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TROY COUNT FEATURES RECORD TOTALS SCHENECTADY HAS DICKCISSEL

Guy Bartlett and Peter P. Wickham, Compilers

Troy's Christmas Count, made on New Year's Day, was impressive on several counts. There were new highs of 57 species and 8345 count; the glaucous gull, barred owl, mockingbird, myrtle warbler and white-winged crossbill were added as new species, plus two mallard X black duck hybrid; as well as a peregrine falcon and a high 44 count of great black-backed gull.

A bufflehead and dickcissel, as well as near dates for the pigeon hawk and great black-backed gull, were the features of the Schenectady Christmas Count on December 26, with 50 species and 3138 count.

Schenectady now has a list of 101 species in 37 years, plus one hybrid, two identified subspecies and three species on near-dates only. Troy's list for 17 years has 93 species, plus one hybrid, one subspecies and one near-date only. The composite total is 118 species, plus two hybrids, three subspecies and three near-date only. Schenectady's 101 species include 25 not seen at Troy; Troy's 93 have 17 not listed at Schenectady.

Most Schenectady observers complained of the strong, cold winds. Preceding days had been mild and dry. Ground was bare for several days, except for a little snow the night before. The river and other streams were wide open. Watervliet Reservoir had some open water, and most shallow ponds were iced. The landscape was hardly one to drive birds to the roadsides.

Schenectady - (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centered 0.8 mile south of 42°45' and 0.3 mile west of 73°45', as in preceding years) -- December 26; 6:45 am. to 4:45 pm. Mostly clear temp. 12 to 27°F.; objectionable wind, 10-30 mph.; one inch new snow on ground, considerable open water. Twenty-nine observers in eight parties, plus feeding-station and incidental reports. Total party-hours, 52 (33 on foot, 19 by car); total party-miles, 290 (48 on foot, 242 by car).

8 Mallard
1 Common Goldeneye
1 Bufflehead
30 Common Merganser
2 Cooper's Hawk
4 Red-tailed Hawk
5 Rough-legged Hawk
7 Sparrow Hawk
12 Ruffed Grouse
1 Bobwhite

17 Ring-necked Pheasant
13 Herring Gull
80 Mourning Dove
1 Great Horned Owl
3 Yellow-shafted Flicker
35 Hairy Woodpecker
49 Downy Woodpecker
6 Horned Lark
95 Blue Jay
408 Common Crow

185 Black-capped Chickadee	33 Cardinal
12 Tufted Titmouse	1 Dickcissel
34 White-breasted Nuthatch	43 Evening Grosbeak
1 Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 Purple Finch
7 Brown Creeper	42 Pine Grosbeak
1 Mockingbird	386 Common Redpoll
1 Robin	38 Pine Siskin
3 Golden-crowned Kinglet	147 American Goldfinch
2 Cedar Waxwing	1 White-winged Crossbill
436 Starling	108 Slate-colored Junco
529 House Sparrow	304 Tree Sparrow
3 Eastern Meadowlark	2 White-throated Sparrow
2 Red-winged Blackbird	5 Swamp Sparrow
1 Common Grackle	23 Song Sparrow
4 Brown-headed Cowbird	5 Snow Bunting

Total, 50 species, about 3138 individuals. Seen in area during count period, but not on count day: black duck, pigeon hawk, great black-backed gull, ring-billed gull, screech owl, barred owl, pileated woodpecker and Northern shrike.

SCHENECTADY HIGHLIGHTS

Birds listed with groups show species seen by that group only.

Group 1 - James Boyd, Jr., Rudolph H. Stone, David Stoner, Dr. Clifford Tepper, Nancy and Stuart Tepper, Carole and Robert Wernick, Dr. Robert P. Yunick. Rosendale Road, Lisha Kill Preserve, Mohawk River from Niskayuna dump to Lock 7 to Mohawk View, Whitney's and Pelton's woods, Birchwood School, Pollack's Larson's and Remis' feeders. 6:45 am. to 4:45 pm. 16 miles afoot, 30 by car; 8 hours afoot, 2 by car. 31 species, 756 count. Common goldeneye, bufflehead, great horned owl, dickcissel, white-winged crossbill.

Group 2 - Mrs. Thomas McGuirk, Robert Laudenslager (Allentown, Pa.) Walton B. Sabin. Blessing, Krumkill, Normanskill, Wormer, State Farm, Foundry, Grant Hill, Depot, Hennesey, Meadowdale and Tygert Roads; Settle's Hill; Thacher Park and Indian Ladder. 7 am. to 3 pm. 9 miles afoot, 85 by car; 3 hours afoot, 5 by car. 30 species, 622 count. Red-breasted nuthatch, Eastern meadowlark, common grackle, snow bunting.

Group 3 - Dr. Donald J. Tucker. All area within prescribed circle north of Mohawk River. 8 am. to 4:30 pm. 7 miles afoot, 10 by car; 7 hours afoot, 1½ by car. 24 species, 227 count. Mallard, common merganser, robin, swamp sparrow.

Group 4 - Robert and Mary Shedd, Mrs. Richard Waite. Altamont and environs. 7 am. to 3 pm. 2 miles afoot, 25 by car; 2 hours afoot, 6 by car. 15 species, 512 count.

Group 5 - Esly Hallenbeck. Collins Lake and Scotia, Mohawk River. 9 am. to 2 pm. 4 miles afoot, 10 by car; 4 hours afoot, 1 by car. 16 species, 142 count.

Group 6 - Stephanie and Irene Podrazik. Central Park, Municipal Golf Course, Parkview Cemetery, Balltown Road. 2 to 4:45 pm. 1 mile afoot, 10 by car; ½ hour afoot, 2½ by car. 13 species, 134 count.

Group 7 - Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin. Watervliet Reservoir and

environs. 8 am. to 1:30 pm. 6 miles afoot, 20 by car; 4 hours afoot, 1½ by car. 16 species, 238 count.

Group 8 - Mrs. O.B. Conaway, Betty Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Hipple, Mary Johnston, Mary Linoh, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Malone. Albany Sixmile Waterworks, Albany Airport, Vly Road to Karner, Guilderland, Albany Country Club area, east of State Farm Road to Albany. 9:30 am. to 4 pm. 3½ miles afoot, 42 by car; 4½ hours afoot, 2 by car. 22 species, 441 count. Bobwhite, red-winged blackbird.

Feeders and incidental - Mrs. Gilbert Eddy, David Ellers, Leo Frees, John and Stephen Fuller, Mrs. R.J. Heinemann, Mrs. E.H. Meilinger, A.E. Powers, David Rothaupt. 18 species, 66 count. Mockingbird, brown-headed cowbird, purple finch.

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Before dawn on New Year's Day, a small group of birders was standing in a light drizzle listening to the hoot of a nearby great horned owl. From the darkness, interrupting this silloquy, came a polysyllabic call higher in pitch -- the Troy Christmas Count's first barred owl! From that point on, the day seemed full of pleasant surprises, as the various field parties, with the help of many feeder watchers, combined to set new highs for the Troy count in total numbers of species and individuals.

Probably the most exciting moment came when one group, covering the Hudson River, found an adult glaucous gull - a first for the Schenectady-Troy composite list - resting and flying along the river between Troy and Mechanicville. But other memorable moments were many: the spotting of a Northern shrike, a close view of an immature peregrine falcon zooming overhead, and a visit to an ever-green grove in which red-breasted nuthatches, a pine siskin, pine grosbeaks and white-winged crossbills vied for attention were perhaps outstanding. Near the end of the day, one group, combing a shrubby border of Tomhannock Reservoir, was rewarded with a close view of a myrtle warbler (another first for the Troy count).

Summing up, finches of all varieties were present, with evening grosbeaks and redpolls especially abundant. Sparrows, excluding house sparrows, seemed less common than usual, with juncos unusually scarce. Because of the mild weather, gulls were abundant along the river and even appeared in inland areas. Ducks, although spread out, were also seen in good numbers, with several interesting varieties. All in all, it was an auspicious and rewarding way to begin our New Year - 1966!

Troy - (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centered 0.1 mile south of 73°40' and 0.3 mile east of 42°50' as in preceding years) -- January 1; 6:15 am. to 5:15 pm. Overcast; temp. 42 to 57°F.; wind, south am. 0-5 mph. to northwest in pm. at 5-10 mph. no snow cover, all streams open, marshes and ponds mostly ice-covered. Twenty-six observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 55 (26.5 on foot, 28.5 by car); total party-miles, 344 (32 on foot, 312 by car).

219 Mallard	1 Green-winged Teal
1246 Black Duck	4 Ring-necked Duck
2 Mallard X Black Duck Hyb.	2 Common Goldeneye
1 Pintail	9 Common Merganser

15 Red-tailed Hawk	1 Mockingbird
1 Rough-legged Hawk	4 Robin
1 Peregrine Falcon	10 Golden-crowned Kinglet
10 Sparrow Hawk	28 Cedar Waxwing
15 Ruffed Grouse	1 Northern Shrike
20 Ring-necked Pheasant	1894 Starling
1 Glaucous Gull	1 Myrtle Warbler
44 Great Black-backed Gull	1779 House Sparrow
475 Herring Gull	3 Red-winged Blackbird
34 Ring-billed Gull	7 Common Grackle
155 Mourning Dove	3 Brown-headed Cowbird
3 Great Horned Owl	33 Cardinal
2 Barred Owl	511 Evening Grosbeak
2 Belted Kingfisher	2 Purple Finch
2 Yellow-shafted Flicker	214 Common Redpoll
44 Hairy Woodpecker	7 Pine Siskin
76 Downy Woodpecker	55 American Goldfinch
14 Horned Lark	12 Red Crossbill
174 Blue Jay	7 White-winged Crossbill
241 Common Crow	24 Pine Grosbeak
445 Black-capped Chickadee	30 Slate-colored Junco
2 Tufted Titmouse	324 Tree Sparrow
71 White-breasted Nuthatch	4 White-throated Sparrow
13 Red-breasted Nuthatch	6 Swamp Sparrow
7 Brown Creeper	34 Song Sparrow

Total, 57 species, plus one hybrid; about 8345 individuals.

TROY HIGHLIGHTS

Group 1 - Mr. and Mrs. Byron Hipple, Mrs. Gilbert Eddy, Betty Hicks, Mary Johnston, Mary Linch, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Malone. Highlands east of Hudson River to Route 40, Speigletown to Schaghticoke. 8:45 am. to 4:15 pm. 5 miles afoot, 41 by car; 4 hours afoot, 3½ by car. 25 species, 543 count.

Group 2 - Dr. Peter Wickham, Mrs. Frederick Bordt, John Fuller, William Gorman, David Rothaupt, David Stoner, LeRoy Thomas. Tamarac to Tomhannock. 6:15 am. to 5:15 pm. 9¼ miles afoot, 40 miles by car; 6½ hours afoot, 4½ by car. 38 species, 969 count. Green-winged teal, peregrine falcon, barred owl, horned lark, golden-crowned kinglet, myrtle warbler, red crossbill.

Group 3 - Guy Bartlett. Cohoes, Green Island. 8 am. to 3:30 pm. 5 miles afoot, 35 by car; 2½ hours afoot, 4 by car. 28 species, 2940 count. Mallard X black duck hybrid, rough-legged hawk, belted kingfisher, red-winged blackbird.

Group 4 - Walton Sabin, Frances Adams, Elizabeth Macauley, Samuel Madison, Mrs. Thomas McGuirk. Hudson River, Cohoes Dam to Stillwater. 7:45 am. to 4:15 pm. 3 miles afoot, 55 by car; 4½ hours afoot, 4 by car. 31 species, 1218 count. Ring-necked duck, common goldeneye, common merganser, glaucous gull, yellow-shafted flicker, white-winged crossbill.

Group 5A - Dr. Paul Connor, Dr. Paul Grattan. Route 40 to Route 2, Speigletown to Tomhannock and south. 7:30 am. to 5 pm. 3 miles afoot, 52 by car; 3½ hours afoot, 5 by car. 23 species, 524 count. Purple finch.

