 Oct 5 ML (DA); also 1 Sep 12 Reist S (HB,WJ).
 Yellow Warbler: last Sep 24 Hillsdale (NS).
 Magnolia Warbler: last 2 Oct 3 VFWM (BS).
 Cape May Warbler: last 2 Oct 8 ML (DA).
 Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 1 Oct 6 ML (DA).
 Myrtle Warbler: 12 Sep 13 VFWM (RY); last Oct 22 Schojack (LWB);
 max 80 Sep 28 ML (DA); 1 rather late Nov 21 DGF (DA).

Black-throated Green Warbler: last 2 Oct 6 ML (DA).
 Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Sep 12 VFWM (RY).
 Blackpoll Warbler: last Sep 29 Ldville (MF).
 Prairie Warbler: last Sep 9 Gr (CK).
 Palm Warbler: ffm Sep 26 VFWM (BS); 2 "yellow palms" Oct 18 VFWM (RY); 1 "yellow palm" Oct 24 ML (DA).
 Ovenbird: last Oct 1 Ldville (MF).
 Northern Waterthrush: last Sep 26 VFWM (RY).
 Connecticut Warbler: 6 banded between Sep 12 and Oct 3 VFWM (RY); max 3 Sep 19 VFWM (RY).
 Mourning Warbler: 4 banded between Sep 4 and 26 VFWM (RY).
 Northern Yellowthroat: last Oct 11 VFWM (RY).
 Wilson's Warbler: 20 banded between Sep 4 and 26 VFWM (RY); last 1 Sep 28 ML (DA).
 Canada Warbler: last Sep 12 KPB (hmbc).
 American Redstart: last Oct 6 South Schodack (DA).

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

Bobolink: last 1 Sep 28 BCM (DA).
 Orchard Oriole: last Oct 3 Castleton (JC).
 Baltimore Oriole: last Oct 3 Castleton (JC).
 Rusty Blackbird: ffm Sep 29; max 30 Oct 9 CL (EH); last Nov 3.
 Scarlet Tanager: last Oct 10 VFWM (RY).
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Oct 11 VFWM (RY).
 Indigo Bunting: last Sep 12 KPB (hmbc).
 Evening Grosbeak: very few reports; ffw Oct 20 Castleton (JC).
 Purple Finch: few reports - 1 Oct 8 ML (DA); 1 Nov 1 EG (MG).
 House Finch: 3 Aug 22-23, 5 Sep 13 Nisk (RY).
 Pine Siskin: ffm Oct 13 Stockport (S&RS).
 Rufous-sided Towhee: last Oct 29 West Mtn (MK).
 Savannah Sparrow: last Oct 31 (BS).
 Grasshopper Sparrow: last Oct 1 Castleton (JC).
 Vesper Sparrow: last Nov 14 BCM (BS).
 Slate-colored Junco: ffm Oct 10 Catskill (JB).
 Tree Sparrow: ffm Oct 14 Castleton (JC).
 Chipping Sparrow: last Nov 1 (BS).
 White-crowned Sparrow: ffm Sep 28 ML (DA); last Nov 5 Gr (CK).
 White-throated Sparrow: ffm Sep 12 VFWM (RY) and Sep 12 KPB (hmbc).
 Fox Sparrow: ffm Oct 1 Catskill (JB); last Nov 11 West Mtn (MK).
 Lincoln's Sparrow: 6 banded between Sep 19 and Oct 4 VFWM (RY).
 Swamp Sparrow: last Nov 22 BCM (BS, BH, GB).
 Lapland Longspur: ffm 5 Oct 25 Schodack (L&WB).
 Snow Bunting: ffm Oct 27 Catskill (JB).



William Gorman, Chairman

ROUND AND SARATOGA LAKES

NOV. 14, 1970

Nine of us "birders" met at Round Lake this November morning. Very little wildlife was stirring. Only one ruddy duck was spotted on the water. We proceeded to Saratoga Lake which was dotted

FEATHERS

MARCH - APRIL, 1971

with several duck hunters. Being a cold and windy day, we did not tarry very long on any of our stops along the shore. We wound up our trip at Kaydeross Park where check lists were made out. A total of 29 species were recorded.

--Bob McCullough

NISKAYUNA WIDEWATERS

DEC. 5, 1970

Only three hardy observers joined the leader on a cold and blustery morning. For the first hour it looked as though all the birds but the gulls had flown to warmer places, but by almost literally beating the bushes, 21 species were finally counted. The only ducks were a few blacks and mallards and four common mergansers. Grackles and cowbirds turned up near feeders on River Rd. and six song sparrows were seen.

--Libby Ellis

CAPE ANN-PLUM ISLAND

JAN. 23-24, 1971

On Sat. a group of 14 HMBC members started our trip along with Professor Littlefield, of the Brookline Bird Club, who kindly joined us for the trip. It started snowing about a half hour before we started. Our first stop at Andrews Point turned up purple sandpiper, common elder, great cormorant, red-breasted merganser, and bufflehead even though the visibility was rather poor. We went to a nearby cemetery where we watched a screech owl sitting in a hole in a tree. We moved south along the coast, picking up red-necked grebe, horned grebe, goldeneye, etc. Through the light snow, we covered Bass Rocks looking for an eared grebe, which we did not find. At Niles Pond we found sanderling, a black-bellied plover, and about 12 Iceland gulls. We spent a fair amount of time watching an extra large (larger than a herring gull) white-winged gull with a heavy black bill (heavier than those of neighboring Iceland gulls). Since the wings extended beyond the tail, it was generally felt this was probably just a large Iceland gull. On the way to Eastern Point Light, we saw a northern shrike and a Kumlien's gull. During lunch, it stopped snowing and the sun came out. We then proceeded to the Fisherman's Memorial where we found a Barrow's goldeneye. We went on to Hammond Castle and were joined briefly by Hazel Bundy. We retraced our way back toward the motel and called it a day when we ran out of light.

On Sunday, a quick stop at Andrews Point turned up two black gullinot and a robin. We then went north to Plum Island where we found four Barrow's goldeneyes, ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls, and a pintail. While we had lunch, Walt Sabin and Prof. Littlefield saw a bald eagle. The rest of the group went there after lunch and found red-tailed and rough-legged hawks and common merganser. Moving south, we found snow bunting at Crane Beach and finished off the trip at Severoy with a carnaque goose. Most participants indicated the trip to be a real success with almost everyone adding a life bird to their list.

--Bill Gorman

* * * * *

FIELD NOTES

You are urged to send field notes for December through March to Mr. Richard E. Pillion, Edgewood Drive, Averill Park, N. Y. 12018, by April 5.

CENTURY RUN

Please mail reports for the Century Run within two days after the scheduled date of Saturday, May 15, to Mr. Robert P. Yunick, 1527 Myron St., Schenectady, N. Y. 12309. The editor will delay publication of the May-June issue, in order to include the always-interesting report of the Big Day.

ENCLOSURES

1. 1970 Index, for which Guy Bartlett very kindly compiled the information.
2. 1971 Directory.

(Issue assembled March 8, 1971)

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, N. Y. 12205.

HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.: Walton B. Sabin, President;
Will D. Merritt, Jr., Vice-president; Miss Elizabeth Macauley,
Treasurer; Mrs. Samuel Madison, Secretary.

Address Correction Requested

HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.
MRS. EDWARD KOCH
58 GOODE STREET
BURNT HILLS, NEW YORK 12027

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

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. B'kell
3 Okara Drive, Apt. 1
Schenectady, N. Y. 12303



PUBLISHED BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

CENTURY RUN PRODUCES RECORD 168 SPECIES

Robert P. Yunick
Compiler

After a long winter of all-time record snow fall, which very few people really appreciated, and a cold, wet spring which many college presidents undoubtedly prayed for and which may have been partially responsible for the much cooler condition this year on the nation's campuses, May 15 finally gave forth with some of the weather that people usually associate with spring. For some it was undoubtedly the beginning of spring. Despite an early morning low of 30°F. which put frost on many a sprout, the day melted to the 70's under high pressure and a bright sun and eventual cloudiness, and was a perfect day to be afield for HMBC's 26th consecutive Century Run.

The tardiness of the season left local foliage still in the budding stage, so that leaf cover was no problem. However, this same tardiness caused several species to go unrecorded and others to be recorded in lesser numbers due to a lack of arrivals. Despite these seemingly unfavorable conditions, coupled with a lack of winter finches, most everyone added a little something to the list to produce a record 168 species.

There were 11 parties of 42 observers afield between 3:30 a.m. and 11 p.m. Four groups attained the sought-after 100 mark with taskmaster Allen and company reaching this year's high of 123 species. This group's tally stands fourth in the list of annual party maxima. The record of 129 was established in 1965.

Notable among the finds were the following. Vischer Ferry drew many people's attention with a common egret and a pair of mute swans. The egret record is only the fifth such with the last occurring in 1964. The mute swan pair was only the third such record with the previous two having occurred in 1966 and 68. A widgeon report is only the fourth, goldeneye and oldsquaw the sixth, bufflehead and hooded merganser the seventh for these species. A single rough-legged hawk is the fourth such tally, and the turkey only the second such record. Marsh birds were not generally common. The dunlin and Bonaparte's gull were reported for the seventh time. A red-headed woodpecker at Meadowdale was only the sixth such report. A Carolina wren at Vischer Ferry was the fourth occurrence of this species. House finches in Scotia were only the second report for this species, first reported in 1967.

Probably the most unusual find was a new species for the list. Betty Hicks sighted a pine grosbeak perched in a tree about 50 feet from the tracks at the "chat place" on the tracks at Black 25

Creek. The bird was viewed with a scope at 6 a.m. in good light; had an heavy, shiny black bill and was grosbeak size and shape. The bird was uniformly dark in plumage and was judged to be a female. This becomes number 231 on the composite species list. One other species was added this year as number 230, namely the rock dove. People have reported them for years and they have gone unrecognized. It seems to me that they warrant the same consideration as at least five other releases on our list. Therefore, I have unceremoniously added this species to the list based on the reports of four groups.

The late season produced a list of scarcities and misses as mentioned earlier. Only two groups had whip-poor-will, and everyone missed the nighthawk. Hummingbirds were scarce, only one pewee was recorded and no one heard or saw Traill's flycatcher. The cedar waxwing and indigo bunting were seen by one group only. Warblers, in general, were scarce.

This year's experience indicates that with a little luck a list of 175 species is possible. As group experience and coverage continues to improve, a good day in the next five years should produce this record list.

There is a matter of inconsistency in conducting the Century Run that needs attention. The Century Run is a competitive endeavor involving a challenge to one's self to identify 100 species, and a challenge to all comers to see who can amass the greatest total in one day. As originally conceived, the Century Run was intended to operate on a group basis, wherein a group laid out an itinerary and, as a group, sought 100+ species with each member of the group trying to identify everything constituting the group's list. This necessitated the group going everywhere together as a group.

Bitten by the competitive bug, several groups have adopted the practice of late of separating to cover additional territory and then combining their fragmented lists into one. This is contrary to the original precepts of the Century Run and is not fair to those who do compile a group list with as many observations as possible seen by everyone in the group. Therefore, to make the competition more equitable, we should return to the practice of group togetherness for 1972.

Finally, my thanks and appreciation to Guy Bartlett for the loan of his historical summary of Century Runs past, which makes preparing this year's summary a vastly easier job than it would be otherwise.

PARTICIPANTS AND AREAS - the following is a list of the participating groups, the areas they covered and the species seen by them only.

Group A - Hazel Bundy, Willi Joynson, Shirley Todd. Mohawk River, Vischer Ferry, Stony Creek Res. and Central Park. 7 a.m. - 12 noon. 59 species.

Group B - B. R. Seguin, C. W. Huntley and Guy Bartlett. Black Creek Marsh, Meadowdale, Altamont, Thacher Park, Watervliet Res., Karner, Central Park, Vischer Ferry, Stony Creek Res., Round and Saratoga Lakes, Lock 6 and Niskayuna Widewaters. 4 a.m. - 8 p.m. 116 species. Common goldeneye, red-headed woodpecker, Henslow's sparrow.

Group C - Bill Gorman, Monte Gruett, Dick Phillion and Paul Connor. Vosburgh, Vly, Basic and Alcove Res., Indian Ladder, Niskayuna, Vischer Ferry and Saratoga Lake. 3:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. 118 species. Least bittern, Bonaparte's gull, cliff swallow.

Group D - Lois and Douglas Norton, Lee Harrison, Carla Anderson, Graham Chisholm and Betty Hicks. School and Hennessey Rd., Crouse Marsh, Indian Ladder, Vly Res., Karner, River Rd. and Vischer Ferry. 5:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. 93 species. Marsh hawk, bobwhite, pine grosbeak, Lincoln's sparrow.

Group E - Clarissa E. and Clare L. Ketcham. Greene County. 7 - 11 a.m. and 2 - 8 p.m. 70 species. Turkey, rusty blackbird.

