



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol. 17 No. 1

January, 1955

SCHENECTADY AND TROY CHRISTMAS COUNTS BOTH SET RECORDS FOR NUMBER OF SPECIES

**Wood Duck, Brown-capped Chickadee, and Red Crossbill New for Schenectady —
Canvas-back and Brown-capped among Ten New for Troy — Dickcissel One
of Amsterdam's Features — 42 Kinds at Schenectady, 38 at Troy, 58 in All**

A Wood Duck, a Brown-capped Chickadee, and a flock of 14 Red Crossbills were new species on SBC's 26th Schenectady Christmas Count on December 26. There were 44 species -- two more than the previous record -- and the total count was 6955 individuals, including 4425 Starlings.

A flock of 25 Canvas-backs was the outstanding record on SBC's seventh Troy Christmas Count. Other new species for that area were Red-breasted Merganser, Coot, Flicker, Horned Lark, Brown-capped Chickadee, Cedar Waxwing, Gray Shrike, Evening Grosbeak, and Lapland Longspur. There were 38 species -- a new high -- and 3230 individuals, on January 2.

A Dickcissel featured the Amsterdam list of 16 species. A Cowbird, a Cardinal, and a Purple Finch were other species that did not appear on the Schenectady or Troy lists.

Schenectady now has 83 species on its composite list, and two subspecies. Troy has 55 species. Combining the lists, 89 species and two subspecies have been listed.

Schenectady High-lights

Almost as interesting as the species recorded were those that were missed on the Schenectady count -- there were no Kinglets, Purple Finches, Horned Larks, Black Ducks or Mergansers. The lack of snow, the minimum of open water, the mild temperature and gentle wind all had their effects. Some groups found the birds simply not in their areas in numbers; others reported birds more common than usual.

Thirty-one observers covered the Schenectady area in nine parties, spending 62 party-hours afield (45 on foot and 17 by car), and going 268 party-miles (58 on foot, 210 by car).

In addition to the 44 species of December 26, there were also records during the week of another Wood Duck, at Water-vliet Reservoir; another Brown-capped Chickadee, at a Colonial feeder; a Cardinal near Rosendale Road; a Killdeer at Collins Lake; and two Baltimore Orioles, one at Mrs. Grace's feeder, Slingerlands, and the other in Schenectady.

TABLE I -- SCHENECTADY, TROY, AMSTERDAM and GALLUPVILLE
CHRISTMAS COUNTS

A - Schenectady: 44 species, 6955 individuals
 B - Troy: 38 3230
 C - Amsterdam: 16 232
 D - Gallupville: 6 58

	A	B	C	D		A	B	C	D
Great Blue Heron	2				Black-capped Chickadee	443	97	12	9
Mallard	1	96			Brown-capped Chickadee	1	1		
Black Duck		104	7		White-breasted Nuthatch	48	5	8	4
Wood Duck	1				Red-breasted Nuthatch	68	2		
Canvas-back		25			Brown Creeper	5	2		
American Golden-eye		97			American Robin	4			
American Merganser		260			Eastern Bluebird	2			
Red-breasted Merganser		5			Golden-crowned Kinglet		1		
Cooper's Hawk	1	2			Cedar Waxwing	1	22		
Red-tailed Hawk	6				Gray Shrike	3	1		
Red-shouldered Hawk	2				Common Starling	4425	592	30	
Bald Eagle	1				House Sparrow	552	284	75	30
Marsh Hawk	6	1			Red-winged Blackbird	5		1	
Sparrow Hawk	8	3			Brown-headed Cowbird			1	
Ruffed Grouse	6				Cardinal			1	
Ring-necked Pheasant	24	2			Dickcissel			1	
American Coot		1			Evening Grosbeak	1	32	60	9
Herring Gull	5	153			Purple Finch			1	
Ring-billed Gull	1	31			Pine Grosbeak	25	93		
Mourning Dove	20				Common Redpoll	1	16		
Horned Owl	3				Pine Siskin	15			
Belted Kingfisher		1			American Goldfinch	69	12	2	
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	1			Red Crossbill	14			
Pileated Woodpecker	2				White-winged Crossbill	20			
Hairy Woodpecker	32	3	4		Vesper Sparrow	1			
Downy Woodpecker	44	5	8	2	Slate-colored Junco	41	9	1	
Horned Lark		50			American Tree Sparrow	620	147	25	
Blue Jay	64	56	2	4	Song Sparrow	10	2		
American Crow	351	71			Lapland Longspur		2		

Schenectady - Same overall area as in other recent years; Dec. 26, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear to slightly cloudy; temperature 10° to 40°; wind southeast, 0 to 15 m.p.h.; no snow in most areas; ground surface frozen; minimum of open water, small streams open. Thirty-one observers in 9 parties, plus feeding stations. Total party-hours, 62 (45 on foot, 17 by car); total party-miles, 268 (58 on foot, 210 by car).

Troy - Same overall area as in other recent years; Jan. 2, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Rain and dense fog in morning, foggy until late afternoon. Temperature 34° to 40°; wind west, 0 to 10 m.p.h. Trace of snow on ground; streams open; ponds mostly iced. Twenty-one observers in 7 parties; total party-hours 41 (18 on foot, 23 by car); total party-miles, 318 (20 on foot, 298 by car).

Amsterdam - Dec. 26; feeding-station records by and reported to Mrs. Gerald Fitzgerald. Weather like that of Schenectady.

Gallupville - Dec. 26; feeding-station records by Gladys M. Zimmer. Weather like that of Schenectady.

TABLE II -- Schenectady Christmas Count, December 26, 1954

Group	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
Species	44	13	14	10	25	19	12	20	13	24	8
Count	6955	3908	700	165	579	346	153	214	197	666	28
Great Blue Heron	2							2			
Mallard	1				1						
Wood Duck	1								1		
Cooper's Hawk	1									1	
Red-tailed Hawk	6				4	1	1				
Red-shouldered Hawk	2				1					1	
Bald Eagle	1							1			
Marsh Hawk	6		1		3						2
Sparrow Hawk	8		1		3			2			2
Ruffed Grouse	6					3					2
Ring-necked Pheasant	24	4			4	9		3	3	1	1
Herring Gull	5							3	2		
Ring-billed Gull	1							1			
Mourning Dove	20					20					
Horned Owl	3									2	
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1				1						
Pileated Woodpecker	2					1					1
Hairy Woodpecker	32	2	2	2	5	5	1	1	5	5	2
Downy Woodpecker	44	5	1	4	7	11	1	2	1	8	6
Blue Jay	64	6	11	4	15	11			2	15	
American Crow	351	5	29	2	130	14		3	4	164	
Black-capped Chickadee	443	43	20	17	62	73	39	30	23	132	5
Brown-capped Chickadee	1									1	
White-breasted Nuthatch	48	4	4	1	5	9	4	2		16	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	68				1	1				66	
Brown Creeper	5				2			1	1	1	
American Robin	4							3		1	
Eastern Bluebird	2				2						
Cedar Waxwing	1							1			
Gray Shrike	3	1			1					1	
Common Starling	4425	3540	513	95	60	20	5	16	60	110	6
House Sparrow	552	115	42	36	70	65	60	26	50	84	4
Red-winged Blackbird	5								5		
Evening Grosbeak	1						1				
Pine Grosbeak	25	1			13					11	
Common Redpoll	1					1					
Pine Siskin	15		15								
American Goldfinch	69		25	1	14	4		2		23	
Red Crossbill	14									14	
White-winged Crossbill	20				20						
Vesper Sparrow	1							1			
Slate-colored Junco	41		5		8	27	1				
American Tree Sparrow	620	181	31	3	145	67	38	112	40	3	
Song Sparrow	10	1			2	4	1	2			

New species: Wood Duck, Brown-capped Chickadee, Red Crossbill.

New maximum counts: Great Blue Heron 2 (1); Marsh Hawk 6(3); Hairy Woodpecker 32 (29); Black-capped Chickadee 443 (376); Red-breasted Nuthatch 68 (12); Common Starling, 4425 (3966); Pine Grosbeak 25 (5); White-winged Crossbill 20 (2).

Maximum counts tied: Red-tailed Hawk, 6; Sparrow Hawk, 8; Horned Owl, 3; Gray Shrike, 3.

TABLE III -- Troy Christmas Count January 2, 1955

Group	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
Species	38	9	18	17	18	19	11	7
Count	3230	201	269	1363	428	592	285	92
Mallard	96		1	50	*	20	25	
Black Duck	1047	2	5	600	40	350	50	
Canvas-back	25						25	
American Golden-eye	97		1	96				
American Merganser	260			160	*		100	
Red-breasted Merganser	5		5					
Cooper's Hawk	2		2					
Marsh Hawk	1		1					
Sparrow Hawk	3		1			2		
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	1				1		
American Coot	1				1			
Herring Gull	153		12	100	1	40		
Ring-billed Gull	31			23		8		
Belted Kingfisher	1					1		
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1				1			
Hairy Woodpecker	3			1	1	1		
Downy Woodpecker	5		1	1	1	1		1
Horned Lark	50					50		
Blue Jay	56	1	9	10	21	7	2	6
American Crow	71	3	10	25	11	12	10	
Black-capped Chickadee	97	1	12	11	7	12	3	51
Brown-capped Chickadee	1			1				
White-breasted Nuthatch	5	1		3		1		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2							2
Brown Creeper	2					2		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1							1
Cedar Waxwing	22			22				
Gray Shrike	1				1			
Common Starling	592	130	50	150	206	50	6	
House Sparrow	284	60	50	80	69	20	5	
Evening Grosbeak	32		2	30				
Pine Grosbeak	93				8		55	30
Common Redpoll	16				16			
American Goldfinch	12		11					1
Slate-colored Junco	9	2	3				4	
American Tree Sparrow	147		93		42	12		
Song Sparrow	2				2			
Lapland Longspur	2					2		

* Indicates species seen by Group 4, but presumptive duplication with Group 3

New species: Canvas-back, Red-breasted Merganser, American Coot, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Horned Lark, Brown-capped Chickadee, Cedar Waxwing, Gray Shrike, Evening Grosbeak, Lapland Longspur.

New high counts: Cooper's Hawk 2 (1); Blue Jay 56 (41); Common Starling, 592 (217); House Sparrow 284 (133); Pine Grosbeak 93 (9); Common Redpoll: 16 (12); Tree Sparrow 147 (134).

Maximum counts tied: Marsh Hawk 1; Sparrow Hawk 3; Belted Kingfisher 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 5.

FEATHERS is published monthly by
SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.

Editor: Guy Bartlett, 1053 Parkwood Blvd.

Circulation: Mabel Barnes, 114 McClellan St.

*Viola Mabb, Treasurer, 1624 Becker Street

Annual Membership Dues: Sustaining, \$6; Active, \$3; Associate, \$2; Junior, \$1



Schenectady observers and their areas were:

Group I - Vischers Ferry and ponds, area north of Mohawk River; 6 party-hours (2 afoot, 4 by car); 39 party-miles (2 afoot, 37 by car; Alice Abel, Alice Holmes, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Nelle G. Van Vorst.

Group II - Albany Airport, Six-mile Waterworks, State Farm Road, and connecting areas; two parties, 13 party-hours (7½ afoot, 5½ by car); 48 party-miles (9 afoot, 39 by car); Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Malone, Pauline Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Byron T. Hipple, Jr.

Group III - Central Park, Parkview Cemetery, Balltown Road, Municipal Golf Course; 4 party-hours, 4 miles afoot; Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Eddy, Charles Green, Viola Mabb, Gloria Meader, Stephanie Podrazik.

Group IV - Thacher Park, Altamont, Voorheesville, Meadowdale; 9 party-hours (6 afoot, 3 by car); 65 party-miles (10 afoot, 55 by car); Lucille Grace, Samuel R. Madison, James Merritt, Leon A. Wiard.

Group V - Rosendale Road, Niskayuna, Wide Waters, Lock 7 to Mohawk View; 9 party-hours (8 afoot, 1 by car); 38 party-miles (8 afoot, 30 by car); Dr. Malcolm E. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Eitelman, Robert Yunick.

Group VI - Rosendale Road, River Road; 3 hours, 6 miles afoot; P. Schuyler Miller.

Group VII - Rice Road, River Road, Poentic Marsh, Gordon Road, Lock 8, Putnam Road; 5 hours (4 afoot, 1 by car); 10 miles (4 afoot, 6 by car); G. Malcolm Andrews.

Group VIII - Collins Park, Sunnyside Dump, Sunnyside Road, Collins Lake, Riverside Avenue, Mohawk River to Lock 8; 5 hours afoot, 5 miles; Donald Tucker.

Group IX - Watervliet Reservoir and adjoining areas; 8 hours; 50 miles (9 afoot, 41 by car); 5 hours afoot, 4 by car; Guy Bartlett (compiler).

Group X - Independent feeding-station and short-hike records; Mildred D. Crary (Vale Cemetery), Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Brockway, B. D. Miller.

Troy High-lights

There have been SBC Christmas Counts in the Troy area in 1947 and 1949 and on -- 1948 was cancelled out by the heavy rains and washed-out roads. In previous years there were two parties in the most recent years, and before that only one party each year.

This year's count was made by seven parties, with much better territorial coverage. But the fog did not help.

Troy, incidentally, now has a half dozen species never on the Schenectady list: Common Loon, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvas-back, Greater Scaup, and Hooded Merganser.

Troy observers and their areas were:

Group I - Troy to Raymerstown via Tamarack Swamps; Mr. and Mrs. Francis T. Worrall.

Group II - Highlands north of Troy to Tomhannock; Brother Austin, Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Newman.

Group III - Hudson River valley, Stillwater to Waterford; Dr. Allen H. Benton, Samuel R. Madison, Leon A. Wiard.

Group IV - Highlands west of Hudson River and north of Mohawk River; James Merritt, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Foote.

Group V - Hudson River, Troy to Waterford, and Mohawk River, mouth to Mohawk View, and territory west of Hudson and south of Mohawk rivers; Esly Hallenbeck, Walter E. Kaskan, Guy Bartlett.

Group VI - West side of Tomhannock Reservoir; Mr. and Mrs. Paul O'Meara.

Group VII - East side of Tomhannock Reservoir; Mr. and Mrs. Herman C. Loeffler, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Malone, Mr. (and Mrs.) Byron T. Hipple, Jr. (compiler).

BRIEFING THE RECORD

Dr. Allen H. Benton, Records Committee Chairman

November was slightly warmer and wetter than usual, with practically all of the precipitation coming in the form of rain. The first part of the month was cool, but an unusually warm period near the end of the month brought the average to above the normal.

For the birders, November was the most exciting month of the year thus far. About 60 species were recorded, including at least a half-dozen which must be considered unusual for this area and season.

Loons were present on Saratoga Lake on Nov. 14 (SBC) and 28 (EHallenbeck). Horned and Pied-billed Grebes were also seen on both these dates, with 36 Horned Nov. 14. Sam Madison reported a Great Blue Heron near the Rip Van Winkle bridge on Nov. 29; and an American Bittern was seen at Crescent Reservoir (WFoote) Nov. 6 and one was found in Schenectady Nov. 15 (as reported in the Schenectady Union-Star and then seen by NVVorst).

The waterfowl migration has been good. Fourteen species were recorded in November, nine of them in the SBC Round-Saratoga Lake trip of Nov. 14. Records of special interest include: one American Brant, Saratoga Lake, Nov. 28 (EH); 6 Baldpates, Crescent Reservoir, Nov. 6 (WF); 2 Old-squaws, 4 White-winged Scoters, Saratoga Lake, Nov. 14 (SBC); 9 White-winged Scoters, Saratoga Lake, Nov. 28 (EH); two Hooded Mergansers, Saratoga Lake, Nov. 28 (EH).

Hawks reported include Cooper's, Loudonville, Nov. 7 (MFrench); and Red-tailed, Scotia, Nov. 5 (EH). Coots were seen at Crescent Nov. 6 (WF) and at Collins Lake Nov. 22 (EH). A late Killdeer at Saratoga Lake Nov. 14 (SBC) was the only shorebird. Besides the usual herring and Ring-billed Gulls, a single Bonoparte's was seen by the SBC group

on Nov. 14, and a Great Black-backed Gull at Stockport Station Nov. 10 (SM). A Snowy Owl was seen at Rensselaer Nov. 14 by Rev. and Mrs. Carlyle Adams (reported by LStoner). No other owls have been reported. The SBC trip of Nov. 14 recorded a single Belted Kingfisher. A Pileated Woodpecker was seen at Loudonville Nov. 1 (MF).

A Brown-capped Chickadee was found in a flock of Black-caps at Rensselaerville, near Lake Lyosotis, on Nov. 6 (ERobinson). Red-breasted Nuthatches were present most of the month at Schenectady, (HEddy, GMeader) and at Slingerlands (LGrace).

Late Robins on Nov. 5 at Scotia (EH) and Nov. 22 at Schenectady (HE), and a dilatory Myrtle Warbler at Delmar Nov. 19 (LWard) provided unusual November records. Three species of blackbirds also lingered well into the month. Red-wings were reported at Loudonville Nov. 4 (MF) and Collins Lake Nov. 2 (EH). A single Rusty Blackbird appeared at Loudonville Nov. 29 (MF), and on that same day a Grackle was seen at Delmar (LW).

There are more exciting records to come! On Nov. 26 a Cardinal was seen at the home of Mrs. LeRoy Mason in Scotia (reported by AHeitkamp). Evening Grosbeaks continue to appear everywhere, and were reported from Schenectady Nov. 6 (5)(HE); Loudonville Nov. 8, 8-10 (MF); Gallupville Nov. 11, 2 (GZimmer). Purple Finches were last seen at Slingerlands Nov. 18 (LG). Pine Grosbeaks in flocks up to 30 have been reported from Rensselaerville Nov. 3 (ER); Loudonville Nov. 7 and 8 (MF); Saratoga Lake Nov. 14 (SBC) and 28 (EH); and Scotia Nov. 15 and 16 (EH). The first Redpolls of the year, about 50, appeared at Delmar Nov. 22 (LW). Pine Siskins were seen near Albany Nov. 25 (ABenton), and Goldfinches were reported several times. Juncos were seen Nov. 16 at Scotia and Nov. 22 at Collins Lake (EH); until Nov. 18 at Schenectady (HE), and until Nov. 28 at Loudonville (MF). Tree Sparrows were first observed Nov. 3 (MF) and have since been seen frequently. A White-throated Sparrow on Nov. 18 and a Fox Sparrow on Nov. 4 were reported from Schenectady (HE). Song Sparrows were reported by several observers.

It appears to be a good season for winter finches. Members who maintain feeding stations should watch for these birds, and especially for Brown-capped Chickadees, which appear to be present in some numbers.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Dr. Roy E. Hunt and Pauline Baker, Co-chairmen

NISKAYUNA WIDE WATERS

October 3

There were a half dozen participants in the trip of October 3 along the Mohawk. It was hazy, there was a breeze, and the temperature was 65°. Thirty-four species were noted:

Great Blue Heron, 4; American Egret, 1; Mallard, 6; Black Duck, 20; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Florida Gallinule, 1; Killdeer, 5; Herring Gull, 10.

Mourning Dove, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 5; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 2; American Crow, 10; Black-capped Chickadee, 10;

White-breasted Nuthatch, 3, Catbird, 10; Robin, 2.

Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 15; Starling, 20; Red-eyed Vireo, 2; Magnolia Warbler, 3; Black-poll Warbler, 10; Common Yellow-throat, 2; Red-winged Blackbird.

Purple Finch, 6; American Goldfinch, 15; Savannah Sparrow, 3; Field Sparrow, 1; White-crowned Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 5; Song Sparrow, 15 -- Stephen C. Fordham

MEADOWDALE MARSHES

October 17

There were more hunters and bird-watchers than birds -- ducks, anyway -- on the October 17 field trip to Meadowdale Marshes. On arrival there the five SBC members found nearly twice that many hunters, also without too much luck so far as ducks were concerned.

Only four ducks, Blacks, were seen, but the total species were twenty-nine:

Black Duck, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Virginia Rail, 1; Killdeer, 1.

Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 2; Crow, 200; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Robin, 8; Bluebird, 8.

Starling, Myrtle Warbler, 10; Black-poll Warbler, 1; Palm Warbler, 1; Meadowlark, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 100; Rusty Blackbird, 1.

Goldfinch, 12; Savannah Sparrow, 2; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 6; Field Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 20; Song Sparrow, 10. -- Leon A. Wiard

CRESCENT RESERVOIR

December 5

It was a cold and windy day on December 5, and much of the new Crescent Reservoir was frozen. The only open water was near the dam, not far from Vischers Ferry village. Seven observers noted 30 Black Ducks, 20 Mallards, and a Great Blue Heron. Even the song birds were rare: a Blue Jay, 3 Crows, and a dozen Tree Sparrows.

As it was still early, the group decided to go on to Saratoga Lake. There we had better luck: 6 Canvas-backs, 90 Lesser Scaup, 200 American Golden-eyes, 12 White-winged Scoters; 6 Ruddy Ducks, 50 American Mergansers, 16 Herring Gulls, 50 Horned Grebes, and one Red-necked Grebe, as well as 6 Pine Grosbeaks. The Red-necked Grebe was the thrill of the trip. He was with two Horned Grebes and could be easily compared as to size and color. It was a cold trip, but rewarding, with 17 species -- the Starling the 17th. There was also an unidentified hawk, probably Marsh.

-- Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Foote

PERMISSION GRANTED

Through the efforts of Tim O'Meara, permission has been obtained from Mr. Dennisen, Superintendent of the Water Department, for SBC members to visit restricted Colonie (Crescent) Reservoir. The only requirement is that Mr. Ordie Shippee, caretaker, be notified. He lives in Vischers Ferry and his telephone is Schenectady 7-4863.

To reach the new reservoir, go north 3/4 of a mile from Vischers Ferry corners, bearing right at the fork. About a half mile east on this road is the reservoir sign, at an inconspicuous crossroad which should be followed for several hundred yards off to the left.

-- Dr. Roy E. Hunt



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.17 No.2

February, 1955

QUEER WINTER ?

Beatrice Sullivan

A queer sort of winter, isn't it? Hasn't been much good for birding, or has it? Well, let's listen a bit to reports from here and there.

There were those two Baltimore Orioles still hovering around a couple of feeding stations up to the 20th of December. And then, through December, January and February there have been those fast-flitting shadows -- the Snow Buntings. Nor were they alone; there were Lapland Longspurs in with them. Why are the Longspurs never seen by themselves? Nice research problem, if you can take it.

From a feeding station in Colonie comes a report of a Brown-capped Chickadee, a rather rare visitor from the north. Others, too, have been seen among the Black-capped and in the latter's usual haunts.

And from no farther away than Collins Lake in Scotia there is news of two Carolina Wrens, an immature White-throated Sparrow, a Brown Thrasher, and a Great Blue Heron -- not so immature, this last; he was described as looking slightly moth-eaten.

Now, it seems, the Cardinals are coming. In addition to the pair known to have nested in Scotia in 1954, there have been reports of them at feeding stations in Schenectady since Nov. 26, and there was a nesting pair in Amsterdam.

Throughout the winter there have been many Pine Grosbeaks and Mrs. Fitzgerald has her usual visiting Evening Grosbeaks -- a mere 50 or 60 at a time. She also has one Dickcissel, two Red-winged Blackbirds, and two Cowbirds. Of course those two Cowbirds make a pretty poor showing in comparison with the 24 seen at one feeding station -- that is, if it's numbers you are after.

There have been Red Crossbills, White-winged Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Redpolls; quantities of Red-breasted Nuthatches; a Wood Duck at Collins Lake and another at Water-vliet Reservoir; and a Snowy Owl.

Mrs. Grace has five Bluebirds at her Slingerlands feeder. A Horned Grebe landed exhausted in a Scotia field right after the mid-February cold snap.

Many of these visitors are unusual, but on the other hand there has been no sign of the Purple Finch, which often is so common. Yes, it has been a queer winter, with both its unexpected northerners and its equally unexpected carriers or southerners.

BRIEFING THE RECORD

Dr. Allen H. Benton, Records Committee Chairman

December was a warm month, about three degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation was somewhat higher than usual, with most of it coming in the form of rain. Nearly 2/3 of the precipitation came between the 14th and 18th of the month.

Ornithologically, December was a fairly good month. The reports of the Christmas Counts have already been published (January FEATHERS); and most of those records have been ignored in this report.

The SBC trip of Dec. 5 reported 50 Horned Grebes and one Red-necked Grebe at Saratoga Lake. This group also saw a Great Blue Heron at Crescent Reservoir. A Mute Swan was seen at Saratoga Lake on Dec. 4 (NVVorst), and was reported throughout December. At Crescent Reservoir the December 5 SBC group saw 20 Mallards and 30 Black Ducks. At Saratoga Lake they found Canvas-backs, Lesser Scaup, American Golden-eye, White-winged Scoters, Ruddy Duck, and American Merganser. A Wood Duck was seen at Collins Lake in late December by several members, while one was reported from Watervliet Reservoir on Dec. 27 (EHallenbeck).