Group 5B - Bob Norton, John Hurd. Same area as 5A, but different

routes. 11 am. to 2:30 pm. $\frac{1}{4}$ mile afoot, 28 by car; $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
9 species, 199 count.

Group 6 - Dr. Donald Tucker, Esly Hallenbeck. Northwest quadrant, Crescent and Vischer Ferry to Stillwater. (as separate parties). $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles afoot, 61 by car; 5 hours afoot, $4\frac{1}{2}$ by car. 29 species 529 count. Pintail, Northern shrike.

Group 7 - Feeder and local reports. Mrs. Phoebe Anderson, Miss Judith Arbit, Mrs. Raymond Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Comeau, Mrs. Thornton Converse, Judia Dankoehler, Mrs. Thomas Delaney, James DeLong, Mrs. Montague Dennett, M. Jane Dick, Mrs. Barbara Douglas, Myrtle Fletcher, Ruth Greene, John Hurd, Mrs. Alson Ives, Ralph Lewis, Channing Mamm, Mr. and Mrs. Ross McCaerney, Mrs. Don McChesney, Mrs. Richard McFalls, Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Neifert, Mrs. Norman Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Norton, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Olsen, Mrs. Gordon Sherman, Donald Wilcox, Mr. and Mrs. William Wixted, Mrs. J. Zaffuts. 21 species, 1423 count. Tufted titmouse, mockingbird.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During 1965, members of the board directed their attention to the following main topics: Planning Committee and its subcommittees, Program Committee and its Audubon Lecture Series, and the activities of the various appointed committees.

The following subcommittees of the Planning Committee, as outlined in the December, 1964 issue of FEATHERS, were active during the year: Activities Development and Site Selection.

The Activities Development Subcommittee submitted a 14-page report to the Planning Committee. It was acted upon in turn at a special meeting of this committee and referred to the Board of Directors. The board accepted their recommendations and requested that the Publications and Field Trips Subgroups implement their programs as quickly as possible. Tangible results of both these subgroups is manifest in the extended scope of FEATHERS and the greater number and variety of field trips. The subgroups on meetings and education are requiring further study. The Planning Committee would welcome assistance and ideas for both of these subgroups from other members, or interested non-members (We hope that any in this last group would join the Club!)

The Site Selection Subcommittee was very active. Although it did not submit a report during the year, it examined many possible sites for either a sanctuary or building site, or combination. This subcommittee has kept the Planning Committee informed of its progress and hopefully will be able to submit a report in the near future.

The Program Committee has worked very faithfully in organizing and presenting the Audubon Lecture Series for this our 21st season. The quality of the programs is excellent and all of us look forward to each presentation. The board expresses its appreciation to the members of this committee.

Appointed committees are: field trips, records, conservation, membership and junior activities. The Field Trip Committee's activities are mentioned above.

The Records Committee, continuing to function under the good auspices of its chairman, implemented a new service to club members (Jul.-Aug., 1965 issue of FEATHERS). This service was initiated for the purpose of making available to Club members information on the presence of unusual bird species in our area. This service is being continued with the suggestion that more people avail themselves of this service. (After all, it's free!)

The Conservation Committee under the able chairmanship of our vice president, continued to keep us informed on matters pertinent to the subject. The Board of Directors went on record favoring passage of the Pure Waters Bond Issue, voted on in the November election. As you know the people of the state voted overwhelmingly for this.

The Membership Committee was very active during the year and it succeeded in adding new members to the Club at the rate of two or three per month. A special effort was made to attract new members at the Audubon Lecture Series. This effort was quite successful.

The Junior Activities Committee has not been as active as it would like to be. The committee chairman, because of other commitments, has not been able to devote as much time to this work as heretofore. As this is being written I would like to report that this committee has been enlarged by the addition of another member. Hopefully this committee will be more active in the coming year, and get its conservation message across to the school children in our area more frequently.

--WBS

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WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN

E. M. Reilly, Jr.
Curator, Zoology
N. Y. S. Museum

Dead birds on the road, outside picture windows, and on feeding trays present problems to the average citizen, birders, and law enforcement officers of the Conservation Department. Technically anyone who picks up such a carcass and carries it even to the house or to the trash bin is breaking the law, as it then becomes a legal problem as to who killed the bird. Both Federal and State laws on the matter seem to be too strict. If they were not, then anyone wanting to start a collection of birds (or just kill them for "fun") would be able to do so by merely claiming the birds were found dead. The law was written so that any person caught transporting protected birds bears the burden of proving his innocence of the death or capture of the specimen, unless duly licensed by both State and Federal governments to take and possess such items. Generally speaking, such permits are very difficult to obtain and usually the holders are professional ornithologists or museum workers.

The so-called "salvage permit" is somewhat easier to obtain and allows the holder to pick up and keep specimens found dead anywhere, but not to kill. According to Walt Sabin, Robert Yunick is the only holder of such a permit in the Capital District.

This does not mean that if you find a dead bird and do not have a permit, it must go to waste. Museum curators and college zoology teachers are happy to have such specimens sent to them rather than their having to go into the field armed with collecting equipment to build up their study-skin series.

Personally the author and most workers in the science would rather get a species this way than have to kill one especially. If you find a dead bird which is in reasonably good condition (not rotting, nor with offensive odor, nor too flattened or smashed by the lethal accident) it may be preserved for educational or scientific use by observing the following precautions.

1. If it is a protected species, other than a game bird in season for which you hold a hunting license, it must first be reported to your local conservation officer. You should make sure the officer knows the specimen will be useful to a museum or college and that you made prior contact with Dr. Yunick, a museum, or a college for the purpose of turning over to them any specimens found by you. If the specimen cannot be turned over to the proper authorities immediately, follow the directions for preserving the specimen as described in 2. below.
2. Unprotected species (kingfisher, crow, starling, house sparrow, common grackle and pigeons existing in a wild state - not domesticated) as well as game birds in season for which you hold a hunting license may be saved for the museum or college collections by wrapping them in aluminum foil, freezing them in a freezer or freezing compartment of a refrigerator, then putting them in a small box wrapped additionally in paper for insulation and forwarding them to the Biology Department of the State University of New York at Albany (or any other college you know wishes specimens) or to the Zoology Office, New York State Museum, Albany, New York 12224 (or any other museum using such items). To avoid a weekend in a warm post office, such packages should be mailed on Monday and, during summer months, more paper wrappings should be used inside the package than in winter.
3. If in doubt, call the personnel of the colleges or museums first, at least before freezing the bird.
4. The most valuable specimens are those with the most complete data. Each one forwarded should be accompanied by a tag (preferably tucked under the wing of each individual specimen if not tied to the leg) giving the date of death (or date found), the locality (distance and direction from the nearest community), the habitat where found (suburban garden, oak wood, open field, etc.) and any additional information such as how the bird met death, the weather at the time, etc.

The law does not allow anyone to make private collections and taxidermists are strictly forbidden, under pain of losing their licenses and facing heavy fines, to mount any protected species brought in to them and must report such incidents to a conservation officer. So if you find a dead bird, remember it may be very useful to a museum or school and might save the life of another member of that species which it might be necessary to kill to complete a study collection.

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CONSERVATION CONSENSUS

Samuel R. Madison

Conservation Chairman

Many conservation matters are of great importance for the future. Amongst the more significant recent developments are the following.

LONG ISLAND MARSHES DEDICATED

The entire 10,000 acres of tidal wetlands owned by the Town of Hempstead on Long Island are to be dedicated permanently for fish, wildlife and other conservation purposes according to a recent announcement of the Town Board. This decision apparently climaxes a prolonged battle amongst Long Islanders and supplants the action taken in 1963 that would have placed only 2500 acres of the wetlands held by the town under preservation.

Several years ago it appeared obvious that a great fishery and wildlife marsh was about to be ruined by dredging, filling and pollution by advancing population pressure. Many conservation groups in the Hempstead area were concerned and worked unceasingly to preserve the marsh. It was only with great effort that the general public was made aware of the desirability of preserving the wetlands and this led to the ultimate success.

According to the plan announced by the town, the tidal wetlands will be jointly administered by the Division of Fish and Game of New York State's Conservation Department and the town's Conservation and Waterways Department. The State will pay all of the development costs to make the marsh more productive of fish and wildlife, and also fifty percent of the maintenance costs. The town's action is in accord with the recent report of the Environmental Pollution Panel of the President's Science Advisory Committee.

PESTICIDES SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULED

It has been announced that a public Symposium on Scientific Aspects of Pest Control will be held in Washington, D.C., January 31-February 3, inclusive. The symposium will review advances in pest control and in the understanding of the consequences of the use of pesticides upon man and nature. The symposium has been organized by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. Several federal agencies and departments are cooperating in the symposium. The results of

this symposium will be of great interest to all who are concerned about the widespread use of pesticides. There will be more about this symposium in a later issue.

NATURE CONSERVANCY ACTIVITIES

According to Dr. Robert Rienow, Chairman of the Eastern New York Chapter of Nature Conservancy, the chapter is engaged in the following land acquisitions, among others.

1. A gift of 50 acres of ravines in the Town of Rotterdam.
2. A legacy of 100 acres in Saratoga County, and
3. A gift of a tract of land near Clarksville.

Dr. Frank S. Ham, Chairman of the Lisha Kill Natural Area Committee, announced in a January newsletter to Lisha Kill supporters that on December 29, the Conservancy received title to 8.7 acres of land behind the fire house on Rosendale Road, reaching back to the preserve holdings. This acquisition will be used as the entrance to the area. It will be marked with a sign. The Conservancy urges use of the new access, for the easement allowing entrance from the Lisha Kill bridge on Rosendale Road has been released. Acquisition of property east of the kill and reaching almost to Troy Road is underway. Gifts and bequests for this and the purchase of other buffer tracts adjoining the preserve will be welcomed. Volunteers for maintaining the preserve are being sought.

The chapter is now also engaged in raising funds to acquire and preserve Great Bear Swamp near Westerlo. \$21,000 is needed to complete the project, \$10,000 is already on hand. Bear Swamp is distinguished by being one of the northern most stands of rose bay rhododendron. Contributions may be sent to Dr. Ham at 1445 Valencia Road, Schenectady.

CORNWALL PUMP-STORAGE PROJECT

The United States Court of Appeals has unanimously set aside the determination of the Federal Power Commission awarding Consolidated Edison Company a license to construct the Storm King pump-storage hydroelectric power plant on the west side of the Hudson River at Cornwall. The commission's determination has been attacked by various conservation groups. As a result of the court's decision, the matter is referred back to the FPC with instructions that it receive evidence on a number of proposals that it had either not considered or considered scantily.

The court wrote a 28-page opinion and all three judges concurred therein. Speaking for the unanimous court, Judge Hayes said in part, "If the commission is properly to discharge its duty in this regard, the record on which it bases its determination must be complete. The petitioners and the public at large have a right to demand this completeness.

"It is our view, and we find, that the commission has failed to compile a record which is sufficient to support its decision. The commission has ignored certain relevant factors and failed to make a thorough study of possible alternatives to the Storm King project.

"While the courts have no authority to concern themselves with the policies of the commission, it is their duty to see to it that the commission's decisions receive that careful consideration which the statute contemplates."

Amongst the matters which the court held the FPC had to take evidence were fish protective devices and underground electrical transmission facilities. The court noted that the project was in an area of great beauty and historical significance. Its opinion stated that Storm King was a portion of the highland and gorge of the Hudson River which constituted one of the finest pieces of river scenery in the world. The court concluded that the commission had erred in not considering the contention of the Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference that the above matters had to be considered in determining whether the project could be authorized under the Federal Power Act.

The \$162 million project would draw water from the Hudson River for storage in a reservoir during slack periods using power generated by Con Ed's conventional steam plants. During periods of peak demand for electricity, the water would be released from the mountaintop and power the generators. It is said that the project would be the largest of its kind in the world.

This court decision does not mean that the Cornwall project will terminate. It simply tosses the matter back in the FPC's lap for consideration of evidence which the FPC deemed irrelevant to the issues.

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

The Legislature is again in session. It will probably be preoccupied with reapportionment for the first six or seven weeks before it turns to such mundane matters as conservation.