Group F - Gus Angst, Bob McCullough and Esly Hallenbeck. 85 species. Rough-legged hawk, semipalmated sandpiper, winter wren, palm warbler, house finch.

Group G - Samuel R. Madison, Walton B. Sabin, Carl Parker, Hollis Ingraham, Robert Kornis, William Brooks. Meadowdale, Indian Ladder, Delmar, Stony Creek Res., Vischer Ferry, Saratoga Lake, Karner. 4 a.m. - 9:45 p.m. 114 species. Hooded merganser, Carolina wren.

Group H - Elizabeth Ellis, Dianne and Peter Leeds, Mike Di-Georgio, Daniel Turk, Judith and Douglass Allen. Mariaville, Ponicent Marsh, Central Park, Niskayuna, Vischer Ferry, Stony Creek Res., Saratoga Lake, Watervliet Re., Thacher Park. 4:30 a.m. - 11 p.m. 123 species. Scaup species, semipalmated plover, hermit thrush, water pipit, Wilson's warbler, indigo bunting.

Group I - E. L., H. C., Tim and Jeff Thomas. Colonie, Six-mile Waterworks, Albany Airport, Karner, Guilderland, Watervliet Res., Meadowdale, Altamont. 39 species.

Group J - Nancy and Mari Slack, Catherine Pahl and George Prehmus. Glenville. 63 species. Eastern wood pewee, cedar waxwing.

Group K - Robert P. Yunick. Banding at Vischer Ferry Game Management Area. 5 - 11 a.m. 38 species.

* * * * *

Correction: Last year's list of 166 species should be adjusted to read 165. The horned grebe sighting reported at that time should be deleted.

CENTURY RUN --May 15, 1971 -- 168 SPECIES

Common Loon	bc h	Screech Owl	c g
Pied-billed Grebe	cd fgh	Great Horned Owl	c gh j
Great Blue Heron	bc g	Whip-poor-will	c j
Green Heron	cde h	Chimney Swift	abcdefg hijk
Common Egret	cd gh	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	c gh
Least Bittern	c	Belted Kingfisher	cd fgh
Amer. Bittern	b d gh k	Yellow-sh. Flicker	abcdefg hijk
Mute Swan	abcd gh	Pileated Woodpecker	c g
Canada Goose	bc fg	Red-h. Woodpecker	b
Mallard	abcdefg h jk	Yel.-bel. Sapsucker	b h
Black Duck	abcd fgh k	Hairy Woodpecker	abcdefg h j
Green-winged Teal	b g	Downy Woodpecker	abcdefg hijk
Blue-winged Teal	abcdefg h	Eastern Kingbird	abcdefg hij
American Widgeon	c g	Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	abcd fgh j
Wood Duck	bc fgh k	Eastern Phoebe	abcdefg hij
Scaup (sp?)	h	Least Flycatcher	bode hijk
Common Goldeneye	b	Eastern Wood Pewee	j
Bufflehead	bc gh	Horned Lark	b fgh
Oldsquaw	b	Tree Swallow	abcdefg hijk
Hooded Merganser	g	Bank Swallow	bod fgh jk
Common Merganser	b h	Rough-w. Swallow	bc fgh j
Red-br. Merganser	ab g	Barn Swallow	abcdefg hijk
Turkey Vulture	cd	Cliff Swallow	c
Sharp-shinned Hawk	h	Purple Martin	bc fgh
Cooper's Hawk	c } h	Blue Jay	abcdefg hij
Red-tailed Hawk	abcdefg h i	Common Crow	abcdefg hijk
Red-sh. Hawk	b e j	Blk-cap. Chickadee	abcdefg hijk
Broad-winged Hawk	ef h	Tufted Titmouse	abc gh
Rough-legged Hawk	f	White-br. Nuthatch	abcdefg h i
Marsh Hawk	d	Red-br. Nuthatch	b h
Osprey	bcde gh	Brown Creeper	b e gh
Sparrow Hawk	abode f h i j	House Wren	abcdefg hijk
Ruffed Grouse	c e jk	Winter Wren	f
Bobwhite	d	Carolina Wren	g
Ring-n. Pheasant	bcd fg j	Long-b. Marsh Wren	bcd gh
Turkey	e	Mockingbird	abc fgh
Virginia Rail	b gh	Catbird	abcdefg hijk
Sora	b f h	Brown Thrasher	abcdefg h j
Common Gallinule	bc fgh	Robin	abcdefg hijk
Amer. Coot	bc	Wood Thrush	abcdefg hijk
Semipal. Plover	h	Hermit Thrush	h
Killdeer	abcdefg h j	Swainson's Thrush	cde gh
Amer. Woodcock	c fg j	Veery	bcdefg h i k
Common Snipe	bcd gh	Eastern Bluebird	b efgh j
Upland Plover	fg	Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher	d g
Spotted Sandpiper	abcdefg h i j	Golden-cr. Kinglet	b h
Solitary Sandpiper	abcd gh	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	cd gh
Greater Yellowlegs	bcd fgh	Water Pipit	h
Lesser Yellowlegs	bcd g	Cedar Waxwing	j
Least Sandpiper	d g	Starling	abcdefg hijk
Dunlin	c f	Yellow-thr. Vireo	abcd fgh
Semipal. Sandpiper	f	Solitary Vireo	bc h j
Herring Gull	bcd h j	Red-eyed Vireo	b d g
Ring-billed Gull	abcd fgh	Philadelphia Vireo	f h i
Bonaparte's Gull	c	Warbling Vireo	abcdefg h i
Black Tern	b d fg	Blk. & Wh. Warbler	abcdefg h j
Rock Dove	cde h	Worm-eating Warbler	cd fgh
Mourning Dove	abcdefg h i jk	Golden-w. Warbler	b d gh

Blue-w. Warbler	cde h	Red-w. Blackbird	abcdefghijkl
Tennessee Warbler	b f h	Baltimore Oriole	abcdefghijkl
Nashville Warbler	bcd fgh j	Rusty Blackbird	e
Parula Warbler	bc gh	Common Grackle	abcdefghijkl
Yellow Warbler	abcdefghijkl	Brown-h. Cowbird	abcdefghijkl
Magnolia Warbler	bcd gh jk	Scarlet Tanager	bcdefgh
Cape May Warbler	bc gh	Cardinal	abcdefghijkl
Blk-thr.Bl.Warbler	bc e gh	Rose-br. Grosbeak	abcdefghijkl
Myrtle Warbler	abcdefghijkl	Indigo Bunting	h
Blk-thr.Gr.Warbler	abc gh	Purple Finch	bcdef h
Blackburn. Warbler	abcd gh	House Finch	f
Chestnut-s. Warbler	bcdefgh	Pine Grosbeak	d
Bay-br. Warbler	c h	Amer. Goldfinch	abcdefghijkl
Blackpoll Warbler	c h	Rufous-s. Towhee	abcdefghijkl
Prairie Warbler	bcde gh	Savannah Sparrow	bc gh
Palm Warbler	f	Grasshopper Sparrow	b h
Ovenbird	abcdefghijkl	Henslow's Sparrow	b
North. Waterthrush	bc e h k	Vesper Sparrow	b efgh
La. Waterthrush	b g	Slate-colored Junco	bcd gh
Yellowthroat	abcdefghijkl	Chipping Sparrow	abcdefghijkl
Yellow-br. Chat	bcd fg	Field Sparrow	bcdefgh j
Wilson's Warbler	h	White-cr. Sparrow	c e gh k
Canada Warbler	bc gh jk	White-thr. Sparrow	abcde gh jk
Amer. Redstart	abcdefghijkl	Lincoln's Sparrow	d
House Sparrow	abcdefghijkl	Swamp Sparrow	abcdefghijkl
Bobolink	abcdefghijkl	Song Sparrow	abcdefghijkl
E. Meadowlark	abcdefghijkl		

* * * * *

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - OUR MOST COMMON UNREPORTED SPECIES ?

Douglass M. Allen

On April 14 at about 5 p.m. while driving between Vischer Ferry Game Management Area and Stony Creek Reservoir we stopped to investigate a mixed flock of blackbirds in a dry corn field on the corner of Crescent and Moe Roads. Observing through 8 x 40 binoculars through the open window of our car and with the sun behind me, I immediately spotted a black bird the same size as nearby red-wings and slightly larger than cowbirds all of which were in the field of vision at the same time at about forty yards.

Without reference to nearby grackles or guidebooks I called out to my wife Judy - Brewer's Blackbird! I had been scrutinizing every flock of blackbirds for the past 6 weeks in the belief that Brewer's was a possible migrant in our area. I arrived at this belief after a two week birding trip through the Southeast this February. While my companions, my wife and Hazel Bundy, tolerated a few short observations of blackbird flocks, they were more interested in finding the red-cockaded woodpecker and in visiting Wildlife Refuges. And so was I. However, I did talk to birders and did read the literature of the area; Brewer's blackbirds wintered in small numbers from the Carolina coast south and west.

And so I was expecting the unexpected. The blackbird foraging with the red-wings was of their size - with a tail of the same proportions. Its head was a distinct purple, not quite so glossy as the purple-green of the nearby grackles, but nevertheless distinctly purple in contrast to its black body. Its black body had a slight glossiness, a sheen of undeterminable color, unlike the bodies of the male red-wings and cowbirds. Its eye was pale yellow like the eyes of the rusty blackbirds that I had seen at Vischer Ferry three days before.

Only a couple of minutes after I spotted the blackbird and about a minute after Judy spotted it, the blackbirds in that part of the field flew to a nearby tree. The Brewer's and especially its tail were clearly diminutive compared to a female grackle sitting on the same branch. And then I checked in the guidebooks to see if I had missed any field marks. When I looked up again the blackbirds were not in sight. We drove on to Stony Creek where we found a flock of 12 Canada geese and one blue goose, another rare visitor from the Mississippi flyway. I wondered: for the past 48 hours we had had strong, gusty, northwest winds following the passage of a cold front. Did this weather system and its accompanying winds push these two mid-westerners into Yankee land?

Perhaps, but not necessarily. The blue goose is reported in small numbers spring and fall at Montezuma, 150 miles to our west; a few are sighted in New England each year. The Brewer's is also reported to the south and east of us, but less frequently. It nests as far east as northwestern Indiana and is a regular migrant - specimens taken - through West Virginia and Ohio (John Bull, Birds of New York). Though it has been reported in the New York City region, no specimens are available and Bull lists it as hypothetical.

Strangely enough, Brewer's blackbird is hardly mentioned in Audubon Field Notes in the areas of the mid-west where it is common. It is, I suppose, like our blackbirds, too hardy, too common and too unglamorous to be noteworthy at any season. This past year it has been reported several times in Audubon Field Notes and Kingbird as occurring in our eastern states.

Audubon Field Notes, June 1969, "Northeastern Maritime Region", The Wintering Season, p. 455 reports, "The Brewer's blackbirds, carefully identified by an observer familiar with the species, were seen on the Christmas Count at Newport, R. I. A single bird of this species had been seen on the same count in the winter of 1963-64, and certainly all winter 'rusty blackbirds' deserve a second look, particularly when they occur near feeders or around farms, etc."

Middle Atlantic Coast Region, p. 465 reports, "Brewer's blackbirds were reported twice: 6 at Bombay Hook Refuge (Del.) on Dec. 22, and 1 at Back Bay Refuge (Virginia) on Dec. 30."

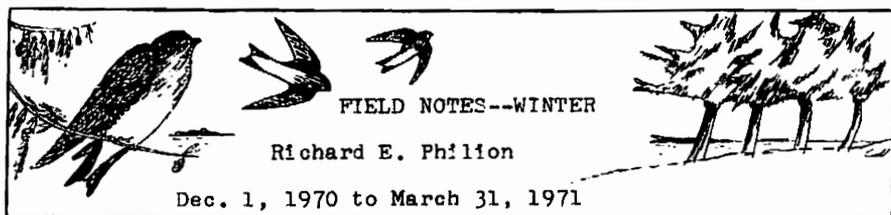
Kingbird, January 1971, Vol. XXI, No. 1, Region 10 - Marine, p. 43 reports, "Brewer's Blackbird: 2 Oct 17 Point O' Woods, Fire Isl (SH) - a lengthy report was submitted to the editors with full details of the first Regional record. The observer is familiar with western blackbirds and the two birds (male and female) were seen in direct comparison with rusty blackbirds and red-wings on 30

an open grassy field. We agree with the observer in noting that Brewer's blackbird is perhaps more 'overlooked' than rare in the northeast, especially during migration."

More overlooked than rare. I'm inclined to think so too. Though reasonably sure we saw a Brewer's blackbird, the records of this new species for our area must remain hypothetical. I'm not completely satisfied with the conditions under which we saw it - gusty northwest winds and a mostly overcast sky - and with the short span of observation - only two minutes. We returned before dark to the spot where we first saw it, but could not find it again. Also, the observers were not familiar with western blackbirds. I've been asked if it's possible to separate the Brewer's from the rusty in the field. While I have no first-hand experience, I find no references in the literature to suggest that it's an especially difficult task, and it is much safer, I infer, than separating scoup or shrike. Lastly, it is questionable whether a husband-wife team qualify as two independent observers.