Several hawks were seen on the Christmas Counts, but only two were reported elsewhere; a Sharp-shinned seen by the Wiards at Delmar Dec. 2, and a Rough-legged seen Dec. 11 near Scotia (EH). Two Coots, seen at Saratoga Lake on Dec. 31 (NVV) represented an unusual winter record for this species. A Killdeer was seen at Collins Lake on Dec. 24 (RYunick).

Pileated Woodpeckers were seen at Schenectady Dec. 23 (HEddy); Loudonville Dec. 4 (MFrench); and Gallupville (GZimmer). Brown-capped Chickadees continued to appear, with a report for Colonie Dec. 15 (MKrantz) and one on the Schenectady Count (the Troy count was in January). Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen Dec. 28 and 31 at Watervliet Reservoir (EH), and a large flock was seen on the census.

A flock of Cedar Waxwings, finally reaching a total of 50, was seen at Schenectady from Dec. 15 to 20 (EH). Two Meadowlarks, seen at Swaggertown Road Dec. 10 (EH) are our record this winter for the species. A Rusty Blackbird, probably the same one reported in November, was seen at Loudonville Dec. 31 (MF).

Evening Grosbeaks are not abundant, but groups up to 40 were seen at Gallupville (GZ). Pine Grosbeaks were seen at Saratoga Lake Dec. 5 (SBC), Watervliet Reservoir Dec. 29 (EH), and near Amsterdam Dec. 5 (GZ). A few Redpolls were seen (HE), but they were not common this year. A Goldfinch was seen at Schenectady on Dec. 17 (RY), and many were seen by the census group.

FEATHERS is published monthly by
SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.

Editor: Guy Bartlett, 1053 Parkwood Blvd.

Circulation: Mabel Barnes, 114 McClellan St.

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Annual Membership Dues: Sustaining, \$5; Active, \$3; Associate, \$2; Junior, \$1



Juncos were reported from Schenectady (HE) and Loudonville (MF). Tree Sparrows were fairly common. A late White-throated Sparrow was at Loudonville on Dec. 8 (MF), while a late Vesper Sparrow (Christmas Count) and Swamp Sparrow (Dec. 24 at Collins Lake, RY) are additional evidence of the mild weather. Several flocks of Snow Buntings, totalling about 150, were seen near Westerlo on Dec. 16 (GZ).


 NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

FROM THE "WESTPORT"

On August 20, 1954, I took the trip from Albany to Catskill on the excursion boat "Westport." The returns birdwise were not large. The boat turns around for the return trip at about the point where the birding began to be good on the old Stoner Bird Trips, which may account for the small number of egrets. Later in the season it might be better but, because of the limited time (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and territory covered, I doubt that this trip would ever be particularly rewarding ornithologically. The 17 species seen:

Great Blue Heron, 6; American Egret, 5 (one just above and four opposite Catskill); Green Heron, 2; Black-crowned Night Heron, 10; Black Duck, 6; Merganser (sp?), 1 ♀; Marsh Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1 mature; Killdeer, 2; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Sandpiper (Sp?), 12; Herring Gull, 50+; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Tree Swallow, 20+; Barn Swallow, 15-20; Crow, 50+; Red-winged Blackbird, flock 50; Purple Grackle, 4; and Goldfinch, 4.

-- Mabel W. French

SKUNKY

A Troy Road resident was awakened at night in early December by the overpowering odor of skunk in his second-floor bedroom. Thinking that he was sharing his sleeping quarters with a wood pussy he called for reenforcements, and the whole family soon joined in searching the house room by room.

The culprit was not found, but some droplets of the musk were located on the screen of the open bedroom window. After giving the matter considerable thought, the man came up with a plausible explanation.

Skunks are well-known in the area. Furthermore, a Horned Owl had frequently been observed at dusk, flying from a neighboring woods to a perch in a tall tree on the property. Apparently the owl snatched up a skunk from the lawn and the startled animal let loose with a burst of spray just as he was becoming airborne near the window. There is ample evidence that the Horned Owl preys upon skunks. Eaton, for example, mentions the fact in his "Birds of New York," and I have heard reports of these owls reeking of skunk odor when shot. They obviously do not seem to mind the odor to any great degree, especially when food is involved.

Perhaps in some instances they can avoid the spray entirely by seizing and dispatching the skunk from above. At any rate, the Horned Owl seems to be about the only natural enemy of the skunk.

-- Fred Klemm

"TAME" CATBIRD

Last summer I was reclining in a chair on the porch with my eyes closed. Just as I opened them I felt a quick, light pressure on my arm. Then a Catbird whirred literally under my nose. I feel sure its wing brushed my cheek, as well as I could be sure of anything in that startled instant. I did not actually see the bird on my arm, but I felt it as it took off. The fact that I did not feel it when it lit could be explained by the loose sleeve I was wearing.

The bird, I assume the same one, came up on the porch the next day, and went to the corner where I had had some boxes of raspberries. I put a few in a saucer for several days and every one disappeared, although I never caught the bird in the act of taking them. However, from the stains on the paint, I could tell where they had been carried between the spindles of the railing.

-- Mabel W. French

STRANDED GREBE

A Horned Grebe that had landed in a field on the outskirts of Scotia February 9 was, of course, unable to get into flight again since it lacked the open water it needed for a take-off. The bird was recovered by some children of the neighborhood. The landing was just after the newspapers reported that the recent cold snap had finally completely ice-covered Lake Champlain. The grebe may have flown in from such an area.

-- G. B.

WILLIAMSTOWN'S GROSBEAKS

About 20 Evening Grosbeaks appeared at the Williams Inn feeders, Williamstown, Mass., on Dec. 3. From Dec. 4 to 24 there were only a few now and then. On Dec. 25 about 40 appeared suddenly. December ended with about 50 Grosbeaks in Williamstown daily. There were about as many females as males, and no marked, banded or young birds.

January commenced with a permanent winter colony of about 50, strongly concentrated in the Williams Inn and School Street areas. During the first half of the month the number increased slowly and steadily until it reached about 150. The number then remained stationary for a week or so. During the last week of the month the number increased again, so that at the end of January about 200 Grosbeaks were coming daily to the feeders. Males predominated slightly, in a ratio of perhaps three to two. No marked or banded birds were observed.

-- Willis I. Milham

PILEATED, AT HOME

I had suspected from the diggings on the trunk and the chips on the ground that a Pileated Woodpecker had been on the little, partly dead plum tree within 25 feet of our back door. On December 4 our nextdoor neighbor saw the bird on the tree, in the early morning. At 7:30 a.m. on December 23 I saw it there. It was not at the suet or chickadee feeder, but working at the foot of the tree. It remained about three-quarters of an hour.

At least along Bacon Lane, Loudonville, it can probably be said that the Pileated is becoming a "door-yard" bird.

-- Mabel W. French



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.17 No.3

March, 1955

MY BIRDING EXPERIENCES IN THE FAR EAST

James K. Meritt

I recall that it was almost precisely 6 o'clock on the evening of February 20, 1954, when I sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge en route to the Far East. I was supply officer of a U. S. Navy ammunition ship headed for the naval base at Sasebo, in southern Japan. As I looked back late that night I could see the lights of San Francisco in the distance. I did not see land again until March 8, when we passed Torishima, the southernmost island of the Izu group. On March 10 we reached our destination after a calm 19-day voyage covering approximately 6,000 miles.

Being, as I am, much interested in birds, I had previously fortified myself with several publications on Japanese birds. Unfortunately, there is no one handy guide such as is available for the eastern United States. Peterson's recently published A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe is applicable to Japan to some extent, but it was not then available. Uchida's New Illustrations of the Birds of Japan contains many fine plates of Japanese birds, but the text, being in Japanese, was of no assistance to me. However, a fine companion volume was The Birds of Japan by Austin and Kuroda. This work, a bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, lacks photographs, illustrations, and in many cases descriptive details, but there were many helpful notes on migration, ranges, and nesting. And, of course, Alexander's Birds of the Ocean was an essential guide to the particular birds covered therein.

Ship-followers

During the course of our voyage to Japan I was able to spend about an hour a day looking for sea birds. A group of Herring Gulls followed the ship out from San Francisco Bay, but by the morning of the 22nd, when we were some 475 miles off the coast, all had disappeared. I did not see another Gull until we were in Japanese waters. A young Kittiwake was following the ship for several hours on February 21.

The Black-footed Albatross I saw every day of the voyage. I saw only a few of the birds at first, but by February 28, when we were relatively near the birds' breeding grounds in the western Hawaiian Islands, up to a hundred or more would be following the ship, eagerly awaiting the disposal of refuse from the galley. In the central Pacific I also observed a few Laysan Albatrosses, but I never saw more than nine of these birds at one time.

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Early on the morning of March 1, when we were just a few miles east of the International Date Line, the chief boatswain of the ship knocked on my door to tell me of a "goony bird" which had landed on deck. "Goony bird" is a name popularly applied to Albatrosses, and since Albatrosses would almost certainly never land on the ship, my curiosity was much aroused. The object in question proved to be a Red-billed Tropic-bird. I was certain as to identity even though the bird flew off almost as soon as I had spotted it. About an hour later this individual - or another - passed by directly overhead, and the elongated central tail feathers could be readily seen.

I got quite a treat on the morning of March 4. I saw a small silvery-blue "bird" that, because of size, I at once took to be a Petrel of some sort. I thought to myself that with the aid of Alexander's guide I would have no difficulty in identifying this new species. Only when the "bird" hit the water and disappeared did I realize I had seen my first flying fish. On this trip I did see a few real Petrels, by the way, but I did not succeed in further identifying them.

Asian Soil

On the late afternoon of March 9 the shoreline of Kyushu, Japan's southernmost main island, became visible in the distance, and the word quickly spread throughout the ship. I went up on deck to get my first glimpse of Asian soil and was immediately aware of the fact that we were passing through a small loose flock of Shearwaters. These brown and white birds were Streaked, or White-faced, Shearwaters, a species which appears quite commonly throughout the Orient. I was to see them in far greater numbers on several later occasions. With land in sight I expected to see a large number of Gulls, but I saw only four that evening, one adult and three immature Japanese Gulls which were following the ship. Our constant ocean companions, the Black-footed Albatrosses, had by this time deserted us.

We entered Sasebo harbor on the morning of March 10. If there is one time when everyone on board ship is busy, except the supply officer, that time is when entering port. Consequently, I installed myself in as inconspicuous a spot on deck as I could find and looked with fascination at the new sights. A few small boats, so rickety I could not understand what kept them afloat, plied back and forth. Looking at their occupants through my binoculars, I was a bit amused at myself for being somewhat surprised they were Japanese. I noticed that portions of the surrounding hillsides were terraced, a feature for which Japan is, of course, famous. A new bird that morning was the Black-eared Kite, several of which were soaring and flapping over the harbor. This large brownish hawk, popularly called a kite, bears no resemblance whatsoever to the birds we know as kites. In

size, manner of flight, and habits it reminded me of our Turkey Vulture. In Japan the Black-eared Kite performs many scavenger functions normally performed by gulls in other parts of the world. This species was quite common in Sasebo harbor, and it was definitely the most conspicuous.

On March 12 I got two new species. Several Thick-billed Crows were flying back and forth over the harbor. From a distance these birds appeared identical to our own crows, but when seen close at hand, the huge bill was readily apparent. The other common crow of Japan, the Carrion Crow, I never did see, at least to my knowledge. The other new bird was a Slaty-backed Gull, a relatively dark-mantled species that appeared a bit smaller than our own Herring Gull. That was the only individual of this species that I saw in Japan.

On a Bike

On Sunday, March 14, a friend and I rented bicycles and took a ride out into the neighboring countryside. We took along a picnic lunch which we ate along the roadside. On this outing I learned quite a bit about the local birding conditions. First and foremost, I rapidly came to the conclusion that it was virtually impossible to get to the "country" because outside of Sasebo there seemed almost as many houses and people as there were in Sasebo. Secondly, it would be difficult to wander off the road even if you wanted to because of the rice paddies and the heavy brush on the very steep hillsides. These conditions combined to make the country road a very popular place. When I would stop to look at some bird through my binoculars, I would often attract a few neighborhood children, or at least very uncomfortable stares from the less actively inclined adults. I am sure birding with binoculars is a virtually unheard-of hobby among the local populace. The one other item that struck me that day was the scarcity of birds in general. It was the middle of March, and back in my native state of New Jersey Robins were again becoming common lawn birds. Song Sparrows were probably singing from every bush, an indication that a flood of migrants was arriving from the south. In almost a full day of looking on March 14 I saw only nine kinds of land birds. The first was, not unexpectedly, the European Tree Sparrow, which Austin calls by far the commonest bird in Japan. To all intents and purposes these are simply the English Sparrows we have here. The sexes are similar and much like the male English, or House, Sparrow. They sound the same, they have the same habits, and there are almost as many of them. The next bird I saw was a Dusky Thrush, a species which looked and sounded much like our own representative of its genus, the Robin. Another new bird was a House Swallow, which can best be described as a Barn Swallow with white underparts. Three Grey Wagtails, eight Bull-headed Shrikes, four Meadow Buntings, two Japanese Jays, about 40 Oriental Greenfinches, and two Daurian Redstarts rounded out the day's find of small land birds.

Unzen National Park

On the weekend of March 27 I visited a Japanese resort town in Unzen National Park, about 60 miles from Sasebo. Just getting there was, in itself, quite an experience. After a two-hour ride on one of the miniature Japanese trains, I

had another two-hour ride on a crowded bus. Although it was late in the afternoon when I checked in at the Yumei Hotel, I decided I still had time to take a short hike before dark. Several Great Tits and two Varied Tits were birds I had not yet seen in the Sasebo area. A Japanese White-eye was also a new find. I heard quite a few distinctive songs and call notes from the hills above me and the valley below me, but I had not the faintest idea what the birds were.

I was bitterly disappointed to awake the next morning amid a torrential downpour. Late in the morning, however, the rain ceased, and although there was still considerable fog, I went out again for several hours. One of the first species I saw was a Yellow-throated Bunting, a bird whose coloration reminded me of our own Horned Lark. A Brambling and an Oriental Tree Pipit were other new finds. This was the only occasion on which I saw these two birds during my stay in Japan. European Tree Sparrow, Great Tit, Black-eared Kite, Japanese White-eye, Thick-billed Crow, Meadow Bunting, and Oriental Greenfinch were other varieties which I saw that morning. On my return bus ride late that afternoon I saw a small group of White-rumped Swifts, as well as a pair of Wagtails of some variety.

I was out near Sasebo for a couple of hours on the late afternoon of March 29 and again the next day, but there were no new birds among the few species recorded. On Sunday, April 4, I located 11 species in about five hours of hiking. Three Black-faced Buntings and a Long-tailed Tit were the first I had seen. There was an Osprey over the harbor that morning, the only one I saw in Japan.

On April 5 we left Sasebo for several days of exercises in the waters west of Kyushu. Except for a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers, a pair of House Swallows which happened to land on the ship, and a group of some 4,000 Streaked Shearwaters, I was completely at a loss to identify the birds I saw. In this latter category were Petrels, Cormorants, Terns, Sandpipers, and, of all things, three Hawks.

Tokyo Bay

On the morning of April 26 we left Sasebo for the naval base at Yokosuka, in Tokyo Bay. It was a misty, rainy day and most of the time the Kyushu shoreline was just barely visible through the haze off to our left. It was also, strangely enough, a most successful birding day. I saw no less than 16 varieties, but I was able to specifically identify only 10 of these. A few miles past the harbor entrance I happened to see a Lesser Egret flying rather low over the water fairly near the ship. Another new variety was the Brown Booby, several of which were in evidence as we were approaching Van Dieman Straits at the southern tip of Kyushu. Three species of land birds lit on the ship that day, the most unusual of which was the Japanese Nightjar. A pair of these birds, probably migrating from the south, rode with us most of the day. An Ashy Minivet, a gorgeous gray and white bird, seemed quite at home on our radar antenna. A Wagtail of some variety was on deck that morning, but it flew off almost as soon as I had spotted it. Other species recorded on April 26 were largely ones common to Sasebo harbor.

We reached Yokosuka on April 28, and I at once got another

new bird, a group of about 50 Northern Black-headed Gulls. These birds all migrated to the northward before we left the Yokosuka area. Just off Tokyo Bay on May 6 I obtained my record count of Streaked Shearwaters, some 15,000 in all. It was quite a sight to behold.

Fuji Hakone National Park

On May 8 I was able to take my second weekend off. A friend and I went by train and taxi to the Fuji Hakone National Park, about 40 miles south of Yokosuka. We reached our destination late in the evening and there secured lodging at a Japanese-style hotel. Some of the hotels in Japan have beds, and some do not. On this particular occasion we slept on floor mats in a room completely without furniture except for a heating pot. I was out early the next morning but was able to get in only an hour of birding before a heavy downpour forced me to return. I spent several minutes tracking down the source of a loud and beautiful song, and to my surprise I found that it came from a very small white-throated brownish bird. This was one of the Japanese "warblers," but since there are several species almost identical, I did not know which one I was seeing. I also saw a Japanese Jay, my first since March 14, a Bull-headed Shrike, several House Swallows, and, of course, Thick-billed Crows and European Tree Sparrows.

We left Yokosuka on the afternoon of May 10. That evening we had superb views of snow-capped Mount Fuji as the sun was setting behind it. I joined many other camera fans in taking pictures of that famous sight. On May 11, while we were sailing southward off the coast, I was presented with a male Narcissus Flycatcher, a pretty black, white, and yellow bird. One wing had been injured, apparently when the bird struck the ship the evening before. I kept the bird in a cardboard box in my room and released it when next ashore.

On May 11 we entered the harbor at Kobe, in the Inland Sea. Of note that day were six Little Terns, a species virtually identical to our Least Tern. Some authorities regard the two as one species. I was surprised to see a few Black-headed Gulls still present. On May 13 the captain procured a car from a nearby army post, and several of us went on a sightseeing trip to Kyoto, about 30 miles north of Kobe. Kyoto might be termed the Williamsburg of Japan. An ancient capital of the country, it boasts many fine temples and palaces, all dating back to feudalistic days. I saw eight or 10 Skylarks that day, and virtually all were singing on the wing. A nice adult Cattle Egret was also a new find.

I was out all day on Sunday, May 16, along a mountain ridge which overlooked the city of Kobe. The ridge road was apparently not much used, and I was able to do some birding in relative privacy. I found 17 kinds that day, and that was to be my record in Japan. My one new species was the Brown-eared Bulbul, a dark Starling-sized bird that has a call very much like that of our Crested Flycatcher. I saw about 10 in all. Other species noted included 15 Black-eared Kites, an unidentified Kingfisher, a group of 15 Long-tailed Tits, a group of about 8 Ashy Minivets, and a pair of Grey Wagtails apparently near their nest.

On May 18 we were once more at sea, this time headed for Sasebo. I was surprised that morning to receive a call to

see the captain on the bridge. As I went up I was wondering what special problem had arisen, but it did not turn out to be a business call. He pointed out to me a Brown Hawk-owl which had landed on the forward part of the ship. I had not expected to see any Owls in the Orient, let alone 40 miles from land. The bird was generally a dark brown, but the eyes were a piercing yellow. It was, I should say, slightly smaller than a Barn Owl. The bird rode with us all the way to Sasebo, and it disappeared sometime during the night of the 19th. About 10 miles from the entrance to Sasebo harbor the next day I was surprised to see three Pomarine Jaegers. I was quite excited about this find because Austin gives no records either southward or westward of the Tokyo area. This is the only species of Jaeger which occurs in Japan.

We were in Sasebo just a few days before sailing westward on May 28 for the port of Inchon, Korea. In the Yellow Sea on the morning of the 29th I saw several small groups of alcids, but these I was unable to identify. In Inchon harbor late that afternoon I saw two Egrets and a Godwit of some variety. I noticed that no Black-eared Kites were in evidence, a distinct change from the Japanese ports I saw.

Korea's Capital

On May 30 I went on a sightseeing trip with several others to Seoul, Korea's capital. During the course of the 20-mile drive I noticed only a few Skylarks and a pair of plovers of some sort. I expected to see virtually no birds at all in the Korean capital, but there were some enormous, well-kept estate grounds adjoining the Chang Duk palace there. While the others were going through some of the buildings I wandered around these grounds. A new species was a Grey Starling, a bird for which I had looked unsuccessfully in Japan. Yellow legs, a white cheek patch, and some white in the tail are the principal features which differentiate the bird from our Starling. Another new find was the Common Magpie, the same species that occurs in the western United States. House Swallow and European Tree Sparrow were the only other two kinds I identified. I got a glimpse of one bird that I believe was a Green Woodpecker.

Our stay at Inchon was, I am thankful, a short one. We departed on the afternoon of June 1, and the next evening we entered the harbor at Pusan, Korea. We were there only a day, during which time I saw nary a bird. On June 4 we returned to Sasebo.

On June 5 it was announced that we would shortly leave for a secret destination, and everyone was advised to promptly take care of unfinished business on the base. Although officially secret, it was quite widely suspected that the destination was Subic Bay, in the Philippines. I had not prepared myself for that area, and I consequently got off a special air-mail letter to my wife, requesting that she promptly send me a copy of Birds of the Philippines by Jean Delacour and Ernst Mayr. Shortly after we departed on June 9 our Subic Bay destination was announced.

I saw quite a few birds on our four-day trip south, but with the exception of one lone Streaked Shearwater, I drew an absolute blank on identification. For several hours on the late afternoon of June 9 a heron of some sort was follow-

ing the ship. We were well out of sight of land at the time. On June 10 I saw a few shearwaters and petrels. That afternoon a bluish-black robin-sized bird was flying around the ship as if trying to get up enough courage to land. I could find no plate on this bird in Uchida's guide. On the 11th I saw a few more shearwaters and a small group of terns. I did succeed in identifying several hundred flying fish. By early evening the steep cliffs of Formosa were visible in the distance off to our right. On the 12th I saw a Tropicbird, only my second, but I did not know which of the two possible varieties it might be.

Subic Bay

On June 13 we entered Subic Bay. As usual when entering port I was busy looking for birds while nearly everyone else was busy navigating the ship into its proper anchorage. I saw one new species, Braminy Kite, several of which were circling over the harbor in much the manner of Black-eared Kites. The Braminy Kites reminded me very much of our own Bald Eagle; they bore no resemblance whatsoever to the Black-eared Kite. There was none of the latter present in Subic Bay, incidentally.

On June 14 I went over to the naval base on business and took a little extra time to see what I could locate there. A new species was the Phillipine Glossy Starling. A few of these birds, adults apparently, were a glossy blue-black all over and had very conspicuous red eyes. Several others, undoubtedly immatures, were bluish-gray above and streaked below. My only other new find that day was the White-breasted Wood-swallow. I noted two or three of these birds together. In actions and size they reminded me of Purple Martins; in coloration they called to mind somewhat the Slate-colored Junco. The head, throat and upperparts were bluish-gray. The breast and belly were clear white. The bill was blue, and a white rump was conspicuous in flight. I was somewhat surprised to see also several European Tree Sparrows, for I had not been aware of the fact that the Philippines were a part of their range.

I spent part of the afternoon of June 17 at a beach along the northeastern shore of Subic Bay. A nice palm grove was there, and a dirt road in the area was a good birding trail. A new species was Pacific Swallow, a pair of which was at a small pond near the palm grove. These birds were generally bluish above and whitish below, but there was some rust coloration under the chin, and there were a few white spots in the tail. I saw 40 or 50 Crested Mynas that afternoon, a species of meadowlark size and shape. They were completely black with the exception of a Nighthawk-like white wing spot visible only in flight. A Malaysian Fantail was at a swampy area a short distance from the palm grove. This tail-pumping bird was brownish-black above and had a dark-brown chest band. The throat, belly and eye-lines were white. Other species observed included two Thick-billed Crows, four White-breasted Wood-swallows, a Braminy Kite, a small bird that I believe was a Sunbird of some type, and a probable Canegrass Warbler of some variety.

On June 20 I again visited the beach. A new find that day was a White-collared Kingfisher, of which I had superb views. I also saw there two Thick-billed Crows, a Braminy Kite, 15

or so Crested Mynas, and several Pacific Swallows. On the 21st I saw a Black-naped Tern perched on a buoy in the harbor. Just outside the naval base on the 23rd I saw a green parakeet of Sparrow-hawk size in a tree some distance away but I did not feel inclined to tramp through the jungle for a closer view.