Meanwhile the makeup of the membership of the constitutional convention is receiving the attention of those interested in preserving the "forever wild" provision of our state constitution. Further action from the Governor's office in the field of conservation is expected at about the time this issue is mailed. Both matters will be followed closely.

Regarding the "forever wild" clause, the Nature Conservancy's Washington headquarters had the following to say. A meeting was held at Rhinebeck December 4 for looking ahead to the New York State Constitutional Convention, and great potential threat to the Forest Preserve. The Nature Conservancy was well represented at that meeting; the convention is certain to become an open arena for all of the exploiter interests that want to convert a great state resource into financial profit for themselves and friends. There is every reason to believe that certain prominent people working under the appearance of being advocates of a "wise use of natural resources" and as public benefactors will initiate proposals that would effectively open the doors to exploitation of the Forest Preserve. Conservationists have to begin at once to plan for the Constitutional Convention by a concern about who represents the people there and what proposals are offered. It is important that proposals for prevention of any weakening of the preserve safeguards are presented and supported.

BRIEFING THE RECORD

THE SEASON - FALL - AUGUST 16-NOVEMBER 30, 1966

Peter P. Wickham, Records Chairman

For a change, precipitation during this period was slightly above normal. August temperatures averaged 69.4° , 0.6° less than normal at Albany, with a brisk cold wave August 29-31, when a marked wave of small landbirds was noted. Precipitation at Albany totaled 4.32 in., 1.25 in. above normal. September temperatures were somewhat mild, averaging 63.6° , 2.0° above normal. Cold fronts on September 27-28 and October 2-7 brought noticeable "waves" of landbirds and produced the season's first flocks of geese. Precipitation in September totaled 3.76 in., 0.18 in. above normal. Temperatures in October averaged 51.2° , 0.4° above normal, and precipitation totaled 2.37 in., 0.40 in. below normal. Notable "waves" and cold fronts on October 16-18, 24-25, and 28-30 coincided rather fortuitously with the weekends.

Hérons of all species were in low numbers. Other marsh birds such as rails and gallinules were virtually absent. Hawks and owls also continued in low numbers. The shore bird flight offered an interesting variety, although little in way of numbers. Swifts and swallows lingered quite late this year, perhaps due to an abundance of insect food through September. Both species of kinglets seemed rather common, although most observers considered numbers of migrant vireos and warblers very low. Perhaps the highlight of the period was the appearance of all the "usual" winter finches in fairly impressive numbers. The writer is especially indebted to RPY and WBS for the operation of a banding station at Vischer Ferry. The data thus accumulated are helping to clarify fall migratory patterns of several species, particularly least and Traill's flycatchers and Lincoln's sparrow.

Unusual or rare species reported during the period included whistling swan, European widgeon, black vulture, golden eagle, pigeon hawk, golden plover, white-rumped sandpiper (very late), northern phalarope, saw-whet owl, black-backed three-toed woodpecker, boreal chickadee, bohemian waxwing, Carolina wren and western tanager.

Abbreviations used: (ad)- Alan Devoe Bird Club record; (go)- Greene County Bird Club record; (sbc)- Schenectady Bird Club record; AR- Alcoe Reservoir; EM- Black Mt.; CL- Collins Lake; EG- East Greenbush; GR- Galway Reservoir; imm- immature; JL- Jenny Lake; L- Lake; max- maximum; (mob)- many observers; MR- Mohawk River; nr- near; R- River; RL- Round Lake; SCR- Stony Creek Reservoir; SL- Saratoga Lake; TR- Tomhannock Reservoir; VFG- Vischer Ferry Game Management Area. Species abbreviations are not listed, because check-list order is used and a check list may be consulted for full names.

Observers: (GB)- Guy Bartlett; (HE)- Hazel Eddy; (EH)- Ealy Hallenbeck; (WBS)- Walton Sabin; (BRS)- Benton Seguin; (RS, MLS)- Robert and Mary Lou Shedd; (DS)- David Stoner; (DJT)- Dr. Donald Tucker; (PFW)- Dr. Peter Wickham; (JCY)- John Yrizarry; (RPY)- Dr. Robert Yunick; (GMZ)- Gladys Zimmer.

LOONS - DUCKS

- Com Loon: at SL Sept 19 (early) (BRS); in usual areas through Nov, max 12 SL Oct 16 (BRS).
- Red-thr Loon: one Nov 13 SL (sbc); two Nov 14 TR (GB,BRS), and one Nov 20 SL (PPW) only reports.
- Red-n Grebe: 1-2 reported at RL and SL Oct 31 (EH)- Nov 14 (sbc).
- Horned Grebe: first SL Sept 4 (BRS), through Nov, max 78 SL Nov 13 (BRS,GB).
- Pied-b Grebe: many reports, last RL Nov 20 (PPW).
- Great Blue Heron: widely reported, but in fewer numbers than usual, Aug-Oct, last Nov 23 Catskill (go).
- Com Egret: very scarce, only one- nr Medusa Aug 17 (go).
- Eastern Green Heron: rather low in numbers, last Sept 29 VFG (EH). No nighthérons reported.
- American Bittern: only one report, nr Clifton Park Sept 25 (DJT).
- Whistling Swan: one was above Look 6 MR nr Cohoes Nov 13 and one (very likely the same bird) at TR Nov 14 (GB,BRS).
- Canada Goose: first migrant flocks Sept 25 JL (GB), and Sept 29-30 widely. Fewer flocks and smaller numbers this year compared to other recent years, last Nov 21 AR (sbc).
- Brant: a flock of 16 was at SL Oct 23 and 6 remained on Oct 24 (mob), one was at SL Nov 19-28 (mob).
- Snow Goose: three reports- five nr Catskill Oct 12 (gc), flock of 100 SL Oct 23 (BRS), one SL Nov 25 (BRS).
- Mallard and Black Duck: recorded in large numbers.
- Gadwall: a female was at SL Oct 24 (EH,HE), one male was at SL Nov 20 (PPW), and five were at SCR Nov 21 (Gus Angst).
- American Widgeon: reported Sept 25 SCR (BRS) to Nov 20 SL (GB,BRS).
- European Widgeon: a male in full plumage (reddish-brown head and portion of neck, whitish crown stripe, gray back and sides) was at SCR Oct 9 feeding with several American widgeon, many of which were still in partial eclipse plumage (BRS).
- Pintail: Sept 4 SCR (BRS) to Nov 14 SL (sbc).
- Green-w Teal: Sept 4 SCR (BRS) to Nov 21 AR (sbc).
- Blue-w Teal: at least 1000 appeared at SCR Sept 24, but remained only that day (Dirck Benson), last Oct 31 CL (EH).
- Shoveler: a flock of up to five was at RL Oct 2-16 (BRS et al.) and two were at AR Oct 17 (BRS).
- Wood Duck: last Oct 31 CL (EH).
- Redhead: four reports- one SCR Oct 2 (BRS), six RL Oct 30 (BRS), one SL Nov 1 (DS), six SL Nov 14 (sbc).
- Scaup: first Sept 29, GR (EH), appeared generally Oct 9-12.
- Com Goldeneye: first Oct 16 SL (BRS), many by mid-Nov.
- Bufflehead: first Oct 17 CL (EH), reported through end of period.
- Oldsquaw: first Oct 16 TR (PPW), a small group remained on SL Oct 20 to end of period (mob), max 15 Nov 20 (BRS), and three were on the MR at Niskayuna Nov 1 (DS).
- White-w Scoter: reported only at SL Oct 9 (BRS) to end of period, max 26 Oct 23 (BRS).
- Surf Scoter: one SL Oct 9 and eight SL Oct 23 (BRS)- only reports.
- Com Scoter: a flock of 22 repeatedly "buzzed" TR without landing Oct 16 (PPW), also one reported on L George at Silver Bay Oct 23-24 (JCY), two on RL Oct 9-10, two (not always the same) on SL Oct 16-30 and one SL to Nov 20 (mob).
- Ruddy Duck: three AR Oct 31 (PPW, W.Gorham), two TR Nov 6 (sbc), four MR at Niskayuna Nov 1 (DS), one RL Nov 13-20 (BRS,GB) and one AR Nov 21 (sbc).
- Hooded Merganser: first Sept 12, JL (GB), reported generally Oct 9-16 through the end of the period.
- Com Merganser: first Sept 8 GR (EH), very few until Nov.

Red-br Merganser: first Oct 16 TR and SL (PPW,BRS) through end of period.

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: reported mainly from Greene, Columbia and western Albany County, last Oct 2 Schodaak Center (ad).

Black Vulture: two were carefully identified in a group of five vultures nr Old Chatham Sept 16 (ad).

Goshawk: only one- nr VFG Nov 13 (GB,BRS).

Sharp-sh Hawk: only reports- one Canaan Sept 1, 15 and 18 (ad) and one Sept 19 RL (BRS).

Cooper's Hawk: only five reports, last Nov 13 RL (sbc).

Red-sh Hawk: only four reports during period.

Broad-w Hawk: several reports, last Oct 12 L Taghkanic (ad).

Rough-l Hawk: two Oct reports, first Oct 12 (EH), several Nov records.

Bald Eagle: one imm Sept 6 VFG (RS,MLS)- the lone report.

Golden Eagle: one injured first-year imm was picked up nr Corinth Nov 14, subsequently died, and is in the New York State Museum collection (fide WBS).

Marsh Hawk: at least 13 individuals reported, last Oct 24, Ghent.

Osprey: reported from few localities, last Nov 14 SL (late) (sbc).

Pigeon Hawk: one adult Sept 19 RL (BRS)- only report.

Sparrow Hawk: considered numerous in late Aug and Sept by some obs.

Rails and Gallinules seemed extremely scarce. Only reports- Virginia Rail, one VFG Aug 28 and Sept 6 (RPY).

American Coot: Reported at SL, TR and AR from Oct 16 on, max 98 Nov 13 SL (sbc).

Semipalmated Plover: only report- two Sept 29 GR (EH).

Killdeer: reported widely through end of period.

Golden Plover: one feeding with a "dozen or so" killdeer on a grassy field in EG Sept 8 and 10 (ad), and one feeding with about 25 killdeer on a grass-covered field, Clifton Park, Sept 23-24 (DJT).

American Woodcock: few records, last Oct 16 Grafton (RPY).

Coa Snipe: last Oct 23 VFG (RPY).

Spotted Sandpiper: last Sept 20 Ghent (ad).

Solitary Sandpiper: few records, last Sept 20 Ghent (ad).

Greater Yellowlegs: several reports into Nov, last Nov 14 SL (sbc).

Pectoral Sandpiper: reported Sept 19 RL (BRS), Sept 29 GR (EH) and Oct 17 AR (BRS).

White-r Sandpiper: three records, all late- three Oct 17 AR (BRS), two Nov 6 TR (sbc) and two Nov 13-14 SL (sbc).

Least Sandpiper: last Sept 4 Lock 7 MR (BRS).

Dunlin: only reports- one Nov 6 TR (sbc) and two SL Nov 13 (BRS,GB).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: only four reports, Sept 29 to Oct 17.

Northern Phalarope: one was observed at close range at VFG Sept 6 (RS,MLS).

Great Black-b Gull: only reports - Hudson R nr Castleton Oct 16 (ad) and one SL Nov 20 (PPW).

Bonaparte's Gull: only reports- two SL Oct 30 (BRS,DJT,PPW) and two SL Nov 13 (GB,BRS).

Yellow-b Cuckoo: reported to mid-Sept, last Oct 18 Old Chatham (ad) and Oct 20 Ghent (ad).

Black-b Cuckoo: reported to mid- Sept, last Sept 26 EM (PPW) and Oct 18 Ghent (ad).

Screech Owl: reported at Scotia (EH), VFG (RPY) and EG (W.Gorham).

Horned Owl: reported in several scattered localities.

Snowy Owl: only one reported, late Oct nr Clifton Park (fide WBS).

Barred Owl: reported only from JL (GB).

Saw-whet Owl: one picked up stunned in Glenville was fed, banded, photographed and released (EH, RPY et al.). Another was found freshly killed at the side of a road in Valley Falls Nov 27 (RS,MLS).