There are probably one or more Brewer's blackbirds amongst each hundred thousand blackbirds that pass through our area each spring and fall, a pretty thin brew admitted. Intoxicating enough, nevertheless, to make the search worthwhile for what is probably the most common, but unreported species of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club eleven-county region.

* * * * *



The winter of 1970-71 was a long, cold, and snowy one. This year the heavy snow began before Christmas and lasted on the ground until April. There were 43.8 inches of snow that fell in the Albany area during the month of December, 15.2 inches in January, 17.6 in February and 32 inches in March. By the end of March the total snow for the season was within an inch and a half of the all time record for seasonal snowfall at Albany. The record was 110 inches. It was another cold winter with temperature several degrees below normal in December, January, and March, with January 8.8° below normal for the month. Five new low temperature records were set at Albany Airport during the month of January including a -28° which is the lowest ever recorded there in any month or year. February averaged a little warmer and turned out to be 1.7° above normal. Ponds and lakes were still covered with snow and ice by the end of March.

Most striking this year, aside from the weather, was the near absence of winter finches which only last year were found in near record numbers. No complaints were heard this year over the ravenous eating habits of evening grosbeaks at home feeders. Appar-

ently, a plentiful seed crop in the more northern regions inhibited the mass migrations which occurred over the past two years. Both crossbills went unreported while purple finches, pine grosbeaks and redpolls were extremely scarce. Even goldfinches were lower in number especially in December and January. Less regretably the starling population declined to a third of last year.

Increases in the population of mourning doves, mockingbirds, northern shrikes, ring-necked pheasants and song sparrow were apparent from Christmas Count reports.

Rare species recorded this year were a golden eagle, peregrine falcon, great gray owl (first record for region 8 in over 50 years, banded, photographed and seen by many), and an Oregon Junco.

Abbreviations: Ca-Castleton; Ch-Chatham; Cox-Coxsackie; Ctk-Catskill; EG-East Greenbush; GR-Greenville; HF-Hudson Falls; HR-Hudson River; LK-Loock; MR-Mohawk River; NE Col-Northeast Columbia County; Nisk-Niskayuna; NWW-Niskayuna Wide Waters; PM-Poentic Marshes; RL-Round Lake; SL-Saratoga Lake; Sch-Schodack; Sob Cntr-Schodack Center; SS-Stockport Station Marshes; SCR-Stony Creek Reservoir; Sp-Spencertown; TR-Tomhannock Reservoir; VFWM-Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area; WH-West Ghent; GCC-Greene County Christmas Count; SCC-Schenectady Christmas Count; SRCC-Southern Rensselaer Christmas Count; TCC-Troy Christmas Count; fsm-first spring migrants.

Observers: DA-D. Allen; GB-G. Bartlett; T&AB-T&A. Brown; L&VB-L&V Burland; JB-J. Bush; PC-P. Connor; GE-G. Erlenback; P&GE-P&G. Erlenback; MJF-M. J. Ford; M&AG-M&A. Giddings; MDG-M. D. Gruett; MK-M. Kent; CK-C. Ketcham; EM-E. Mansell; WM-W. Merritt; MM-M. Mickle; REP-R. E. Phillion; EP-E. Powell; EMR-E. M. Reilly, Jr.; WBS-W. B. Sabin; BRS-B. R. Seguin; S&RS-S&R. Silverman; B&HT-B&H. Tullar; M&WU-M&W. Ulmer; BW-Beverly Waite; RPY-R. P. Yunick; HMBC-Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club field trip; mob-many observers.

LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon: 1 Dec 5 SL (BRS); 1 Jan 10 HF (WBS).
 Red-throated Loon: 1 Jan 10 LK6 Champlain Canal (WBS).
 Horned Grebe: 20 Dec 5 SL (BRS); 1 Jan 2-30 Cohoes (DA); 5 Mar 31 NWW (DA).
 Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Dec 5 SL (BRS); 2 Jan 2-10 Cohoes (DA); 1 Jan 10 HF (WBS); 2 Mar 16 NE Col (RD); 4 Mar 20 SS (DA).
 Great Blue Heron: 1 Mar 20 SS (DA); generally reported one week later.
 Canada Goose: fsm Feb 15-28 SS (S&RS, T&AB); 200 Mar 31 NWW (DA).
 Snow Goose: 11 Dec 19 WG (P&GE); 20 Dec 20 SL (BRS).
 Mallard: throughout winter; 500 Jan 10 HR (Duck count).
 Black Duck: throughout winter; 475 Jan 10 HR (Duck count).
 Pintail: 2 in Jan Cohoes (BRS); 12 Mar 20 SS (DA).
 Green-winged Teal: 2 Dec 5 SCR (BRS); 6 Mar 20 SS (DA).
 Blue-winged Teal: 1 female TCC Waterford, seen at 15 feet in small stream, made no effort to fly, probably injured (DA, Peter Leeds); 10 Mar 20 SS (DA).
 American Widgeon: 1 female Dec 19 on Bozenkill, possibly crippled (BRS); 1 Mar 28 SCR (DA).
 Wood Duck: 1 Dec 5 SL (BRS); 2 Mar 20 SS (REP).
 Ring-necked Duck: 1 Dec 5 SL (BRS); fsm Mar 27 LK 7 MR (BRS).

Canvasback: 6 Dec 5 SL (BRS).
 Scaup Duck: 20 Lesser Dec 20 SL (BRS); 1 TCC Cohoes; 2 wintered at Troy (BRS); 1 female Greater Jan 10 Thomson, on Champlain Canal (WBS); fsm Mar 27 LK 7 MR (BRS).
 Common Goldeneye: 200 Dec 20 SL (BRS); 2 TCC Cohoes; 30 Jan 10 Corinth (WBS); fsm Mar 14 LK 7 MR (BRS); 50 Mar 20 SS (DA).
 Bufflehead: 14 Dec 20 SL (BRS); 1 TCC Cohoes; 2 wintered at Cohoes (BRS); fsm Mar 28 LK7 MR (BRS).
 Oldsquaw: 1 Dec 5 SL (BRS); 1 TCC Cohoes, present through Jan 30 (DA).
 White-winged Scoter: 1 Dec 12 SL (BRS); fsm Mar 21 LK7 MR (BRS).
 Ruddy Duck: 1 female Dec 5 SCR (BRS).
 Hooded Merganser: 5 Dec 5 RL (BRS); 1 TCC Cohoes; 8 Mar 20 SS (DA).
 Common Merganser: 4 Dec 5 NWW (MJF); 1 Dec 20 SL (BRS); 2 TCC; 2 SRCC; 1 Feb 28 HR, below Albany (MM); 35 Mar 6 HR, below Albany (DA).
 Red-breasted Merganser: 1 Dec 5 LK6 MR (BRS); 6 Mar 31 NWW (DA).

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: 1 Feb 20 SS (S&RS) very early; 1 Mar 27 Ctk (JB).
 Goshawk: 1 SCC; 2 TCC; 1 Feb 24 Ch (M&WU); 1 Mar 1 Gr (CK); 1 Mar 20-26 Ch (M&AG).
 Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Jan 13-19 Old Ch (B&HT); 1 Jan 27 Ctk (JB); 1 Jan 31 EG (MDG); 1 Feb 27 TR (HMBC); 1 Mar 24 Sp (EM).
 Cooper's Hawk: 1 Dec 20, Jan 17 (BRS); 3 TCC; 1 Jan 30 Gr (CK); 1 Mar 20 SS (DA).
 Red-tailed Hawk: fairly good numbers - 19 SCC; 19 SRCC; 11 GCC; 36 TCC.
 Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Dec 7 NE Col (RD); 1 TCC; 1 Feb 1-18 Ca (JC); 1 Mar 17 Cox (JB); 1 Mar 26 VFWM (WBS); 1 Mar 26 Sch Cntr (PC).
 Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Mar 13 Ch (M&AG) very early; 1 Mar 21 LK7 MR (BRS); 1 Mar 28 NWW (BRS).
 Rough-legged Hawk: 2 Dec 4 So Schtdy (DA); 1 Dec 19 Ctk (JB); 4 SCC; 2 SRCC; 11 GCC; 5 TCC; 1 dark phase wintered Selkirk (WBS).
 GOLDEN EAGLE: 1 Mar 30 Spier Falls on HR (fide MK).
 Marsh Hawk: 1 SRCC; 1 Feb 28 WG (GE); 1 Mar 7, 10 Ch (EP); 1 Mar 14 Sch Cntr (PC); 1 Mar 18 Ctk (JB); 1 Mar 28 Sch Cntr (PC).
 PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 Feb 14 Gr (CK).
 Sparrow Hawk: 17 SCC; 19 SRCC; 6 GCC; 19 TCC; wintered in usual numbers.
 Ruffed Grouse and Pheasant; reported quite generally.
 Bob-white: not reported.
 American Coot: 2 Dec 5 NWW (MJF); 1 Dec 20 SL (BRS); 1 Mar 22 Athens (JB).
 Killdeer: fsm Feb 28 Ca (JC) and WG (GE); 5 Mar 15 Nisk (RPY).
 Woodcock: 1 Mar 1 Gr (CK) early; 1 Mar 6 SS (S&RS) and Sch (L&VB); 1 Mar 16 Schtdy; 1 Mar 18 VFWM (WM); 4 Mar 27 PM (fide DA); 1 Mar 28 Sch Cntr (PC).
 Common Snipe: 1 SCC.
 Great Black-backed Gull: 12 Dec 20 SL (BRS); 1 Feb 28 HR, below Albany (MM and T&B); 6 Mar 6 SS (DA).
 Herring Gull: a few present throughout winter whenever HR was open; 50 Mar 6 SS (DA); 300 Mar 17 Cox (JB).
 Ring-billed Gull: 20 Dec 5 NWW (MJF); 1 Feb 28 HR, below Albany (MM and T&B); 100 Mar 6 SS (DA).
 Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Dec 5 SL (BRS).
 Mourning Dove: 276 SCC; 255 SRCC; 44 GCC; 394 TCC.
 Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls: reported from usual areas; 1 Mar 10 Schtdy, unusual location for Barred Owl.

Snowy Owl: 1 Mar 26 thru 31 Settle's Hill Altamont (BW).
 GREAT GRAY OWL: 1 Feb 24-Mar 20 Halfmoon (mob), banded and photo-graphed Mar 10, first record for Region 8 in over 50 years.
 Long-eared Owl: 1 SRCC, shot by grouse hunter in front of HMBC observers, "thought it was a partridge when it flew from pine tree."
 Short-eared Owl: 1 Dec 26 Schodack (P&GE).
 Saw-whet Owl: 1 Feb 3 Saratoga Co. (BRS); 1 Feb 13 Columbia Co. (EMR); 1 Mar 25 VFWM (WM).

GOATSUCKERS - STARLINGS:

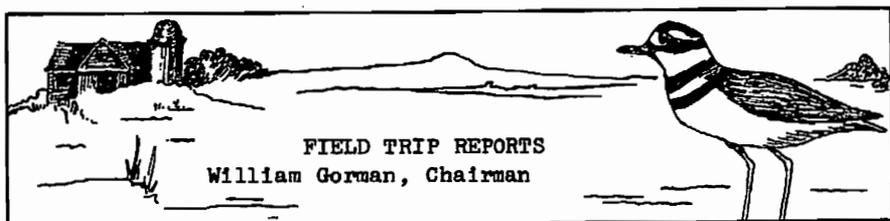
Belted Kingfisher: several wintered in area; 1 SRCC, 1 TCC, 2 SCC.
 Yellow-shafted Flicker: few wintered; 1 SCC, scattered individuals thru period.
 Pileated Woodpecker: several reported on Christmas Counts.
 Hairy Woodpecker: common, Max. 57 SRCC.
 Downy Woodpecker: common, 130 TCC, 131 SRCC.
 Eastern Phoebe: no winter reports; fsm Mar 28 Ghent (DA).
 Horned Lark: largest flock 55 (No. race) Halfmoon (DA); Christmas Count numbers greater than last year, max 388 SRCC.
 Tree Swallow: none reported thru period.
 Blue Jay: seemed scarce at many feeders yet Christmas Count totals comparable to last year.
 Common Crow: usual numbers wintered, max 857 SCC.
 Black-capped Chickadee: max 50 Feb 27 TR (HMBC).
 Tufted Titmouse: regularly reported by most observers, max 24 (SRCC).
 White-breasted Nuthatch: common, max 135 TCC higher than most years.
 Red-breasted Nuthatch; scarce, few reports, max 10 (SRCC).
 Brown Creeper: occasional reports, max 17 SRCC.
 Winter Wren: 2 reports, 1 GCC, 1 TCC.
 Mockingbird: observed over area in increased numbers; 25 on 3 Christmas Counts compared with 6 last year.
 Robin: a few wintered, migrants from mid-March on.
 Hermit Thrush: only one report, 1 GCC.
 Eastern Bluebird: a few wintered in southern counties, migrants from mid-March on.
 Golden-crowned Kinglet: a few wintered, max 19 TCC.
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 Feb 27 TR (HMBC); 3 SRCC.
 Cedar Waxwing: few wintered, most reports in December and at end of period, max 20 SCC.
 Northern Shrike: 8 reports throughout area, 6 on Christmas Counts compared to only 1 last year.
 Starling: numbers significantly down, max 2098 TCC compared to 7117 SRCC last year.