On June 29 we were underway for the British colony of Hong Kong. We arrived early on July 1 after an uneventful trip across the South China Sea. Although in Hong Kong almost a week, I was able to get ashore only the afternoon of July 5. The place has to be seen to be believed. It is a city of extreme population density, especially since many refugees driven from China by the communists have taken up residence there. Fabulous bargains in clothing and jewelry could be had. And, of course, it was a photographer's delight. I saw only a Black-eared Kite, an unidentified Myna, and the ever-present European Tree Sparrow.

We were back at Subic Bay July 8. That day I was detached from the ship under orders to report to San Francisco for discharge. On the 9th, at the Sangley Point naval air station, I saw several Zebra Doves, a ridiculously tame species that could almost be touched. I spent July 10 sightseeing in Manila, and had several hours on the 11th in the countryside just outside the naval base. A pair of Java Finches, not natives, were an unexpected find. They have been introduced at Manila and several other areas. I also saw a small group of Chestnut Mannikins, one of the commonest Phillipine birds, and European Tree Sparrow, Zebra Dove, Crested Myna, and Malaysian Fantail.

Guam, Hawaii, and Home

About 8 o'clock on July 11 about 60 of us piled into a Navy transport plane, and before dawn the next morning we were at Guam Island. Because of plane trouble we did not leave there until mid-morning. As soon as it was light I went out. A few unidentified doves and two birds I believe were Micronesian Starlings were the only species I saw. Later that day we landed at Kwajalein Island, some 1200 miles away. I saw there only a small group of what I believe were Crested Mynas, this during a hike of about an hour under a torrid tropical sun.

Shortly after leaving Kwajalein we crossed the International Date Line, and after a flight of about 10 hours we reached Barber's Point in Oahu, Hawaii. Much as I was anxious to get home, I had hoped to spend at least a day or so there, but upon our arrival we were informed that we would depart for Moffett Field, California, in about three hours.

I spent about two of those three hours looking for birds on the naval air-station grounds. A few Asiatic Mynas (native to India) and Brazilian Cardinals were to be seen. English Sparrows and a few of our American Cardinals were in evidence, and I also observed four or five Japanese White-eyes and a few Zebra Doves. All of these birds are introduced species.

At almost precisely midnight on July 12 we landed in California. About two hours later, after a \$15 taxi ride, I was at my apartment near Berkeley. I was glad to be back after having been gone just a week short of five months. My memories of the Orient will, however, last a lifetime.



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.17 No.4

April, 1955

THE VALUE OF A SWAMP

The sponsors of National Wildlife Week have asked us to consider the value of a swamp. This is not as quixotic a notion as, at first thought, it might seem. The scientists who study the relationships of living things, including man, to each other and to their environment, tell us that in nature's design there is no such thing as "waste land." One of the things that makes America a rich and stimulating country, they suggest, is the variety of its land forms. Perhaps we need an Okefenokee and the Dakota potholes as well as the peach orchard and the wheat fields.

As a matter of fact, a swamp is one of nature's most productive kinds of land. The literature and history of America contain many references to the vegetative prolificacy and wildlife abundance of its swamps and marshes. Originally there were some 120 million acres of such "wetlands" in what is now the United States. Fewer than 30 million acres remain that are fit for a mallard to live in. The rest have been drained, poisoned by pollution, or otherwise destroyed by the manipulation of man.

From those "wetlands" came the once great flights of wild fowl that "darkened the sun" and inspired Audubon and other pioneer observers. From the "wetlands" that remain come the flights of wild ducks and geese today, such as they are.

Marsh, swamp, slough and stream-course are havens also for many other kinds of wildlife. A federal biologist named Lee Yeager has figured out that 95 per cent of the annual fur harvest is trapped from the "wetlands." An acre of marsh in Maryland or Louisiana may yield \$25 per year in muskrat pelts -- more than the same acre might yield in farm crops if drained and put to the plow.

A great deal of America's best hunting and fishing is dependent upon, or to be found in, the so-called "wetlands." It is difficult to tie a price tag on outdoor recreation in this day of indoor pressures but, for the record, the \$9 billion per year spent by American sportsmen rings several cash registers.

The point being made by the National Wildlife Federation and affiliated conservation groups this week is that all the swamps and marshes should not be drained because America needs to keep some of its "wetlands." Some drainage is necessary, the Federation concedes, but recalls some costly

From Bill Walsh's "Hunting and Fishing" column in the Erie (Pa.)
General Electric News of February 25, 1955.

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 Florence Durand, Treasurer 19 Moyston St.
 Annual Membership Dues: Sustaining, \$5; Active, \$3; Associate, \$2; Junior, \$1



drainage mistakes -- Mingo swamp in Missouri, Thief Lake in Minnesota, and the Everglades in Florida, to name a few examples. In those places, and others, drainage was a failure; the land proved unproductive for farming. The ditches have been plugged and the natural swamps -- teeming with wildlife -- have been restored.

Yes, a swamp or marsh may have great value, extending its benefits through the north-south length of a waterfowl flyway. We think the conservationists have a point in their Wildlife Week theme. We question with them the wisdom of using taxpayers' money to subsidize new farm drainage in this period of perplexing crop surpluses. It is costing the taxpayers enough to store the surpluses. We recommend also that Congress look twice at every drainage project proposed by the Army engineers or reclamation planners. Let's make certain the public benefits will actually outweigh the damages before sending more of our dwindling wetlands down the ditches!

PELLETS

B. D. Miller

There are many surprises to be found in the study of bird life that are unique in the animal kingdom. Included in this list are the construction and marvelous coloring of a feather; the bird's blood temperature and rate of heart beat; their homing instinct and eyesight. Another is the ability of certain birds to reject the indigestible portion of their food after swallowing it. And this feature is most highly developed, apparently, among the owls who are able to reject football-shaped pellets consisting of practically nothing but the hair of mice and rats, along with the larger bones and teeth of their prey. These pellets are not formed in the crop, as is generally believed, but in the first stomach, or proventriculus as it is called, and then returned to the crop and mouth before reaching the gizzard. You will find pellets on stumps in the woods or under trees where these birds perch.

According to Dr. Dean Amadon of the American Museum of Natural History, the vast majority of our altricial birds (those that feed their young) do not cast pellets -- the crows and owls being exceptions. And among the precocial birds (those that do not feed their young), few if any cast pellets.

My zoology book does not explain by what mechanism the indigestible portions are separated from the digestible and passed back through the crop. "Presumably the movements of the stomach during digestion," says Dr. Amadon, "are such that the pellets when formed are composed solely of hair and bones."

BRIEFING THE RECORD**James K. Meritt, Records Committee Chairman**

January had an average temperature of 22.4 degrees, slightly higher than normal. It was one of the driest months on record in Schenectady, with only .56 inch of precipitation.

February was no less than 4.6 degrees above normal, with an average temperature of 26.5 degrees. This relatively warm winter weather may account for such records as the Wood Duck, Cardinals, and White-throated Sparrow. It is interesting to note that Pine Grosbeaks were apparently not recorded locally in February, and their departure may well be attributed to the relatively warm weather during the month.

A Great Blue Heron was seen at Scotia on January 9 (EHal-lenbeck) and again on Jan. 31 (RYunick). A good count of 1800 Black Ducks was obtained on the Upper Hudson field trip of Jan. 16 (SBC). A most unusual waterfowl record was a male Wood Duck at Collins Lake, Scotia, on Jan. 4 (EH); the bird was also a Christmas Count record.

Several hawk records are of interest. A Cooper's Hawk was seen along Indian Ladder Road Jan. 15 (BHipple). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen near Altamont Jan. 30 (SMadison) and one at Delmar Feb. 1 and 4 (WSabin). Two mature Bald Eagles were seen along the Hudson below Albany Jan. 16 (SM, WS).

A good total of five species of owls was recorded during this two-month period. Late on the evening of Jan. 21 a Great Horned Owl was heard at Alplaus (AHeitcamp). A Screech Owl was seen under the eaves of a barn at Gallupville Jan. 31 (GZimmer), and on Feb. 19 a Barn Owl was captured in a room at the First Methodist Church, Schenectady (MCrary). This bird, which had been present at least since Feb. 17, was photographed and then released. A Short-eared Owl was seen a few miles above Catskill Jan. 16 (JMeritt), and on Jan. 31 a Snowy Owl was seen in the highlands just south of Altamont (SM, JM).

A Yellow-shafted Flicker was seen on the Troy Christmas count of Jan. 2 (SBC). Pileated Woodpeckers, each a record of a single bird, were reported from Loudonville (MFrench), Gallupville (GZ), Saratoga Lake (RY), Scotia (JM), and the Hudson below Albany (SM, WS). A Horned Lark was observed at Saratoga Lake Jan. 29 (RY), and a singing bird was seen at Gansevoort Feb. 22 (JM).

The Brown-capped Chickadee continued with us. One was at the Hudson Lock 1 throughout January. On Jan. 24 and 25 two Carolina Wrens were seen in some brush along the shore of Collins Lake (EH). A Brown Thrasher was found in the same general area Feb. 15 (EH). A Robin in Scotia on Jan. 3 was also unusual (NVVorst). Five Bluebirds continued to remain at Slingerlands (LGrace). Only a few Cedar Waxwings were reported.

A Northern Shrike was seen on the January 2 Troy count, but the only other report received was one near Meadowdale Jan. 15 (EH).

Six Red-winged Blackbirds were seen on the Upper Hudson SBC trip of Jan. 16. Two male Red-wings frequented Mrs. Fitzgerald's feeder in Amsterdam during January. The only Rusty Blackbird reports were from Loudonville, one on Jan. 1 and one Feb. 17 (MF). Grackles were first reported on Feb. 28 in Loudonville (MF) and in Schenectady (HEddy and GMeader). Two Cowbirds were at Mrs. Fitzgerald's Amsterdam feeder in January, and a Dickcissel was there at least through Jan. 26.

Cardinal

The Cardinal deserves a paragraph by itself. Certainly six, and very probably seven, were seen during January and February. The first reported one was a Jan. 23 male near Collins Lake (SBC). Esly Hallenbeck informs me of two other birds in different parts of Schenectady. In Amsterdam four Cardinals were seen together at a feeder.

The northern finch flight, which has been previously noted in some detail in FEATHERS, continued at its high peak. Evening Grosbeaks were reported from two feeders at Amsterdam, one at Broadalbin, and one in Schenectady. There were also other scattered reports. In Alplaus 14 Evening Grosbeaks were seen Jan. 19 (AH), and a small group was seen almost daily in January at Gallupville (GZ). With the exception of the 93 Pine Grosbeaks recorded on the Troy Christmas Count, all records for that species reported to me have been from the Thacher Park area. Insofar as I know, the Pine Grosbeak was last seen locally Jan. 24, ten birds near New Scotland (GZ). There were relatively few Redpoll reports until the first of the year, but since then the birds have been frequently seen. Some reports include about 100 at Schenectady Jan. 20 (HE), about 30 at Saratoga Lake Jan. 29 (RY), and a group of about 40 near Vischers Ferry on Jan. 29 (JM).

Purple Finch reports have been almost non-existent this winter. However, one was banded in January at Amsterdam (GF), and a pair were seen at a feeder in Slingerlands on Jan. 10 (PBaker).

Oregon Junco

The outstanding rarity of the period was an Oregon Junco seen with several Slate-colored by the Hipples on Jan. 9 along the Thacher Park road above New Scotland. This constitutes the first local record for the species. A few years ago an Oregon Junco frequented a feeder in Rochester, there are other New York State records, and in recent winters it has been invariably reported from Massachusetts. All winter Juncos should be closely checked for the presence of this rare winter visitor.

A White-throated Sparrow was seen Jan. 24 at Collins Lake (EH), and this bird was subsequently seen by other observers. The bird was still present Feb. 18 (EH).

The high count of Snow Buntings was obtained in the highlands south of Altamont Jan. 30, two flocks aggregating 200 birds (NV). Another group passed the winter near the airport (NV). A flock of about 65 was seen near Broadalbin on Feb. 10 (GZ). Two Lapland Longspurs were observed on the Troy Christmas Count of Jan. 2.

1954 FIELD TRIPS HAD 170 SPECIES LOCALLY

Dr. Roy E. Hunt and Pauline Baker, Co-chairmen

Addition of 10 species to the preceding year's total, and the omission of 13, marked the 1954 season list of 170 species observed on scheduled field trips in the local area. A Lapland Longspur (January 2, 1955, Troy Christmas Count) and Least Bittern, Whistling Swan, Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers on the Montezuma trip brought the grand total to 175 for the year -- 11 less than in 1953.

A new record of 44 was set for the Schenectady Christmas Count; included were a Brown-capped Chickadee and 14 Red Crossbills. Despite an all-day drenching, one observer reached the 101 mark on the second Saturday of May, with eight groups providing a total of 129 species for the Club. A flock of Brant on the Mohawk made their first Century-run appearance in the Schenectady area.

Additional rarities included a Turkey Vulture over the Pine Barrens in May, Gray Shrike on the Christmas Count, and Red-necked Grebe at Crescent Reservoir. Among omissions from the 1954 composite list were Nighthawk, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bay-breasted Warbler, Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows. The May 5 Evening-song group failed to detect their usual Whip-poor-will.

In the following table the page references are to the detailed reports in FEATHERS during 1954 (or 1955). In the next table the birds shown in light-face type were seen only at Montezuma or on the 1955 Troy Christmas Count. The list:

<u>Key</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>No. Seen</u>	<u>Page</u>
A	Jan.24	Upper Hudson	12	11
B	Feb.21	Upper Hudson	18	24
C	Mar. 7	Collins Lake - Sunnyside Road	20	27
D	21	Schermerhorn-Campbell Roads	16	30
E	28	Saratoga and Round Lakes	34	31
F	Apr. 4	Watervliet Reservoir	30	31
G	10	Vischer Ponds and Crescent Lake	41	48
H	25	Central Park	33	48
I	May 2	Central Park Breakfast	54	48
J	5	Rosendale Road (Evening Songs)	20	49
K	8	Century Run	129	33
L	16	Indian Ladder	53	49
M	23	Niskayuna	61	50
N	30	Karner Pine Barrens	44	50
O	June 6	Crawford Road	27	50
P	Jul.18	Vischer Ponds	47	50
Q	Aug.22	Watervliet Reservoir	47	50
R	29	(Ithaca-Montezuma State Trip)	70	61
S	Sep.25	Lower Hudson	42	64
T	Oct. 3	Niskayuna	34	55-7
U	17	Meadowdale	29	55-8
V	31	Alcove Reservoir	25	65
W	Nov.14	Saratoga and Round Lakes	24	65
X	Dec. 5	Crescent Reservoir	17	55-8
Y	26	Schenectady Christmas Count	44	55-3
Z	Jan. 2	(1955, Troy Christmas Count)	38	55-2

1954 FIELD TRIPS

Common Loon			K		V W
Red-necked Grebe					X
Horned Grebe			K		V W X
Pied-billed Grebe	E		K	R	W
Great Blue Heron			K M	P R S T	X Y
American Egret				P R S T	
Green Heron			K M	P Q R S	
Black-cr. Night Heron			J K M	P R S	
American Bittern			K M	R	
Least Bittern				R	
Whistling Swan				R	
Canada Goose		G	K	R	V
American Brant			K		
Mallard	A B	F G	K	P R S T	X Y Z
Black Duck	A B C D E	F G	K M	P R S T	U V W X Z
American Widgeon	E			R	
Pintail		F G	K		
Green-winged Teal				S	
Blue-winged Teal		F G	K	R	
Wood Duck		F G	K	Q R S	Y
Ring-necked Duck	E	F G			
Canvas-back	E	G			V W X Z
Greater Scaup	E				
Lesser Scaup	E	F	K		V W X
American Golden-eye	A B	E F	K		W X Z
Buffle-head		E G			W
Oldsquaw					W
White-winged Scoter					W X
Ruddy Duck			K	R	V W X
Hooded Merganser	E	F			
American Merganser	A B C	E	K		X Z
Red-breasted Merganser			K		Z
Turkey Vulture				N S	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	E	I			
Cooper's Hawk		H	K	Q	Y Z
Red-tailed Hawk		F G H	K	N	U V Y
Red-shouldered Hawk	E		K	R	U Y
Broad-winged Hawk			K		
Bald Eagle			K	R	Y
Marsh Hawk			K	R S	U Y Z
Osprey		G	K	R	
Sparrow Hawk	A B	F	K M O	Q R	U V Y Z
Ruffed Grouse			K	Q	Y
Ring-necked Pheasant	A	G I	K L M	S T	U Y Z
Virginia Rail			K		U
Sora			K		
Florida Gallinule			K	R T	
American Coot	E			R	Z
Ringed Plover				P R	
Killdeer	C D E	G I	K L M N	P Q R S T	U W
American Woodcock			J K		
Upland Sandpiper			K		
Spotted Sandpiper			K M	P Q R S	
Solitary Sandpiper			K	R	
Greater Yellow-legs				P	
Lesser Yellow-legs				P Q	
Pectoral Sandpiper			K		

Red-eyed Vireo			I	K L M N O	Q	T		
Warbling Vireo				K M	P			
Black and White Warbler			I	K L M O	Q R			
Worm-eating Warbler				L				
Golden-winged Warbler				K M O				
Tennessee Warbler				K				
Nashville Warbler			I	K				
Parula Warbler			I					
Yellow Warbler			I	K L M	O P R			
Magnolia Warbler			I	K			T	
Cape May Warbler				L				
Black-thr. Blue Warbler			I	K L	Q			
Myrtle Warbler			H I	K M			U V	
Black-thr. Green Warbler			H I	K L M O	Q			
Blackburnian Warbler			I	K M	Q			
Chestnut-sided Warbler			I	K L M N O				
Black-poll Warbler				M			T U	
Pine Warbler				K				
Prairie Warbler				K N				
Palm Warbler							U	
Oven-bird			I J	K L M O				
Northern Waterthrush				K				
Louisiana Waterthrush				K				
Common Yellowthroat			I J	K L M N O	P Q R S T			
Black-capped Warbler				M				
Canada Warbler			I	K L				
Redstart				K L M N O	Q R			
House Sparrow	B C D E	F G H I J		K L M N	P Q R S		V W Y Z	
Bobolink				K L M	P Q R			
Eastern Meadowlark	D	F H I		K L M O	P Q R S		U V	
Red-winged Blackbird	B C D E	F G H I J		K L M N O	P Q R S T		U	Y
Baltimore Oriole			I	K L M N	Q R			
Rusty Blackbird								U
Purple Grackle	B C E	F G H I J		K L M N	P R S			
Brown-headed Cowbird			G H I	K L M N	P R			
Scarlet Tanager				K L M N O				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			I	K L M N	P Q			
Indigo Bunting				M N O	P			
Evening Grosbeak				K			V	Y Z
Purple Finch	E	H		K N		S T		
Pine Grosbeak				K				W X Y Z
Common Redpoll								Y Z
Pine Siskin		F						Y
American Goldfinch	C D E	F H I		K L M N O	P Q R S T		U V	Y Z
Red Crossbill		F						Y
White-winged Crossbill								Y
Eastern Towhee			H I J	K L M N O P Q				
Savannah Sparrow			G	K			T U	
Vesper Sparrow			G I	K L			U	Y
Slate-colored Junco		E F G H		K L			U V	Y Z
American Tree Sparrow	A B C D E	F G						W X Y Z
Chipping Sparrow			H I	K L M N O		R S		
Field Sparrow			G H I J	K L N O P			T U	
White-crowned Sparrow				K			T	
White-throated Sparrow			H I J	K			T	
Fox Sparrow	D	F						
Swamp Sparrow				K L M	P Q R		U	
Song Sparrow	B C D E	F G H I J		K L M N	P Q R S T		U V	Y Z
Lapland Longspur								Z



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.17 No.5

May, 1955

A BIRDMAN'S VIEW OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Dr. Allen H. Benton, Chairman

A recent article by James Meritt (FEATHERS, March, 1955) acquainted readers with the common birds of the East Asian area, as well as a few of those from the Philippines. Having had some experience in this area, and the area to the south, I felt that people might be interested in continuing their tour of the Pacific.

During 1944 and 1945 I spent about 16 months in the Pacific area, including a month in New Guinea and six in the Philippines, on the northern shore of Luzon. These tropical areas teem with life, especially bird life. The Southwest Pacific is the center of abundance of several families, including the pigeons, kingfishers, and a number of families which do not occur in North America. The casual observer will see many birds whose relationships he cannot determine, although they may bear superficial resemblance to some of our species. Some, such as the parrots, hawks, rails, kingfishers, and crows are readily recognized. In taking notes on these birds, I tried to compare them with familiar American birds, even though the relationship might be distant. At the time these observations were made, I had no facilities for identification. I relied on field sketches and notes taken on the spot to permit later identification. As a combat infantryman, I had no place in my pack for bird books. Fortunately we were supplied with binoculars, so I could look at any birds which might pass by when I was on outpost duty. Nonetheless, I saw many birds I could not identify, and these notes include mostly common, easily identified species which might be seen by the tourist or casual observer.

New Guinea, Tropical Paradise

My unit disembarked at Finschafen, New Guinea, on Christmas Eve, 1944. New Guinea extends in a general east-west direction, lying to the north of Australia. Its western end, the Vogelkop (bird's head), points across the island-studded Halmahera Sea to the Moluccas, Celebes, and Borneo. Finschafen is at the tip of the Huon peninsula, along the northern shore of the island. It is a true tropical paradise, about 4 degrees north of the Equator, with a palm-fringed harbor, a clear lagoon where the bottom can be seen in 50 feet of water, and a small native village of reformed head-hunters. Here we were awakened every morning by the raucous cries of birds whose hearts must have been as black as their plumage, for they aroused us about 4 a.m. as they

FEATHERS is published monthly by
SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.

Editor: Guy Bartlett, 1053 Parkwood Blvd.

Circulation: Mabel Barnes, 114 McCollan St.

Florence Durand, Treasurer 19 Moyston St.

Annual Membership Dues: Sustaining, \$5; Active, \$3; Associate, \$2; Junior, \$1



went screaming through the palm trees in small troops. I never decided what they were, but they succeeded in getting me out to look for other birds which might be identifiable. Along a little stream in front of our tents, the tiny jewel kingfishers darted about, reflecting bright colors from their iridescent plumage. Flocks of green parakeets fed noisily in the treetops, and wheeled in complex formations through the dense vegetation. Sunbirds (of the family Nectariniidae) plucked insects from the tips of the branches, after the fashion of our warblers. At least they seemed to be feeding on insects. I don't know whether they are insect eaters or not. In the distance a white-and-red eagle-kite, the famous Braminy kite of Asia, soared over the forest.

Birds were not the only creatures we saw. Giant lizards up to five feet in length were common, and one soldier kept one tied in front of his tent for several days. One day a flying phalanger, a small marsupial which closely resembles our flying squirrel, came into one of the tents and was captured. A few weeks later, at Oro Bay, a hundred miles to the southeast, I had the privilege of holding a wallaby (a junior-sized kangaroo) on my lap while transporting him out of camp and back to his natural habitat in the grassy plains.

At Oro Bay the country was more open, and we saw several species of birds not found at Finschafen during our stay there. These included the purple swamphen, a giant edition of our gallinule, and white cockatoos, which flew about in groups and despoiled native gardens. Another common bird here was the Malaysian fantail, a flycatcher which fills much the same niche as our phoebe, though it looks nothing like it.

Birds, and Japs, Common

In late January, 1945, we were transferred to Luzon, where we landed at Lingayen Gulf on February 19. I was soon assigned to a combat unit in the mountainous area northeast of Manila, where birds, as well as Japanese, were plentiful. A simple list of the birds I saw in this area would fill several pages, so I shall restrict myself to mention of some of the more common or striking forms.

Kingfishers were common here, as in New Guinea. Besides the abundant white-collared kingfisher, about the same size as our own species, there were several species of small stream-side species, beautifully colored. Doves were abundant, and there were many species, but the most common was the turtle dove, much like our mourning dove. Indeed, its nesting habits are nearly identical, for I found one nest saddled on a low branch of a mango tree, with its two white eggs on a nest of twigs. There are few woodpeckers in this region, but I saw one pygmy woodpecker, which looks much like our downy. Bee-eaters are common, and one might think they were flycatchers related to our kingbird, for their

habits are much the same. They are brightly colored, however, and have long tails.

There are several species of swallows on the islands, of which the most prominent is the white-breasted wood swallow. This species does not belong to the swallow family but to a related family, the Artamidae. The Philippine form of the chickadee, the elegant titmouse, is brilliant with black and yellow, in much the same pattern as the black and white of our own species.