GOATSUCKERS - SHRIKES

Com Nighthawk: groups seen mid-Aug to mid-Sept, max 200 Aug 29 Schenectady (RPY), last Sept 20 Ghent (ad).

Chimney Swift: lingered into late Sept, last Oct 3 (late) Schodack Center (ad).

Ruby-thr Hummingbird: recorded through Sept, last Oct 5 Chatham Center (ad).

Pileated Woodpecker: reported widely.

Yellow-b Sapsucker: migrants noted Sept 21 Scotia (EH)-Oct 16 TR (PPW).

Black-b Three-t Woodpecker: a female was seen nr Hague Oct 23 (JCY) and another female was nr Catskill Nov 6 (go).

Eastern Kingbird: several reports early Sept, last Sept 12 Canaan.

Great Crested Flycatcher: some migrants noted in late Aug, last Sept 6 Canaan (ad).

Eastern Phoebe: reported to mid-Oct, last Oct 16 Ghent (ad).

Yellow-b Flycatcher: reported Aug 29 EG (PPW), Sept 5 Ghent (ad) and Sept 6 Castleton (ad).

Traill's Flycatcher: at VFG a decided movement occurred Aug 27-Sept 11, during which time six were banded, max 3 Aug 28 (RPY). Least Flycatchers were also banded through Sept 11 at VFG (RPY).

Eastern Wood Pewee: several Sept reports, last Sept 21 (EH, ad).

Olive-s Flycatcher: one was seen and heard in Ghent Oct 6 (ad).

Swallows: groups of swallows lingered quite late, well into Sept, one "huge flock of mixed swallows" nr Castleton Sept 12 contained tree, bank, barn and cliff swallows (ad). Late dates included Oct 2 Corinth (GB); barn, Oct 10 Corinth (GB). Also notable were more than 100 cliff swallows flying singly or in small groups on Aug 28 through Berlin Pass into a west wind of 15-25 mph (PPW).

Boreal Chickadee: one was at EM Sept 26 (sbc) and another at a Scotia feeder Sept 14-17 (EH et al.), both very early.

Tufted Titmouse: reported widely, many locations.

Red-br Nuthatch: heavy migration, first Aug 31 EG (early) (PPW), with several reported through end of period.

Brown Creeper: good migration noted, first Sept 19, Rensselaer (PPW).

House Wren: disappeared gradually through Sept, last Oct 1 Ghent.

Winter Wren: Oct 2 Karner (PPW) to Nov 9 Catskill (go).

Carolina Wren: only report - one coming to an Amsterdam feeder in late Oct and during Nov (Mrs. Gerald Fitzgerald).

Long-b Marsh Wren: Last Sept 19 SCR (BRS).

Mockingbird: reported from Ghent, Scotia, Elnora, Schodack and EG.

Catbird: most left by early Oct, last Nov 5 Catskill (go).

Brown Thrasher: few seen after Aug, last Oct 29 (ad).

Wood Thrush: last reports Oct 7 (ad).

Hermit Thrush: few reports, last Nov 14 TR (GB, BRS).

Swainson's Thrush: only reports, Sept 10-16 (PPW, ad).

Gray-ch Thrush: only two reports, both from northern areas - one Sept 26 EM (sbc) and one Oct 24 Silver Bay (JCY).

Veery: very few reports, last Sept 21 (EH).

Eastern Bluebird: records from throughout area, but nowhere is it a com species.

Golden-or Kinglet: heavy and prolonged migration, first Sept 26 EM (sbc) and Sept 28 EG (PPW), widespread during Oct and Nov.

Ruby-or Kinglet: Sept 18 EG (PPW) to Nov 7 (GB, BRS), heavy mig.

Water Pipit: noted mostly at dried-up shores of local ponds and reservoirs, Oct 9 Castleton (ad) to Nov 6 TR (sbc).
 Cedar Waxwing: very com in Aug and Sept, numbers gradually decreasing in rest of period.
Bohemian Waxwing: one was carefully identified as it perched on the roof of a building at the Catskill Game Farm Nov 22 (R. Ryan).
 Northern Shrike: reported Nov 13 VFG (GB, BRS) and Nov 17 at Catskill (gc).

VIREOS - WARBLERS

Vireos- Yellow-thr: last Sept 29 GR (EH).
 Solitary: migrants Aug 29 EG (PPW) to Oct 2 Karner (PPW).
 Red-eyed: reported into Oct, last Oct 10 VFG (late) (RPY).
 Warbling: last Sept 6 Castleton (ad).
 Warblers- Black and White: last Sept 29 Athens (gc).
 Tennessee: one banded Sept 11 and Oct 10 (late) VFG (RPY).
 Nashville: many reports, Sept 1-28.
 Parula: Sept 1 Castleton (ad) to Sept 28 Ghent (ad).
 Yellow: several reports early Sept, last Sept 15 (ad).
 Magnolia: Aug 31 EG (PPW) to Oct 3 (PPW, ad).
 Myrtle: main movement through Oct, last Nov 6 TR (sbc).
 Black-thr Green: reports through Sept, last Oct 9 Gallupville (GMZ).
 Blackburnian: Aug 23 GR (EH) to Sept 26 BM (sbc).
 Chestnut-sided: reported to Sept 28 (ad).
 Bay-br: marked wave Sept 14-28 (ad, sbc).
 Blackpoll: Sept 1 Ghent (ad) to Oct 17 Ghent (ad).
 Pine: at Old Chatham Sept 3-6 (ad) and at Castleton Sept 11 (ad).
 Prairie: last Sept 12 Ghent (ad).
 Palm: Sept 8 Old Chatham (ad) to Oct 23 Ghent (ad).
 Ovenbird: last Sept 6 Canaan (ad).
 Northern Waterthrush: only report- one Oct 20 Ghent (ad).
 Yellowthroat: last Oct 21 EG (Noel Albertson).
 Wilson's: at least five reports, four in early Sept, Sept 3 EG (PPW) to Oct 9 VFG (banded) (RPY).
 Canada: migrants Aug 29 EG (PPW) to Sept 6 Castleton (ad).
 American Redstart: several reports, Sept 3-28.

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

Bobolink: several flocks in late August, last Sept 3 Castleton (ad).
 Redwing: large concentrations migrated during Oct, max 100,000 estimated nr Catskill Oct 12 (gc).
 Orchard Oriole: remained at Castleton nesting area to Sept 6 (ad).
 Baltimore Oriole: most left in early Sept, last Sept 8 Castleton (ad), one Oct 9 nr VFG (BRS), very late.
 Rusty Blackbird: Sept 28 EG (PPW) to Nov 13 SL (GB, BRS).
 Com Grackle: large flocks late Aug to Oct, max 75,000 and 45,000 estimated Oct 13 and 14 nr Catskill (gc).
Western Tanager: an imm male at Silver Bay, L George Oct 23 ("not unlike an imm female scarlet (tanager), but) ... bright yellow on the breast and undertail coverts... middle coverts of the wing a bright yellow, the secondary coverts margined with white, thus two pronounced wing bars, the yellow more so than the white." (JCY) was the second record of the species in the area in 1965.
 Scarlet Tanager: last Sept 28 Ghent (ad).
 Rose-br Grosbeak: many reported in Sept, last Sept 28 Ghent.
 Indigo Bunting: last Sept 19 EG (PPW) and Sept 20 Castleton (ad).
 Evening Grosbeak: became uncom at JL (nesting area) after Sept 16 (GB). First migrants noted Sept 29 Schodack Center (ad) and

widely Oct 3-10.

Purple Finch: after Oct, quite scarce in most areas.

Pine Grosbeak: first Nov 7 EG (PPW) and Greenville (gc), widespread by end of period.

Com Redpoll: first Nov 13 Old Chatham (PPW) with flocks of up to 50 later in Nov.

Pine Siskin: first Oct 11 VFG (Marjorie Foote, M. McGuirk), widespread later in Oct and Nov.

Red Crossbill: one report- flock of 12 Nov 6 TR (sbc).

White-w Crossbill: lone report- flock of five Nov 20 Lisha Kill(DS).

Rufous-s Towhee: last Oct 21 (ad).

Sparrows- Savannah: few reported, last Oct 24 Silver Bay (JCY).

Vesper: last Oct 27 Chatham Center (ad).

Slate-c Junco: first migrant Sept 6 (early) VFG (RPY), large influx in early Oct.

Tree: general influx Oct 24-30, large groups noted.

Chipping: lingered to late Oct, last Nov 1 Catskill (gc).

Field: few reports, last Oct 26 Loudonville (Mabel French).

White-or: good migration, Sept 15 Old Chatham (ad) to Nov 20 Look 7 (GB,BRS).

White-thr: first Sept 6 VFG (RPY) and Canaan (ad), widely by Sept 20, some lingering through period.

Fox: first Oct 2 (BRS), major influx Oct 23-30, last Nov 12 RL(HE).

Lincoln's: Sept 4 VFG (BRS) to Oct 10 VFG (RPY). At least 19 reported in this period, with seven banded at VFG in early Oct.

Lapland Longspur: at least three were in a flock of snow buntings at AR Oct 31 (PPW,WG).

Snow Bunting: first Oct 21 North L (gc) with several flocks observed Oct 30-31 and into mid-Nov.

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OFF THE BOOKSHELF

Edited by

Elva Link

Books for the ordinary Joe
And people with lots of dough

Griffin, Donald Redfield. BIRD MIGRATION. 1964. 180p. Amer. Museum of Natural History. \$4.50. Paper, Doubleday, Anchor, \$1.25

"A review of the methods used to study bird migration as well as an up-to-date survey of the theories and findings on the migrations." Booklist. This is one of the Doubleday Science Study series.

Bull, John L. BIRDS OF THE NEW YORK AREA. 1964. 540p. illus. maps. Harper Row. \$8.95.

"An authoritative successor to Grisoom's BIRDS OF THE NEW YORK CITY REGION published in 1924 and Cruickshank's BIRDS AROUND NEW YORK CITY published in 1942. Changes in the area's bird life during the past two decades are emphasized in preliminary chapters; annotations on more than 400 species contain information on habitat, breeding, migration trends and other data. A bibliography, gazetteer and regional map are among the appended material." Booklist.

National Geographic Society. SONG AND GARDEN BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA. 1964. 400p. \$11.95.

"A magnificent volume with the added dimension of sound. Contains color close-ups and complete biographies of 327 species of birds. Fourteen scientists contributed to its authoritative text. 555 illustrations. A special record album of 70 songs is included." Adv.

National Geographic Society. WATER, PREY AND GAME BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA. 1965. 464p. \$11.95.

"Full of color, action and sound, this 464-page treasury of wild birds will be the jewel of your family library. 329 species are photographed in color and fully described. You'll actually hear many of them, for an album of the recorded calls and cries of 97 birds is included with this magnificent volume." Adv.

These two volumes are available only from the Society. They have identical formats, and are available boxed at \$25.

Thoreau, Henry David. THOREAU ON BIRDS. Comp. and with commentary by Helen Cruickshank. Foreward by Roger Tory Peterson. 1964. 331p. illus., facsim., map, port. 10 in. McGraw-Hill. \$7.95.

"The editor, an ornithologist and conservationist, points to the importance of Thoreau's record of birds in the study of them in the intervening years and in the present. Her commentary interprets quotations from WALDEN, Thoreau's journals, his general bird notes, "Natural History of Massachusetts," A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND THE MERRIMACK RIVERS, EXCURSIONS, THE MAINE WOODS, and CAPE COD. Mrs. Cruickshank also included a list of Thoreau's ornithological reference books, a group of plates in black and white drawn by early naturalists, an alphabetical list of Thoreau's birds, and a bibliography." Booklist.

For the small fry

Welty, Susan Elizabeth. BIRDS WITH BRACELETS; the story of bird banding. Illus. by John Kaufman. 1965. 72p. illus., ports. Prentice-Hall. \$3.50.