VIREOS - SPARROWS:

Eastern Meadowlark: a few winter reports.
 Red-winged Blackbird: first migrant Feb 26 GR (CK); waves by Mar 1.
 Baltimore Oriole: 1 reported at Ch Dec 26 - Jan 17 (MM).
 Rusty Blackbird: only report, 1 at feeder in GR (CK).
 Common Grackle: last fall migrants, 50 Dec 1 Columbia Co.; a few winter reports; first spring arrivals, 10 Feb 28 Sch (PC) and at Nisk (RPY).
 Brown-headed Cowbird: some winter reports; first spring migrants in Mariaville Mar 17 (DA).

Evening Grosbeak: very few; one flock of about 65 during most of winter in Averill Park area (REP).
 Purple Finch: few wintered; 4 at feeder Mar 27 at Nisk (RPY).
 House Finch: 1 pair Mar 21 Nisk (RPY).
 Pine Grosbeak: only report - 1 Jan 17 at Berne (MK).
 Common Redpoll: very scarce; 22 Jan 2 TCC and 1 Mar 26 Spencer-town (EM).
 Pine Siskin: only report 1 Dec 27 SRCC
 American Goldfinch: winter population lower than usual.
 Rufous-sided Towhee: 3 Dec reports from Columbia, Rensselaer and Greene Cos. (PAGE, SRCC, M. Bush).
 Savannah Sparrow: 2 reported at a feeder Jan 17 in French Hollow (BRS).
 Vesper Sparrow: 1 Dec 27 EG (W. Gorman) and 4 Jan 2, 5, 25 Ca (J. Cook).
 OREGON JUNCO: 1 reported at feeder Jan 3 Latham (GB).
 Field Sparrow: a few wintered mainly in Columbia Co.
 White-crowned Sparrow: three reports - 1 Dec 27 at Rensselaer (J. Baum), 1 Dec 29 Athens (M. Bush) and 1 Feb 1-24 in Ch (L&VB, EP).
 White-throated Sparrow: fewer reports than usual.
 Fox Sparrow: first migrant Mar 9 Ctk (JB); many reports but low numbers beginning Mar 20
 Swamp Sparrow: a few Christmas Count reports.
 Song Sparrow: rather numerous especially in lowlands along the Hudson River.
 Lapland Longspur: 7 individuals seen with Horned Larks on Christmas Counts.
 Snow Bunting: several large flocks (max 150) reported throughout winter.

* * * * *

ANNUAL STATE DUCK COUNTJANUARY 10, 1971

On Sun., Jan. 10, HMBC cooperated in the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs' annual January Waterfowl Count. Since the severe winter weather left very little open water, the overall count was low. Walt Sabin covered the upper Hudson from Corinth south; Guy Bartlett, the Mohawk from Schenectady to Cohoes and Green Island. I took the Hudson from Stillwater to the Congress Street Bridge, Troy. On the following Sunday Ed Reilly covered the Hudson below Albany.

A few relatively uncommon species were sighted: a red-throated loon at Champlain Canal Lock 6, a horned grebe in the Mohawk at Cohoes. Also in the Mohawk were 2 bufflehead, 2 oldsquaw and 1 female hooded merganser. The large concentration of blacks and mallards at Green Island was somewhat smaller than usual.

--Paul Grattan

LISHA KILLFEB. 14, 1971

Ronald LaForce and I were the only ones there because it was a cold, windy day. We spent 9 - 10 a.m. in the Lisha Kill. The streams were running too high to cross so we did not stay long. While there, we tallied about 8 chickadees (2 were hand-fed), 1 white-breasted nuthatch, and 1 cardinal (heard). Next we went to Niskayuna Landfill and between 10 and 11 a.m. we saw 1 mourning dove, 2 herring gulls, 1 noisy, dark brown sparrow (unidentified), 35 snow buntings, 1 sparrow hawk, 50 crows, 200 starlings, and 1 house sparrow. The wind was bitter there, too, so we did not look further. However, it was a good outing. --Bob Burnett

(Editor's Note: Bob Burnett very kindly agreed to substitute as leader for this trip in the absence of the scheduled leader.)

TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIRFEBRUARY 27, 1971

On Feb. 27 a small group of Hudson-Mohawk birders met at Tomhannock Reservoir in spite of overcast skies and a light snow. Approaching the reservoir, Monte Gruett and Bill Gorman had a nice look at a sharp-shinned hawk and also saw red-tailed and sparrow hawks. Around the reservoir things were very quiet. Even the chickadees and downy woodpeckers were quiet. Part way around the reservoir we scared up a ruffed grouse, a few brown creepers, and red-breasted nuthatch. We heard a pileated woodpecker drumming and a red-tailed hawk calling. We trudged a few hundred yards into a pine grove on the crusted snow, but found little but the wind blowing gently through the pines. Near the northeast end of the reservoir we found two robins, some tree sparrows, a song sparrow and a hairy woodpecker. We checked a flock of horned larks for a possible longspur, but didn't find any. The western shore of the reservoir was again very quiet. We had a nice look at a pair of golden-crowned kinglets and several of the more common species. Although the weather started out poorly and the birds were quiet and finches scarce, it ended an enjoyable trip.

--William Gorman

VISCHER-FERRYMARCH 28, 1971

A mild and windless March 28 brought 22 birders to Vischer Ferry to look for ducks. The ponds were still frozen so we visited the river at several places where we saw a horned grebe, golden-eye, common and hooded mergansers, pintail, and wood duck. It was a better day for hawks than ducks. Besides a good view of a red-shouldered hawk perched in a tree over Vischer Ferry ponds, we also spotted 7 hawks (red-tails?) at one time circling high over the ponds. A brief visit to Stony Creek Reservoir which was open only at the north end produced many mallards and blacks and 4 American widgeon. Only one killdeer was seen; and a pileated woodpecker flew over the road near Stony Creek.

--Libby Ellis

MONTEZUMA TRIPAPRIL 3-4, 1971

On April 3, 1971 a small party of eight birders under the able leadership of Walt Sabin, set forth from the capital district for the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge and other points of interest both west and north.

Saturday morning was devoted to watching the flights of thousands of Canada geese in and around Cayuga Lake. At the risk of sounding corny only one word can describe the scene, Unbelievable! For several hours we observed geese rising off the lake and flying into nearby fields to feed. The sky was full of geese; some in traditional V formations, others in straight lines, and still others in confused masses. The normal stillness of the early morning was given over to the cacophony of the honking geese. Then as if in response to some silent alarm clock the geese arose from the cornfields and returned to the lake where they formed a raft extending for some ten miles. Estimates of their numbers ranged from 50,000-90,000 birds.

In the afternoon we journeyed west to the Tonawanda and Oak Orchard Management Areas and the Iroquois Wildlife Refuge where we saw a great profusion of various species of ducks, whistling swans and, of course, thousands of geese. A steady, cold wind and snow showers reminded us that spring was not a foregone conclusion.

Early Sunday we were off on a search for a great horned owl reportedly nesting nearby. Unfortunately the nest was spotted without the accompanying owl. A tour of the Montezuma refuge produced still more ducks and the added side-show of crows harrassing two short-eared owls. Since part of the refuge was still frozen the group decided to head northeast to Derby Hill on the shore of Lake Ontario in hopes of spotting some migrating hawks and eagles. Strong winds were from an unfavorable direction so we headed homeward having spotted some 59 species in the two days.

--William Brooks

SARATOGA AND ROUND LAKES

APRIL 17, 1971

A lovely day this 17th day of April when we met at Round Lake. The ice was about half out and on the edge of it sat about 400 Canada geese. There were also several loons, grebes and mergs. We proceeded to Saratoga Lake where there was much less open water. On our walk out to the point and back we were delighted to see several yellow-bellied sapsuckers at close range. In the course of winding up our trip at Kaydeross Park we saw many more species of water fowl. A total of 45 species was recorded and a group of 19 observed.

--Bob McCullough

HENRY. G. REIST WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

APRIL 25, 1971

It was more like a late March morning than late April when 17 of us toured the Reist Sanctuary looking for signs of spring. Skunk cabbage was beginning to come up and the snow had melted, but both woods and fields had a wintry aspect. Phoebes, ruby-crowned kinglets and sapsuckers were found; song sparrows, field and vesper sparrows were back, and we spotted one bread-winged hawk. Only one warbler species was present; 10 myrtles gave us hope for better things to come. A disappointingly few number of species was recorded, only 30.

--Libby Ellis

* * * * *

SAN FRANCISCO BAY, JANUARY 19, 1971

Douglass M. Allen

Dawn at San Francisco Bay
 Two tankers plunge through foggy seas.
 The first gull sees the spill and flees.
 Soon shores are oil and hay.

Underneath the Golden Gate
 Black gold tides are on the make,
 Sweeping gently sleeping birds,
 Grebes and ducks in flocks and herds.

Oozing oil and petrol blight
 Camouflage an old seal's plight.
 Beneath the grease fish try to flee
 The bleeding bay and scavenged sea.

Wading willets deep in oil --
 The weep of peeps and choir of quacks --
 A sandpiper on poison soil --
 All silenced for the smoke of stacks.

Kingfishers all have been dethroned.
 Sandpipers now will pipe no more.
 And feeding spots have been rezoned.
 Corpses hug the canvas shore.

Below the bridge the sludge of oil
 Perfumes the sunset grave.
 The struggling few give up their toil
 A loon laughs one last rave.

The ducks and grebes are quiet now.
 Father sun has made his bow.
 Mother earth is dark and cold.
 What glitters still is black, black gold.

* * * * *

JOIN THE SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

June 13, Sun.-MOUNT GREYLOCK: an evening trip to a famous mountain top to hear the songs of thrushes and other birds. Bring a snack for supper and plan to stay into evening. Meet at 4 pm. at the corner of Rts. 152 and 4 in Defreestville. Coordinator, Paul Connor, 477-5824.

July 10, Sat.-JENNY LAKE: a summer breeding area harboring hermit thrush, sapsucker, yellow-bellied flycatcher, mourning warbler, etc. For details and directions contact Coordinator, Guy Bartlett, Box 211, RD 2, Corinth, N. Y., Phone 1-654-6396.

Aug. 1, Sun.-BERNIE POND: a new trip to observe resident birds, local fauna, and pond life in this isolated area near Poestenkill. Prepare for a little walking. Meet at 8 am. at the parking lot of Brittonkill Central School at the intersection of Rts. 2 and 278 about 5 miles east of Troy. Coordinator, Doug Norton, 235-0978.

BANDING REPORT

Bob Yunick frequently has articles published by the Eastern Bird Banding Association. In their publications of Jan-Feb, 1971, portions of his summary, "Report of the Banding Activities at Vischer Ferry - Fall 1970", were printed. A few of the highlights taken from the manuscript are:

"Saw-whet Owl - This year's catch of four matches the maximum set in 1968 and indicates this is a flight year for this species.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - An unprecedented 106 captures greatly exceeds last year's record 54 captures. The consistently high numbers all through early September bespeak of a super abundance of this species this year.

Acadian Flycatcher - A first of this rare species at Vischer Ferry, captured on Sep. 26.

Warblers -drastic was the decline of blackpolls from last year's unprecedented take of 77 to only six this year.

Sparrows - The two white-crowned sparrows represent the lowest point so far in a steadily decreasing six-year decline."

(The editor has this interesting manuscript in hand, and would be glad to loan it to anyone wishing to read it in its entirety.)

AN INVITATION

A card received from one of our members is as follows: "We welcome any and all members of the club to visit our Bird and Wildlife museum here on the Mountain Road at Mayfield. We have over 100 mounted specimens of birds and animals, many birds' nests, etc. We are open free to the public. We are licensed by the State and Federal Government. Arthur L. Ginter. Phone - 961-6080."

RARE BIRD ALERT - NEW YORK CITY

When visiting the New York City area, phone (516) 485-2170 for the latest information on rare birds in the area as far south as Brigantine, and including all of Long Island, Westchester County, and a part of Connecticut and northern New Jersey.

A REQUEST

From the American Museum of Natural History - "This summer volunteers from Nova Scotia to South Carolina will band young common and roseate terns with a colored plastic band in addition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band. The plastic band will be placed on the leg opposite the aluminum. Each province and state will use a different color so that observers can recognize birds from different areas. Through observations of these color banded birds we hope to gain information regarding movements of these species. Please watch for color banded terns and send observations to the bander in your area or to:

Miss Helen Hays
Great Gull Island Project
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, N.Y. 10024

CONCERN FOR BALD EAGLES

A Florida newspaper reported the Department of Transportation and the Manatee County Audubon Society working together to locate I-75 far enough from a bald eagle's nest in Manatee Co. so as not to disturb the eagles.