Cuckoos, Large

Perhaps the most startling group to an American is the cuckoo family. There are many species of these birds, many of them of large size. Two are most commonly seen, one an inhabitant of the grasslands and shrubby forests, the other found in deeper jungles. The Philippine coucal is roughly the size of a crow, with a long tail and a rich bronze color. It is often seen on small bushes in the grassy plains, and in the forest is a capable climber on vines or bushes, where it uses its bill and wings effectively. The rough-crested cuckoo is a black, slender inhabitant of the forest floor, and its noisy flight has frightened more than one timid traveler in the jungle.

Of the birds which were easily recognizable as similar to American birds, there were many. Cattle egrets, night herons, crows, marsh harriers, rails and swifts are much the same the world around. Not so the crested myna, unless you have a fancy for pet shops. This is a famous talking species, which the Filipinos call "martinez". It can be taught to whistle tunes and is a popular pet, as well as being common as a wild bird.

If you are planning a Pacific trip, arm yourself with Mayr and Delacour's "Birds of the Philippines" and Mayr's "Birds of the Southwest Pacific". Even in the areas around the ports of call of tourist ships there are many interesting birds, and a short trip inland may be very rewarding. These tropical areas are rich in little-known bird life, and anyone can add to our knowledge of the lives and habits of these species.

BRIEFING THE RECORD

James K. Meritt, Records Committee Chairman

March temperatures averaged two degrees above normal, and precipitation was slightly over an inch above normal. The first part of the month was generally quite pleasant, and the host of migrants that then arrived indicated a somewhat early migration. As soon as spring officially arrived, however, winter weather returned for a brief last fling, and feeding stations did a thriving business.

The outstanding rarity of the month was two groups of Snow Geese, totalling some 38 individuals, first seen on the 26th by Walter Kaskin along the Mohawk between Rexford and Vischers Ponds. These birds were subsequently seen by many other observers, but this was a numbers record which, it will be later noted, was to last exactly one week.

A Killdeer was reported from Gallupville on March 1 (GZimmer), and on March 13 a Woodcock was seen in Amsterdam (MFitzgerald). A Black-backed Gull was seen along the Mohawk near the Gateway Bridge on March 1 and 2 (GBartlett) and on March 27 (NVVorst, JMeritt)

The only owl reported was a Barred Owl, picked up dead along a road near Albany on March 4. The specimen was identified by Dr. Allen Benton. The Union-Star of March 8 carried a story of a Horned Owl which reportedly had been picked up a few days before in the Burnt Hills area. Actually this had been a captive bird for a relatively long time.

No Phoebes or Tree Swallows, possible arrivals in late March, were reported. A Carolina Wren was heard singing at Collins Lake, Scotia on March 19 (JM). A Loggerhead Shrike, well observed, was reported near Alplaus March 2 (EHallenbeck).

Redpolls were present through the month, with reports received from several areas. It has certainly been a banner winter for those birds. Pine Siskins were reported from Albany (ABenton), and Evening Grosbeaks continued to frequent two feeders in Amsterdam. A male Pine Grosbeak was seen along Grand Boulevard, Schenectady March 27 (Mrs. DLamphrey). Cardinals were still reported. A singing bird was reported from Scotia on March 12 (EH) and March 19 (JM). One was in the Albany area the first week of the month (AB), and early in March a pair frequented Mrs. Albert Fisher's feeder along Rosendale Road. A small group of White-winged Crossbills was seen at Ballston Lake early in the month (NVV).

In the wake of our first local Oregon Junco record in January, it is interesting to note that two "suspicious looking" Juncos were seen at an Amsterdam feeder late in March. Specific identification could not be made before the birds departed, however. The Fox Sparrow was first seen at Schenectady March 13 (HEddy), at Vischers Ponds March 13 (JM), and at Amsterdam March 14 (MF).

On March 8 Mr. and Mrs. John Voght saw a flock of some 1,000 Snow Buntings near Scotia. These birds were reported in lesser numbers from Gallupville March 5 and 7 (GZ).

April was somewhat warmer than normal, just as were the preceding three months. The average temperature was 50.2 degrees. It was a relatively dry month, with precipitation about two-thirds of normal. April was a most interesting month ornithologically. In addition to those reports of new arrivals from the south there was an above-average number of reports for species we usually associate only with winter weather.

The American Bittern was first seen locally at Vischers Ponds April 2 (JM). Some 65 Snow Geese were seen at Niskayuna Wide Waters April 2 (SBC). This species had been recorded there in lesser numbers in late March. On April 3 38 Snow Geese were at the Wide Waters, and a group of about 30 at Saratoga Lake (JM). The latter were apparently a breakaway group from the April 2 flock. The Snow Goose was last seen April 5, when Esly Hallenbeck saw six flying along the river. Seventeen species of ducks, including all three mergansers, were reported during the month.

A Broad-winged Hawk was seen at Jenny Lake Apr. 16 (GB). The first Osprey reported was from Vischers Ponds Apr. 17 (SBC). A Woodcock was heard along Rosendale Road the evening of Apr. 16 (HEddy) and the bird was seen and heard by other observers for several days thereafter. Two Wilson's Snipe were at Vischer Ponds Apr. 9 (RStone, FTurrentine). Two Bonaparte's Gulls were observed on the Saratoga Lake field trip Apr. 17. A Great Black-backed Gull was seen on the Apr. 2 field trip at Niskayuna Wide Waters, and on Apr. 9 two were seen in that area (RS,FT). A Horned Owl was heard at Alplaus early on the evening of Apr. 16 (AHeitcamp), and on the 24th a Barn Owl was observed for an extended period at De La Salle College in Troy (EAustin). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was described as common in the Jenny Lake area Apr. 16 (GB); individual birds were reported from Loudonville Apr. 14 (MWFrench), Saratoga Lake Apr. 17 (SBC), Gallupville Apr. 18 (GZ), and Scotia Apr. 21 (EH). No Pileateds were reported.

The Phoebe was first seen near Vischer Ponds Apr. 2 (JM). Tree Swallows were also first reported Apr. 2 -- ten near Niskayuna Wide Waters (SBC). Three Bank Swallows were seen on the Watervliet Reservoir trip of Apr. 24, and on the same day two Rough-winged Swallows were seen near Altamont (JM). Six Purple Martins were observed in Amsterdam Apr. 12 (MF).

A Carolina Wren was singing at Collins Lake, Scotia, on Apr. 10 (RS,FT). The House Wren was first recorded at Gallupville Apr. 30 (GZ), and that same day a Brown Thrasher was recorded in Central Park (HE). Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Cedar Waxwings were quite widely reported late in the month. On Apr. 2 a Loggerhead Shrike was observed near Vischers Ferry (JM). Four Myrtle Warblers were at Watervliet Reservoir Apr. 24 (SBC), but the only other warbler species reported was a Black-throated Green in Central Park on April 30 (AHolmes).

The Collins Lake Cardinal was heard Apr. 10 (RS,FT). Mrs. F. Lamprey saw a male Cardinal in Schenectady Apr. 2, and on the 12th a male was seen along Rosendale Road by Mrs. F. Price.

The Evening Grosbeak was widely reported, although not in great numbers. Two were seen in Niskayuna early in the month by Mrs. James Kriebel. On April 9 two were at Mrs. Eddy's feeder, and four were present there during the last week of the month. Seven were at Saratoga Springs Apr. 17 (SBC). Seven to 10 were at Gloria Meader's feeder throughout the month, and about 30 frequented Mrs. Fitzgerald's Amsterdam feeder. Several Evening Grosbeaks were present throughout the month at Gallupville (GZ), and several were seen late in April at Loudonville (MF).

Purple Finches, scarce during the winter, were reported from several areas. A Pine Grosbeak was seen Apr. 7 and 17 by Mrs. Gordon Stancliffe, Rosendale Road. On Apr. 16 a female was picked up there after having stunned itself by hitting a window of the house. Twelve Red Crossbills, the majority of them males, were seen by Gloria Meader Apr. 21.

Eight to 10 Redpolls were in Loudonville Apr. 4 (MF), and Pine Siskins were in Albany through the month (ABenton). The first Towhee report was from Albany Apr. 30 (AB). The Ves-

per Sparrow was first reported locally on Easter Sunday, Apr. 10, three individuals at Scotia (Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Scott). The Chipping Sparrow was first noted at Scotia Apr. 11 (EH). The Tree Sparrow was last seen at Loudonville Apr. 13 (MF).

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

G. Malcolm Andrews, Field Activities Chairman

Trip	A	Jan. 16	Hudson River	Species	25
	B	Feb. 13	Hudson River		17
	C	March 6	Sunnyside Road & Collins Lake		12
	D	Mar. 20	Campbell & Schermerhorn Roads		18
	E	April 2	Vischer Ponds, Crescent Lake		35
	F	Apr. 17	Saratoga and Round Lakes		36
	G	Apr. 24	Watervliet Reservoir		34

Common Loon	f	Downy Woodpecker	a cde g
Horned Grebe	f	Phoebe	fg
Pied-billed Grebe	f	Tree Swallow	efg
Great Blue Heron	e	Bank Swallow	g
American Bittern	g	Barn Swallow	fg
Snow Goose	e	Blue Jay	abc efg
Mallard	ab e	Crow	abcdefg
Black Duck	ab ef	Blk-cap Chickadee	abc efg
Pintail	e	Brown-cap Chickadee	a
Blue-winged Teal	e	White-br. Nuthatch	abcdefg
Redhead	b e	Robin	defg
Ring-necked Duck	e	Hermit Thrush	g
Canvas-back	b	Bluebird	e g
Greater Scaup	ef	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	g
Lesser Scaup	ef	Starling	abcdefg
American Golden-eye	ab f	Myrtle Warbler	g
Buffle-head	f	House Sparrow	abcdefg
American Merganser	ab def	Meadowlark	defg
Red-breasted Merganser	f	Red-winged Blackbird	a cdefg
Red-tailed Hawk	a	Rusty Blackbird	f
Red-shouldered Hawk	g	Purple Grackle	defg
Bald Eagle	a	Brown-headed Cowbird	defg
Osprey	g	Cardinal	c
Sparrow Hawk	a de	Redpoll	b
Ring-necked Pheasant	c e	Pine Siskin	b
Killdeer	a e g	American Goldfinch	a defg
Great Black-backed Gull	e	Vesper Sparrow	f
Herring Gull	ab def	Slate-colored Junco	fg
Ring-billed Gull	a	Tree Sparrow	ab de
Bonaparte's Gull	f	Chipping Sparrow	g
Mourning Dove	a defg	Field Sparrow	g
Yellow-shaft Flicker	a fg	White-thr. Sparrow	g
Pileated Woodpecker	a	Swamp Sparrow	f
Yel-bel. Sapsucker	f	Song Sparrow	odef g
Hairy Woodpecker	abode g	TOTAL - 69 species	

There were several rarities on the seven field trips of the first four months of 1955 -- including the Snow Goose, Great Black-backed Gull, Brown-capped Chickadee, and Cardinal -- as well as some unexpected dates, including wintering Redhead, Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbird, and Flicker. The seven trips, and their 69 species:

NYS WATERFOWL CENSUSHudson River, Jan. 16

The local count for the New York State annual waterfowl census was made chiefly along the Hudson, on January 16. Dr. Malcolm McDonald was the leader of the group of 21 covering the Hudson from Troy to Stillwater. The temperature was 25 to 35 degrees, and the sky cloudy; 18 species were recorded. At the same time Samuel R. Madison and Walter Sabin made a supplementary trip along the Hudson from Albany to the Rip Van Winkle Bridge, and also accounted for 18 species. The combined lists had 25 species.

The waterfowl and shorebird counts were:

	Troy	Albany
Mallard	135	
Black Duck	1800	18
American Golden-eye	36	18
American Merganser	200	17
Killdeer	1	
Herring Gull	25	35
Ring-billed Gull	2	

COLD AND RAWHudson River, Feb. 13

There were only three in addition to Dr. McDonald on the trip along the upper Hudson Feb. 13 -- the temperature was 16, there was a north wind, and it was cloudy. It was cold and raw. The center channel of the river was open, and on the ground was heavy snow. The 17 species included the Red-head and Canvas-back as the most unusual. The waterfowl counts were:

Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 600; Redhead, 1; Canvas-back, 12; American Golden-eye, 100; American Merganser, 50; and Herring Gull, 4.

FEWScotia, Mar. 6

SBC trippers were few (3) and so were bird species (12) on the Sunnyside Road - Collins Lake trip led by John L. Voght on March 6. There were transient Red-winged Black-birds, Song Sparrows had arrived, and the wintering Cardinal was still in evidence.

WHAT WAS NOT SEENCampbell-Schermerhorn, Mar. 20

A clear, sunny, cool day met the eager SBC members on March 20 for the Campbell-Schermerhorn Roads field trip. Everyone was looking for migrants, particularly a Bluebird. However, the trip was outstanding in the way of what was not seen, rather than what was seen. No Bluebird. Only 18 species were recorded. Because of the preceding wintry weather, hardly any migrants were in evidence. The gulls and mergansers were seen on the river from Route 5S at the Thruway interchange. A very pleasant but windy day followed the trip.

-- Robert Yunick

SNOW GEESEVischer Ponds, April 2

A flock of Snow Geese on the river dominated the April 2 field trip. When we first arrived the geese were resting on the far shore, but could be clearly observed through the

telescope. However, before we left they obliged by flying directly overhead, circling several times before returning to the other side. Later the SBC group crossed the river and observed the geese from closer range.

We had excellent views of both Scaup, and the light was fine for distinguishing the green and purple gloss. Ring-necked Ducks, Blacks, Mallards, Pintails and a Redhead were also observed.

The water was very high, which accounted for fewer birds than might have been expected.

The most interesting of the land birds were the Tree Swallows. While still few in numbers (10 observed), they made you feel spring was really on its way. The total count was 35 species.

-- Mrs. William R. Foote

WATERBIRDS

Saratoga-Round Lakes, Apr. 17

Waterbirds -- herons, grebes, ducks, and gulls -- accounted for 12 of the 36 species seen by 16 observers on the Saratoga-Round Lakes trip of April 17.

Counts among the water species were: Common Loon 15, Horned Grebe 9, Pied-billed Grebe 1, Black Duck 6, Greater Scaup 1, Lesser Scaup 20, Amer. Golden-eye 50, Buffle-head 2 males, Amer. Merganser 20, Red-breasted Merganser 7, Herring Gull 6, Bonaparte's Gull 2.

-- G. B.

SEVERAL FIRSTS

Waterlily Reservoir, Apr. 24

Upon arrival at the reservoir: "Where are the ducks?", "Never saw the reservoir so calm," "Not even a gull," "What have you found?", "A bittern! Where? I Can't see it", "It's just like the picture -- over there in the cattails to the right of that low area", "Oh, I've found it!", "Here, look through the scope," "What's that sparrow-like bird?" "It's a female Red-wing, first I've seen this spring."

And so the comments came. There were other "firsts" of the spring, such as the Barn Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler, Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, as well as the Chipping and Field Sparrows.

The morning was warm, the ground firm enough, with barriers of swampy areas encountered only a few times. Fishermen were increasing in numbers as we were terminating our birding. We had visited the woods to the west of the highway near the reservoir bridge and then concentrated on the region near the reservoir dam, at some distance to the east of the highway. It was there we were stopped by the marsh which, incidentally, had a fine patch of marigolds.

We had parked the cars at the side of the road near the entrance to the trail, and not far from a house and garden. Birding at this spot produced Bluebirds, Phoebes, a Downy Woodpecker, a White-breasted Nuthatch, and Junco. Two hawks were observed high in the air, and identified as a Red-shouldered and Osprey. We had earlier seen Kingfishers, Flickers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Tree and Bank Swallows, Blue Jays and Crows, Chickadees, Robins, Meadowlarks, Red-wings, Grackles and Cowbirds, a lone Goldfinch, and Song Sparrows. Mourning Doves were heard.

Though not in large numbers, the 34 species were very satisfactory for the 11 observers who made up the party.

-- Dr. Minnie B. Scotland



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.17 No.6

June, 1955

1955 CENTURY RUN NETS 126 SPECIES

Redhead, Horned Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Carolina Wren Added to Composite List -- Only One of Nine Parties Reaches the 100 Mark -- Evening Grosbeak on the Increase -- No Northern-area Count Included, Hence Grouse, Sapsucker, Creeper, and the Louisiana Waterthrush Missed for First Time in Nine Years

G. Malcolm Andrews, Field Activities Chairman

The feature of the 1955 Century Run was its general lack of the unusual. The only item of real significance appeared to be the definite increase in Evening Grosbeak records over previous years. This species was seen by six groups, at localities ranging from Scotia to Vischer Ponds. These records may be but one more bit of evidence pointing toward the establishment of the Evening Grosbeak as a breeding bird in SBC territory.

Thirty persons in nine groups criss-crossed the countryside on Saturday, May 14, from 4 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., bringing in a total of 126 species for their efforts. Only one party (No. A) reached the century mark. However, no one individual in that group attained a total of more than 98 species. Another group (Group I) just missed 100 -- it had 99.

Four species were new for the composite Century list. They were the Redhead, Horned Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Carolina Wren. Both the Carolina Wren and the Cardinal, which was also recorded, had been seen regularly at three favored localities during the previous week or two.

Some 16 species were seen by all groups: Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Flicker, Phoebe, Catbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, Starling, House Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Grackle, Cowbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Chipping Sparrow.

In direct contrast, 17 species were recorded by only one party each:

Party A - Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Virginia Rail, Lesser Yellow-legs, Blue-winged Warbler, and Black-poll Warbler.

Party B - Nashville Warbler.

Party D - Great Blue Heron, and Rusty Blackbird.

FEATHERS is published monthly by
 SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.
 Editor: Guy Bartlett, 1053 Parkwood Blvd.
 Circulation: Mabel Barnes, 114 McClellan St.
 Florence Durand, Treasurer 19 Moyston St.



Annual Membership Dues: Sustaining, \$5; Active, \$3; Associate, \$2; Junior, \$1

- Party G - Carolina Wren.
 Party H - Pied-billed Grebe.
 Party I - American Egret, Sora, Olive-sided Flycatcher,
 Cliff Swallow, Worm-eating Warbler, and Hens-
 low's Sparrow.

Participants and Areas

Party A Guy Bartlett, Alice Holmes, Esly Hallenbeck, Walter E. Kaskan, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Nelle G. Van Vorst, Chester N. Moore, G. Malcolm Andrews. Vly Road, Niskayuna, Sparrowbush Road, Cohoes Dam, Vischer Ponds, Central Park, Six-mile Waterworks, Meadowdale, Indian Ladder, Watervliet Reservoir, and Saratoga Lake. Two cars, separated and together. 4 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. 103 species (Car 1, 91 species; Car 2, 99 species).

Party B Mrs. Chester Zimmer, Mrs. Gilbert Eddy. Gallupville, Schoharie County, and Schenectady and vicinity. Six miles afoot, 141 miles by car. 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. 60 species.

Party C Mrs. Mabel W. French. Bacon Lane and Schuyler Road areas of Loudonville. 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. 44 species.

Party D Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Foote, Dr. and Mrs. Roy Hunt, Mrs. Howard C. Fuller. Rosendale and Vly Roads, Niskayuna, Central Park, Vischer Ponds, Alplaus-Rexford, Pine Barrens, Burnt Hills, Round Lake, Upper Hudson, Crescent Reservoir. 6 miles afoot, 125 by car. 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. 79 species.

Party E Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner, Ella Robinson, Helen O'Meara, Pauline Baker. Washington Park, Albany south to Van Wie Point, Vischer Ponds, Niskayuna Wide Waters, rear of Siena College. 3 miles afoot, 100 by car. 4:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. 67 species.

Party F Dr. Allen H. Benton. Albany and New Salem. Four miles afoot, 30 by car. 4 to 9 a.m. 62 species.

Party G Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Scott, Miss Linda Day. Scotia - Collins Lake, Sunnyside Road, Washington Avenue. 35 species.

Party H Brother E. Austin and two others. Troy area. 37 species.

Party I Leon A. Wiard, Samuel R. Madison, Mr. Sabin. Complete territory from Indian Ladder to Vischer Ponds. 4 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. 99 species.

None to North

Only one group visited Saratoga Lake, and none went any more to the north. This is part of the reason why, for the first time in 9 years, missed species included the Ruffed Grouse, Brown Creeper, Sapsucker, and Louisiana Waterthrush.

1955 CENTURY RUN -- 126 SPECIES

Pied-billed Grebe		h	Long-billed Marsh Wren	a	i
Great Blue Heron	d		Catbird	abodefghi	
American Egret		i	Brown Thrasher	ab d fg i	
Green Heron	a d	i	Robin	abcdefghi	
Black-crowned Nt. Heron	a d		Wood Thrush	abcdefghi	
American Bittern	a d	i	Hermit Thrush	a d	
Mallard	d	hi	Veery	abcdef i	
Black Duck	ab def	hi	Bluebird	abc e g i	
Blue-winged Teal	a		Cedar Waxwing	a	hi
Wood Duck	a	i	Starling	abcdefghi	
Redhead	a		Yellow-throated Vireo	a d f i	
Lesser Scaup	a d		Solitary Vireo	a e	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	d	i	Red-eyed Vireo	a c ef i	
Red-tailed Hawk		f i	Warbling Vireo	ab defg i	
Red-shouldered Hawk	a c e	i	Blk & White Warbler	a d f i	
Marsh Hawk	ab e	i	Worm-eating Warbler		i
Osprey	a f	i	Golden-winged Warbler	a d f i	
Sparrow Hawk	a c e	i	Blue-winged Warbler	a	
Ring-necked Pheasant	a cdef	i	Tennessee Warbler	a f i	
Virginia Rail	a		Nashville Warbler	c	
Sora		i	Parula Warbler	e i	
Florida Gallinule	a	i	Yellow Warbler	abcdef hi	
Coot	ab de	i	Magnolia Warbler	c f	
Killdeer	abcdef hi		Cape May Warbler	ab	
Woodcock	ab de		Blk-thr. Blue Warbler	a	i
Spotted Sandpiper	a def	i	Myrtle Warbler	abcdef hi	
Solitary Sandpiper	a de	h	Blk-thr. Green Warbler	a cd i	
Lesser Yellow-legs	a		Blackburnian Warbler	a d	
Least Sandpiper	a e		Chestnut-sided Warbler	abcdef i	
Herring Gull	a de		Black-poll Warbler	a	
Ring-billed Gull	a d	i	Pine Warbler	a e i	
Mourning Dove	abcdefghi		Prairie Warbler	ab d f i	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	a efg	i	Oven-bird	abcdef hi	
Horned Owl	a f		Northern Waterthrush	d	i
Whip-poor-will	ab d f	i	Northern Yellowthroat	abcdef i	
Nighthawk	e g	i	American Redstart	abcdefg i	
Chimney Swift	abcdefghi		House Sparrow	abcdefghi	
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	e	i	Bobolink	ab def hi	
Belted Kingfisher	ab d	hi	Meadowlark	abcdefghi	
Flicker	abcdefghi		Red-winged Blackbird	abcdefghi	
Pileated Woodpecker	a d	i	Baltimore Oriole	abcdefghi	
Hairy Woodpecker	abc fg	i	Rusty Blackbird	d	
Downy Woodpecker	ab def	i	Purple Grackle	abcdefghi	
Kingbird	ab def	hi	Cowbird	abcdefghi	
Crested Flycatcher	a cdefg	i	Scarlet Tanager	a cdef hi	
Phoebe	ab defghi		Cardinal	b g	
Least Flycatcher	ab de g	i	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	abcdefghi	
Wood Pewee	b	i	Indigo Bunting	b f h	
Olive-sided Flycatcher		i	Evening Grosbeak	ab de g i	
Horned Lark	d	hi	Purple Finch	abc ef i	
Tree Swallow	ab de	hi	Goldfinch	abcdefg i	
Bank Swallow	a de g	i	Red-eyed Towhee	abcdefg i	
Rough-winged Swallow	a d	h	Savannah Sparrow	a d f i	
Barn Swallow	abcdef	hi	Grasshopper Sparrow	a e i	
Cliff Swallow		i	Henslow's Sparrow		i
Purple Martin	a d		Vesper Sparrow	ab	i
Blue Jay	abcdefg	i	Slate-colored Junco	ab	i
Crow	abcdef	hi	Chipping Sparrow	abcdefghi	
Blk-capped Chickadee	ab def	i	Field Sparrow	ab defg i	
White-br. Nuthatch	ab defg	i	White-crowned Sparrow	ab de i	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	a f	i	White-throated Sparrow	abcdef hi	
House Wren	abcdef	hi	Swamp Sparrow	a cd i	
Carolina Wren		g	Song Sparrow	abcdefg i	

OUR FIRST AMERICAN MAGPIE

James K. Meritt

On April 22 Dr. R. J. Erickson saw an American Magpie near his Slingerlands home. This constitutes a first record for the SBC area. Dr. Erickson first heard the bird in a brushy area near his home and then was able to get good views. Inasmuch as Dr. Erickson has spent much of his life in the West, the Magpie is not a new bird for him.