"An absorbing account of bird banding from early Greek and Roman to modern times. Detailed information is given on the techniques of bird trapping and banding, the requirements of becoming a bander, and the importance of the information which is obtained through banding. Many readers of the book may be too young to participate as official banders, but will find in the book suggestions of ways in which they can aid the program. The illustrations are both attractive and informative. An appendix contains lists of 'senior citizens' (long-lived individuals) among wild and captive birds and a list of pigeon associations in the U.S. Grades 5-7." Booklist.

ELSEWHERE IN THE STATE

Edited by
Guy Bartlett

NEARBY CHRISTMAS COUNTS

A boreal chickadee, Carolina wren, marsh hawk, Lapland longspur, fox and white-throated sparrows, and scaup and ring-necked ducks were among the more than 40 species listed on the Alan Devoe Christmas Count on December 26.

Greene County Bird Club, in its list of 39 species on its December 26 count, featured a red-bellied woodpecker, winter wren, mockingbird, sharp-shinned hawk and four bluebirds.

MEMBERSHIPS

Alan Devoe Bird Club (Columbia County), much younger than SBC, concluded the year with a membership of 185 individuals, with family memberships counted as two.

Buffalo Audubon Society has amended its constitution to provide an increase in the number of classes of memberships. Now included are supporting members (\$25 per year), contributing members (\$50 per year), and business or industrial associate (\$25 or more per year).

Attendance at meetings of Buffalo Audubon Society has made it necessary to increase seating arrangements. The Museum Auditorium, rather than Humboldt Room, is now required.

Brooklyn Bird Club recently postponed action on raising its annual dues from \$3 to \$5.

N. Y. S. FEDERATION MEETING

Two meetings of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. have been held in New York City, with Long Island field trips. The 1966 meeting will have a truly maritime setting, with headquarters at the Lido Beach Hotel, directly on the ocean at Long Beach, Long Island. Hosts will be the Baldwin Bird Club, Queens County Bird Club, Lyman Langdon Audubon Society and Huntington Audubon Society. Today, Jones Beach, Hempstead, Jamaica Bay and a pelagic (offshore) trips are possible. The event is scheduled for the May 21-22 weekend.

AMSTERDAM MUSEUM

The former Amsterdam hospital building on Guy Park Avenue was inspected in mid-December by the city's Board of Education, which will pay \$1 for the property, slated to become the future home of the school museum and other centralized facilities. The centralized location of the former hospital building will make it ideal for the museum which has outgrown its facilities at the Fifth Ward School.

HUDSON RIVER PRESERVATION

The staff of the State Museum, Albany, has informed the Hudson Valley Commission of 92 natural areas that call for preservation without disturbance or development.

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--GB

FROM THE SECRETARY

Annual Christmas Count Meeting

Our annual Christmas count meeting was held in the Pine Room of the First Methodist Church, Schenectady. Twenty-eight members were present including two of our newer members, Peggy McGuirk and Staffan Magnusson. Welcome Aboard!

Walt Sabin told us about a piece of land which our site selection subcommittee was considering for a possible Club sanctuary. It consists of 17 acres, east and south of Bellevue Hospital, Troy Rd., Niskayuna. Much more information would be needed before any final decision could be made.

On behalf of the Club, Sam Madison presented an autographed copy of BIRDS OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER and an inscribed resolution to Guy Bartlett in appreciation of the work Bart has done over the years for the Club. All of us extend to Bart our thanks and appreciation.

Bart then went back to work and led the organization of the Schenectady Christmas count for December 26. Pete Wickham took over for the Troy count on January 1st.

A spectacular film was presented entitled, "World in a Marsh." It showed much of the life-and-death struggles within a fresh-water marsh.

To top off a delightful evening, thanks to Alice Holmes and Viola Mabb, delicious refreshments were served. We wish we could have seen many more of you at the meeting. Hope to see more of you at the annual meeting in February.

COMING EVENTS

- Feb. 13 - Sun. - LISHA KILL FIELD TRIP - 1:30 pm. Meet at fire house on Rosendale Rd. Carl Runge, 393-2847, coordinator.
- Feb. 20 - Sun. - WINTER TREE IDENTIFICATION - 2 pm. Meet at Casino in Central Park, Sch'dy. Carl Runge, 393-2847, coord.
- Feb. 28 - Mon. - ANNUAL MEETING - 8 pm. Pine Room, First Methodist Church, Sch'dy. Committee reports will be heard and the election of officers and directors held. Robert Yunick will present a talk and display of mammal skins and skulls. Here is an opportunity to examine in the hand study skins of various common mammals.
- Mar. 3 - Thurs. - AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM - 8pm. Niskayuna High School. "Trailing Nature Northward" by James A. Fowler.

*****FIELD TRIP TIME & LOCATION CHANGE*****

- Mar. 5 - Sat. - FEEDER OPEN HOUSE - 7 am. Meet at Robert Yunick's 1527 Myron St. at 7 am. Bob will band birds until 9 am. We shall move on to Hazel Eddy's, 2201 Stoneridge Rd. for a visit from 9 until 10:30 am. Finally we shall go to Dave Stoner's, 2636 Troy-Sch'dy Rd. (Stop 15 $\frac{1}{2}$) for our last feeder visit from 10:30 until 12. Please come early or join us any time during the morning at these locations, Bob Yunick, 377-0146 and Dave Stoner, 785-0800, coord.
- Mar. 14 - Mon. - BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING - 8 pm. Meet at 1527 Myron St., Sch'dy.
- Mar. 19 - Sat. - LOWER HUDSON FIELD TRIP - 8:30 am. Meet at Joy Dept. Store, Routes 9&20, Rensselaer. Peter Wickham, 477-6345, coordinator.
- Apr. 3 - Sun. - VISCHER FERRY FIELD TRIP - 8 am. Meet at entrance of Vischer Ferry Game Management Area. Don Tucker, 877-8740, coordinator.

--DS

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THE THRUSH AND THE LION

Donald J. Tucker

Once upon a time in a faraway land there was a varied thrush, who said to himself one day: "I'm tired of the same old routine. Every year it's north to northern California, Oregon, Washington or Montana. Sure, the redwoods, the Douglas fir, the Sitka spruce are beautiful, but I'd like to see something different. I don't think I'll go back to the orchards of southern California this winter."

He thought for a long time -- about oceans, and mountains, and kings and princes, elephants and lions, and many other wonderful things. Finally he decided to head east, maybe to Africa. He was a bold young thrush and as he flew he thought of the wonders he was to see. Then, one day he heard it. Grr-r-r-r, Roar-rr! It was a lion. At last! His dream was to be realized. But having flown a long way, he was a bit hungry, so he decided to get a bite to eat----and so, appeared at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wilson of Sliter's Corners, just east of Rensselaer.

This is perhaps a fanciful account; but however it happened, sometime around January 20, a varied thrush, far from his winter home, appeared at the feeder of the Wilson's. Through various channels it came to the attention of Pete Wickham who passed the word to the RBA and subsequently to some forty or more members of SBC. The lion in question was a captive at a nearby animal farm. His loud roar resounding through the woods while the first group of observers were admiring the thrush, caused a moment of uneasiness and amazement. It was indeed an improbable combination, - five SBC members watching a varied thrush in Rensselaer County, while listening to a lion roar.

The bird was everything we could have hoped for. It was in full adult plumage, and in the early morning rays of the sun, the throat and breast shone with a richness not unlike the blackburnian warbler. The dark breast band was complete and sharp. The upperparts a grey-brown and underneath the yellow orange of the breast fading to whitish on the lower belly. The wing bars were evident though not striking. The sides presented a slightly mottled appearance from some angles of view. It fed mainly on the ground and appeared to take only wild bird seed. The bird made its approach and departure through a stand of nearby hemlock.

The lives of the Wilson's were not the same for several weeks as group after group appeared to see the bird. We were most fortunate that through it all the Wilson's remained gracious hosts, and to them SBC expresses its gratitude for allowing the almost daily invasions of their home to glimpse the varied thrush who came east to see a lion.

ROCK WREN AT ROCKPORT, MASS.

Guy Bartlett

Rockport's Rock Wren was the feature of SBC's third winter trip to Cape Ann and Newburyport January 28-30. It was perfectly at home in a mass of large rocks at ocean's edge. It had been there since November, was included in Cape Ann's Christmas Count, and was still right there in February. The bird was Massachusetts's first record of this western species; New York State has no record of such a bird, although one was recently collected in nearby Ontario. Finding the bird was not difficult. Gerald L. Soucy of the Brookline Bird Club had supplied very detailed directions for this and other hoped-for species. More than half of the 15 SBC trippers saw the bird Saturday afternoon, and Dave Stoner had to back off for his telephoto picture.

All saw the eared grebe, another rarity from the West; last year the bird was recorded after-the-fact and unsatisfactorily. Also of more than passing interest were five species of gulls; three black guillemots and one dovekie; red-necked grebe and great cormorant; purple sandpipers and sanderlings; 13 waterfowl species; and myrtle warbler and Lapland longspurs.

Weather and driving conditions might have been better. Friday was clear, cold and windy. Main roads were well opened from the heavy snow of a week earlier, but not all side roads had two-way traffic. Saturday morning was cold, but that afternoon was mild and sunny. Radio warnings were out for that night, and they were right. Sunday morning had plenty of new, drifting snow, turning to rain and drenched roads and strong east winds by mid-morning. Word from Schenectady indicated plenty of trouble to be expected at home. That night the Thruway was closed, Albany and west.

One car continued on the trip Sunday to Newburyport, and got home without too much trouble. The others were away before noon and home just ahead of the local blizzard, except for Betty Hicks and Mary Linch who stayed an extra day because of a snowplow-broken windshield on Route 128. The 15 participants: Mrs. Bundy and McQuirk, Misses Hicks and Linch; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Stoner; John Fuller, Bill Gorman, Barry Havens, Sam Madison, Dave Rothaupt, Walt Sabin, Beezer Seguin, Pete Wickham and I. Headquarters: Vista Motel, Gloucester.

Fifty-five species in total were listed, including 43 at Cape Ann (column A) and 33 at Newburyport (column B). These 55 species far from exhausted the list of possibilities. Gerald Soucy, and others, before and after the SBC trip had such additions as harlequin and European tufted ducks, Bonaparte's and Kumlien's gulls, kittiwake, Barrow's goldeneye, short-eared owl and goshawk, thick-billed murre and gray jay.

The list:

	A	B		A	B
Common Loon	15	30	Dovekie (oiled, recovered)		I
Red-necked Grebe	1		Black Guillemot	3	
Horned Grebe	100	80	Mourning Dove		5
Eared Grebe	1		Snowy Owl		1
Great Cormorant	20		Downy Woodpecker		2
Canada Goose		150	Horned Lark		10
Mallard	4	6	Blue Jay	fc	4
Black Duck	200	600	Common Crow	30	15
Canvasback		6	Black-capped Chickadee	4	12
Greater Scaup		250	White-breasted Nuthatch	1	
Common Goldeneye	100	150	Rock Wren	1	
Bufflehead	30	75	Mockingbird	1	
Oldsquaw	8	10	Brown Thrasher	1	
Common Eider (fem. only)	10		Robin	2	
White-winged Scoter	40	150	Hermit Thrush	1	
Surf Scoter	20	1	Eastern Bluebird	1	
Common Scoter	12	20	Shrike (sp?)	1	
Red-breasted Merganser	70	65	Starling	ab	
Marsh Hawk (female)	1		Myrtle Warbler	1	
Sparrow Hawk		1	House Sparrow	x	
Ring-necked Pheasant	2		Cardinal (male)	1	
Purple Sandpiper	70	2	Common Redpoll	16	
Sanderling	26		Slate-colored Junco		3
Glaucous Gull		1	Tree Sparrow	r	8
Iceland Gull	4	7	Song Sparrow	3	1
Great Black-backed Gull	400	160	Lapland Longspur		9
Herring Gull	1500	1500	Snow Bunting	1	
Ring-billed Gull	200	1			

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SEPTEMBER ON THE COAST

Dorothy Caldwell

Would you like to have me try to tell you what a really wonderful month September was for me ornithologically? I finished August with a list of 189 birds, the last entry being my first bluebird for 1965, and including some very "good" birds but lacking myrtle warblers and brown creepers. Of course I hoped to add a few more and to round out my list to 200 for the year.