FIELD NOTES

You are urged to send field notes for April and May immediately to Mr. Richard E. Phillon, Edgewood Drive, Averill Park, N. Y., 12018.

NEXT ISSUE

Please submit material for the next issue of FEATHERS by July 1.
(Issue assembled May 23, 1971)

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.: Walton B. Sabin, President; Will Merritt, Jr., Vice-president; Miss Elizabeth Macauley, Treasurer; Mrs. Samuel R. Madison, Secretary.

Address Correction Requested

HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.
MRS. EDWARD KOCH
58 GOODE STREET
BURNT HILLS, NEW YORK 12027

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

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



PUBLISHED BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

AN UNUSUAL SAFARI

Lois Norton

On Sunday, June 20th, at 3 p.m., several baby black ducks came through the yard of my home, 239 6th Ave., Troy, N. Y. I live three blocks from the park where I think the ducklings were hatched, and four blocks east of the Hudson River where I figured they were headed. When I got to within 10 or 15 feet of a duck it would run for cover and stop peeping, so I decided to wait until morning to find and follow them again.

At 4:30 a.m. Monday I heard the loud peeps, dressed quickly and ran to the alley to see if I could find out how they knew their way to the river. In a few minutes my question was answered. The mother duck circled about 25 or 30 feet over the alley, quacking softly. By 6 a.m. and daylight, she had guided them two blocks west, not in a tight group but stretched all up and down the alley. There seemed to be about ten ducklings. By 6:30 a.m. they had all taken cover again under hedges, periwinkle, etc., and quieted right down, for the mother duck had stopped circling.

Monday and Tuesday evening I "glasses" (through binoculars) the river looking for a sign that my little friends had reached their destination. No luck, but at 5 a.m. Wednesday morning two more young ducks peeped through my gangway (area between two houses), also heading west.

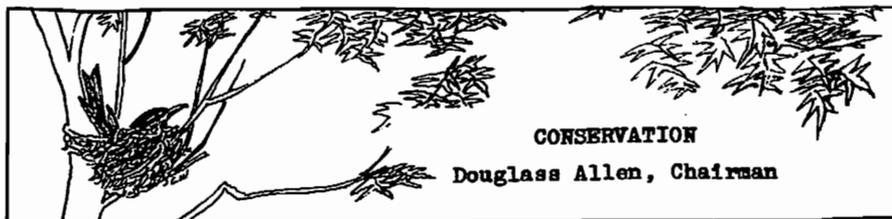
In the ten years I have lived in this house, we have witnessed this safari four times, the saddest being when some school boys chased them in the street. The young ducks scurried for protective covering which was a sewer opening and they all (six that year) fell in.

Maybe some year I'll be able to track them the whole distance and find out how many ducklings survived the traffic, the children, and the cats and reached the Hudson River, but I must be careful. People don't take kindly to a woman sneaking through their yards at 4:30 in the morning!

* * * * *

AN UNUSUAL TITLE

Among the exhibits announced by the Schenectady Museum in June 1971 is the following: "THE EGG AND EYE: New York State birds identified by nests and eggs."



"This Land Is Our Land..."

My wife Judy and I recently returned from one of the most interesting, enjoyable, and educational weeks we have ever spent - at the Audubon Ecology Workshop in Greenwich, Connecticut. The enthusiasm and dedication of the staff of 12 was contagious; we 35 "campers" left with the conviction that the diversity, beauty, and vitality of our threatened environment is indeed worth preserving and perhaps can be if we are able to enroll many, many others in the struggle for its protection.

Raymond Dasman in his book, A Different Kind of Country, has said that ecology is an uncomfortable discipline for it will probably put you out of step with your fellow man. I hope that through the coming year as I write this conservation column you will "walk out of step" with me - that maybe together we can create a multiplier effect and arouse others and ourselves to constructive environmental action. Concern is not enough.

Conservation in a sense goes beyond ecology. It demands the understanding of ecological interrelationships, but it also requires a questioning of our priorities, our values. This questioning can be very threatening, for conservation values do not always coincide with the materialistic values upon which our national economy and our personal economies are based. We must try to understand these difficult and untidy questions of alleged and, I think, real conflict. For our answers and sacrifices will mean the difference between wildlands and zoos, if not life and death.

Returning home is always, in part, a return to the problems of home and community. We returned home from the ecology workshop with some knowledge of what was and wasn't being done in a few other communities. And we returned home to the somber reality of our local land abuse and, even worse, the apathy of the public to this abuse.

I think we as human beings are diminished by the desecration of some of the most beautiful and interesting land areas in our upstate area. As conservationists we not only love the land and its creatures, but we must see the unwise, the unbeautiful, and the unnecessary. Scores of local areas cry out for protection. Let's take a look at just two of them.

Ten thousand years ago the glacial ice retreated from our area leaving a huge lake, Lake Albany. In time most of the water also disappeared, leaving many different clays, silts, and sands. These sands were blowing sand dunes before being reclaimed by vegetation. One such reclaimed area was, only one-hundred and twenty years ago, a climax forest of white pine so high and dense that

chroniclers of that period said that it "closed above the road and shut out the sunlight."

Reckless cutting and forest fires have destroyed the beautiful white pine forest and the rich humus that once covered this sandy region between Albany and Schenectady that we now call Karner Pine Barrens. Even so, the area retains great geological interest and natural beauty that is not matched by any other such area in upstate New York. Its habitat today is in many ways similar to that of Long Island's.

Yesteryear's destruction of this area hardly compares to today's. Witness the industrial parks and housing developments going up throughout this historic area. Join our field trip to Karner Pine Barrens this fall and then - or better now - write, call, and call again your local assemblyman and state senator. And have your friends do the same. We need to preserve a part of our history in the land, and not just in books.

Poentic Marsh, lying partly within the city of Schenectady and partly in the town of Rotterdam, is another area insufficiently appreciated for its human and its wildlife values. General Electric continues to fill in the area as a sanitary landfill despite the efforts of local high school students and others to save it. Not only is it the largest marsh in Schenectady County, supporting abundant wildlife, but it is an oasis for the human mind and spirit in a desert of concrete and asphalt. There is no other natural wild area within walking distance for high school students like Mike DiGeorgio (who started the drive to save the wetlands).

I know from personal experience that Poentic Marsh has had a salutary effect on the character and values of many high school students who have found there something more than the neon lights and noise of city streets. Some of these youngsters are now studying ecology, conservation, and wildlife art at college or expect to do so when they graduate from high school.

And this is not just an isolated phenomenon. In a letter to Donald E. Craig, Vice President and General Manager of L.S.T.G. Division of General Electric, Rudolph H. Stone, now editor of "Bird News of Western Massachusetts", writes the following:

"Dear Sir:

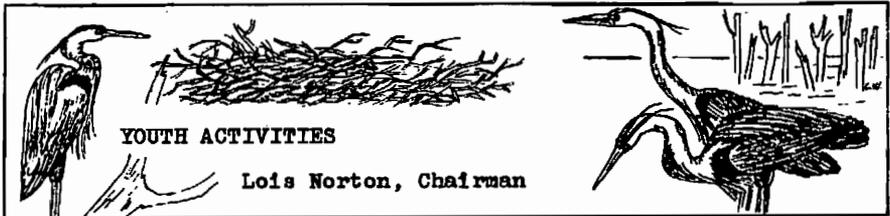
I was born, reared and schooled in Schenectady, but I am now transplanted to Holyoke, Mass., where I work in the Holyoke Museum as Curator of Natural History. I learned my wildlife sciences at Cornell University in the class of 1944.

During the 1940's and 1950's I made many visits by bicycle to the Poentic Marshes to study the wildlife there, especially birds. It was the closest and most accessible good marsh area handy to the city, with the exception of Collins Lake, which is now largely spoiled...."

Spoiled. Not only for ourselves but others. Others who will probably never learn to love the land and its creatures as did Curator Rudolph Stone and student Mike DiGeorgio and so many others....because we have denied them the chance to grow up in an area where such natural things exist.

Unless...through example and instruction we share our faith in the land by inviting friends on our field trips and to our Audubon Wildlife Film Series and to our sanctuary; and by speaking out and alerting others in our garden clubs, sportsmen's clubs, civic and professional organizations to our role as stewards of our environment; and by becoming members of such national conservation organizations as the Audubon Society and the Nature Conservancy; and by flooding our local newspapers and political representatives with letters of information and concern. This land is our land and we are a minority with a mission.

* * * * *

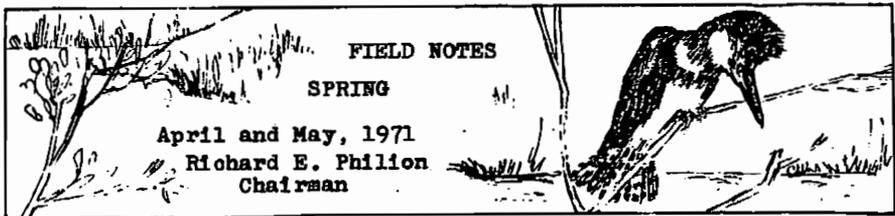


The activities of the Youth Committee grow more interesting and more complex. This spring Shirley Todd and Mary Becker used bird and wildflower slides frequently for both school children and adult organizations.

When the Rensselaer County 4-H asked us to speak to 600 sixth graders at a Field Day on May 20th we really pooled our resources. Nancy Brown, Kay Bordt and I set up stations beside a lovely farm pond at Carroll's Grove. We showed stuffed birds and nests (kindness of Linda Renzi and Bill Gorman). We showed charts (Kay's) and charcoal drawings (Nancy's) and in the background orioles, warblers and song sparrows further spiked the children's interest. I think many future bird watchers were born that day.

This school year we spoke to about 2500 children and 300 adults.

* * * * *



The cold weather trend that established itself over the winter period continued into April and May as well. April 1st was the coldest day of the month with the early morning temperature of 19°. The 3rd thru the 11th was an unusually cold period with temperatures well below average and snow accumulation of several inches on the 7th. The cold spell was momentarily broken by two days of warm weather which climaxed to give a 77° reading on April 13th, the high for the month. By April 15th the mean temper-

ature was again several degrees below normal and the trend continued to the end of the month. Total precipitation was 2.0 inches (Albany Airport). Up to 10 inches of snow fell April 24th in some sections of Rensselaer county. With this kind of beginning it is not surprising that warblers went unreported in the month of April except for myrtles on the 25th and Louisiana waterthrushes on April 30th. Many ponds and lakes were only partially open by the end of the month.

May seemed especially wet because rain fell on thirteen different days, yet the total precipitation of 3.48 inches was normal for the month. Less sunshine than normal coupled with more below normal temperature delayed foliage a week to ten days.

The net effect of this early spring weather was predictable. Late May departure dates of winter transients from the region were noted for American widgeon, common goldeneye, bufflehead, oldsquaw, rough-legged hawk, winter wren, rusty blackbird and pine grosbeak. Warbler migration was spotty in early May, consequently most species were not observed until May 12 or later.

Rare species for the period include a white-fronted goose, Brewster's warbler, Oregon junco, and a clay-colored sparrow. Neither the white-fronted goose nor the clay-colored sparrow have been reported in Region 8 in modern times. Both were observed for a short time by area birders via the Rare Bird Alert.

Observers: DA-D. Allen; GB-G. Bartlett; T&AB-T. & A. Brown; HB-H. Bundy; L&VB-L&V. Burland; JC-J. Cook; LE-L. Ellis; MF-M. French; BSH-B. S. Havens; WJ-W. Joynson; MK-M. Kent; CK-C. Ketcham; MM-M. Mickle; RM-R. McCullough; REP-R. E. Phillion; WBS-W. B. Sabin; BRS-B. R. Seguin; S&RS-S&R. Silverman; ST-S. Todd; RPY-R. P. Yunick; S,B,H-B. R. Seguin, G. Bartlett and either B. S. Havens or C. W. Huntley; ADBC-Allan Devoe Bird Club field trip; HMBC-Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club field trip; mob-many observers.

Abbreviations: BCM-Black Creek Marsh; Ca-Castleton; GR-Greenville; IL-Indian Ladder; HR-Hudson River; LG-Lake George; L-Loock; M'ville-Mariaville; MR-Mohawk River; Nisk-Niskayuna; NWW-Niskayuna Wide Waters; PV-Parkwood Village; PM-Poentic Marsh; Reist S-Henry G. Reist Memorial Sanctuary; RL-Round Lake; SL-Saratoga Lake; SE Mont Co-Southeast Montgomery County; SS-Stockport Station Marsh; SCR-Stony Creek Reservoir; VFWM-Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area; VM-Vosburgh Marsh; WR-Watervliet Reservoir; WM-West Mountain; fsm-first spring migrants; lsm-last spring migrants.

LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon: lsm May 19 Queechy Lake (George Woodward).
 Red-throated Loon: none reported this spring.
 Red-necked Grebe: fsm 1 Apr 17 RL and SL (HMBC); max 9 Apr 25
 RL and SL (WBS); lsm 1 May 1 WR (DA), 6 May 1 RL and SL (GB,BRS).
 Horned Grebe: max 50 May 1 SL (B,S,H); lsm May 8 SL (BRS).
 Double-crested Cormorant: two reports - 1 Apr 25 RL (WBS); 1 May
 18 HR (T&AB,MM).
 Green Heron: fsm Apr 14 VFWM (RPY).
 Common Egret: two reports - both May 15; 1 NWW and VFWM (HMBC); 1
 VM (HMBC).
 Snowy Egret: 1 May 15 Ca (JC,L&VB).
 American Bittern: fsm 1 Apr 11 Duaneburg - "standing on snow"(DA).
 Least Bittern: 1 May 15 VM (HMBC)

Mute Swan: 2 Apr 12 thru period VFWM (HB, ST, mob); part of this time three birds were present.

Canada Goose: migrating thru period; max 700 Apr 17 NWW, RL, SL (HMBC).

Blue Goose: 1 Apr 14 SCR (DA).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 1 Apr 24-25 SL (BRS, mob); all pertinent field marks noted - first modern record for Region 8.

Snow Goose: fsm 5 Apr 5 NWW (BRS); max 25 Apr 9 SS (REP); lsm 2 May 1 SL (GB, BRS).

Gadwall: one report only - 2 Apr 7 MR (DA).

Pintail: lsm 2 May 8 VFWM (HMBC); max 100 Apr 7 VFWM (DA).

American Widgeon: lsm 1 May 23 VFWM (BRS); max 15 Apr 7 VFWM (DA).

Shoveler: three reports - 3 Apr 17 VFWM (RP); 2 Apr 24 Lake Lonely outlet (BRS); 3 May 11 VFWM (BRS).

Red-head: three reports - 1 Apr 17 SL (HMBC); 5 Apr 25 and 2 May 1 SCR (S,B,H).

Ring-necked Duck: lsm May 8 VFWM (HMBC); max 30 Apr 14 SCR (DA).

Canvasback: fsm 7 Apr 5 LG (BRS); lsm 2 May 17 SL (BSH,BRS).

Scaup Duck: max 100 greater Apr 17 SL (HMBC); lsm 50 lesser May 8 SL (S,B,H).

Common Goldeneye: lsm 3 May 15 SL (S,B,H); max 40 Apr 17 SL (HMBC).

Bufflehead: lsm 1 May 15 SL (HMBC); max 24 Apr 17 SL (HMBC).

Oldsquaw: fsm 10 Apr 10 LK 7 MR (BRS); lsm 1 May 15 SL (S,B,H); max 15 Apr 14 SCR (DA).

White-winged Scoter: lsm and max 15 May 8 SL (S,B,H).

Surf Scoter: one report - 2 May 2 LK 7 MR (S,B,H).

No Common Scoters or Ruddy Ducks reported this period.

Common Merganser: lsm 2 May 15 LK 7 MR (S,B,H).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 10 Apr 17 RL and SL (HMBC); lsm 8 May 15 LK 7 MR and 6 SL (HMBC).

HAWKS - OWLS

Cooper's Hawk: 1 Apr 25 SL (S,B,H); 2 May 15 IL (HMBC).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 14 Apr 4 SE Mont Co (DA).

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 4 May 1 SL (GB,BRS).

Broad-winged Hawk: max 17 May 2 M'ville (DA).

Rough-legged Hawk: max 9 Apr 4 SE Mont Co (DA); lsm 1 May 15 M'dale (HMBC).

Bald Eagle: 2 ad May 4 Conklingville Dam (fide MK).

Eagle (sp?): 1 May 1 Alplaus (HB,WJ).

Marsh Hawk: max 3 Apr 4 SE Mont Co (DA).

Osprey: fsm 1 Apr 9 Stuyvesant (REP); max 11 May 6 VFWM (BRS).

Sparrow Hawk: max 21 Apr 4 SE Mont Co (DA).

Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasant: reported quite generally; 1 Grouse Apr 17 and 25 Reist S (DA,HMBC).

Bobwhite: 1 May 15 M'dale (HMBC).

Wild Turkey: 1 May 15 GR (CK).

Virginia Rail and Sora: 3 each May 15 BCM (HMBC).

Common Gallinule: 2 May 2 BCM (BRS); 4 May 15 BCM (HMBC).

Semipalmated Plover: one report - 7 May 15 PM (fide DA).

Upland Plover: fsm 1 Apr 25 Craig School Nisk (S,B,H).

Spotted Sandpiper: fsm Apr 18 (S,B,H).

Solitary Sandpiper: fsm 1 Apr 17 SL (S,B,H); max 2 May 1 PM (DA); lsm 1 May 23 BCM (WBS).

Greater Yellowlegs: fsm 4 Apr 15 BCM (S,B,H); lsm 1 May 23 BCM (WBS).

Lesser Yellowlegs: fsm 1 May 2 BCM (S,B,H); lsm 1 May 23 BCM(WBS).

Pectoral Sandpiper: no reports.

Least Sandpiper: two reports - both May 15; 1 NWW and 1 Vly Res. (HMBC).

Dunlin: two reports - both May 15; 4 NWW; 1 BCM (HMBC).
 Semipalmated Sandpiper: two reports - 1 May 15 BCM (HMBC); 3 May 23 BCM (WBS).
 Great Black-backed Gull: lsm 1 Apr 4 LK 7 (B,S,H).
 Herring Gull: several reports May 15 HR (HMBC).
 Ring-billed Gull: thru period (S,B,H).
 Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Apr 17 MR L7 (HB,WJ); 1 May 15 NWW (HMBC).
 Common Tern: 1 May 23 NWW (BRS).
 Black Tern: 6 May 8 and 5 May 15 RL (S,B,H).
 Mourning Dove: thru period.
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 May 25 Chatham (MM).
 Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Apr 17 VFWM (S,B,H).
 Screech Owl: 1 Apr 21 WM (MK); 2 May 15 (HMBC).
 Great-horned Owl: several reports from Apr 30 to May 15 throughout region.
 Barred Owl: 1 May 15 (ADEC).

GOATSUCKERS - STARLING

Whip-poor-will: fsm May 15 SCR (HMBC).
 Common Nighthawk: fsm 1 May 20 Burden Lake (REP); several May 21 PV (BRS).
 Chimney Swift: fsm May 2 (L&VB).
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird: fsm 1 May 13 Rotterdam (DA); max 5 May 23 IL (HMBC).
 Belted Kingfisher: 3 Apr 17 SL and RL (RM); thru period.
 Pileated Woodpecker: "very few thru period" (S,B,H).
 Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 May 15 M'dale (HMBC); 1 May 29 Rotterdam (M. DeGeorgio).
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Apr 11 Loudonville (MF); migration peak noted Apr 17.
 Eastern Kingbird: fsm 1 May 8 M'ville (DA).
 Great-crested Flycatcher: 1 May 12 PV (S,B,H).
 Eastern Phoebe: fsm 1 Apr 10 M'dale (DA).
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two reports - 1 May 23 Loudonville (MF) and VFWM (BRS).
 Traill's Flycatcher: fsm 1 May 3 Columbia Co. (S&RS); next report 1 May 16 VFWM (RPY).
 Least Flycatcher: fsm 1 May 5 VFWM (DA); common mid-May thru Jun.
 Eastern Wood Pewee: fsm 1 May 13 Glenville (MM).
 Olive-sided Flycatcher: none reported.
 Horned Lark: thru period.
 Tree Swallow: fsm 8 Apr 3 Schoharie Creek (DA); max 50 May 8 VFWM (HMBC).
 Bank Swallow: fsm 1 Apr 25 VFWM (S,B,H).
 Rough-winged Swallow: fsm 1 May 5 Mill Creek (REP).
 Barn Swallow: fsm Apr 24 SCR (S,B,H).
 Cliff Swallow: fsm 1 Apr 28 VFWM (DA); locally common in Fulton-Montgomery counties.
 Purple Martin: fsm Apr 20 Scotia (RM); half dozen colonies estimated in 11-county area.
 Tufted Titmouse: few reports.
 Red-breasted Nuthatch: several reports in scattered locations; uncommon.
 Brown Creeper: reported over area in usual numbers.
 House Wren: fsm 1 May 5 PM (DA).
 Winter Wren: fsm 1 Apr 17 Reist S (DA); 4 Apr 20 Averill Park (REP); lsm 1 May 15 (HMBC).
 Carolina Wren: 1 Apr 30 So. Bethlehem (WBS); reported as present all winter (WBS).

Long-billed Marsh Wren: fsm 1 May 8 VFWM (RPY); locally common from mid-May thru period.
 Mockingbird: continues to gain in numbers; reported thru period.
 Catbird: fsm 1 May 7 VFWM (DA); many reports May 10 on.
 Brown Thrasher: Apr 17 thru period.
 Wood Thrush: fsm 1 May 2 PV (BRS).
 Hermit Thrush: fsm 1 Apr 12 Nisk (RPY); thru period.
 Swainson's Thrush: fsm 1 May 12 Thatcher Park (DA); 5 groups reported on May 15 (Century Run).
 Gray-cheeked Thrush: fsm 1 May 4 PV (BRS); 1 May 20 Loudonville (MF).
 Veery: fsm 1 Reist S (RPY).
 Eastern Bluebird: reported over scattered locations Apr 1 on.
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 male banded May 7 VFWM (RPY); pair banded May 21 are first Gnatcatchers banded at VFWM in 5 years of spring banding.
 Golden-crowned Kinglet: migration first week in April; 2 groups reporting on May 15 (Century Run).
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr 17 thru period (S,B,H); max 15 May 5 PM (DA).
 Water Pipit: 2 Apr 25 LC (SBH); 12 May 16 M'ville (DA).
 Cedar Waxwing: scarce thru period; fsm May 15 (Century Run).
 Migrant Shrike: 1 Apr 3 VFWM (B,S,H); 1 Apr 4 SE Mont Co. (DA).

VIREOS - WARBLERS:

Vireos: Yellow-throated: fsm 1 May 8 (S,B,H); 1 May 22 VFWM (RPY).
 Solitary: fsm 1 May 3 IL (S,B,H); 1 banded at VFWM is first spring record (RPY).
 Red-eyed: fsm 1 May 12 IL (DA); very scarce, not one banded at VFWM all May (RPY).
 Philadelphia: 3 groups reporting on Century Run.
 Warbling Vireo: fsm 1 May 7 VFWM (BRS); abundant May 15.
 Warblers: Black and White: fsm 1 May 4 Loudonville (MF).
 Worm-eating: May 15 IL (mob).
 Golden-winged: 1 May 15 Tygert Rd. (S,B,H).
 Blue-winged: fsm 1 May 12 M'dale (DA).
 BREWSTER'S: 1 reported at W. Glenville May 16, 18 (LE,DA).
 Tennessee: 1 May 15 Tygert Rd. (S,B,H); 4 May 22 Reist S. (RPY).
 Nashville: several reports, earliest 2 May 12 M'ville (DA).
 Parula: May 15, several reports, scattered areas (HMBC).
 Yellow: fsm two reports - May 6 VFWM (S,B,H) and PM (DA).
 Magnolia: 2 May 12 M'ville (DA).
 Cape May: May 15, several areas (mob).
 Black-throated Blue: fsm 1 May 14 Loudonville (MF).
 Myrtle: many reports; earliest, 10 Apr 25 Reist S. (LE).
 Black-throated Green: fsm 1 May 2 PV (BRS).
 Cerulean: only report May 26 M'ville (DA,HB).
 Blackburnian: earliest, a pair at Thatcher Park on May 12 (DA).
 Chestnut-sided: several reported May 15 from wide-spread areas.
 Bay-breasted: first reports May 15 (HMBC).
 Blackpoll: observed widely May 15 thru period.
 Prairie: fsm 1 May 2 Karner (S,B,H).
 Palm: May 2 - 21 (late) VFWM (DA).
 Ovenbird: fsm 1 May 8 (JC).
 Northern Waterthrush: fsm 1 May 10 M'ville (DA).
 Louisiana Waterthrush: several reports, fsm 2 Apr 30 Alcove Res. and So. Bethlehem (WBS).
 Mourning: 1 May 27 Loudonville (MF).
 Yellowthroat: fsm 2 May 8 Reist S. (RPY).
 Yellow-breasted Chat: several reports, earliest May 12 IL (DA).