Although the Magpie may be moving eastward to some extent (in 1952 it nested for the first known time in Minnesota), the chances are strong that this particular individual was one of a group liberated in Vermont in the summer of 1954. Two birds seen at Pittsburg, N.H., on October 5 of last year were attributed to that releasing.

A similar event occurred in New Jersey in 1952. Five imported Magpies were released at Cranford, N.J., and there was much havoc among the area birders. 1953 records from Connecticut and Long Island (as well as New Jersey) were attributed to this releasing.

In 1950 a Magpie was collected at Orient, L.I., and in November, 1951, one was seen there. It is quite probable that these also were released birds.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher

On October 7, 1954, a Fork-tailed Flycatcher was observed on telephone wires near Clermont, in southern Columbia County, which is within the official SBC area. The record was noted in Audubon Field Notes (Vol. 9, No. 1). This is the first local observation of the Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and it may well be a first record for the state.

The bird was seen by Mrs. Raymond Ingersoll of New York City and by two others with her. Mrs. Ingersoll is quite familiar with the species, having seen it previously in Central and South America. The bird is, incidentally, one which, if seen well, can hardly be misidentified by an experienced observer.

The closest natural home of this species is the lowlands of southeastern Mexico. Freak records such as this occur periodically in the northeast, and there is no apparent explanation.



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

MORE PURPLE MARTINS

Saratoga County

Saratoga Springs is regularly visited on Century Run days so its colony of Purple Martins will contribute to the count. It is also known that Fort Edward, Washington County -- just across the Hudson from Saratoga County -- has, or at least until recently had, a colony.

Now another Saratoga County colony of Martins has been listed. For some years, and including 1955, Purple Martins have occupied a martin house in the yard of 416 Palmer Avenue, Palmer, adjacent to Corinth.

-- G. B.



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.17 No.7

July, 1955

THE STATE BIRD CLUB MEETING

Lillian C. Stoner

The eighth annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was held May 27-28-29, 1955, at Elmira. Mr. Albert W. Fudge and his committee of the Chemung Valley Audubon Society made and carried out extensive plans for the meeting.

As usual, the Federation Committees met Friday evening at the hotel. Then on Saturday the headquarters for the field trip and the day's business and program were all transferred to the Administration Building, Harris Hill Glider Field. Here we also enjoyed the wonderful view of the surrounding country, as this famous glider field is located at the top of a high hill.

General Meeting

Something of the morning council business will be given later in this paper, after we first tell of the program which was offered in the afternoon general meeting.

The first two formal papers, both presented by Rochester members, showed much careful work both in the field and in the preparation.

Seasonal Abundance

"The Seasonal Abundance of Birds in the Rochester Area" was the subject of the first paper, which was given by Dr. Leo J. Tanghe. He was introduced as a chemist by profession and an ornithologist by avocation. With the aid of large charts Dr. Tanghe gave a compiled statistical report of species and individual bird records of many long and short field trips. Observers either alone or in groups had made these lists in a number of years in the Rochester area.

The records for the calendar year, which were broken up from months into shorter periods of weeks, brought out many points in numbers of birds that had been observed.

For example, a winter and a summer visitor -- a Redpoll and a warbler -- showed not only the first and last appearance for these two birds in the area, but by numbers of individual birds reported by all the observers one could see

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the approaching peak, peak, and decline of peak of abundance of that species in the area in one year. Charts of other later years were also used to make a composite chart to cover all the observations.

Waterfowl Census

The second paper, entitled "The Federation Mid-winter Waterfowl Census: 1," was presented by Gerald Rising who was introduced as a school teacher. This report, the field work of which had been done by a number of people, also dealt with the actual numbers of waterfowl recorded from Christmas to the second week of February in the 1954-1955 winter.

At this season probably there are definite numbers of individuals in the area and, since much of the water is frozen, the birds are apt to be nearer shore, so it is easier to observe and count them.

By airplane two large groups were spotted in an inaccessible region. About 36 species and some 139,000 individuals were listed as a total count.

State Book

Mr. Robert S. Arbid, Jr., is the new chairman of the State Book committee as Dr. Gordon Meade, the former chairman, has moved out of the state. Mr. Arbid announced that a questionnaire would be sent to all clubs after October 1.

The 80 questions are about migration dates, seasonal status, etc. Emphasis was given about the return of the questionnaire to the committee after clubs had filled in any or all answers.

Transmogrification

Mr. Harold H. Axtell of Buffalo Museum, with the subject "Authorities Make Too Many Mistakes," told us of some interesting, amusing and unusual identifications of birds. He spoke of illusion of size -- for example, how a Starling was mistaken for a Crow -- and then of color illusion when a Black Duck was called a Swan. Both of these identifications were of birds seen at a distance.

Another common error occurs when observers often are so anxious to see a reported bird that they quickly conclude that one of the first birds seen is that particular reported bird. Many times shorebirds may be misidentified when feet or color of legs are not seen. On one trip "birders" in

three automobiles identified the same hawk with three different names.

Validity of sight records of especially rare birds are oftentimes questioned by authorities. All persons make mistakes even though they have a good record, so it behooves all of us to be careful when we say so positively that is a certain bird, unless we are able to see the definite identifying field characters in a good light. Dr. Axtell urged us to keep an open mind for opinions of others when there is a difference of opinion in naming a certain bird.

Forever Wild

A very enjoyable interlude came after a brief intermission, when the meeting continued out on the porch. In this scenic spot, with many birch and other trees nearby, we listened as Dr. Paul Kellogg of Cornell University played a recording of "Some Songs of New York State Warblers." Again back in the auditorium the program concluded with Former President Eugene Eisenmann acting as moderator for an open forum discussion on the "Forever Wild" clause of the New York State Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1. Among the participants were three local men, Dr. Robert Rienow, Philip Ham, and Dr. Newkirk. After the discussion a vote was taken, with the Federation's position remaining status quo.

The Dinner

Of course the annual dinner as well as the following program were all most enjoyable. Mr. Harold D. Mitchell, serving in a very capable way his second year as head of this organization, gave the President's Address. Mrs. William English of Sassafras Bird Club, Amsterdam, read a tribute to Walter Elwood who recently passed away. Mr. Elwood had been most active in the state bird club. Next a record was played by Dr. Kellogg, entitled "The Symphony of the Birds." This was composed by James Fassett of CBS from bird recordings in the Cornell Library of Natural Sounds. It had been presented some weeks ago on a national radio program from New York City. The symphony was made up of calls and songs of 11 kinds of birds and was in three movements. Bird voices used in the first part were Veery, Baltimore Oriole, Field Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, and Winter Wren. The sonorous tones of Trumpeter Swan and rather raucous notes of Ptarmigan blended at times into a funny and interesting second part. The songs of four Thrushes, blended to make more of a musical third movement, were Olive-backed, Wood, Gray-checked, and Hermit. In all it produced a most unusual and enjoyable type of musical recording.

The speaker of the evening, Dr. Maurice Broun, Curator of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, gave an illustrated lecture on "The Forest Community." This was both enjoyable and educational. Dr. and Mrs. Broun had been home less than a week from their trip around the world, so it was indeed good of them to come to our State meeting and tell us more of the birds, habitats and work about their home on Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, our neighboring state.

Field Trips

Many participated on Sunday in the Breeding Bird Census. They also listed 82 species. An additional four seen on the previous day's trip gave a week-end total of 86. Observers were pleased to get good views of the Worm-eating Warbler and Red-headed Woodpecker.

Council Business

The two following items that were brought out at the Council meeting pertained to individual members and to shortening the name of the state organization.

Individual membership is growing, and they wish to encourage different types of individual memberships as well as new Bird Clubs in the state. As you know, each person who joins now as a regular member pays \$2 dues (Better hurry and join as this may need to be increased). This includes a year's subscription to The Kingbird. It is really quite interesting to follow the regional reports of other parts of the state. Also, these records are valuable when you visit some other region. The articles and notes are likewise good. You not only will enjoy your own copy of The Kingbird but by joining you will help the state organization to grow.

Since the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs plans to incorporate, a shorter and less cumbersome name is being considered. The writer has proposed "New York State Bird Club, Inc." Other suggestions were New York Ornithologists' Union, and New York Ornithological Society. So, SBC members, start thinking and send in your suggestions, please.

Your delegates at this annual meeting were James K. Merritt and your writer. Also attending were Miss Nelle G. Van Vorst and Dr. Minnie B. Scotland. We hope more SBC members will attend the 1956 meeting.

The Old and the New

For the many hours of work both planned and carried out, we extend "Thank you" to all the present Federation officers and the editor of The Kingbird. Especially mentioned are four who will end their terms at the end of the year -- Mr. Harold D. Mitchell, Buffalo; Mr. Guy Bartlett, Schenectady; Mr. H. Everest Clement, Rochester; and Mr. Stephen W. Eaton, St. Bonaventure. We SBC members, and I take the liberty of speaking for our membership, are sorry that our own member, Mr. Bartlett, did not go on to the office of President (Note: The writer insists this above statement be in FEATHERS).

We also give our most sincere good wishes to the new and old elected officers for 1956:

President - Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg, Ithaca
Vice-president - Albert W. Fudge, Elmira
Corresponding Secretary - Elizabeth Manning, New York City
Recording Secretary - Elizabeth Feldhausen, Saratoga Springs
Treasurer - Allen G. Klontok, Rochester.



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.17 No.8

August, 1955

MARTINS AT SELKIRK

Pauline E. Baker

On June 17, about 7 o'clock in the evening, Mrs. Stoner and the writer visited the Selkirk home of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. L. Peltz for the express purpose of seeing their Purple Martins. Mr. Peltz estimated about 60 are living in the apartments of the two large houses specially built and erected for them.

Mr. and Mrs. Peltz extended a cordial invitation to the Schenectady Bird Club to see the Martins. It seemed advisable to go very soon, and it was impossible to contact every member of SBC. However, a few evenings later a good group braved the showery evening and enjoyed the show that was repeated.

On both evenings we saw the birds and heard them well as they flew about. Food was being brought for young birds. Apparently all apartments in one house and some in the older house were occupied. Much activity near the houses and in a wide circle around kept up until dark. Often three or four would alight on the top of the golden eagle on the flag pole in the garden.

Mr. Peltz wanted to have Martins at his home, which is on a ridge above the Hudson River. At least 12 years ago he put up a house to attract them. It was not until June 24, 1950, that an advance guard arrived to rout the Starlings and House Sparrows that had built in the previously unclaimed Martin tenement.

Though his records are incomplete, Mr. Peltz was able to give some interesting dates:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Departed</u>
1952		August 8
1953	April 25	August 10
1954	April 19	August 6
1955	April 19	

The Peltzes are delighted that finally the Martins came, and keep returning each year. They are pleased to share their birds with others who love the wild visitors. Our thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Peltz for a very pleasant evening with them and their Martins. ... Are there other Purple Martins nesting in Albany County?

FEATHERS is published monthly by

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.

Editor: Guy Bartlett, 1053 Parkwood Blvd.

Circulation: Mabel Barnes, 114 McClellan St.

Florence Durand, Treasurer 19 Moyston St.

Annual Membership Dues: Sustaining, \$5; Active, \$3; Associate, \$2; Junior, \$1



BRIEFING THE RECORD

James K. Meritt, Records Committee Chairman

May was a very warm month, with Schenectady temperatures averaging 62.3 degrees, no less than 4.2 degrees above normal. The first two-thirds of the month was exceedingly dry, but some heavy rains during the last 10 days brought the total precipitation up to 2.72 inches, slightly lower than average.

Since that part of the month when most species arrived was almost invariably warm and dry, the migration was something less than spectacular. There was no real Warbler wave, for example. By and large the birds just drifted in. With the exception of a very few arrivals, notably the White-crowned Sparrow and possibly the Baltimore Oriole, no species in this category was as conspicuous as might be expected. Arrival dates were generally about normal.

Several observers commented on the very heavy tent caterpillar infestation which was so much in evidence early in the month.

A Horned Grebe paid an unexpected visit to Washington Park, Albany, the first week of the month (LStoner). An American Egret and a Redhead were both noteworthy additions to the Century Run list of May 14. Several Bald Eagles were seen on May 14, and on the 23rd an immature was seen flying over Schenectady (NVVorst). Sora and Virginia Rail were recorded by separate parties on the Century Run. A Woodcock was recorded on the May 11 evening trip, and four of nine reporting parties recorded the species on May 14, but I do not know the number of individuals involved, particularly since territories overlapped.

Cuckoo reports were not plentiful. The Yellow-billed was first seen in Schenectady on May 10 (HO'Meara), and the Black-billed in Scotia May 11 (EHallenbeck). A Barn Owl was present most of the month at Washington Park (ABenton, LS), and two parties recorded the Horned Owl on May 14. A Horned Owl was also reported from the southern edge of Albany on May 14 (AB).

The Eastern Kingbird was first seen at West Berne on May 5 (AB), and the Crested Flycatcher at Burnt Hills May 1 (MFoote). Several Traill's Flycatchers were recorded on the Meadowdale trip of May 22 (SBC). One party reported the Olive-sided Flycatcher on the Century Run. Cliff Swallows were seen May 7 (MF) and by several parties May 14. Red-breasted Nuthatches were rather widely reported early in the month, with a count of 10 in the Burnt Hills area on May 10 as particularly noteworthy (MF).

The Carolina Wren continued to be in Scotia. On May 18 a Mockingbird was heard and seen along Adams Road in Schenectady by Dr. C. W. Woodall and several others. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was reported from Burnt Hills May 10 (MF), and one or two at Loudonville May 17 to 22 (MWFrench). There was only one Olive-backed Thrush report.

As previously mentioned, the Warbler flight was generally poor. Mrs. Fitzgerald, however, had a good group of Cape Mays in Amsterdam on May 13. Three parties reported the Tennessee May 14, and the Worm-eating Warbler was also recorded then -- but not one party that day recorded the Canada, normally a much more common species. The Blackburnian's arrival in Albany on May 1 was a few days early (AB). Three Yellow-breasted Chats were observed on the May 22 Meadowdale trip.

Baltimore Orioles arrived early and in fair numbers. A male Cardinal was at Mrs. Eddy's feeder from May 9 on, and a pair was at a feeder a few miles south of Albany (Mrs. Richard Law). The Scotia Cardinal was recorded on the Century Run. It is interesting to speculate as to whether these birds are moving into the area from the south or west -- or from both directions.

There were numerous Purple Finch reports. An Evening Grosbeak was seen near the Van Curler Hotel on May 8 (SBC), and the species was easily recorded on the Century Run. The birds were last reported locally on May 22, a pair at Amsterdam (Margaret Fitzgerald). Incidentally, between October 26 and May 17 Mrs. Fitzgerald banded 677 of these birds out of a supposedly "permanent" flock of considerably less than this number.

A flock of 20 Pine Siskins in full chorus was observed at Loudonville May 22 (MWF). The White-crowned Sparrow migration was a brief but very marked one. The species was first observed May 8 at Amsterdam (MFTz) and at Gallupville (GZimmer). From May 9 to 13 a small group of these birds, in company with White-throats, was singing at one of Schenectady's most popular, and populous, spots -- the G-E main entrance. A good total of 30 was observed at Burnt Hills on May 10 (MF). The species was last reported May 16 (HEddy).

* * * * *

June had an average temperature in Schenectady of 68 degrees, exactly normal. Precipitation was 2.45 inches, about two-thirds of normal. The month's high was 92 degrees, recorded on June 18. The low of 47 was recorded on June 3.

On the morning of June 26 Vischer Ponds had all the flavor of a true southern marsh. Nine American Egrets were counted (EH), and a rough count of some 80 Black-crowned Night Herons was made (JMeritt). A few Green Herons were present also. Pheasants should be more common locally, at least for a time, because almost 100 of these birds were released during the month in the Vischer Ferry and Burnt Hills areas by the Ballston Lake Fish and Game Club. The Florida Gallinule was heard by several observers throughout the month at Vischer Ponds. Dr. Allen Benton flushed a Woodcock from his flower bed at his Albany home on June 25. On June 26 five Upland Sandpipers (1 adult, 4 young) were seen near

Scotia (EH). On June 11 a Pileated Woodpecker was observed flying across the Mohawk at Vischer Ferry (JM). Four Cliff Swallows, and two nests, were located by Hallenbeck along Swaggertown Road on June 26.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported breeding in Carman (NVV). The Gollins Lake Carolina Wren was recorded June 12 (EH), but no evidence of breeding has been reported. A Blackburnian Warbler was seen in Thacher Park June 4, and on June 25 a family of Black-throated Blues was observed near Alcoe Reservoir (JM).

One of the rarities of the year to date was a male Yellow-headed Blackbird, first seen at Vischer Ponds by Robert Underwood and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ottman; this record was noted in both the Albany Knickerbocker News and Schenectady Union-Star. The bird was seen again by Hallenbeck on June 19. There is one previous SBC record -- on October 18, 1943, one was observed with Grackles along the Hudson River near Stuyvesant by S. Waldo Bailey. I do not know the status of other New York State records, but there are at least eight or nine accredited Massachusetts records for the species.

A male Cardinal was present throughout the month along Stone Ridge Road (HE). Evidence of local breeding was obtained when two young birds were seen along St. David's Lane by Mrs. Louis Novak. On June 25 a Henslow's Sparrow was seen near Alcoe Reservoir, and another was heard that day near Greenfield (JM). One was reported near Scotia June 26 (EH). A Junco was observed in Thacher Park on June 4 (JM).

In light of the April 22 Magpie report at Slingerlands (FEATHERS, June, page 40), it might be of interest to readers to know that a Magpie was recorded in northern New Jersey on May 28.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

G. Malcolm Andrews, Field Activities Chairman

Trip A	May 1	Central Park, breakfast	Species 33
B	8	Wolf Hollow	55
C	11	Night Songs	3
D	14	Century Run	126
E	22	Meadowdale - Indian Ladder	69
F	28-29	Elmira, Federation Convention	86
G	30	Karners	37

Pied-billed Grebe	d	Redhead	d
Great Blue Heron	d fg	Lesser Soap	d
American Egret	d	Sharp-shinned Hawk	d
Green Heron	def	Cooper's Hawk	b
Blk-cr. Night Heron	cd	Red-tailed Hawk	d
American Bittern	de	Red-shouldered Hawk	d
Canada Goose	a	Marsh Hawk	de
Mallard	de	Osprey	d
Black Duck	de	Sparrow Hawk	b def
Blue-winged Teal	de	Ring-necked Pheasant	defg
Wood Duck	d	Virginia Rail	d

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Sora	d	Cedar Waxwing	d f
Florida Gallinule	de	Common Starling	ab defg
American Coot	d	Yellow-throated Vireo	d f
Killdeer	a defg	Solitary Vireo	b d
American Woodcock	cd	Red-eyed Vireo	a defg
Upland Sandpiper	g	Warbling Vireo	d f
Spotted Sandpiper	d f	Blk & White Warbler	b def
Solitary Sandpiper	d	Worm-eating Warbler	def
Lesser Yellow-legs	d	Golden-winged Warbler	b defg
Least Sandpiper	d	Blue-winged Warbler	de
Herring Gull	d	Tennessee Warbler	d
Ring-billed Gull	d	Nashville Warbler	d f
Mourning Dove	ab defg	Parula Warbler	b d f
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	def	Yellow Warbler	b def
(Black-billed Cuckoo)	f	Magnolia Warbler	b d g
Horned Owl	d	Cape May Warbler	d
Whip-poor-will	cd	Bl'k-thr. Blue Warbler	b d f
Common Nighthawk	d f	Myrtle Warbler	ab d
Chimney Swift	a defg	Blk-thr.Green Warbler	b d f
Ruby-thr.Hummingbird	d f	Blackburnian Warbler	b d f
Belted Kingfisher	ab d f	Chestnut-sided Warbler	b defg
Yel-shafted Flicker	ab def	Black-poll Warbler	def
Pileated Woodpecker	d f	Pine Warbler	d g
(Red-headed Woodpecker)	f	Prairie Warbler	d g
Yel-bellied Sapsucker	a	Oven-bird	b def
Hairy Woodpecker	a def	Northern Water-thrush	b d
Downy Woodpecker	ab def	Louisiana Water-thrush	b
Eastern Kingbird	b defg	(Mourning Warbler)	f
Crested Flycatcher	b def	Common Yellow-throat	defg
Eastern Phoebe	ab def	Yellow-breasted Chat	efg
(Yellow-bel.Flycatcher)	f	Canada Warbler	b f
Trail's Flycatcher	ef	Redstart	b def
Least Flycatcher	b defg	House Sparrow	ab defg
Eastern Wood Pewee	def	Bobolink	def
Olive-sided Flycatcher	d	Eastern Meadowlark	ab def
Horned Lark	a d f	Red-winged Blackbird	b defg
Tree Swallow	de	Baltimore Oriole	b defg
Bank Swallow	def	Rusty Blackbird	d
Rough-winged Swallow	def	Purple Grackle	a defg
Barn Swallow	b def	Brown-headed Cowbird	ab def
Cliff Swallow	d f	Scarlet Tanager	b defg
Purple Martin	d f	Cardinal	d f
Blue Jay	ab defg	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	b def
American Crow	ab defg	Indigo Bunting	defg
Blk-capped Chickadee	ab defg	Evening Grosbeak	b d
(Tufted Titmouse)	f	Purple Finch	d fg
White-br. Nuthatch	ab def	American Goldfinch	ab defg
Red-breasted Nuthatch	b d	Eastern Towhee	ab defg
House Wren	b def	Savannah Sparrow	b def
Carolina Wren	d	Grasshopper Sparrow	def
Long-bill.Marsh Wren	de	Henslow's Sparrow	d
Catbird	b defg	Vesper Sparrow	a d f
Brown Thrasher	a defg	Slate-colored Junco	ab d
American Robin	ab defg	Chipping Sparrow	ab defg
Wood Thrush	b defg	Field Sparrow	ab defg
Hermit Thrush	d	White-crowned Sparrow	b d
(Olive-backed Thrush)	f	White-throated Sparrow	ab d
Veery	defg	Swamp Sparrow	de
Eastern Bluebird	def	Song Sparrow	ab defg
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	ab	TOTAL - 141 species	

In the preceding composite list of 141 species -- the records of the SBC field trips during May, the half-dozen entries in parentheses are those which were seen only on the Elmira trips of the State Federation.

GEESE IN FLIGHTCentral Park Breakfast, May 1

Fifteen birders gathered at 5:30 a.m. for the annual breakfast trip in Central Park. The weather was mostly clear, the temperature 55°, and the wind from 5 to 8 mph. The Myrtle was the only warbler. Two Brown Thrashers were singing in the tree tops. The 12 Canada Geese in V-formation were a beautiful sight.

Twenty-nine were eagerly awaiting hot coffee and pancakes prepared by Nellie Silliman and Walter Kasken. There was plenty for all.

-- Esly Hallenbeck

COMPARISONSWolf Hollow, May 8

The spring trip to Wolf Hollow, missing from the schedules of the past few years, proved both enjoyable and productive. Fifty-five species were recorded by the seven members and one enthusiastic teen-age guest. The day was partly cloudy, the temperature 52° to 70°, and the wind moderate from the west.

Shortly before 7 a.m. an unexpected note emanating from a small maple along Erie Boulevard proved to be an Evening Grosbeak. With weather conditions nearly ideal, the formal hike began near the farmhouse at the lower junction of the Hollow and Hill roads.

Parula, Myrtle and Chestnut-sided Warblers were observed together in a large tree. Proceeding on foot over the hill to the top of the Hollow and back again to the starting point, the observers were treated to interesting comparative views and auditions of White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, and also of the Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes. Likewise, both Red- and White-breasted Nuthatches were heard within a short time.

A cross-country scramble down the precipitous eastern face of the Notch produced excellent close-range views of a Canada Warbler, whose vigorous call became well established in the minds of most of the group. Altogether, it was agreed that this territory was well worth including in next year's field-trip list.

-- Roy E. Hunt

HEARD, AS PLANNEDAfter Dark, May 11

Of course additional species might have been listed, but the 11 observers along Vly and Rosendale roads after dark on May 11 had certain species in mind. The trip was a success, for the Woodcock, Whip-poor-will, and Black-crowned Night Heron were all heard.

-- Beatrice Sullivan

CENTURY RUN -- 126May 14

The all-out Century Run, with its 126 species, has already been recorded (FEATHERS, June, page 37). It is mentioned here only for completeness of the May trip composite.