* * *

Editor's note - This article points out some of the amazing possibilities of birding along the coast in autumn. In lieu of the following note from Miss Caldwell, it also points out how one can survive a serious illness and with the help of a friend continue to enjoy life. Miss Caldwell writes, "Perhaps a word of explanation is in order. A heart attack in March, 1964 nearly cost me my life. Upon recovery of a sort, it seemed necessary to live less actively in an adequate nursing home, to walk slowly on the level and definitely no climbing up or down hills. From my window I look into a wooded area, predominantly second growth oaks and with no water on the hill top. Bird life is not abundant. My really interesting bird watching has been thanks to a friend, Stella Garrett, of Lynn, from whose car I have had some wonderful opportunities with only a little walking on my part and to whom I am most grateful."

Sept. 4. Brookline Bird Club trip to Newburyport area, which usually means going down Plum Island much farther than we ever used to go. My first thrill was a flock of double-crested cormorants heading south; also our first awareness of the wonderful snowy egret invasion. I saw three, Stella Garrett saw ten I think, and later as many as fifty were spotted in one day. Then came my first marsh hawk for the year. The usual "peeps", including many of both yellowlegs, and common terns, mourning doves, flickers, Eastern kingbirds, hundreds of tree swallows and a few barn swallows, etc. Then we spotted a loggerhead shrike, first for the year for any of the group. He apparently liked his perch on a telephone pole and the food he found at its base, and everyone had a chance to see him well. That was the high-spot for the day and four new species for my list.

Sept. 7. Stella took me to the Great Meadows Wildlife Reservation in Concord. Marsh hawk, wood ducks, gallinules, etc. were seen. She had hoped for the king rail reported there.

Sept. 9. Stella took me to Salisbury for the day and the trip later included Newburyport also. High-spots for me were golden plover, my first hummingbird and once, when we stopped to look for something else, found ourselves face to face with a Lincoln's sparrow perched in a bush beside us. On to Newburyport. My first whimbrel, in flight and not too good a view for me, sanderlings, my first myrtle and pine warblers were seen. Then we journeyed to a place near Newburyport which we call Ice House Pond. There is no ice house there now and this year the water was so low that good mud flats were exposed and just teeming with "peeps" of various sorts. Stella clutched my arm and asked what sandpiper had a bill drooping at the tip. "Western", said I. She asked me to please look at her bird. She was so excited, the first Western she had ever found by herself, or even had a really satisfactory look at. We also found a white-rumped among them. Thus nine more new birds were added to my list.

Sept. 11. Stella led a Brookline Bird Club trip to the Newburyport region. It was a fine day and a very nice group, but birding down Plum Island was not at all exciting. I missed a fine view of a sharp-tailed sparrow. The thrill of the day was the visit to Ice House Pond and was it fun to have the whole group working on the area! At least three Westerns plus my first spotted sandpiper and my first solitary for the year. Later in the Artichoke region, a fine view for all of my first osprey for 1965. Three more new species for my list. (One member, well-known locally doubted our three Westerns, went herself, and found nine! Most unusual.)

Sept. 15. A surprise trip - no time to put up lunch, we would only be gone an hour! We were off at 9 am. to look at a prothonotary warbler seen at Magnolia the day before. We found the pair eventually, but we worked the place for hours for a good view and then time out for lunch. It was fascinating territory, with little pools and coverts where various other warblers were also lurking, including black-and-white, prairie, northern waterthrush, and Connecticut warbler.

Sept. 17. Another surprise trip to Newburyport region in a vain hunt for reported Western kingbird, but we were rewarded

with a wonderful sparrow migration. I missed the shovelers and ruddy ducks seen from towers which I could not climb. However, I had a fine view of a peregrine falcon, flickers flocking, the last Eastern kingbirds of the season, one orange-crowned warbler, a lark sparrow and a sharp-tailed sparrow.

Sept. 26. Still another surprise trip to Newburyport region. Exquisite fall day. Off at 9 am. for Salisbury. We saw mostly land birds, and had fine views of three pipits and a seaside sparrow -- on to Newburyport and down Plum Island. Many of the leading birders of the Massachusetts Audubon Society were out -- apparently scouting for the big trips of the National Audubon Society in early October. There were rumors of a summer tanager, red-headed woodpeckers and a flight of brown creepers which we failed to see, but had fine views of a scissor-tailed flycatcher for the culmination of the day. And for me, on the way home, driving into a salt marsh meadow in a vain search for the buff-breasted sandpiper, there was my whimbrel, perched near the road and giving me the really good look at one that I had so desired.

So ended my September birding except for a small group of slate-colored juncos from my window. My list passed the 200 mark easily with 213 species.

* * * * *

CONSERVATION CONSENSUS

Samuel R. Madison
Conservation Chairman

CONSERVATION CAMPS FOR BOYS

Area youth will be able to attend a conservation education camp operated by the Conservation Department for the 20th year this summer.

Schenectady and Schoharie youths will attend from July 24 to July 30 and Montgomery and Albany County youths from July 31 to August 6.

The pilot program started with 75 boys in the summer of 1947, and from that small start, it quickly grew to four state-owned camps which operate the full summer and now accommodate 1,300 boys each year. Boys from this area will attend camp at Raquette Lake in the Adirondacks.

Though the program is variable, the main aim remains the same -- to take future hunting and fishing license buyers and give them training in the safe and proper use of the equipment of the outdoor sports, and a basic understanding of the natural resources upon which these sports depend.

All boys attending camp must be sponsored by an organization which has an interest in conservation and boys. Because many more boys would like to attend the camps than the limited facilities will permit, sponsoring organizations are encouraged to select boys who have leadership potential.

It has been the practice for SBC to sponsor one boy's attendance at the Raquette Lake camp. If you have any names to suggest, please contact me or any of the officers or directors before May 9.

UDALL URGES PURCHASE OF NEW \$7 RECREATION PERMIT

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today urged Americans to join in helping endow the Nation's future outdoor recreation estate by purchasing the new \$7 gold-colored entrance permit for Federal recreation areas.

"By participating as national partners in conservation," Udall said, "we buy a share in the California Redwoods, a bit of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, a vista from Spruce Knob, or a quiet green spot near a great city where children can play.

"I regard the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is supported by revenues from entrance permits, not only as the muscle whereby we can retain our outdoor heritage, but as a symbol of Americans' determination to save and create outdoor beauty near our homes and in our wild lands."

Officially called the Federal Recreation Area Entrance Permit, the new wallet-size card printed in gold ink is the successor to the Recreation/Conservation Sticker introduced last year.

The gold-colored entrance permit is valid on a nationwide basis and will admit its purchaser and all who accompany him in a private automobile to more than 7,000 Federal recreation areas.

The new permit will go on sale in March at numerous Government offices, many offices of the American Automobile Association, and at entrance points to most Federal recreation areas.

MOURNING DOVE ENDANGERED

A bill has been introduced which would amend Section 154 of the Conservation Law to include the mourning dove in the list of migratory game birds. This would permit hunting of the dove in New York State.

The bill is opposed by many groups besides those whose primary interest is in birds. It may pass the Assembly but there is every reason to believe that Senator Watson B. Pomeroy, Chairman of the Senate Conservation Committee is opposed to the bill. All those who wish to register their opposition to the bill should write to Senator Pomeroy at the State Capitol in Albany and express their views in their own words. The bill is Assembly Int. 3318, Print 5829 and Senate Int. 1767.

CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE FOREST PRESERVE

Several meetings have been held to organize a Constitutional Council for the Forest Preserve. Its aim is to ensure that the

forthcoming Constitutional Convention retains the "forever wild" provision to protect the Forest Preserve. The provision has been in the New York Constitution since 1894. The Council will stay in existence during the convention and the subsequent election. The temporary chairman of the council is David L. Newhouse of Schenectady.

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON NATURAL BEAUTY

Governor Rockefeller's Conference on Natural Beauty was held at the Hilton Hotel in New York City on Friday, November 25, 1965. About 1000 individuals interested in conservation accepted the Governor's invitation. President Walton B. Sabin and myself were present.

Much opposition was presented to the Cornwall pump storage hydroelectric plant. Suggestions were made that a permanent commission be created with respect to all resources of the Hudson River, not just the scenic values.

Air pollution was the subject of another panel discussion. Dr. Teller stated that with further research we could probably have atomic power plants which would be safe and eliminate all air pollutants. The need to reduce pollution caused by automobile exhausts, incinerator burning and the generation of electricity by burning coal were stressed.

The conference was not intended to produce any immediate results. Its aim was to focus attention on such matters as conservation, recreational use of land and water, parks and clean water. By so doing in the presence of the great number of public officials who attended, it is hoped that action on many matters will be expedited.

* * * * *

FIND THE HOARY

Barry Havens

During March of this year I had an unparalleled opportunity to study redpolls. My feeder was visited regularly by this species, in quantities varying from one or two individuals up to flocks of more than 50.

Although I have three feeding trays either suspended or mounted above the ground, it has been my custom to strew feed along the Macadam walk leading from the driveway to my front door. Although, like many suburbanites, my front door is almost never used, I keep the front walk shoveled in winter to provide a feeding area for ground feeders.

This was the most popular feeding area for the redpolls, although they soon became accustomed to using the tray feeders also. They would assemble in large quantities on the walk, and I could watch them from the window above, at a distance of about ten feet. Thus I had a splendid opportunity to study them from above at close range and watch for any variations in size and plumage. The obvious, quite natural course for me to pursue was to look for hoaries among the common redpolls.

According to Peterson, the hoary is a smaller frostier-looking bird, with an immaculate white rump, devoid of streakings. But I didn't stop there; I checked as many other authorities as I could find, including Beardslee and Mitchell, Bull, Eaton, Roberts, Forbush, Ridgway, Pough, and Chapman. The consensus of these was that the hoary is generally whiter in color than the common, with a white or pinkish unstreaked rump, and whiter, less streaked sides. Thus Peterson's description is fitting, although he does not mention any pinkness of the rump (he does, however, in his Guide of Britain and Europe).

The first time I was able to study a large flock under favorable conditions described in the foregoing, I noticed one individual that stood out noticeably from the others, because of generally whiter coloration. At the time, however, I had not familiarized myself sufficiently with the other distinctive field marks, and consequently did not look for them. By the time I was able to check authorities, the flock was gone. Although I have had flocks of equal or greater size many times since and have studied them closely, I have never again seen any individual as distinctively whiter as the one in that first flock. My poor memory and visual ability are such that, as time goes on, I am beginning to have doubts about the first observation.

It may be of interest to discuss some of the other things I have observed in studying this species under such favorable conditions. These are all points relating to the upper parts of the bird; although the species did frequent my above-ground trays, the general light conditions were such that visual acuity was much less with respect to the under parts of the bird.

I found considerable variation in size. On more than one occasion I noted individuals sufficiently larger than the body of the flock to approach the size of house sparrows (which were feeding with them). I also noted often that some individuals seemed smaller than the prevailing size norm.

There was also a noticeable variation in coloration, in addition to the male-female distinction. The norm was generally a dark grey tone, but some individuals were noticeably whiter than others, and some darker as to approach the brown of house sparrows. I was never, however, able to find any of the other field marks attributed to the hoary redpoll. I found virtually no variation in the streaking on the sides. This streaking, by the way, is sufficiently dark as to show up at a distance as a darker underpart separated from the upper plumage by what seems to be a whitish band.

I ran into an interesting optical illusion with respect to the color of these birds. A given bird would look whiter when feeding on the snow than when feeding on the black Macadam walk. I was able to check this conclusion many times by watching an individual as it moved about in the feeding area. The normal reaction would be to assume the exact opposite to this.

Observation of the rump was almost impossible. It seems the normal habit of this species was to cross its wings over its back in such a way that they covered the rump completely. It was only on very rare occasions that I saw a bird move its

wings apart sufficiently for me to notice the coloration of the rump. Those that I did notice seemed more or less pinkish or definitely pink. I do not believe any conclusions can be drawn from this, however, as it seems probable to me that other birds may have similarly displayed their rumps, but the rumps in question would not be noticeable if their coloration was generally the same as the remainder of the back. On no occasion did I see a white rump.