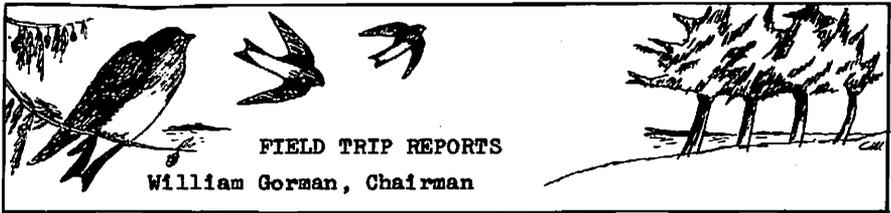
Wilson's: fsm May 15 (HMBC).
 Canada: May 15 (mob) thru period.
 American Redstart: fsm two reports May 14 Reist S (RPY) and Loudonville (MF).

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

Bobolink: fsm 1 May 2 BCM (S,B,H).
 Orchard Oriole: 1 May 15 Ca (JC).
 Baltimore Oriole: fsm May 5 (ADBC).
 Rusty Blackbird: max 20 May 2 VFWM (BRS); lsm 1 May 15 (HMBC).
 Brewer's Blackbird: 1 reported Apr 14 SCR (DA); see FEATHERS, May-June, for full account.
 Brown-headed Cowbird: 1 Apr 1; max 47 Apr 21 WM (MK).
 Scarlet Tanager: May 13 (S&RS).
 Summer Tanager: one report May 21 thru 29 Red Rook (Myra Smilow).
 Cardinal: thru period.
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common May 6 thru period.
 Indigo Bunting: fsm 1 May 14 WM (MK).
 Evening Grosbeak: 24 Apr 5 Averill Park (REP); 2 thru period Jenny Lake (RPY).
 Purple Finch: fsm 2 Apr 18 Loudonville (MF).
 House Finch: 2 reports Apr 12 Loudonville (MF) and Nisk (RPY); total of 8 banded thru period Nisk (RPY).
 Pine Grosbeak: one report - 1 May 15 BCM (B. Hicks).
 Common Redpoll: 1 May 15 (ADBC).
 American Goldfinch: numerous by May 1 (RPY).
 Rufous-sided Towhee: fsm 2 Apr 30 WM (MK).
 Savannah Sparrow: 1 Apr 7 M'ville (DA).
 Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 May 12 M'dale (DA).
 Vesper Sparrow: 3 Apr 1; 9 Apr 30 WM (MK).
 Slate-colored Junco: 15 Apr 1; max 110 Apr 30 WM (MK); several reports to May 15.
OREGON JUNCO: 1 Apr 3 Loudonville (MF).
Tree Sparrow: lsm May 28 (ADBC); 1 banded May 1 VFWM, "a very late date" (RPY).
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 May 28 Sacandaga Res. (DA & mob); also May 30 (S&A Madison).
 Chipping Sparrow: Apr 17 thru period.
 Field Sparrow: 1 Apr 3 Loudonville (MF).
 White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Apr 23 and 30 WM (MK).
 White-throated Sparrow: fsm Apr 4 M'dale (S,B,H).
 Fox Sparrow: 1 Apr 10 M'ville (DA); lsm 4 May 2 Averill Park (RP).
 Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 May 8 HMBC (RPY); one report May 15 (HMBC).
 Swamp Sparrow: Apr 3 - May 31 (S,B,H).
 Song Sparrow: thru period.

* * * * *

You are urged to send field notes for the period June 1 through August 15 to Mr. Richard E. Phillon, Edgewood Drive, Averill Park, N. Y. 12018, immediately at the end of the period.

BIRD BANDINGMAY 8, 1971

Seventy-four people turned out at the Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area on this cold May morning to observe the bird banding by Bob Yunick, Will Merritt and Bob Pantle. Early risers got a close look at a long-billed marsh wren. Other species of interest that were banded during the morning were the yellow warbler, myrtle warbler, yellowthroat, and Lincoln's sparrow. A pair of mute swans had been observed in the area for some time, but only one was seen on this day. Also seen in the area were osprey, great blue heron, and warbling vireos. Only 38 species were recorded, principally due to the combination of high pressure and northerly winds which retarded migration. --Ronald LaForce

INDIAN LADDERMAY 22, 1971

What a beautiful day! The stillness and aroma of a perfectly clear spring day greeted the 15 hikers who, so gently, assaulted Indian Ladder. Half the group continued from the top of the Ladder to the hemlock and pine forest of the Nature Trail and returned to their cars at 2 p.m., very hungry despite dandelion, mustard greens, and wintergreen along the way.

Five hummingbirds and a turkey vulture, 16 species of warblers, and a gnatcatcher were the highlights of the 61 species seen. Scarlet tanagers, rose-breasted grosbeaks, and indigo buntings dazzled us with their colors; they were often so close we didn't need binoculars.

And hiking down the Ladder at 1:30 p.m. there was the Swainson's thrush with a prominent eye ring on his left side and none on his right - or was the hunger getting to us by then? Next year we should all bring picnic lunches! --Douglass Allen

* * * * *

Be sure to attend the next field trip. It is Aug. 1, Sun.- BERNIE POND: a new trip to observe resident birds, local fauna, and pond life in this isolated area near Poestenkill. Prepare for a little walking. Meet at 8 am. at the parking lot of Brittonkill Central School at the intersection of Rts. 2 and 278 about 5 miles east of Troy. Coordinator, Doug Norton, 235-0978.



ALTAMONT HENSLOW'S SPARROWS NATIONALLY FAMOUS

Some time ago the editor sent information regarding the location of Henslow's sparrows near Altamont to "Birding", a publication of the American Birding Association. The primary purpose of this organization is to assist members in adding to their Life Lists. The Henslow's sparrow was listed as one of the "20 Most Wanted Species", and a request was made for descriptions of their breeding locations. Since the publication of this data, the editor had a letter from a birder in New Jersey requesting further information, some people in a car from Conn. were observed searching the specified area, presumably for this species, and a short time ago the following letter was received:

"Your notes in Birding on the Henslow's Sparrow led us to our first observation of this bird just south of Altamont yesterday (Wed., June 2).

We had spent five hours there Tuesday afternoon, had had one bird at considerable distance, facing us only, and although it was singing, the song didn't reach us well. We later heard two in different fields but couldn't locate them.

And so we set the alarm clock and went back at sunrise Wed. morning (we were staying near Albany). After a half hour's patient birding one came up to a perch on a weed about 45 feet from us, sat facing us for a while, turned its back to us for a while and sang continuously. It was a perfect observation of a new bird. On this bird the olive coloration was most distinct on the nape of the neck. After studying it for a while, it occurred to me to look at my watch, it was 6:30, and the bird remained three more minutes before it flew to another perch about a hundred feet away and dropped into the grasses. It must have sung for us at least five minutes. The location was on Brandle Road, just around the first curve.

May we thank you for sharing your expertise with the rest of us birders.

Russell E. Wilson
Arcadia, Calif. 91006"

It is always gratifying to learn of someone's success in finding a Life Bird. Brandle Road is a side road turning off of Rt. 156 a short distance south of Altamont, and the Henslow's sparrow is often found in the fields near the intersection.

PEREGRINE FALCON BREEDING PROGRAM

Cornell University has undertaken an experimental program of breeding peregrine falcons in captivity. The project is headed

by Dr. Tom J. Cade, a world-renowned authority on peregrines. Funds are being sought from the public to help underwrite this program, which will last at least five years. The peregrine has been eliminated as a breeding bird in the Northeast, probably the victim of persistent pesticides. Part of the breeding program consists of keeping the birds on a pesticide-free diet, something that no longer exists in the wild for them. Individuals interested in supporting this program should write to Dr. Cade at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

--Submitted by Libby Ellis, with the source being the "Massachusetts Audubon News"

(Issue assembled July 11, 1971)

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.: Walton B. Sabin, President; Will Merritt, Jr., Vice-president; Miss Elizabeth Macauley, Treasurer; Mrs. Samuel R. Madison, Secretary.

Address Correction Requested

HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.
MRS. EDWARD KOCH
58 GOODE STREET
BURNT HILLS, NEW YORK 12027

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

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. B'kell:
3 Okara Drive, Apt. 1
Schenectady, N. Y. 12303



PUBLISHED BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

CENTURY RUN -- IOWA STYLE

Peter P. Wickham

After reading the account of the H.M.B.C. 1971 Century Run, I've been inspired to relate to you accounts of another Century Run out here in sun-drenched, windswept Iowa. You may find the similarities and contrasts a little surprising, or at least, interesting.

The Century Run, to me, is one of the most enjoyable tests of birding knowledge of an area and of identification ability. It also involves, at its best, an exquisite sense of timing (knowing when you're wasting time, for example) and superior planning and organization of the day in advance. So, I continued to try Century Runs after moving here, although I have not been involved with any local bird clubs, and have only slowly learned about birds and locales in this section of eastern Iowa, toward the center of the state. I have also had my Run on the same day HMBC does and have kept you all in mind.

This year I chose a different plan of attack from that which I tried in 1970. The new plan was, after the usual desultory search for owls, to start out at a good local marsh (Muskrat Slough), then visit an excellent wooded area a few miles away, Kepler Palisades Park, and wind up in an open rural area with several small ponds, woodlots and a large reservoir (the North Liberty area). In 1970 I had started in the latter area but didn't get away to a sizable woods until about noon. This seemed a bit unfortunate in retrospect, so I changed the whole order of the trip.

Spring this year was again lovely so that by the week of the Century Run the foliage was already well out. The last frost was over early in May so that the cold weather was gone. Also, we had had a long spell of beautiful clear days so I didn't worry like I usually do about bad weather or being too early for a major wave. A week prior to the big effort, Mark Satterthwaite, Louise's cousin and a former fellow birder, called from Madison, Wisconsin, to inquire about joining forces. On the big day, Mark, his wife, Carol, reluctantly arose with me at about 3:30 and a half-hour later we began our search. Louise would join us later at Palisades.

Since I was first down to eat, I naturally stepped outside for a moment. Thus our first two species were easy, as hundreds of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were passing overhead unseen in the night, readily detected by their call-notes. After a hasty breakfast, we jumped into the car with our gear and set out. A brief search for owls, none pre-located, fortuitously yielded a Screech Owl; we missed the larger ones, the Barred and Great Horned, which seem more common here than in much of the Albany-Schenectady area. We were delayed reaching Muskrat Slough by daybreak, arriving there by about 5:30.

We were immediately greeted by a Yellow-Headed Blackbird "singing" its off-key parody of a Red-Wing's song. Our hopes for rails, bitterns, snipe, etc., were foiled (only a Sora and the ubiquitous Coot from that group) but with diligent work, when we left two hours later, we had 58 species. Although this was promising, I was a little disappointed, primarily because we had missed the aforementioned marsh species, which we would not get elsewhere. Our duck list seemed low with 8 species; remember, though, that this is Iowa.

Next was Palisades-Kepler Park which is a park of several hundred acres on the edge of the Cedar River. It contains a magnificent mature deciduous forest clothing a series of bluffs and ravines. Louise joined us here after leaving Mark and Nancy with a neighbor.

Although it was hard work with the trees in leaf and the weather already getting warm, we began getting a good variety of warbler species. When we reached the river, we readily picked up Cliff Swallows, Rough-winged Swallows, both of whom nest in sizable colonies in the cliffs on the other side. The Cliff Swallows were picking up mud from the shore on our side and carrying it to the other to construct their nests. By 10:30 we were reluctantly ready to leave the park. We were an hour behind schedule, but we did have 97 species. Best among those noted at Palisades were 17 species of warblers including the Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Bay-breasted, and Worm-eating as well as four species of vireos, the best of which was a late non-singing Solitary Vireo. Other good species we found included a Blacked-Billed Cuckoo and an Olive-sided Flycatcher.

Still an hour behind schedule, we left the woods to find that the cool morning had vanished and the heat of the open country enveloped us as if we were in the midst of a blast furnace. By the time we reached North Liberty, 40 minutes later, the temperatures in the shade reached into the 90's. Enroute, our 98th species was, oddly enough, a crow! We reached 100 about 11:15 by finding a Field Sparrow and a Phoebe (a local nester here) and soon after picked up a Lesser Scaup, Bluebird and Tree Swallow in a part of the reservoir with numerous dead trees standing in the water--reminiscent of Vischer Ponds. After that birds seemed harder to find. We finally quit at about 3 P.M., almost wholly exhausted from continuous sun and wind. A weary but exhausted quartet had counted 113 species. Of these I saw or unmistakably heard 111.

The list that follows shows how similar the bird life of this region is to that of the HMBC vicinity. While we have a few western species which are locally more common (Western Meadowlark, Dickcissel), the general list is remarkably close to that of upstate N.Y. Some southern species such as the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cerulean Warbler, and Tufted Titmouse are also more common; on the other hand, northern species such as the Veery, White-throated Sparrow and the Purple Finch do not apparently nest around here and are much harder to find in mid-May. Despite the lack of many nesting warblers (only the Yellow, Yellow-throat, Ovenbird, Redstart, and Cerulean breed widely around here), members of the family are surprisingly common in migration. Perhaps this is due to a concentration effect as the woodlots are few and scattered. In upstate N.Y. I had the feeling that I was seeing primarily nesting individuals; here there is no question that virtually all seen are migrants. As to other families, shorebirds and ducks are more common and more easily found here in May, I believe. Oddly enough, members of the sparrow family here seem much more locally distributed and

less common than they were in the east.