TRAILL'S AND CHATSMeadowdale - Indian Ladder, May 22

Four Traill's (or Alder) Flycatchers and two Yellow-breasted Chats were among the features of the 69 species of the Meadowdale-Indian Ladder trip of May 22. There were 17 participants, the weather was sunny and hazy, the wind

mild, and the temperature 60-70°. Nineteen species were included on both Meadowdale and Ladder lists; 32 at Meadowdale alone; and 18 at only Indian Ladder.

RED-HEADED

Elmira, May 28-29

On the mornings of May 28 and 29 well-organized field trips to various Elmira habitats were conducted for those attending the annual convention of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Eighty-six species were recorded during the two-day period.

The many participants were afforded an excellent opportunity to observe the Worm-eating Warbler, normally a relatively difficult species to see well. Birders were taken in small groups to the area where the Worm-eater had apparently taken up residence, and no others were permitted in until that group left. Each group departed after a specified length of time so the next group would have a chance to see the bird.

A Red-headed Woodpecker in the lowlands along the Chemung River was also a treat for many. Additional records of especial interest were the Pileated Woodpecker, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, and Mourning Warbler. Considering the relatively late dates, a Warbler count of 17 varieties was exceedingly good. Several Cardinals were seen. It was a poor weekend, however, for viewing birds of prey; the Sparrow Hawk was the only member of its group to be recorded, and no Owls were reported. The Tree Swallow was not listed.

-- James K. Meritt

PINE, PRAIRIE

Karners, May 30

The annual Memorial Day trip into the Karners sand barrens produced not only the expected Pine and Prairie Warblers but also a Golden-winged and two Yellow-breasted Chats among its seven Warbler species, the others being the Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, and Common Yellowthroat. One of the half-dozen Crows listed was a juvenile. An Upland Sandpiper and 12 Purple Finches were also of particular interest.

There were 10 participants, and the weather was ideal -- 60 degrees, calm, and cloudy.

-- Lucile C. Grace


 NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF 
WHEN IN PHOENIX

If you are in Phoenix, Arizona, and if you inquire about bird people of the Chamber of Commerce or of the Public Library, the Boy Scouts, or a park caretaker, you will probably be given the name of Mr. Malvin B. Plunkett, writer-naturalist, organizer of the Maricopa Audubon Society, and manager of the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation. Mr. Plunkett is a friendly, easy Kentuckian, interested in taking outsiders on bird-walks. He is the quickest, keenest observer I have ever been with on field observations.

Mr. Plunkett and I spent about six hours on April 3 on the Tal Wi Wi Ranch at Bumsted, about 15 miles northwest of Phoenix. We walked about six miles and counted 28 species.

Our observations for the day included winter-resident birds as Western Robin, Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows and Song Sparrows; summer resident birds as Cliff Swallows and Western Kingbird; migrating birds as female Golden-eye, Ruby-crowned Kinglet; and all-year resident birds as Western Mourning Dove, Inca Dove, Western Meadowlark, Palmer's Curve-billed Thrasher, and Verdin. -- Ruthanna W. Worrell

COCKY PHEASANT

We seem to quote frequently from Bill Walsh's "Hunting and Fishing" column in the Erie (Pa.) General Electric News. Here's an item from his May 27 column:

"Fish Warden Bryce Carnell and Game Protector Carl E. Jarrett were patrolling Barnett's Run, near Needmore, early in March when they saw a fisherman coming across a field from the stream. A cock pheasant was flying at him and flogging him.

"Reports Jarrett: 'The man said he was fishing the stream when he saw five hens and the cock on the bank. The male bird made such a nuisance of himself it was necessary for the angler to place his landing net over it in order to continue his fishing unmolested.

"Carnell and I played with the cock bird awhile, trying to instill some fear of man in him, but to no avail. Other fishermen reported like experiences in the same area."

AN IDEA

We quote an article by G. A. Prostinak of Wheeling (W.Va.) Electric Company, in Electrical World of May 30:

"Broadcasting the distress cries of a starling has eliminated insulator flashovers at one substation due to bird droppings. This method was devised by one of Wheeling Electric Co's industrial customers, and may be applicable elsewhere.

"Starlings had become a major nuisance at the substation, so one was captured and its cries of distress recorded on a disk. Then with a 10-watt public-address system loudspeaker directed toward the substation, the recording was reproduced for 20 minutes on three consecutive evenings. Since then, a period of more than three months, the problem has ceased.

"This idea may have application elsewhere if the recorded distress cries do not disturb neighbors. A tape recorder might be more permanent than the disk."

ANOTHER IDEA

Still quoting, this time from the April issue of Electrical West. The illustration shows a Kingbird sitting on a clamp attached to a transmission line. The item says:

"New Use for Clamp -- Crows and hawks don't have a very high opinion of Kingbirds, so one power company mounts wooden Kingbirds on Line Material Co. hot line clamps to help eliminate short circuit problems caused by the larger birds. Real Kingbirds destroy the nests of their natural enemies, so the wooden birds destroy the desire of crows and hawks to build nests on or near power lines."

Ospreys, of course, are most noted for their pole-top structures. More about them and utility engineers in a later issue.



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.17 No.9

September, 1955

MAINE -- AND MEXICO

James K. Meritt

Should you be wondering how to spend a week's vacation in a relatively near area looking for birds which are rare or non-existent locally, I would strongly recommend the State of Maine -- that is, if you make the trip in late spring or early summer. In mid-June three years ago Beverly Ridgely, of Providence, R.I., and I enjoyed seven days of excellent birding in several widely scattered areas of the state. Our main stops were Acadia National Park, Machias Seal Island, Old Main Island, and Baxter State Park.

Acadia National Park

The principal feature of Acadia National Park, near Bar Harbor, is Mount Cadillac, the highest point north of Rio de Janeiro directly on the Atlantic Ocean. A fine road leads to the summit, from which, of course, there are fine views of Maine's rugged shoreline. The Raven we found to be a characteristic bird there. Several of them were playing in the wind along the ridge. We were delighted also to see one adult Bald Eagle.

In the lower areas Bev and I saw a group of White-winged Crossbills, and we located an Olive-sided Flycatcher's nest. The characteristic call of the Olive-sided could be heard at almost every likely area.

Machias Seal Island

Machias Seal is an island of some 14 acres lying 10 miles off the coast from the small fishing village of Cutler. The only human occupants of the island are the lighthouse keeper and his family, but the avian occupants there are many and varied.

Since there is no ferry service to the island, Bev and I hired a local fisherman to take us out. The most conspicuous birds present were the Arctic Terns; we estimated some 5,000 in all. Tern eggs were everywhere, and Bev and I had to be careful of our footing. We came across one egg just as it was hatching.

In spite of the great number of Arctic Terns, a bird I had not before seen, it was the alcids that held special interest for me. Some 300 Puffins were either on the island or swimming in the waters just offshore. These birds nest in the rocky crags on the western end of the island. We counted 42 Razor-billed Auks, a species as yet (1952) to be found breeding there. With the Auks was one Atlantic Murre,

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a very unexpected find. We later ascertained that it was the first record for the island. A few Black Guillemots were in evidence in the waters around the island.

We observed two or three Leach's Petrels in the area. Actually there are thousands of these birds there, in their burrows by day and at sea by night. The burrows, like the eggs, presented walking difficulties, especially where the grass was high.

There were no gulls present on Machias Seal itself, but a small group of Herring Gulls apparently resided at a large rook about a hundred yards distant.

Old Man Island

Just off the entrance to Cutler harbor is a very small but high island locally called "The Old Man." The dead and stunted trees make it a very eerie-looking place. Like Machias Seal Island, it had its own particular ornithological attractions.

A Cormorant colony was located there, and well-grown young were in every nest we saw. Bev and I had been informed that a small colony of American Eiders was also there but we succeeded in locating only one nest, which contained five ivory-colored eggs. We found perhaps 20 nests of the Herring Gull, most with one or two eggs, but an occasional one with young.

Amid such surroundings it seemed rather out of place to hear a Song Sparrow pipe up; but then, why not?

Black Guillemots and American Eiders were present in small numbers in the waters around the island.

Baxter State Park

The principal geographical feature of Baxter State Park is, of course, Mount Katahdin, the highest point (5,267 ft) in the state and the first spot in the United States to receive the morning rays from the sun. This wilderness area presented us with some excellent land birding.

Near the Roaring Brook parking area, from which the main trail up the mountain begins, we found Philadelphia Vireos to be quite common. They far outnumbered the Red-eyed Vireo. One of the characteristic birds along the trail up to Chimney Pond was the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. We saw or heard about eight in all. From the rocky cliffs above Chimney Pond we heard Bicknell's Thrushes singing.

Along the road to Ripogenus Dam we located Brown-capped Chickadees at three localities, and a bull moose at one. Olive-sided Flycatchers were almost constantly to be heard. Quite a few warblers, among them a Mourning and two Bay-breasteds, were among the species we saw.

As we returned south from Baxter State Park we saw a Pileated Woodpecker, the 115th and last species we saw on our brief Maine visit. By some standards this is not a high total for a week's birding trip, but Bev and I certainly felt that quality graced our list.

-- and Mexico

In late October, 1953, when my wife, Ann, and I were living in Falls Church, Va., we began making serious plans for a birding visit to northern Mexico. Since we would have our two young children, ages 3 and 1, with us, we bought for the trip several gallons of bottled water and a case of baby food. We had been given much advance warning about Mexican food, and although we later found many of our apprehensions groundless, we were glad we had decided to take no chances insofar as the children were concerned. For the car I had an extra fan belt, an additional spare tire, and several cans of oil. Ann, the children, and I all had smallpox vaccinations, since the law requires that Americans returning from Mexico show evidence of recent immunity to this disease. We secured maps and guides of all types. For birding references we had both "Peterson's" as well as Ermet Reid Blake's Birds of Mexico and George F. Sutton's equally helpful Mexican Birds - First Impressions. As it was to turn out we rather closely followed a route which Sutton described.

We left Falls Church on November 23, and on the 27th we reached Lafayette, La., the home of some very good friends, John and Rita Gee. They and their young child were to accompany us in a two-car party into Mexico. For John and me this trip was the answer to a dream. Several years earlier, when we were both residents of New Jersey, we had often talked longingly of a birding trip together into Mexico, but neither of us really believed that day would come.

John had made some extensive preparations at his end too. Since he had secured from Louisiana State University much additional information on northern Mexico, we felt quite prepared when our little caravan left Lafayette November 29.

We reached Brownsville, Texas, November 30. Early the next morning we had our cars serviced, did some last-minute shopping, and picked up a few letters from home at the A A A office. About 10 o'clock we crossed the bridge over the Rio Grande, then only a brook at best, into the Mexican city of Matamoras. It took us about an hour to get through customs, and we were then on our way.

The First Day

Even though the first day in a new country is always a memorable one, we felt that December 1 was especially so -- and it was not all pleasant. The road to Victoria we found to be in very poor shape, and in places it was so cut with potholes as to be almost impassable. Just past the small village of San Fernando I sped into a deep pothole and promptly put our station wagon out of commission with a broken wheel bearing. This was the time when Ann and I thanked our lucky stars that another couple was with us -- and in another car. By a great stroke of luck, John, using his best high-school Spanish, was able to obtain a replacement

part from what I'm sure must have been the only garage in San Fernando. This delay cost us several hours, and it was well after dark when we finally got rooms at a Victoria motel.

In spite of the day's trials we did quite a bit of birding, all, however, of a roadside nature. Hawks were undoubtedly the most conspicuous of the birds. Both Turkey and Black Vultures were in evidence, the latter being decidedly more common. Audubon's Caracaras and Harris' Hawks were quite numerous. At one point I got a glimpse of three Scaled Quail, and nearby saw the Cardinal-like *Pyrrhuloxia*. We saw about 70 Long-billed Curlew during the day. Other records of interest included a Coot (at a roadside puddle), several groups of Lark Sparrows, two Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, and several groups of White-necked Ravens. None of these birds can be described as typically Mexican, however, inasmuch as they are all found on both sides of the Rio Grande.

Along the Rio Corona

Early on December 2, after gulping down a breakfast of sandwiches which our wives had prepared the evening before, John and I departed for the Rio Corona, about 20 miles northeast of Victoria. We had been steered to this area by Sutton's account of it, and we enjoyed a morning of excellent birding. The growth along the river was quite lush, but luckily there were some well-worn trails in the area.

Without a doubt the most conspicuous birds were the Brown Jays, a raucous species of about Crow size. The presence of these birds made you feel that you were, indeed, in an outdoor jungle. We saw about 10 in all, and we were to observe these birds on many later occasions. Other new finds included a Linnated Woodpecker, a bird quite similar to our Pileated, and several Black-throated Orioles. Amid such unfamiliar surroundings I was surprised to run into a small wave of familiar eastern birds, among them the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Solitary Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler.

Late in the morning we left Victoria for the town of Tamasunchale, about 190 miles further south along the Pan-American Highway. That afternoon, in the arid hill country of the state of San Luis Potosi, we ran into quite a few new birds. At several spots we saw small groups of Yellow-headed Parrots, and there could now be no doubt that we were in Mexico. Brewer's Blackbirds and Mexican Crows were quite conspicuous. Quite a few Roadside Hawks were in evidence, and at one point I had superb scope views of my first White-tailed Kite. Tropical Kingbirds were quite conspicuous, and on one occasion John and I saw a small group of Scrub Euphonias, a colorful species related to our Tanagers. Two or three Green Jays and several Vermilion Flycatchers were other new finds. Just north of Tamasunchale we saw our first Groove-billed Ani of the trip.

Xilitla

The Xilitla area is considered by many to be one of the best birding regions in Mexico. John and I visited that area on December 3, and although our list was relatively

modest, we agreed it was a most successful day. Xilitla is a small Indian village lying in the tropical foothills just north of the central Mexican plateau. We had left the desert country and were now in an area of tall trees, really tropical growth, and really tropical birds. It was a day which I shall long remember. John and I were up early, of course, and after getting dressed we doused ourselves from head to toe with tick-repellent since we did not know exactly what to expect from these creatures so common in certain areas of Mexico. We drove north a few miles on the main highway, took the Xilitla out-off, crossed the Axtla River on the hand-pulled ferry, and then waited until it was light.

Our first bird of the day was a Canyon Wren, which we saw singing from a rocky ledge a few feet above us. The next bird, Melodious Blackbird, was also a "first" for me. This species is well named for the song was a gorgeous thing to hear, something not commonly associated with blackbirds. We were to learn that this was one of the more common species of the area. A mile or so above the Axtla River crossing John and I saw a small group of black-headed Saltators, a species related to our Grosbeaks. We saw others later in the day. We were quite delighted in finding one Bronze-winged Woodpecker, a bird endemic to the San Luis Potosi area of Mexico. Among the tall trees along the hillsides were several small, noisy bands of Green Parakeets. Yellow-headed Parrots were in evidence also.

Without John's prior research at LSU we never would have been able to identify the Wedge-tailed Sabre-wing. This Hummingbird, which is apparently quite common in the area, would gurgle and wheeze for fully five seconds at a time in a manner to remind one of a broken-down pump.

We spent most of the afternoon birding along the Rio Axtla. A Ringed Kingfisher, a bird quite similar to our Belted, flew across the river, and a Squirrel Cuckoo, a rufous species noticeably larger than our Cuckoos, was in evidence along the shore. Near the ferry crossing we saw our first and only Rose-breasted Becard of the trip. We found Vermilion-crowned Flycatchers and White-collared Seedeaters to be quite common. We also observed several Yellow-winged Tanagers, a beautiful bird considerably larger than our Tanagers. As John and I were resting at a small clearing along the river bank we were treated to the sight of a pair of Muscovy Ducks winging low overhead.

Such species as Brown Jay, Green Jay, Tropical Kingbird, and Black-throated Oriole were to be seen throughout the day. Among some of our "back home" birds were Eastern Phoebe, House Wren, White-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Louisiana Water-thrush, and Cardinal.

As we were returning by car to Tamasunchale John and I saw a huge tarantula crossing the road in front of us. If we had to encounter this creature in Mexico, I'm glad we did it under such conditions.

John and I drove a few miles south of Tamasunchale on the morning of December 4. At a riverside clearing we located two Boat-billed Flycatchers, a yellowish species similar to

both the Derby and Vermilion-crowned Flycatchers. However, the birding could not compare to that of the day before, and so John and I went northward again to the Xilitla area.

Another Good Day near Xilitla

When we reached the Axtla River crossing we saw a Mexican Indian pushing his primitive canoe out into the water. John and I struck up an acquaintance, and for a few pesos and a half pack of cigarettes we were treated to an hour's ride along the river west of the crossing. We were able to spot a few waterbirds, such as Least Grebe, Water-turkey, Olivaceous Cormorant, Baldpate, and Green-winged Teal, but we failed to specifically identify a variety of Black Hawk, one of which was in a tree along the shore.

In the early afternoon John and I were on the wooded hillsides just below Xilitla. New species there included a White-fronted Dove, a Spot-breasted Wren, a male White-winged Tanager, several Yellow-throated Euphonias, and two Olivaceous Woodcreepers. A Parula Warbler and a Nashville Warbler were our first of the trip. Wilson's Warblers we found to be quite common. We continued to see most of the tropical species previously mentioned.

On to Tampico

We left Tamasunchale on the morning of December 5 and at Valled turned eastward toward Tampico, on the Gulf of Mexico. Just east of Valles we found hawks to be surprisingly conspicuous. John and I saw our first and only Gray Hawk, sometimes called the Mexican Goshawk (although it is a buteo, not an accipiter). In addition to my second White-tailed Kite of the trip, I saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawks, Marsh Hawks, Caracaras, Sparrow Hawks, Harris' Hawks, and both Black and Turkey Vultures. John came up with a fancy bird of prey, a Short-eared Owl.

About 15 miles west of Tampico we began running into a series of ponds and marshes, and these proved to be excellent birding areas. An immature Jacana and a flock of some 40 White-fronted Geese were the first I had seen. Herons and Egrets of many types abounded, and among them were Black-necked Stilts, Olivaceous Cormorants, White Ibises, White-faced Glossy Ibises, and Gull-billed Terns. Near the ferry crossing into Tampico we saw a Man-O'-War Bird.

Linares and the Canyon

John and I had planned an early-morning return on December 6 to these ponds and marshes, but because of very poor weather we decided to push on. Going westward on a different route from the one we had traversed the day before, we saw, just outside of Tampico, about 10 Jacanas and two separate White-tailed Kites.

We did little other birding until we reached the Canada Courts in Linares. In the yard trees there I saw two Black-throated Gray Warblers, my first and only ones. An American Redstart was my first of the trip.

After an early breakfast on December 7 John and I drove westward along a dirt road. After an hour's ride we found ourselves in a gorgeous canyon amid some of the most beautiful scenery I have ever seen. High peaks of the Sierra

Madres towered on both sides of us. And we saw some totally different birds from those we had hitherto observed.

Approximately 15 Gray-breasted, or Mexican, Jays were our first, as was the Acorn Woodpecker, a beautiful red, black and white species that I was later to see quite frequently in California. We observed one Flame-colored Tanager, a bird quite similar to the White-winged Tanager. Along the arid canyon floor I saw my first Rock Wren, Brown Towhee, and Curve-billed Thrasher. In areas where there was heavy growth we located two new warblers, the Painted Redstart and the Rufous-capped Warbler. As we were returning to Linares we came upon a group of about 100 Red-eyed Cowbirds; we could easily have passed these up as simply another flock of Brewer's Blackbirds. In Linares we observed a Rpbm; it certainly seemed out of place.

On the afternoon of December 7 we drove on to Monterrey, and there secured lodging at the very nice Ancira Hotel in the heart of the city.

The Mesa de Chipinque

Like the Rio Corona, the Mesa de Chipinque is an area covered in some detail by Sutton in his book Mexican Birds - First Impressions. The region is a slope along a mountain ridge overlooking the city. This was another major stop in our Mexican birding itinerary and, typically, we found the bird life quite different from that previously encountered.

John and I left the Ancira Hotel well before dawn in order that we might be on the mountain road leading to the Mesa when it began to get light. Along this road we saw about a dozen Bridled Titmice, a species which occurs in the United States only in southern New Mexico and southern Arizona. Present also were a few Black-crested Titmice. At the Mesa itself I saw my first Red-shafted Flicker. We found three new warblers during the course of the day's outing, and one of them was distinctively Mexican, the Crescent-chested or Hartlaub's Warbler, a species somewhat similar to our Parula. Townsend's Warblers and Hermit Warblers we found to be quite common. Other warblers included the Black and White, Myrtle, Audubon's, Orange-crowned, Rufous-capped, Wilson's, and Painted Redstart.

Our fourth new tanager of the trip was the Hepatic; we saw about four near the Mesa. Our thrill of thrills came with the discovery of a Coppery-tailed Trogon on a tree limb about 20 feet from us. If there was one bird that John and I had wanted to see while in Mexico, this was it.

Late in the afternoon, in the lowlands, we saw our first Say's Phoebe and our first group of Brewer's Sparrows.

Monterrey to Eagle Pass, Texas

John and I did relatively little birding in the Monterrey area on December 9. We were out only a short while in the morning and saw, of note, five Green Jays, a small group of Inca Doves, a Yellow-throated Warbler, and a Beardless Flycatcher. We spent the afternoon shopping for various items, sight-seeing, and picture-taking. December 9 was, in other words, "ladies' day."

We headed westward early on December 10 for Saltillo, and

from there we headed north for the Texas border town of Eagle Pass. Our route took us through desert brush country, and the birding pickings were relatively slim. John (he and I were separated most of the day) had fairly good luck, however, finding such species as the Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Green-tailed Towhee, Cactus Wren, Scott's Oriole, Lark Bunting, Phainopepla, and Purrrhuloxia. Among birds that I saw were the White-crowned Sparrow, Black-throated or Desert Sparrow, and Sage Thrasher.

On December 11 John and I took a last early-morning trip together, in the environs of Eagle Pass. Then he and Rita headed east for their home in Lafayette, while Ann and I continued on to California, to a home yet unknown. Our combined Mexican list was some 180 species.



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

"IS MY FACE RED!" DEPT.

Century Run Total Was 131

Your Field-activities Chairman wishes to apologize for the unintentional omission of Miss Stephanie Podrazik's report from inclusion with Party B of the May 14 Century Run as recorded in June FEATHERS.

Her report boosted the Century Run total to 131 species. The five added: Screech Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Pine Siskin.

Party B's list was also increased some 17 additional kinds: Sparrow Hawk, Pheasant, Nighthawk, Crested Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Swamp Sparrow.

Party B's total is, therefore, 82 species. Other changes in the statistics: 31 participants, 22 species seen only by one party.

-- G. Malcolm Andrews

HAWK AND OWL PROTECTION

New Law in Maine

Hawks and owls (except the Horned Owl) are now protected in Maine. There is a provision that permits the "owner or occupant of land to kill hawks or owls when in the act of destroying poultry." The National Audubon Society has pointed out that it is only occasional individual hawks and owls that develop a taste for poultry, and that even these infrequent depredations can be prevented by keeping the poultry penned.

Passage of the hawk and owl protective law in Maine is in keeping with a nationwide trend toward better protection of the birds of prey, the Society stated. It has just made a survey of state bird-protection laws which reveals that only six states now fail to protect any hawks and owls. States that have recently extended total or additional protection to these birds include Indiana, Idaho, New Hampshire, and Michigan.



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.17 No.10

October, 1955

Defeat Number 7

The climax in the long battle over the Panther mountain dam comes on November 8 when the people of New York state vote on Amendment 7 to the constitution. We believe the amendment should be defeated.

Our position has been the same through the years in which matters relating to preservation of the forest preserve in the Adirondacks have been debated in the legislature and tried in the courts. The Stokes bill prohibited the building of the dam and the bill was upheld by the court of appeals. Then came the Ostrander amendment that made it impossible to build any dam in the forest preserve without amendment. We welcomed the prospect that at least the people would have a direct voice.

Now the proponents of Panther dam have got a specific proposal on the ballot and it is up to every voter to determine for himself whether he wants this kind of encroachment on the forest preserve.

Practical-minded persons will agree, we think, that, regardless of what the proponents say, Panther dam is an opening wedge -- the first olive from the bottle that paves the way for others. The fact that some of the advocates themselves are confused and in disagreement over the roles that flood control and power should or would play in the project merely strengthens the conviction that their case is weak.

People in many walks of life and political leanings oppose this amendment. Not only do they include numerous conservation, outdoor, civic, planning and sports groups (nationwide as well as statewide), but also countless people who have no immediate interest in Panther dam and vicinity but who believe the Constitution should mean what it says and that the preserve should be preserved. Some of those people may never set foot on the Panther mountain area but they are opposed to a bit-by-bit nibbling away at the preserve for this, that or other purpose. The interests of the people of this state are more important than the desires of one group. We urge defeat of Amendment 7.