In my opinion, based on the observations described, it would be so extremely difficult as to be virtually impossible to distinguish a hoary redpoll from a flock of common redpolls when feeding in the trees - if the color on the rump is to be used as a field mark. Says Bull, in his BIRDS OF THE NEW YORK AREA: "The identification in life of the two redpolls is a difficult matter at best. While several observations may be correct, none is convincing and no proper corroboration was made. Size is deceptive in the field, even when direct comparison is possible. Coloration and amount of streaking in these birds are so variable that individual specimens in large museum series have been determined as different forms from time to time by competent taxonomists. In view of this, what chance does the observer have to positive identification in the field? Some authorities consider the hoary redpoll conspecific with the common redpoll." He may have something there.

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FLOWERS OF THE SPRING BIRD MIGRATION

Claire Schmitt

When the magnolia warbler which everyone else saw flits exasperatingly away in the brush, you can console yourself by looking down at the spring beauties on the ground. A shy retiring wild flower will not flit away - it stays right there nodding in the breeze. And it will even be there tomorrow to show another birder.

It's a sometimes annoying, but also delightful coincidence, that the best birding weeks are also the best for wild flowering in the woods. Most woods' flowers must bloom and grow before the leaves cut off their light.

What is there to look "down" for? The first spring flower is skunk cabbage! The flower is a brownish pointed lump in wet spots as early as mid-March - not very beautiful, but the first flower is an omen just as the first robin.

Hepatica are next on the scene - three lobed leaf, flowers varying from lovely blue to pink or white. Look for these at Lock 7.

Coltsfoot looks like an early dandelion on the banks of the hill along Route 146 just south of Rexford bridge. The heart-shaped leaves come along after the flowers fade. This is an immigrant from England - thoroughly naturalized as you can tell by its numbers.

The area by Lock 7 is a good spot for many early flowers in mid-April. Besides hepatica, you'll find bloodroot (Indians used the juicy red root for warpaint), Dutchman's breeches (white hearts hanging along a nodding stem), and squirrel corn. The squirrel corn looks like Dutchman's breeches, but the flowers are green or pinkish. The roots have little yellow tubers like kernels of corn.

As the season progresses, one finds trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, violets, gold thread, wild ginger, star flower, Canada mayflower and wild geraniums in the woods.

And there are the lilies - trout lily, Solomon's seal, false Solomon's seal (which deserves a name of its own) and bellwort. The trout lily (dog-tooth violet) gets its name from its speckled leaves, resembling the fish. The flowers are pale yellow and nodding. Solomon's seal has its bell-like yellow flowers hanging along the stem. False Solomon's seal with similar leaves has a very different flower - small white blossoms in a cluster at the end of the stem, a very common flower. Bellwort also has similar leaves - but a single large flower at the end of the stem. If there were no flowers, it's a problem to tell these three apart.

Central Park in Schenectady has an amazing number of wild flowers for such a busy spot - common ones - violets, trillium, Solomon's seal, false Solomon's seal, bellwort, jack-in-the-pulpit, forget-me-nots, baneberry, sweet cicely, wild sarsaparilla, golden Alexander, wild geranium, star flower, gold thread, mayapples (hunt for the flower under the "umbrella" leaf), celadine, Indian cucumber - and the not so common clintonia and pink lady slipper.

Lisha Kill is another special spot. The little magenta "orchid" one finds there is gaywings, also known as flowering wintergreen. And don't miss the flowering dogwood. There is also two-leaved toothwort, dog-tooth violet, rus anemone, baneberry and the exquisite pinkster. Lisha Kill is special for ferns also.

Limestone enriched areas such as Wolf Hollow and the woods near Thacher Park foster flowers especially well. Look for the rare ferns too - Goldy's fern, walking fern and narrow-leaved spleenwort. Among the flowers look for mitrewort, foam flower, rock saxifrage, wild columbine, spring beauties with their peppermint stripes the list really is endless for these favorite places.

A very different spot is the Pine Plains down Kerner Road - the sandy bottom of glacial Lake Albany. Not as much grows there, but early in June look for wild lupin, rock rose, dogbane, bastard toadflax (Comandra is what we are politely calling it now) and earth stars - a mushroom with a cover that splits to form a star-shaped frame around the little puff ball.

Naturally we'd like to bring a few of these bits of beauty home with us, but mostly we must resist the temptation and leave the woods' wild flowers for the next birder to enjoy - and to produce seeds for another year!

York Stateⁿ (free, write N. Y. College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y.) has lists of flowers which may be freely picked, those picked only in moderation, and those never to be picked. Trailing arbutus, now protected by law, used to be sold on the flower market in New York City - now none grows wild near the City. We are lucky to have quite a lot around Schenectady.

Some flowers you may pick freely are coltsfoot, milkweed, stonecrop, speedwell, winter cress, Queen Anne's lace, ox-eye daisy, black-eyed Susan and witch hazel.

One book for identifying flowers is E. Hausman's BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO WILD FLOWERS (Putnam). Mrs. W. S. Dana's HOW TO KNOW THE WILD FLOWERS has many delightful comments on flower names, uses and history.

Good wild flowering as you bird!

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N.Y.S. CONSERVATION DEPT. DUCK COUNT - 1966

Species	Champ- lain Valley	Ont.- St. Law	Lake Ont.	Central Lakes	Hudson Valley	Long Island	Total
	1-10	1-12	1-4&5	1-4	1-7	1-7&9	
Marsh Ducks							
Black Duck	510	2,019	461	3,592	795	16,637	24,014
Mallard	127	1,300	280	4,278	258	6,170	12,413
Gr-w. Teal						136	136
Baldpate				55		1,741	1,796
Pintail						4	4
Sub-total	637	3,319	741	7,925	1,053	24,688	38,363
Diving Ducks							
Scaups	700	1,367	1,430	1,691	4	37,077	42,269
Redhead		125		3,390			3,515
Canvasback	350	246	1,076	911	37	7,012	9,632
Goldeneye	216	8,457	9,878	1,269	5	8,290	28,115
Old Squaw		295	331	76		765	1,467
Bufflehead	2		160	160	15	1,951	2,288
Ruddy duck						1,500	1,500
Scoter			35			15,980	16,015
Sub-total	1,268	10,490	12,910	7,497	61	72,575	104,801
Geese							
Canada Geese				764		2,259	3,023
Brant						10,950	10,950
Sub-total				764		13,209	13,973
Miscellaneous							
Merganser	119	772	7,882	854	100	3,432	13,159
Goot	6		75	85		400	566
Sub-total	125	772	7,957	939	100	3,832	13,725
Total	2,030	14,581	21,608	17,125	1,214	114,304	170,862

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Peter P. Wickham
Field Trip Chairman

TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR

NOVEMBER 6

It was a good Saturday morning for November, the temperature ranging from 38 to 55 degrees during the course of the trip, with a 10 mph wind on a partly cloudy day. The sun broke through in full at times, an aid to both spirits and visibility. The start of the trip presented 42 Canada geese resting off-shore within easy viewing distance. The figure 42 was also the total species seen by the group of eight observers.

Most spectacular for the day, and a life-bird for two members of the group, was a dozen red crossbills seen at rather close range feeding in an evergreen grove. The males were substantially more beautiful as they flitted about in good light than they appear in bird books. Also of high interest were two white-rumped sandpipers and a dunlin. Proving that good things come in pairs, two ruddy ducks and two somewhat late-for-the-season water pipits also were logged for the day. For very close-range observing, a flock of approximately 100 snow buntings frolicked about the reservoir shore just yards away from the happy bird-watchers.

The Tomhannock trip at this time of year is often as not a dud. But this time it proved most rewarding and satisfying.

--Lee Thomas

ROUND AND SARATOGA LAKES

NOVEMBER 13

Upon arriving at Round Lake it looked as though there would be few birders and no birds, for the lake was bare and there were only three of us. As we were about to re-enter the cars, the Hipples arrived and with them things became active. Tree sparrows flitted about, a cardinal called and came into view - one, two, a third male, then two females and all five brightened the birches. Chickadees darted from tree to tree, a downy examined a fuzzy cattail and two female redwings tried to hide amid the brushpiles. Deciding our luck had run out we went to the far side stopping along the dirt road of the plane runway to check for juncos and a fox sparrow which Hazel Kinzley had seen while scouting Friday. Only more tree sparrows until a large flock of redwings sailed in and settled in a corn field and several bare trees. Searching did not reveal any grackles nor cowbirds, but just before moving on a Cooper's hawk rose from the ground giving us only a glimpse as he dropped again. On the lake, hunters were setting out decoys and guns sounded so only a red-necked grebe, common mergansers, gulls and a female lesser scaup seemed brave enough to remain.

Saratoga Lake was glassy calm except for the rain pelting its surface. Two lonely oldsquaws, a few goldeneyes and gulls were all we could see at the first parking spot. Nothing was in view by the point and this coupled with the rain caused us to cancel the walk out. Friday scouting had produced NOTHING for finches. Brown's Beach offered only a common loon and a distant view of

other divers so we went farther for better identification. The highway department has obligingly widened the road so parking places are more plentiful. Grebes were scattered in small groups in many spots, six buffleheads, and a hooded merganser swam so close that even the rain could not veil the brilliance of their colors. Along the way more goldeneyes and grebes were seen until the coots provided a change. The park had nothing to offer except chickadees and woodpeckers, so the list was made and the group broke up. Upon returning, a kingfisher was spotted and Esly discovered a common scoter and 26 blacks which had eluded us. As we double checked the area, Guy Bartlett and Benton Sequin stopped to satisfy their curiosity. Together we picked up a red-throated loon and they had seen shorebirds at Brown's Beach. Esly stopped for these but time had run out for Hazel and me.

By now the rain was stopping but the usual wind was replacing it and a more typically November day at Saratoga Lake was developing. The plan of two days scheduled for this trip seems wise and well worth repeating. This year, having had a calm clear day Friday for a trail run, rain but calm on Saturday, one could hope by the "rule of three" to have had a good Sunday with the same and even more birders and birds.

--Betty Hicks

TWO WINTER FIELD TRIPS

FEBRUARY 13 and FEBRUARY 20

The winter trip to the Lishakill preserve was scheduled for SBC on February 13th, Sunday afternoon. This is a beautiful natural area, particularly delightful in winter. Normally for a trip such as this we should have expected a good turnout. Unfortunately, Sunday the thirteenth was the wettest day of the year. In spite of the weather, however, in addition to the undersigned and our guide, Frank Ham, three hardy families joined the party -- Dr. and Mrs. Magnuson and children, Mr. and Mrs. Koch and sons, and S. Coulter and daughters.

I doubt that any of us were ever in wetter woods. Besides the old snow, melting from a spell of warm weather, about an inch and a half of new wet snow had fallen Sunday morning plus an inch of rain, most of which seemed to be coming down while we were walking. Yet in spite of this it was an enjoyable walk. We spent about an hour and a half in the woods. It was a beautiful winter scene, the wet snow dripping from the trees and the stream running bank-full. The kids seemed to enjoy it, and withstood the hike remarkably well. The birds apparently had more sense than the bird-watchers -- most of them remained in shelter and out of sight. We saw a total of three birds -- one blue jay, one chickadee and one downy woodpecker.

Although I personally enjoyed the hike in the wet woods very much, its quite possible that a not insignificant part of the enjoyment was coming home to dry clothes, a drink and a hot dinner.

We are most grateful to our guide, Frank Ham, for braving the weather to conduct us through the preserve.

By contrast, our winter tree expedition to Central Park on Sunday February 20th occurred on one of the coldest days of the

year. It was about -10° at sunrise and by early afternoon, the time of our walk, the temperature had only gone up to about 5° . It was sunny until later in the afternoon and nearly (but not quite) windless, so all in all it was really a delightful day for a walk in the open provided one was dressed warmly. The group was again limited to hardy souls -- the Magnusons again, and also Ed Koch (this time minus family), Mary Johnston, Mary Lynch, John and Steve Fuller and myself. We spent about an hour wandering around the park and learned to identify (hopefully) about a dozen species of conifers and about a dozen and one-half of hardwoods. We ended up with only five people who lasted the full hour in the cold, having lost the rest to the warm cars.