What about next year? Just like some of you, now that the fatigue has worn off, I'm already planning the next one. With proper planning, maybe I could hit 130...I wonder what would happen if....?!!

The list: Pie-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, Green Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Pheasant, Sora, Coot, Semi-palmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Kingbird, Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Horned Lark, Tree, Bank, Barn, Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Bluebird, Blue-gray gnatcatcher, Starling, Yellow-throated, Solitary, Red-eyed, and Warbling Vireos, Black and White, Worm-eating, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Green Warblers, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Baybreasted, Black-poll Warblers, Ovenbird, Yellow-throat, and Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark (both Eastern and Western), Yellow-headed Blackbird, Redwing, Baltimore Oriole, Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah, Grasshopper, Henslow's, Vesper, Chipping, Field, Swamp, and Song Sparrows.

* * * * *



MT. GREYLOCK

JUNE 13, 1971

A small group of observers spent four evening hours (5:30 to 9:30) on this Massachusetts peak. On the ascent, we traveled the New Ashford route with a 7 mile drive to the summit. We stopped every mile or so; most of the way passed through hardwood forest, with spruce becoming increasingly common as we moved upwards. Wood thrushes, veeries, various warblers, solitary vireos, white-throated sparrows, and other birds were singing on the slopes, and, as we neared the summit, one or two Swainson's Thrushes were heard.

We remained on the summit where there are open rocky areas and stunted balsam fir, spruce, and deciduous trees, from before sunset until late twilight. This limited upper area was marred

for us by much human activity (we had thought Sunday evening would be quiet and peaceful!). However, several black-poll warblers were singing, while myrtle warblers, purple finches, juncos (nest with young found), and white-throated sparrows were conspicuous.

After sunset we listened in vain for Bicknell's gray-cheeked thrush in the immediate area of the summit, although we could hear Swainson's thrushes in the woods below. The distinctive "reedy" song of a Bicknell's, very different from that of the Swainson's, was finally heard in near total darkness between 9:05 and 9:15, but in dense dwarf coniferous forest a little below the summit where the road forks. Also, distinctive call-notes, probably of the Bicknell's, were heard at this time, including a harsh nighthawk-like call, and a more mellow double note.

--Paul Connor

JENNY LAKE

JULY 10, 1971

"Come and go anytime, and don't expect too many unusuals" was the word. Sixteen hikers, or boaters, showed up during the morning. Three went with Bill Huntley from 9:30 to noon to hike the Mesacosa and Black Pond roads. Seven circled Jenny Lake in two rowboats with Rudd Stone and Dave Peterson of Holyoke, Massachusetts, from 10 until noon. Barry Havens went with three from 11 until early afternoon up Davignon Road. The highlight of the day was the clamor and excitement of several sap-suckers when Bob Marx played a record of an owl call. Fifty-four species were listed including several broadwing hawks, a bluebird, and 9 warblers.

--Guy Bartlett

BERNIE POND

AUGUST 1, 1971

There is always an element of suspense involved in visiting a new area for birding-- will it be productive or barren? This question was in all our minds at the Bernie Pond trip on August 1st. A rather sparse group of six people assembled in the Tamarac High School parking lot that Saturday morning to set out for the site. Within ten minutes of driving, the group was surprised by a detour that led us to the Whitechurch Road. This detour led to the high point of our trip: as the cars stopped to observe three green herons, a red-headed woodpecker landed on a telephone pole not fifteen feet from our group. Everyone observed him at close range for several minutes before he flew away.

Bernie Pond itself lies at the top of a $2\frac{1}{2}$ mile uphill dirt road. It can be reached only after a walk of a few hundred feet from the road, and is best observed by circumambulating on a rather crudely blazed path. The thick deciduous woods at once produced a ruffed grouse, wood and hermit thrushes, veeries, and several red-eyed vireos. Members of the warbler family seen were black and white warblers and yellow-throats. Through numerous clearings on the shoreline, the pond was in view from the woods. Three varieties from the swallow family, barn, tree, and rough-winged, circled above the white water lilies. Our group sighted and heard a red-shouldered hawk several times during the field trip, circling above the woods on the pond's far end.

By noon the haze that had marked the morning gave way to sun and blue skies. Six adventurers, willing to take a chance on a new birding area, were amply rewarded with a total of 50 species and the second local sighting of a red-headed woodpecker reported this summer.

--Doug Norton

KARNER PINE BARRENSSEPTEMBER 11, 1971

Three club members plus the coordinator and his wife comprised a very small turnout for this late summer field trip. Weather was hazy with occasional sun and very light breezes. Temperature was about 65° as we left for the rendezvous point about 7:15 A.M., meeting three other observers at 7:30.

Many individual birds were moving about, but the species count was quite low with only 21 tallied. We passed up a ravine usually covered on this trip since we did not know the owners of the property. This ravine might have given us some more interesting birds.

The old tower on the Karner Road (just off of the improved road 155) received the attention of 7 or 8 flickers. These birds fooled us at first by their flight behavior, fluttering over to the tower from nearby trees and not bounding in flight as is usual for flickers. They were apparently finding some type of food on the tower. We also witnessed blue jays giving a sparrow hawk a hard time in this same tower area. Old State Road and Silver Road were also cruised. Many waxwings were active and more flickers. These and goldfinches were the most common birds of the trip. A female scarlet tanager was of interest to a birder who hadn't seen one before. The call of a lone bluebird was heard among the waxwings but we didn't spot it. There were no starlings near, so we were sure it wasn't a mimic call. A red-tailed hawk was also seen and on the return trip one killdeer and one mourning dove rounded out a small list for a rather uneventful morning afield.

It may well be that the Barrens, already seriously encroached upon by suburban development, will be completely destroyed as a natural area in the next decade or sooner. Famous among bird and nature lovers as a home for the prairie warbler, it will be sad when the pine barrens are no more.

-- Lee Thomas

(Note: On above trip, the meeting place description in the 1971 field trip pamphlet is a bit out dated. The Star Supermarket is now an IGA and part of a small newly-developed shopping center. More prominent nearby is a large A&P on the corner of the intersection of Routes 20 and 155.)

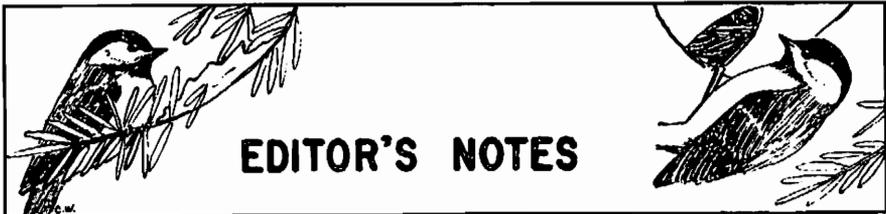
FALL BIRD BANDING--VISCHERS FERRYSEPTEMBER 18, 1971

A record days catch of 380 birds was the treat for all who attended the fall bird banding trip. Forty species were represented (also a record) including counts such as 37 red-eyed vireos, 14 magnolia warblers, 31 ruby-throated hummingbirds, 21 rose-breasted grosbeaks, 37 blackpoll warblers and 28 Swain-

son's thrushes. Some of the more subtle differences in the Blackburnian, blackpoll and Cape May warblers were readily differentiated when the birds could be observed in the hand. Other particularly interesting species were a winter wren, several Philadelphia and warbling vireos, as well as black-and-white, Tennessee, Nashville, and Wilson's warblers. This certainly represented a fine morning for all birders.

--Ronald P. Laforce

* * * * *



VIEW FROM THE NEST EDGE--An editorial comment

I often wonder what a fledging thinks to himself as he teeters on the edge of the nest before his first flight. I imagine he thinks how great it will be, swooping around where all the other birds can see him. But what does he think when he looks down? He can see himself doing a one-point landing on his head, looking stupid in the process.

It seems to me that I'm doing a little teetering myself right now. I've never edited anything before; I'm a relatively new birder, and an extremely new member of HMBC. Well, you gotta try the ol' wings sometime! So here I am, at the edge of the nest, looking around at all this brand new world to conquer; or at least explore.

I must readily admit, I'd like to leave my own peculiar mark on this new world. Thus I'll probably be taking some sort of view from the nest in each edition, pondering over some phrase of a naturalist, perhaps, or calling your attention to some development that affects the bird world in some way. I will encourage others to put in their own views from the nest, or sky, or limb, or whatever.

I'd like to encourage some budding Teale, Peterson, Muir, Thoreau, or Burroughs to sketch some thoughts or pen a poem or two. If a time ever needed naturalist-philosophers, it is this one. I truly believe that we cannot look at birding only in terms of numbers of species on the Century Run, or how many "life birds" on our personal lists. True, these are an integral part of birding and very necessary (not to say fun), but if there are to be birds to watch, there are other considerations we must look at: (1) A renewed effort to swing our individual and collective weights in the continuing conservation crisis, to keep ourselves informed, vigilant, and active in what ever ways we can. (2) Renewing and expanding our efforts to educate people about birding. Have you seen much change in people's attitudes when you first mention your avocation is birding? I haven't. People who laugh at birders aren't going to care much if the brown pelican disappears or the last peregrine falcon crashes to earth. (3) Cooperating more and more with other like groups to save what habitats we have left

as urban and suburban America continue to swallow up more green country. The enemies of nature are often huge and powerful with money and political clout. The all-to-often splintered forces of conservation and renewal are sometimes more involved in jousting at each other instead of each giving their particular strength to one another in unity without, necessarily, uniformity. I belong to all three local bird clubs plus one conservation club and find that each has something different to offer.

These are just a few things we might stop and think about. Well, by now you have probably decided whether this fledgling has taken a nose-dive or is fluttering bravely (albeit uncertainly) from branch to branch. Whichever, I invite you all to partake of continuing to make Feathers the best of the best. Anyone who would like to work on any part of the process is welcome to call me at 765-4702. I'd especially like to hear constructive criticisms, suggestions, and ideas on how we can improve our magazine.

Yours 'til the last bird sings,

Douglas H. Merchant

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

December 19, Sunday--SCHENECTADY COUNT: our annual count covering all points within a 15 mile diameter circle, center at Lydius Street and Lone Pine Road in Guilderland, to include Schenectady, Scotia, part of Albany, Mohawk River from Lock 8 to Mohawk View, Indian Ladder, Watervliet Reservoir. Coordinator: Will Merritt, 371-5787.

December 26, Sunday--SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY COUNT: our annual count covering all points within a 15 mile diameter circle, center in Best, at intersection of Highway 152 and Best-Luther Road, to include part of Troy, Poestenkill, Averill Park, Nassau, and a narrow belt of Albany County west of Hudson River. Coordinator: Monte Gruett, 477-6246.

January 2, Sunday--TROY COUNT: our annual count covering all points within a 15 mile diameter circle, center at River and Turner Roads in Schaghticoke. Coordinators: Fran Adams, 235-1091 and Lois Norton, 235-0978.

Please sign up for one or more of these Christmas counts. We need full-time or part-time field observers as well as feeder-watchers. Sign up at the December meeting or phone the coordinator.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM

On Wednesday, January 5, 1972, the film, "This Earth, This Realm, This England," narrated by Chess Lyons will be shown at 8 p.m. in the Niskayuna High School, Balltown Road, Schenectady, New York. It is a colorful panorama of the countryside of England and Wales where naturalist Lyons explores the chalk and turf downs of Sussex and Kent, the heathlands of Dartmoor and Exmoor, Peter Scott's Slimbridge, to see the largest and most varied collection of waterfowl in the world, Ramsey Island, and famed Farne Islands, rich with nesting birds. A treat for those with an urge to travel.

COMBINED ISSUE

Due to circumstances beyond our control, this edition will serve as the combined #5 and #6 issues. This covers the September-October issue and the usual November-December one.

DECEMBER MEETING

December meeting will be held on Monday, December 13, at 8 P.M., in the Community Room of the National Commercial Bank and Trust Company ("The Bank") on the corner of Routes 20 and 155. The program will consist of a film, "Marshland Is Not Wasteland" which will deal with the oft-thought idea that swamps and bogs and such are useful only for dumps or filling in for development. It promises to be a good program so come and see it if you possibly can.

EDITOR:

Mr. Douglas Merchant
R.D. 2
Voorheesville,
New York 12186

CIRCULATION:

Mrs. Edward Koch
58 Goode Street
Burnt Hills, New York
12027

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

CO-EDITOR: Robert P. Yunick

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.: Walton B. Sabin, President; Will
Merritt, Jr., Vice-President; Miss Elizabeth Macauley, Treas-
urer; Mrs. Samuel R. Madison, Secretary.

Address Correction Requested

HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.
MRS. EDWARD KOCH
58 GOODE STREET
BURNT HILLS, NEW YORK 12027

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