--- Editorial in Schenectady Gazette, Oct. 14, 1955

**BRIEFING THE RECORD**

James K. Meritt, Records Committee Chairman

September was, from the weather standpoint, a normal month. The average Schenectady temperature was 61.8 degrees, exactly normal; and total precipitation (2.9 inches) was only slightly below average. Bird-wise, however, the month was most unusual. An above-average number of Warbler species were reported, this in spite of the fact that no large flights were reported. Included were several relatively rare species, such as the Orange-crowned and Black-capped Warblers. There were, in addition, several reports of other land birds not too frequently encountered.

Six Horned Grebes and an equal number of Pied-billed Grebes were observed on the Tomhannock Reservoir field trip of September 26 (SBC). One or two American Egrets were present at Vischer Ponds until at least the latter part of the month, and about ten were observed on the Lower Hudson field trip of Sept. 17. The Mallard, Black Duck, Wood Duck, and Blue-winged Teal were present throughout the month at Vischer Ponds. Other waterfowl species recorded included 12 American Widgeons and a Ring-necked Duck on the Tomhannock Reservoir trip (SBC), and two American Mergansers on the Mohawk Sept. 25 (AHeitkamp).

Five species of Hawks were observed by the Footes and Hallenbeck in Albany County on Sept. 17, but the failure to record the Bald Eagle on the same day on the Lower Hudson trip was a bit disappointing. G. M. Andrews reported a light Hawk flight of several species near his home on September 25. Two Broad-wings were seen at Loudonville on Sept. 20 (MWFrench), and a Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed at Vischer Ponds on Sept. 11 (SBC).

One or two Soras were observed at a small marsh near Schodack on Sept. 17 (SBC). A Florida Gallinule with several young in tow was seen at Vischer Ponds Sept. 5 (JMeritt), and two adults were observed there Sept. 25 (EH, JM). Shorebird reports were not numerous. However, a Wilson's Snipe was recorded at Vischer Ponds on three occasions, and a Lesser Yellow-legs and a Pectoral Sandpiper were observed at Tomhannock Reservoir on the 25th (SBC).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen in Niskayuna Sept. 25 (HEddy). On the 5th a Screech Owl was heard at Loudonville (MWF), and on the 12th a Horned Owl was heard calling at Alplaus (AH). Nighthawks were widely reported the first half of the month. These birds were abundant over downtown Schenectady prior to an evening storm Sept. 5. About 50 individuals were reported by Hallenbeck as late as Sept. 21. The Chimney Swift was last reported Sept. 27, twelve birds at Albany, and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird was reported at Loudonville on the late date of Sept. 23 (MWF). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen at Vischer Ponds on the 25th (EH, JM).

A very late find was an Eastern Kingbird near Columbiaville, Columbia County, Sept. 17 (SBC). Two Crested Fly-

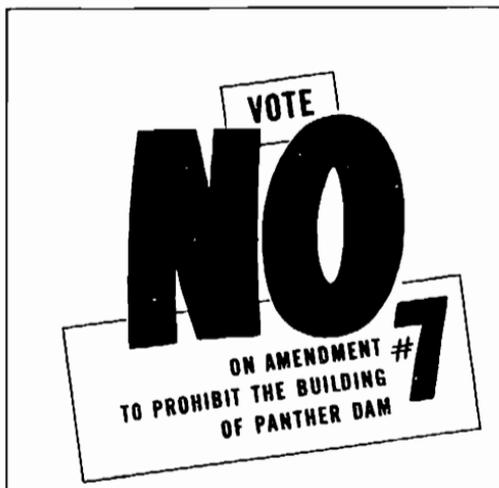
catchers were observed at Tomhannock Reservoir Sept. 25, and this species was present at Vischer Ponds earlier in the month. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Loudonville on Sept. 16, and on the 3rd a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, well studied, was observed there (MWF). The last Swallows reported were several Barns, seen on the Lower Hudson trip of Sept. 17. Blue Jay groupings were quite conspicuous throughout the month. Three Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen at Tomhannock Reservoir Sept. 25. The first Brown Creepers of the season (2) were seen at Loudonville on the last day of the month (MWF). A Carolina Wren was observed at Collins Lake, Scotia, on the 25th (EH). The Wood Thrush was reported by several observers throughout the month, as was the Olive-backed Thrush. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was reported from Loudonville Sept. 3, and on the following day a Veery was seen there (MWF).

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet was reported on two occasions from Scotia. Cedar Waxwings were variously reported, but during the early part of the month they were without a doubt the most conspicuous of the land birds at Vischer Ponds. The Yellow-throated Vireo was seen on several occasions at Vischer Ponds, and on the 22nd the species was observed in Scotia (EH). A Solitary Vireo was observed at the Ponds on Sept. 25 (EH, JM). The relatively rare Philadelphia Vireo was reported from Loudonville Sept. 17 and again on the 20th (MWF).

Twenty-one species of Warblers were reported locally during the month. The Tennessee was reported from Amsterdam on the 3rd (MFitzgerald) and from Niskayuna on the 15th (EH). A rarity was on Orange-crowned Warbler reported by Hallenbeck on Sept. 24 in Scotia. The bird was present at least three days. Several observers reported the Nashville Warbler. A late Yellow Warbler was seen at Vischer Ponds Sept. 25 (EH, JM). A Cape May was observed at Scotia on Sept. 24 (EH), and a pair of Black-throated Blues at Loudonville the 22nd (MWF). Myrtle Warblers were, of course, widely reported, and by month's end they were very conspicuous at Vischer Ponds. The Bay-breasted Warbler was seen at Amsterdam on Sept. 3 (MFz), at Tomhannock Reservoir on Sept. 25 (SBC), and at Loudonville Sept. 29 (MWF). An immature Cerulean Warbler was seen at Amsterdam Sept. 2 (MFz). A Connecticut Warbler was observed in Scotia on the 27th (EH), and the Black-capped was reported from Loudonville Sept. 17 (MWF).

A few Bobolinks were present at Vischer Ponds early in the month (JM). An Indigo Bunting was observed near Scho-dack on Sept. 17 (SBC), and another was seen at Loudonville on the 22nd (MWF). Hazel Eddy reported the Cardinal (male) as being a daily visitor to her feeder throughout the month. The White-throated Sparrow was first reported from Amsterdam on Sept. 17 (MFz). Juncos were in Loudonville as early as Sept. 8 (MWF). Both of these species were quite generally distributed by month's end. The fall White-crowned Sparrow migration appeared to rival that of last spring. These birds were first reported on Sept. 25 from Amsterdam (MFz) and from Vischer Ponds (EH, JM). Hazel Eddy recorded the White-crowned in Niskayuna on September 28.

FEATHERS is published monthly by
 SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.
 Editor: Guy Bartlett, 1053 Parkwood Blvd.
 Circulation: Mabel Barnes, 114 McClellan St.
 Florence Durand, Treasurer 19 Moyston St.
 Annual Membership Dues: Sustaining, \$5; Active, \$3; Associate, \$2; Junior, \$1



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

AUDUBON CONVENTION

National Audubon Society will hold its 51st annual convention November 12-15, with headquarters at Audubon House, New York City. The program commemorates a half century of progress in the development of public appreciation of nature and the need for conservation.

Except for the Delegates' Outing on Sunday, guests are welcome at all convention events. Meetings will be at the New York Historical Society.

On Saturday there is open house at headquarters; and a panel discussion on Nature Education, as well as a talk by Roger Tory Peterson. In addition to the Delegates' Outing on Sunday there will be a variety of field trips in Westchester County, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Long Island.

There are six speakers at the meeting Monday morning, and five that afternoon. Two more subjects will be presented that evening at the American Museum of Natural History.

On Tuesday there are the morning program with eight papers, a buffet luncheon, the annual meeting of members at Audubon House in the afternoon, and the annual dinner at the Roosevelt Hotel. Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., will speak at the dinner.



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.17 No.11

November, 1955

1954 IN REVIEW

Dr. Allen H. Benton, Records Committee Chairman, 1954

The 1954 summary of Schenectady Bird Club records contains a total of 201 species, compared with 191 in 1953 and 208 in 1952. It was, in other words, an average year. One species new to the SBC area, the Fork-tailed Flycatcher, was recorded, but not by a club member. In the following abbreviated tabulation, the rarer species are underlined.

Species	(A) Status	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
		First spring date	Last spring date	First fall date	Last fall date
Common Loon	TV	5-8		10-2	11-28
Red-necked Grebe	TV				12-5
Horned Grebe	TV	3-28	5-8	10-31	12-5
Pied-billed Grebe	SR	3-28			11-28
Great Blue Heron	SR, WV	1-12			12-26
American Egret	SV	5-27			11-29
Green Heron	SR	5-4			9-25
Black-crowned Night Heron	SR	4-30			9-25
American Bittern	SR	4-22			11-15
Mute Swan	WV				12-4
Whistling Swan	TV	4-4			
Canada Goose	TV	3-15	5-16	Late Oct.	
<u>American Brant</u>	TV	5-8			11-28
<u>Snow Goose</u>	TV	Mar.			
<u>Mallard</u>	Res.				
Black Duck	Res.				
Baldpate	TV	3-28	4-5		11-6
Pintail	TV	3-7	5-8		
Green-winged Teal	TV				9-25
Blue-winged Teal	TV	4-1	5-31		
Shoveller	TV	3-7	3-15		
Wood Duck	SR, WV	4-1			9-25
(One Dec. 24-27)					
Redhead	TV	3-11			11-13

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Species	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Ring-necked Duck	TV	3-9	4-10	11-13	11-28
Canvasback	TV	3-28	4-10	10-31	12-5
Greater Scaup	TV	3-15	4-2		
Lesser Scaup	TV	3-28	5-8	10-31	12-5
American Golden-eye	TV, WV	1-24	5-8	11-14	
Bufflehead	TV	3-21	4-10	11-14	11-28
Old-squaw	TV				11-14
White-winged Scoter	TV			11-14	12-5
Ruddy Duck	TV	5-8		10-31	12-5
Hooded Merganser	TV	3-9	4-4		11-28
American Merganser	TV, WV		5-8	11-13	
(Also recorded July 17)					
Red-breasted Merganser	TV	3-31	5-8		
Turkey Vulture	SV	5-30			9-25
Goshawk	WV	3-15			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Res.				
Cooper's Hawk	Res.	Apr.			Dec.
Red-tailed Hawk	Res.				
Red-shouldered Hawk	Res.				
Broad-winged Hawk	TV	5-8			10-28
Rough-legged Hawk	WV				12-11
Bald Eagle	TV, WV	5-8	5-27		12-26
Marsh Hawk	Res.	2-28			12-26
Osprey	TV	4-30	5-8		9-24
Peregrine Falcon		6-26			
Pigeon Hawk	TV	4-2	4-4		
Sparrow Hawk	Res.				
Ruffed Grouse	Res.				
Ring-necked Pheasant	Res.				
Virginia Rail	SR	5-8			10-17
Sora	SR	5-8			
Florida Gallinule	SR	5-8			10-3
American Coot	TV	3-28	5-31	11-6	12-31
Ringed Plover	TV			7-18	
Killdeer	SR	3-7			11-14
(Wv, Collins Lk, Jan, Feb, Dec)					
American Woodcock	SR	5-5			8-29
Upland Plover	SR	5-8			
Spotted Sandpiper	SR	5-8			9-25
Solitary Sandpiper	TV	5-8			
Greater Yellowlegs	TV	5-14		7-18	
Lesser Yellowlegs	TV	5-14		7-18	8-22
Pectoral Sandpiper	TV	5-8			
White-rumped Sandpiper	TV	5-31			
Least Sandpiper	TV			7-18	8-10
Semipalmated Sandpiper	TV	5-8	5-14	8-10	
<u>Iceland Gull</u>	WV	3-2			
Great Black-backed Gull	WV	2-27	3-2		11-10
Herring Gull	TV, WV		5-14	9-25	
Ring-billed Gull	TV, WV	2-25	5-23	9-25	12-26
Bonaparte's Gull	TV	4-17		11-14	11-28

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November, 1955

Species	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Common Tern	TV	4-17	5-8		
Black Tern	TV	5-31			
Mourning Dove	Res.				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	SR	5-14			10-11
Black-billed Cuckoo	SR	5-2			9-21
Screech Owl	Res.				
Horned Owl	Res.				
Snowy Owl	WV	2-10	2-20	11-14	
Barred Owl	Res.				
Short-eared Owl	TV, WV	2-7			
Whip-poor-will	SR	5-2			10-6
Nighthawk	SR	5-2			9-26
Chimney Swift	SR	5-5			9-25
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	SR	5-8			10-10
Belted Kingfisher	SR, Res	3-28			11-26
Flicker	Res.	2-28			12-26
Pileated Woodpecker (Recorded 15 times)	Res.				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	TV	4-8	5-18	9-25	10-3
Hairy Woodpecker	Res.				
Downy Woodpecker	Res.				
Kingbird	SR	5-2			8-5
Fork-tailed Flycatcher (One seen near Clermont, Co- lumbia Co., by Mrs. R. V. Ingersoll of New York City)				10-7	
Crested Flycatcher	SR	4-29			8-22
Phoebe	SR	3-29			10-7
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	TV			8-10	
Alder Flycatcher	SR	5-8			
Least Flycatcher	SR	4-30			8-5
Wood Pewee	SR	5-23			9-29
Olive-sided Flycatcher (Sr at Warrensburg, 6/9-12)	TV, SR				8-29
Horned Lark	TV, WV loc. SR	1-16	5-30		
Tree Swallow	SR	3-28			9-25
Bank Swallow	SR	4-30			8-10
Rough-winged Swallow	SR	4-22			7-18
Barn Swallow	SR	3-28			8-5
Cliff Swallow	SR	5-5			
Purple Martin	SR	4-27			
Blue Jay	Res.				
Crow	Res.				
Black-capped Chickadee	Res.				
Brown-capped Chickadee	WV			11-6	12-26
Tufted Titmouse		4-3	5-30		
White-breasted Nuthatch	Res.				
Red-breasted Nuthatch (SR at Warrensburg, 6/9-12)	TV, WV	2-28	5-8	8-29	12-31
Brown Creeper	TV, WV	1-4	5-8	9-27	12-31

FEATHERS

November, 1955

Species	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
House Wren	SR	4-9			10-1
Winter Wren	TV	4-9		9-21	10-17
Long-billed Marsh Wren	SR	5-8			9-25
Mockingbird		6-9			
Catbird	SR	4-27			10-10
Brown Thrasher	SR	4-24			7-18
Robin	Res.				
(1 to 4 winter birds)					
Wood Thrush	SR	5-1			9-27
Hermit Thrush	TV	4-19	5-8	10-10	10-27
Olive-backed Thrush	TV	5-16		9-21	10-11
Gray-cheeked Thrush	TV	5-25			
Veery	SR	5-5			8-29
Bluebird	SR, WV	3-13			12-26
Golden-crowned Kinglet	WV, TV	1-24	5-8	10-3	11-10
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	TV	4-13	5-16	9-12	10-24
Water Pipit	TV	3-7	5-23		
Cedar Waxwing	Res.	2-26			12-26
Northern Shrike	WV	1-9	5-8		12-26
Starling	Res.				
Yellow-throated Vireo	SR	5-14			9-30
Solitary Vireo	TV, loc. SR	4-25	5-30	9-12	10-3
Red-eyed Vireo	SR	5-2			10-3
Philadelphia Vireo	TV			9-22	
Warbling Vireo	SR	5-2			7-19
Black-and-white Warbler	SR	5-2			9-15
Worm-eating Warbler	SR	5-16			9-8
Blue-winged Warbler		5-31			
Golden-winged Warbler	SR	5-14			
Tennessee Warbler	TV	5-8	5-28		
Nashville Warbler	TV	5-1	5-16	9-4	10-3
Parula Warbler	TV	4-25	5-2	9-26	10-14
Yellow Warbler	SR	4-30			9-29
Magnolia Warbler	TV	5-2	5-25	9-3	10-3
Cape May Warbler	TV	5-3	5-18	9-27	10-1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	SR, TV	5-2			10-7
Myrtle Warbler	TV, WV	4-22	5-23	9-24	10-17
(One, Delmar, 11-19, 12-1)					
Black-throated Green Warbler (plus sev. summer recs.)	TV, SR	4-24	5-18	9-6	10-6
Blackburnian Warbler (also June, Warrensburg)	TV, SR	5-2	5-24	8-22	9-8
Chestnut-sided Warbler	SR	5-2			8-5
Black-poll Warbler	TV	5-31		9-10	10-17
Pine Warbler	SR	4-30			Oct.
Prairie Warbler	SR	5-8			
Palm Warbler	TV			10-17	10-20
Ovenbird	SR	5-2			9-22
Northern Water-thrush	SR	5-8			
Louisiana Water-thrush	SR	4-22			

FEATHERS

November, 1955

Species	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Northern Yellowthroat	SR	5-2			10-3
Wilson's Warbler	TV	5-14	5-23	9-10	10-5
Canada Warbler	SR	5-2			7-8
American Redstart	SR	5-2			9-29
House Sparrow	Res.				
Bobolink	SR	5-7			8-29
Meadowlark	SR, rare	1-18			12-10
	res.				
Red-winged Blackbird	Res.				
Baltimore Oriole	SR	3-1			12-5
Rusty Blackbird	TV, WV	3-30	4-4	10-17	12-31
Purple Grackle	SR	2-19			11-29
Cowbird	SR	2-22			10-1
Scarlet Tanager	SR	5-7			9-12
Cardinal	Res?	3-24			11-26
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	SR	5-1			9-8
Indigo Bunting	SR	5-19			7-18
Evening Grosbeak (adults and young, North River, July 5)	WV, SR	1-9	5-8	10-9	12-26
Purple Finch	SR, WV	1-11			11-18
American Goldfinch	SR, WV	4-1			12-26
Common Redpoll	WV			11-22	
Pine Siskin	WV	2-28	5-8	11-25	
Pine Grosbeak	WV	4-1		10-24	
Red Crossbill (Warrensburg, July 24)	WV, SR	4-4			12-26
White-winged Crossbill	WV				12-26
Red-eyed Towhee	SR	4-20			10-20
Savannah Sparrow	SR	3-30			10-17
Vesper Sparrow	SR	4-10			12-26
Slate-colored Junco	TV, WV	1-2			12-26
	loc. SR				
Henslow's Sparrow	SR				9-24
Tree Sparrow	WV		4-10	10-28	
Chipping Sparrow	SR	4-19			10-23
Field Sparrow	SR	4-10			10-17
White-crowned Sparrow	TV	4-28	5-18	9-24	10-10
White-throated Sparrow	TV, loc.	4-9	5-20	9-12	12-8
	SR				
Fox Sparrow	TV	3-7	4-25		11-4
Lincoln's Sparrow	TV			9-21	
Swamp Sparrow	SR	4-30			12-24
Song Sparrow	Res.				
Snow Bunting	WV		2-4	12-16	

--- This is an appropriate time to start getting your 1955 records into shape, so that you will be able to forward them promptly at the end of the year to the 1955 Records Committee Chairman, James K. Meritt. Include not only first and last dates for each season, but also your observations on nests, changes in abundance, etc.

BRIEFING THE RECORD**James K. Meritt, Records Committee Chairman**

July temperatures averaged 76.9°, a good 4.2° above normal. It was a dry month, with precipitation less than half normal.

Five Canada Geese were observed by Hazel Eddy July 1. The Blue-winged Teal was recorded at Vischer Ponds July 28 by Mr. and Mrs. William Foote. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen by Allen Benton at Berlin, Rensselaer County, July 4. A Virginia Rail was heard at Meadowdale Marsh July 30, and on the following day several observers had fine views of four Virginia Rails and three Soras at Vischer Ponds. Young of both species were seen. A Florida Gallinule with several young was seen at the Ponds by the Footes July 28. A few shorebirds began moving into the area late in the month. On July 30 a Semipalmated Plover, a Solitary Sandpiper, and some twenty Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen at Watervliet Reservoir (JMeritt). Several observers reported from one to three Wilson's Snipe at Vischer Ponds late in the month, and two Pectoral Sandpipers were observed there by the Footes July 28.

A Screech Owl was present throughout the month at Guilderland Center (NVVorst), and on July 28 a Horned Owl was heard at Alplaus (AHeitkamp). An interesting note concerns the Alder Flycatcher. Quite a few were present throughout the month at Meadowdale Marsh, and all these were singing the conspicuous "fitz-bew" song. A pair of these birds, at a smaller marsh less than two miles away, was singing the totally different "way-bee-o" song. The Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported as a summer breeder in the Jenny Lake area (GBartlett). On July 30 a Cliff Swallow colony was observed at a farmhouse near Altamont (JM). The Collins Lake Carolina Wren was again reported by Esly Hallenbeck, and Winter Wrens were reported from Jenny Lake (GB). On July 3 two Short-billed Marsh Wrens were observed by Frazer Turrentine and Rudd Stone at Meadowdale Marsh. A Golden-winged Warbler and two Yellow-breasted Chats were observed at Albany the first week of the month (AB). Myrtles were reported as being unusually common breeders at Jenny Lake (GB). The Scotia Cardinal was again recorded by Hallenbeck, and another bird was reported throughout the month by Hazel Eddy. The Cardinal was also reported at Amsterdam (MFTzgrld).

August weather will be long remembered. Although the Schenectady area missed the torrential downpours which Hurricane Diane dumped on areas just to the south of us, it was still the wettest August on record locally. Some 7.32 inches of rain fell; the August normal is 3.27 inches. The temperatures during the month averaged 74.6°, no less than 4.2° above normal. The 90° mark was hit on 10 days. Watervliet Reservoir is normally considered one of the area's better spots for shorebirds. Because of the heavy rains, however, many of the mud flats were covered, and the shorebirding results were thus not as good as expected.

On Aug. 4 a group of some 75 Canada Geese was seen flying over Vischer Ponds (EH). As usual during the summer, hawk reports were scarce, but an Osprey was seen by several observers during the month at the Ponds. The Virginia-Rail was recorded there on the 4th and 7th, and on the 14th and 31st respectively two and one Soras were recorded.

A Florida Gallinule was observed at Collins Lake on the 9th, and on the 17th a Coot was seen there. Ten Gallinules (including at least seven young) were at Vischer Ponds Aug. 14. Two Semipalmated Plovers were there on the 31st, and a Wilson's Snipe on the 9th. Two Pectoral Sandpipers were at Watervliet Reservoir Aug. 7. All of these records were sent in by Hallenbeck.

A Black-billed Cuckoo was observed at Loudonville Aug. 26 (MWF). A Horned Owl was heard at Alplaus Aug. 2 (AH). Three Screech Owls were reported, one during at least the first part of the month from Guilderland Center (NVV), one from Loudonville Aug. 12 (MWFrench), and one from Niskayuna on the 24th (HE). Nighthawks were seen in small groups from mid-August on. A Pileated Woodpecker was heard at Watervliet Reservoir Aug. 21 (SBC). A new area record for the year was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, well seen Aug. 19 and again on the 26th at Loudonville (MWF). Mrs. French also reported the Olive-sided on August 28.

A partial albino Robin was seen at Loudonville early in the month, and the Veery was reported there Aug. 18 and 24 (MWF). Cedar Waxwings were quite common late in the month at Vischer Ponds (EH). A few Magnolia and Canada Warblers, seemingly always in the vanguard of their group in the fall migration, were reported by several observers the latter part of the month. The Northern Water-thrush was also variously recorded.

A few Purple Finches were reported late in the month at Vischer Ponds and Loudonville, and Mrs. Fitzgerald reported the species as quite common in Amsterdam; at this early stage it does not look as though these birds will be almost completely absent again this winter. From the 19th through the 30th a male Dickcissel was at Mrs. Fitzgerald's Amsterdam feeder (incidentally, a pair of these birds was reported nesting at Rochester early in the summer). The Cardinal was reported from Amsterdam early in the month only (MFz) and from Niskayuna throughout the period (HE).

September records have already been published in FEATHERS. See the October issue, pages 62 and 63.

October was, from the weather standpoint, a most extraordinary month. Rainfall totalled 9.87 inches, the highest ever recorded locally during any one-month period. The October average is 2.66 inches. Much of the heavy rainfall came during the weekend of October 15, and severe flood conditions were created, especially in Schoharie County. The average temperature was 53.6°, some 3.3° above normal.

An American Bittern was observed on the Crescent Reservoir field trip Oct. 16 (SBC). The Canada Goose flight was apparently good. On Oct. 9 a group of 22 passed high over Vischer Ponds. On the 11th a group of 10-12 was observed at Loudonville (MWF). A group of more than 200 paid a visit to Mariaville Lake in the middle of the month, and some 42 were observed on the Crescent Reservoir trip. Five Pintails were seen at Vischer Ponds Oct. 9 (EH, JM), one of six waterfowl species recorded there on that date. The Redhead, Golden-eye, and Bufflehead were among the waterfowl observed by the Footes on an October 22 trip encompassing Ballston Lake, Saratoga Lake, and Lake George. Hawk

FEATHERS is published monthly by
SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB, INC.

Editor: Guy Bartlett, 1053 Parkwood Blvd.

Circulation: Mabel Barnes, 114 McClellan St.

Florence Durand, Treasurer 19 Moyston St.

Annual Membership Dues: Sustaining, \$5; Active, \$3; Associate, \$2; Junior, \$1



reports were, as in September, rather scanty. A Lesser Yellow-legs was observed at Crescent Reservoir October 22 (JM).

The Footes reported the Pileated Woodpecker Oct. 22, and one was at the southern edge of Albany Oct. 31 (AB). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen in Loudonville Oct. 2 (MWF), and another in Amsterdam on October 8 (MFz).

A Phoebe was seen in Loudonville on the 18th (MWF). A late House Wren was reported Oct. 23 by Mrs. F. Lamprey, and the Winter Wren was reported from Loudonville the first two days of the month (MWF). Two Gray-cheeked Thrushes were observed at Collins Lake Oct. 9 (EH, JM); and an Olive-backed Thrush was seen in Amsterdam on the 25th (MFz). A Brown Thrasher was observed there on the 3rd (MFz). Several reports of the Golden-crowned Kinglet were received for the early part of the month; this species had not previously been reported to me this year. A Blue-headed Vireo was seen in Loudonville Oct. 1 and 2 (MWF), and the species was also reported from Amsterdam Oct. 7 (MFz).

Warbler reports continued to be of interest. An Orange-crowned, the second report of the fall, was observed in Amsterdam Oct. 9 (MFz). A Tennessee was seen at Vischer Ponds Oct. 9 (EH, JM). A late Magnolia was observed at Loudonville on the 18th, and on the following day a Black-throated Green Warbler (MWF). A Bay-breasted Warbler was observed by the Footes at Vischer Ponds Oct. 2. The Palm Warbler was reported from Burnt Hills by the Footes Oct. 12, and the species was also recorded on the Crescent Reservoir trip of Oct. 16. An American Redstart was seen in Amsterdam October 9 (MFz).

Hazel Eddy reported the Cardinal as a daily visitor to her feeder through the 18th, but the bird was apparently not recorded after that date. One, and probably two, male birds were present throughout the month in Amsterdam (fide MFz). Two Indigo Buntings were seen in Loudonville Oct. 2, and on the 18th a female Towhee was observed there (MWF). Purple Finches were conspicuous in Amsterdam throughout the period (MFz).

A Lincoln's Sparrow, the first local report for the year, was seen in Loudonville Oct. 2, and on that day two Fox Sparrows were observed there (MWF). A Fox Sparrow was seen in Amsterdam Oct. 9 (MWF). On Oct. 22 Vesper Sparrows were conspicuous along the country roadsides just north of Rexford (JM). Two Chipping Sparrows were seen near Vischers Ferry Oct. 9 (EH, JM), and two were seen in Loudonville Oct. 23 (MWF). Tree Sparrows were first observed on the Crescent Reservoir trip of Oct. 16. The fall White-crowned Sparrow migration was, as in the spring, conspicuous. These birds were reported from four or five localities during the first half of the month; the high count of 30 was obtained on the Crescent Reservoir trip.



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol. 17 No. 12

December, 1955

BIRD PICTURES, MOVIES & PAPERS

Lillian C. Stoner

It was indeed a treat to see pictures and hear papers which were presented about birds in many parts of the world. They included birds in the Arctic, Antarctic, Canada, Mexico, many parts of the U. S. A. from Maine to California and including Texas and Arizona, besides others in Laysan Island, South America, Falkland Islands, New Zealand, and Australia.

These, in brief, were all included in the 73rd stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union which was held October 25-30, 1955 in Boston, Mass. The registered attendance of 397 was announced as the greatest in many years for this organization.

Of special interest, too, was the meeting place, which was the Boston Museum of Science, in Science Park. Should SBC members drive to Boston, they will find ample parking space so they may enjoy the worthwhile exhibits and pictures in this huge new museum building.

Now as to the contents of some of the AOU paper session which consisted of 57 scheduled papers along with one not given on the printed program. These were given in the three day and evening periods, and many were illustrated by slides, movies, or sound recordings. Each one was presented in variable time periods, of five minutes to an hour in length.

The High Arctic

This write-up will start with papers pertaining to the extreme geographic points. Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne told and illustrated with slides "A Study of Breeding Shorebirds in the High Arctic." The expedition's seven-week study included among other birds the nesting Golden and Black-bellied Plovers, two species we SBC members sometimes observe here during migration seasons.

The unscheduled movie of the Antarctic region given by Mr. Sladen, who arrived here recently from England, pictured the Penguin's queer movements. As we know, these are flightless birds but they have short wings which are termed flippers. These birds usually stand upright and their gait, whether walking, running or sliding, is ludicrous. Since the legs are located so far back on the body, penguins waddle along with flippers waving. These many motions seem to help their balance and progress, so they can get around quickly when they really want to go places.

In telling of the "Life History of the Nuttall Woodpecker," the president, Dr. Alden Miller, spoke of some of the activities of this California bird. It is comparable in size and notes to our Downy Wood-

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pecker. When pairs of this species are not in sight of each other, they often keep in touch by tapping or a queer rattle call. Each sex performs certain duties in nest building, incubation, feeding, and cleaning and protecting their home and young.

Death at Airports

Papers on "Ceilometer Mortality" gave names and numbers of many birds dead as a result of aerial collisions when in or immediately out of the strong airport lights. Mention was made of a filter which might be installed to screen out some of the light beam. This may help to decrease the high mortality numbers.

The harsh notes of the Trumpeter Swans in Texas where they spend the winter season, as well as more musical songs and calls of different birds were heard as several speakers presented recordings. Others spoke on the behavior, temperature, and new sight-records of birds.

At the symposium on "Management of Bird Population" two papers each were given on regulating the decrease and increase in bird population. With the subject "Gull and Cormorant Management along the North Atlantic Coast," Dr. Alfred O. Gross told of the great increase and extension in range of these two bird groups during the past years, until they have become a menace to the fishing industry. Methods of control have been tried at great cost, without noticeable depreciation of number of individual birds being evident.

Philip Dumont on "Management of Birds of Airplane Runways" reported that the U. S. Government had tried by smoke, noise and nest destruction to get the many huge Albatrosses and other species to move off the runway at Laysan Island. These birds, which have a wingspread of over seven feet, have now become so numerous they are a menace to incoming Government troop planes. In this experiment they also moved the eggs to a new location one and one-half miles distant, to try to change them to a new nesting place, but this did not solve the situation. While individual birds might leave temporarily, they would return and even sit on the empty nests. Maybe this is a reason why they are sometimes called Gooney Birds.

This last report was of interest to the writer because of the State University of Iowa's expedition to these islands years ago, and which resulted in the Institution's installation of a one-room exhibit near the Museum rooms. This is a cycloramic exhibit of one island. It has a floor-to-ceiling picture over 100 feet long in the background which blends in with the mounted birds, shells, sand, etc. in the foreground. The birds, some of them endemic to Laysan Island, were not so numerous before the World Wars; they were and still are considered of great interest to Science.

Then the two papers on trying to increase numbers of individual birds were "Management of Mourning Dove Population" and "Migratory Waterfowl," given respectively by Drs. Aldrich and Crissey, both of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Results are not yet complete on the status of the Mourning Dove study. In the last year waterfowl apparently

showed some increase on the eastern and mid-western flyways but not much of an increase on the far western flyway.

Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy told by means of pictures of the increasing and productive industry in guano in Peru. High walls have been built around the guano areas. Thus people but not birds could be kept off these fertilizer places, which have great commercial value.

"Notes on the Behavior of Falkland Flightless Steamer Ducks" as given by Dr. O. S. Pettingill was interesting. These birds, found only on the Falkland Islands, are there the whole year. They are fast and powerful swimmers, and so called Steamer Ducks. While they fight other birds they pay little attention when feeding or resting on shore to a man walking very close to them.

Maurice Broun of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary showed an interesting full-color movie entitled "Man and Nature Down Under." These Australian pictures were excellent, although some were taken in the rain. Among other things, the wild Lyre bird and the koala mother and cub bears were quite outstanding, especially the close-up pictures of the young koala holding onto its mother's back as she climbed about in tops of rather shaky small trees.

Mr. Russell Mason explained the Kodachrome slides which he had selected from his 20-plus volumes of "Birds on Postage Stamps of the World." These cancelled stamps, a hobby of his for the past ten years, have proved to be an instructive study of many strange species and localities in various parts of the world. Sometimes a bird may be so small and quite inconspicuous on a stamp, and others may be the most prominent part of it.

Some 400 were seated at the annual dinner; the lady near me had also participated in Mr. and Mrs. Broun's recent trip around the world. She was wearing one of her prized trophies -- a light gray fur stole. This was of unusual interest because it was the Australian Wombat. This small mammal, said to be about 30 inches long, resembles a small bear in general appearance.

Mr. Russell Mason, executive director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and his committee are to be congratulated on the work and success of this Boston meeting. It was announced that the next American Ornithologists' Union meeting will be held at the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, September 5 to 9, 1956.

WATER - AND SHORE-BIRDS FEATURE A. O. U. FIELD TRIP

Of course lists varied somewhat from one observer to another on the AOU field trips out of Boston. Here is one record of 60 species: Red-throated Loon, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, European and Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, Green- and Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Redhead, Greater and Lesser Scaup, American Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Old-squaw; White-winged, Surf, and American Scoters; Ruddy Duck, Hooded, American, and Red-breasted Mergansers; Marsh, Duck, and Sparrow Hawks; Coot, Killdeer, Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, Purple and Pectoral Sandpipers, Eastern Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Sanderling; Great Black-backed, Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls; Common Tern, Phoebe, Horned Lark, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Robin, American Pipit, Starling; Myrtle and Palm Warblers, House Sparrow, Meadowlark, and Song Sparrow.

-- Dr. Minnie B. Scotland

**BRIEFING THE RECORD****James K. Meritt, Records Committee Chairman**

November was, from the weather standpoint, a much more normal month than was October. The average Schenectady temperature was 38.7 degrees, just a shade above normal. Precipitation was 2.4 inches, about a half inch less than normal.

Common Loons and Horned Grebes were reported by several observers from Saratoga Lake throughout the month. On the late afternoon of Nov. 8 a Swan was observed there (fide NVVorst), but further identification could not be made. The Mute Swan, however, has been recorded more often locally than has the Whistling. A good total of eleven species of ducks was observed by those who participated on the SBC Saratoga Lake field trip of Nov. 13. Of especial note were 20 Redheads, 8 Buffleheads, 4 White-winged Scoters, and a Hooded Merganser. On Nov. 24 an Old-squaw was observed at Saratoga Lake by the Footes; this was the first local 1955 report for the species. On Nov. 28 twelve Red-breasted Mergansers were on the Mohawk at Scotia (EHallenbeck).

A Rough-legged Hawk was seen near Niskayuna Nov. 12 (RYunick). A Pileated Woodpecker was recorded near Saratoga Lake Nov. 12 (RY), and on the following day a Yellow-shafted Flicker was seen there (SBC). Several observers reported the Red-breasted Nuthatch during the month. A Mockingbird, the second local report of the year, was seen by the Footes at Burnt Hills on Nov. 27. On Nov. 4 an adult Northern Shrike appeared at Mrs. Fitzgerald's Amsterdam feeder, and the bird was present virtually daily for the remainder of the month. On Nov. 6 a noisy Northern Shrike was observed by the Footes at Vischer Ponds.

The Myrtle Warbler was last reported in Loudonville Nov. 3 (MFrench). A Redwing put in an appearance at Mrs. Fitzgerald's feeder Nov. 28, and on the 23rd a Grackle was observed in Albany by Dr. Minnie Scotland. The Cardinal was reported throughout the period from Amsterdam (fide MFTz). On Nov. 2 an immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak put in an unexpected appearance at Mrs. Chester Zimmer's feeder in Gallupville.

The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the return of the Evening Grosbeaks. The birds were widely reported, although they were nowhere seen in great numbers. On Nov. 6 ten birds were seen in Niskayuna by Mrs. Louis Novak. On the 7th five were seen in Scotia (EH). Sam Madison reported the species from Albany early in the month, and Dr. Minnie Scotland observed a few near Delmar during Thanksgiving week. On Nov. 20 Gloria Meader observed nine Evening Grosbeaks at her feeder, and she reported that the birds were present from that date on. A group of about eleven was seen near Guilderland Center on Nov. 27 (JMeritt). By month's end, however, these birds had still not put in an appearance at one of their favorite wintering grounds, Mrs. Fitzgerald's Amsterdam feeder. There were no local reports for the other species of winter finches, a distinct change from a year ago.

The Fox Sparrow was reported from Loudonville on several occasions during the early part of the month (MWF). On Nov. 20 a group of more than 50 Snow Buntings was seen near Amsterdam (fide MFTz), and some 15 were observed along the Thruway at the southern edge of Albany on November 24 (JM).

CEILOMETER FATALITIES SOLVED ?

Safer passage for the songbird migrating south is assured for next fall, thanks to the cooperation of the Air Force, the Weather Bureau, and numerous groups interested in the welfare of birdlife, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay has announced.

Secretary McKay declared that the high mortality rate of migratory birds in the vicinity of airports where high-powered vertical light beams are used to determine the ceiling will be appreciably lowered during the 1956 flights, but that the problem of mortality of birds around high buildings and high towers still thwarts solution.

"The toll at ceilometer stations in recent years has been alarming," the Secretary said. "As many as 25,000 birds have perished in a single night at a single airfield. Most of the trouble has been in the South, but reports of bird losses have come from as far north as New York and Pennsylvania. But with all of us working together, we think we have the big problem around ceilometer stations pretty well licked."

The ceilometer is a vertical beam of light of several million candlepower which is used in determining the ceiling at an airport. Just what effects the light of the ceilometer has upon the birds in flight is not known. But the bleak evidence is that a combination of a cold front, a low ceiling and a ceilometer results in the death of thousands of song and insectivorous birds.

It is presumed that the birds are temporarily blinded by the light or that their sense of direction is blunted in some way. The effect is that the birds crash into the ground and are killed while going at a high speed. For some unknown reason bird losses occur only in the fall on southward flights.

Filters have been developed which retain the visible light and permit only ultraviolet or "black light" to go upward for ceiling measurement. The black light has no effect upon the migrating birds. Two of these filters have been installed on Weather Bureau ceilometers in Knoxville and Nashville, Tennessee, with good results. Bird lovers are making plans for more filters for other Weather Bureau stations.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

G. Malcolm Andrews, Field Activities Chairman

Eight SBC field trips from June through November produced records of 119 species. One of the trips originally scheduled was dropped out -- there was no July outing. Those held:

Pleasant Valley, June 5 (A)

Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, near Pittsfield, Mass., is not within SBC territory, but is not hard to reach. The June 5 trip showed the region to be worthy of return visits. Probably of most interest among the 44 kinds observed there was the hybrid Brewster's Warbler.

-- Stephen Fordham, Leader

Watervliet Reservoir, August 21 (B)

The annual August SBC trip to Watervliet Reservoir is always a gamble, for who knows if the mud flats will be exposed or covered with

water. This year it was watched with anticipation as each day saw more mud and less water. Within about ten days of the trip, storm warnings were given and Connie was coming. Connie did come, and she did deposit water and more water into the reservoir until it was like spring, but with more debris. August 21 came, and so did six SBC members. It was just another hot, humid day, with locusts sounding off at 4 a. m. and the thermometer 98° at noon.

The warbler migration was evident, and many Bobolinks were seen, and heard high in the air on their southern journey. The land birds outnumbered the water birds.

As the group was making up the record for the day a lone, unidentified swallow flew over. Two most tantalizing sandpipers played around at the very feet of the birders -- too large for Least, too small for Pectoral, and legs too dark for Western -- so what were they? The secret remained unanswered. -- Nelle G. VanVorst

Vischer Ponds, September 11 (C)

There were ten observers out for the mid-September visit to Vischer Ponds. A Wilson's Snipe was one of the features of the 48 species recorded. Except for the Red-winged Blackbird, the Cedar Waxwing was the most common -- about 75 seen. There were a half dozen species of warblers. -- Hazel Eddy

Hudson Valley, September 17 (D)

The Sora and Marsh Hawks put on wonderful shows; Egrets were scarce; and the hawks at Alcove Reservoir were rewarding -- these were the high lights for the 13 observers who participated in the annual autumn trip along the Hudson from Albany to Rip Van Winkle Bridge and thence to Alcove Reservoir.

The Egrets were disappointing, but we did enjoy the hawks -- especially the Marsh Hawk at Stockport, as well as the Sora at Schodack. Most of the hawk count was at Alcove Reservoir.

The day was brisk, the company congenial, the purpose agreeable. In all, it was a good trip. -- Pauline Baker

Tomhannock Reservoir, September 25 (E)

Forty-one species were recorded on this, the first Fall trip scheduled to the Tomhannock area in several years. No species were seen in any large numbers, and the distribution of observations was spread fairly evenly along the route -- through the tamarack swamps and highlands between Cropseyville and Raymerstown, and the circuit around Tomhannock. Few ducks were yet on Tomhannock and, although the water level on the reservoir was down sufficiently to show mudflats, there were few shore-birds -- probably a little late for the latter and a little early for the former. Seven persons constituted the field-trip party. -- Byron T. Hipple, Jr.

Rensselaer Plateau, October 1 (F)

The first day of October was a perfect day. The sun was bright, the sky clear, and the temperature cool and crisp. The air of the Rensselaer Plateau was like wine. Only one thing was lacking -- birds! Seven SBC members combed the plateau from one end to the other and racked up the not-too-imposing total of 21 species.

The day was not without its compensations. Most of us had the opportunity to see a Ruffed Grouse within a few feet, walking along the forest floor. A swamp filled with White-throated, Song and Swamp Sparrows engaged our attention for a while. A few small flocks of warblers, confusing in their fall plumages, made life interesting from time to

time. And just as the group was breaking up, a beautiful immature White-crowned Sparrow flew out of the bushes and started scratching for food in the dirt about 20 feet from our cars. He was remarkably cooperative, giving all of us ample time to study him at leisure.

-- Dr. Allen H. Benton

Crescent Reservoir, October 16 (G)

That even three people turned out for the Crescent Reservoir trip should be something of a record, since the steady rains of the week-end, climaxed with flood conditions Sunday, were sufficient to argue cancellation of plans. However, the reservoir area proper produced a list of 10, among them a pair of Palm Warblers. After sloshing around here for a while, we went down to Vischer Ponds where even the duck hunters were taking shelter from the weather (and so were the ducks). Here among the weeds were quantities of White-crowned Sparrows, outnumbering the White-throats. Here too we saw several skeins of Canada Geese flying over. On our way back home we went down the river road to Cohoes, and there found large numbers of Gulls, both Herring and Ring-billed, riding the flood. The total list for the trip was 26 species.

-- Byron T. Hipple, Jr.

Saratoga Lake, November 13 (H)

"Sunday, November 16, was one of those very rare, warm November days when Saratoga Lake was a broad reflection of blue sky, white clouds, and cottages along the shore. Snake Hill stood upside down in the quiet surface of the water."

The above statement has been taken from the 1952 report of the annual trip to Round and Saratoga Lakes. It applied equally well to the 1955 trip on November 13. The stillness that the quiet waters gave to the surroundings was felt by the eight SBC members. For a time it seemed that even the birds were keeping silent. However, a count of 30 species was reached when two Hairy Woodpeckers were observed just after the count was made at Kaydeross Park; and two additional species were seen by two members following the trip.

Round Lake produced few birds, but among them was a Hooded Merganser. It was at Luther's, on Saratoga Lake, that the birders found good "hunting" -- there were sounds of real hunting during the trip, and fishermen were indulging in their sport at almost every place the party stopped.

Short rafts of ducks in perfect light conditions were studied by those with binoculars and telescopes. There were Horned Grebes, Canvas-backs, Scaup, and Golden-eyes. A little Ruddy Duck was riding pertly in the midst. Redheads and Ring-necks were there. Four White-winged Scoters and eight Buffle-heads were in the count for the day. At the south end of Saratoga Lake the first birds to catch the attention of the observers were seven Loons, rather close to shore. Five others were seen. Black Ducks were found on the far side of Round Lake. Only three Pied-billed Grebes could be found.

As for the land birds, they were few in numbers and species. The usual Chickadees and Tree Sparrows could be heard and seen. The yellow of the Goldfinches was still rather bright. Three Juncos flashed their white tail feathers on the lawn at Luther's. A Nuthatch was heard, and later one was observed. The Jays were a bit noisy, but the four Crows were not making a sound. A Downy was calling, and another pounding on bark. Herring Gulls were not common, and only one Ring-billed was counted. After the SBC members dispersed, two of them found a Song Sparrow and a Flicker. And so the average number of species (30) for the November Lakes trip was reached, even though the number of individuals was pretty low.

-- Dr. Minnie B. Scotland

FEATHERS

December, 1955

Common Loon		H	Blue Jay	ABCDEFGH
Horned Grebe	E	H	American Crow	ABCDEFGH
Pied-billed Grebe	E	GH	Blk-capped Chickadee	BCDEFGH
Great Blue Heron	BCDE	G	White-br. Nuthatch	BC F H
American Egret	CD		Red-breast Nuthatch	E
Green Heron	ABCD		Long-bill Marsh Wren	D
Black-cr. Night Heron	CDE		Catbird	ABCDE
American Bittern		G	Robin	ABCDEFGG
Canada Goose		G	Wood Thrush	A
Mallard	A C E	G	Olive-backed Thrush	E
Black Duck	CDE	GH	Veery	AB
Baldpate	E		Bluebird	A D G
Blue-winged Teal	CD		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	G
Wood Duck	BC F		Cedar Waxwing	ABCDEF
Redhead		H	Starling	ABCDE GH
Ring-necked Duck	E	H	Yellow-throated Vireo	ABC
Canvas-back		H	Solitary Vireo	A F
Lesser Scaup		H	Red-eyed Vireo	BC
American Golden-eye		H	Warbling Vireo	B
Buffle-head		H	Golden-winged Warbler	A
White-winged Scoter		H	(Brewster's Warbler)	A
Ruddy Duck		H	Tennessee Warbler	C
Hooded Merganser		H	Yellow Warbler	ABC
American Merganser		H	Magnolia Warbler	B
Sharp-shinned Hawk		H	Blk-thr. Blue Warbler	A
Cooper's Hawk	C		Myrtle Warbler	C EFG
Red-tailed Hawk	D		Blk-thr. Green Warbler	A CD F
Red-shouldered Hawk	A D		Blackburnian Warbler	A
Marsh Hawk	A CDE		Chestnut-sided Warbler	A
Osprey	CD		Bay-breasted Warbler	E
Sparrow Hawk	D		Black-poll Warbler	C
Ruffed Grouse	A F		Palm Warbler	G
Ring-necked Pheasant	DE		Oven-bird	A
Sora	D		Louisiana Water-thrush	B
Florida Gallinule	C		Northern Yellowthroat	C
Killdeer	BCDE		Canada Warbler	A
Wilson's Snipe	C		American Redstart	AB D
Spotted Sandpiper	B		House Sparrow	AB DEFGH
Lesser Yellow-legs	E		Bobolink	B
Pectoral Sandpiper	E		Meadowlark	E
Herring Gull	CDE	GH	Red-winged Blackbird	ABCDE G
Ring-billed Gull	CD	GH	Baltimore Oriole	AB
Mourning Dove	ABCDE		Purple Grackle	BC
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	A		Cowbird	A D
Chimney Swift	CDE		Scarlet Tanager	A
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	AB		Rose-breasted Grosbk	A
Belted Kingfisher	ABC EF		Indigo Bunting	B D
Flicker	BCDE	H	Purple Finch	CD
Pileated Woodpecker	B		Eastern Goldfinch	ABCDEFGH
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker		F	Red-eyed Towhee	A DE
Hairy Woodpecker	C	H	Savannah Sparrow	D
Downy Woodpecker	ABCDE	GH	Vesper Sparrow	D
Kingbird	A CD F		Slate-colored Junco	FGH
Crested Flycatcher	BC E		Tree Sparrow	GH
Phoebe	CDE		Field Sparrow	D
Alder Flycatcher	A		White-cr. Sparrow	FG
Least Flycatcher	C		White-thr. Sparrow	DEFG
Wood Pewee	B E		Swamp Sparrow	A CD F
Tree Swallow	A		Song Sparrow	BCDEFGH
Barn Swallow	A D			