Again the birds had more sense than the watchers -- our list was limited to half a dozen crows. --Carl Runge

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1965 SETS SPECIES RECORD

Peter P. Wickham
Records Chairman

The 1965 SBC area bird list of 243 species set a new high species record, one more than that of 1962 and six more than that of 1964. Species recorded in 1965 but not in 1964 included double-crested cormorant, scarlet ibis, whistling swan, European widgeon, golden eagle, gyrfalcon, pigeon hawk, ruddy turnstone, Northern phalarope, glaucous gull, barn owl, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, red-bellied woodpecker, gray jay, Western tanager and Harris's sparrow, and helped make this an exciting year in our area. Species recorded in 1964 but not in 1965 included little blue heron, least bittern, mute swan, king rail, dowitcher, Western sandpiper, Baird's sandpiper, short-billed marsh-wren, prothonotary warbler, orange-crowned warbler, and house finch as well as the hybrid Brewster's warbler and a wandering, but not wild, flamingo.

I believe it is fair to say that our coverage of the whole SBC area has improved considerably over the last few years, and annual lists of the last several years reflect this. To those of you who have contributed to this fine 1965 list, I extend my thanks; to those of you who have not, I encourage you to do so in 1966, for there is still much to be found, and much that we miss!

All three seminars on bird identification described in the Field Trip schedule will be held in Room 77 of Niskayuna High School. The first of these, on identification of various waterfowl, will be conducted by our President, Walton Sabin, a real expert in this field. We hope many of you - new faces as well as old - will take advantage of this fine opportunity.

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HELP SAVE THE REDWOODS - Some of the proposed plans for acquisition of these trees as park land fall short of expectation, because the plans involve so little prime redwood land. A letter in support of Congressman Cohelan's plan to Senators Javits and Kennedy, and your Congressman could help save more redwoods.

WINTER FINCH BANDINGS

Robert P. Yunick

Have you ever wondered how many birds are banded per year, or how many species have been banded? BIRD BANDING NOTES, published occasionally by the Fish and Wildlife Service, has revealed to banders some interesting summaries of yearly banding totals. Some of these totals are no doubt of interest to birders and so from time to time will be presented here. Since this is a "finch winter", I thought it apropos to consider the winter finches.

Before considering any summary of banding totals, it must be realized that the banding program has grown considerably in recent years. There are a number of reasons for this. People have more time to devote to hobbies such as banding, there are probably more sponsored museum and university projects today and mist nets now allow the capture of much greater numbers of birds, to mention but a few. To illustrate the magnitude of increase, there were 753,303 bands issued in fiscal 1950 and 2,443,322 in fiscal 1963. In 1950, 15,900 recovery reports were received compared to 45,600 in 1963 and about 59,000 in 1964. In the banding year ending April 30, 1950, about 350,000 bandings were reported. During calendar 1963, over 800,000 were reported and that figure must be over one million per year by now. By the end of 1962 a total of 11,541,557 bandings were listed in the files of the Bird Banding Laboratory. Between the years 1954 to 1962 the number of species banded per year varied from 365 to 474 and totaled 544 for the period.

The accompanying Table I summarizes the winter finch bandings from 1950-1962. These totals do not account for the number of banders that were active each year or the man-hours devoted to the capture and banding of these birds. Therefore these totals are crude numbers and represent generalities only.

Nonetheless, it can be seen that some species like purple finches and evening grosbeaks were banded in considerable number, while others like the crossbills were hardly represented. The years 1959 and 1960 stand out as exceptional years in terms of numbers banded. The reason for the unprecedented number of redpolls in 1960 is unknown to me. The years 1950, 1953 and 1956 stand out also as years in which larger than average numbers of these finches were banded. Well do I remember the grosbeak influx of 1949-50. I shall never forget how on the August, 1949 field trip to Watervliet Reservoir, shortly after 8 am. in the warm, humid summer air came the clarion call of a male evening grosbeak. I had never seen or heard the species before, but several in the group knew well its call and at the sound they were astounded. I remember Rudd Stone commanding, "Listen!" The air was electrified. The call came again and not a word was said, but the facial expressions of several in the group told that they heard a call they knew, but refused to believe. One could tell something exciting was in the making. Heads turned nervously here and there looking about waiting to home in on the caller. With the next clear note, the caller was located atop the tallest branch of an ash or willow along the road. It was a brilliant black, white and gold evening grosbeak bathed in the early morning sun. The sighting of the

TABLE I
Winter Finch Banding Totals

Species	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Evening Grosbeak	8490	1031	8554	9787	4384	11301	24682	3160	17446	28976	24647	18320	26242
Pine Grosbeak	5	11	61	3	21	22	9	59	4	47	25	22	0
Purple Finch	4816	13471	4766	14050	19360	6224	10435	5575	8254	28045	16785	17553	10256
Red Crossbill	1	40	19	9	139	121	40	18	6	1	695	336	54
Wh-w. Crossbill	5	0	0	26	10	115	92	4	6	3	16	86	229
Hoary Redpoll	9	35	0	165	11	0	0	0	3	4	16	29	141
Common Redpoll	367	973	122	2169	1042	1415	3185	812	1571	393	15452	669	2320
Pine Siskin	139	210	326	7431	298	766	865	461	1466	758	2930	1175	953

The results for 1950-1953 represent the number of bandings reported during those years, but not necessarily the number of birds banded per each year. The listings for 1954-62 are for birds banded each of those years regardless of when reported.

bird brought forth a tremendous burst of enthusiasm. After all, an August sighting of an evening grosbeak at Watervliet Reservoir was unheard of. I believe none had ever been seen before or has been since. In March of 1950 I banded my first evening grosbeak, and now 16 years later the thrill of catching and banding these birds is as alive as it was then.

Beside knowing how many of these various species are banded each year, it is interesting to consider the number that subsequently are recaptured or found. This requires a note of explanation on terminology. While a bander keeps track of all birds caught and recaptured, those birds which are caught within three months of their last capture are not reported to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Such a recapture is termed a "repeat". Repeats are too numerous and often not very meaningful to report. When a bander captures one of his banded birds three or more months after its last capture at the same banding station, the bird is termed a "return". Returns are reported to the Fish and Wildlife Service. In some cases they indicate migrational passage through the same area at different seasons or years. When a bird is found or captured at anytime away from its point of banding, it is termed a "recovery" and is also reported. The Fish and Wildlife Service has tabulated the returns and recoveries for all banded species, and for the winter finches through 1962 are as follows:

Species	Total Banded	Returns and Recoveries	Percent of Total Banded
Evening Grosbeak	203,900	11,083	5.44
Pine Grosbeak	925	9	.97
Purple Finch	279,381	17,155	6.14
Pine Siskin	31,017	338	1.09
Red Crossbill	3,905	40	1.02
Wh-w. Crossbill	855	7	.82
Hoary Redpoll	704	6	.85
Common Redpoll	49,198	212	.43

One can see that the more frequently banded species are also the ones that are subsequently recovered more often. This is primarily because evening grosbeaks and purple finches swarm to feeders and are retrapped by banders.

A return and recovery rate of five or six percent is quite good among songbirds. All others in this finch group are a more usual percent or less. It is also plain to see that there is much banding to be done on certain species like the pine grosbeak and crossbills.

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MT. GREYLOCK THREATENED - From the voice of the Bicknell's thrush nesting on its slope to the silhouette of a wild mountain standing tree-clad against the sky, Greylock means many things to many people. Greylock is in trouble and needs your help to save it from would be "promoters" who wish to construct a tramway-ski facility on its slope. The Mount Greylock Protective Association, Box 760, Williamstown, Mass., will be most appreciative of financial support to help preserve Greylock for what it is - a symbol of precious, priceless wilderness.

OFF THE BOOKSHELF

Edited by

Elva Link

A geographical wandering

Pettingill, Olin Sewell, ed. **THE BIRD WATCHER'S AMERICA**. Illus. by John Henry Dick. 1965. 441p. McGraw-Hill, \$7.50.

"Forty-four well-qualified bird watchers, who were invited to contribute to this book, write about 46 areas in America north of Mexico that are noted for their bird populations. Each contributor was selected for his knowledge in general of an area as well as his knowledge of its birds, and these qualifications are gracefully described by the editor in his introduction to each essay. All the essays are delightful nature pieces, highlighting bird life in an area, usually sketching in the natural characteristics, and frequently recording some personal experience. The birds are not described as in a field guide since some knowledge of birds is assumed." Booklist.

Farb, Peter. **FACE OF NORTH AMERICA; THE NATURAL HISTORY OF A CONTINENT**. Illus. by Jerome Connolly. 1963. 316p. Harper, \$6.50.

"Helpful information for the traveler who may wish to explore the U.S. and Canada or to remember and read more about the places he has seen. The book's theme is the shifting equilibrium between land and water, forces that build mountains and erode them, between plants, animals and men. Farb describes geological processes and continental varieties of sea coasts, lakes, rivers, bogs, mountains, forests and dry lands or deserts, utilizing geology, biology, climatology and ecology, and conveying a sense of eons of time behind the shifting scenes. The last chapters stress changes effected by men and are a plea for conservation despite population and political pressures. Many photographs are supplemented by lucid, explanatory line drawings. A bibliography appended." Booklist.

Brooks, Maurice Graham. **THE APPALACHIANS**. Illus. with drawings by Lois and Louis Darling and with photos. First in the series, "The Naturalist's America." 1965. 346p. Houghton, \$6.95.

"The first volume in a new series designed to interest North Americans in the wildlife, plants and geology of their continent. Brooks, a professor of wildlife management at West Virginia University and a native of Appalachia, writes with scientific accuracy yet with satisfying readability of the natural history of a region extending from Quebec to Georgia. The adaptation of the Appalachian people to their environment and special crafts and skills of the hill people are briefly surveyed in conclusion." Booklist.

Laycock, George. **THE SIGN OF THE FLYING GOOSE; A GUIDE TO THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES**. 1965. 299p., illus. maps. Natural History Press, \$5.95.

"Taking his title from the symbol used by the Fish and Wildlife Service to mark its preserves, Laycock has written a fasci-

nating history of the refuge system and its program. Seventeen wildlife refuges, including those concerned with saving the whooping crane, trumpeter swan and key deer, are described in detail with information about reasons for their selection, the management techniques employed, and some of the people involved in their development. A supplementary list, by states, gives basic facts concerning many more establishments. While the seriousness of human depredation and encroachment are not minimized, the author's optimism and emphasis on successful achievements are a refreshing contrast to the gloomy picture produced by many recent publications. Illus. with photographs."Booklist.

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GULL BAND INSIDE GOOSEFISH

Grace Coit Meleney, of White Plains, N.Y. has had an extraordinary recovery report from the banding office. Accompanying the report was a copy of Acting Chief Earl Baysinger's letter to the finder of the band, Mr. Erford W. Burt, Burt's Boatyard, Inc., Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts. At Grace Meleney's suggestion, this most interesting letter follows:

"Dear Mr. Burt:

"I am writing in reply to your letter dated November 19, 1965. In this letter you reported a band (676-16318) which you noted was on a gull which you found inside a 'goosefish'.

"Our records indicate this band was placed on a nestling herring gull on July 21, 1963. The gull was banded at Cape Poge, Edgartown, Mass. by Miss Grace Meleney.

"To the best of my knowledge, this is the first recovery we have received of a full-grown gull having been eaten by a 'goosefish'.

"Recoveries of this sort are unusual but not unknown. For example, during recent months, one of the fellows working here in the Banding Laboratory had one of his terns turn up in the stomach of a shark off the coast of Florida.

"We have also recently received a recovery of a mourning dove which was found inside a two-pound bullhead catfish in California.

"Although there are many species of birds which eat fish, apparently there are a few species of fish which attempt to even the score.

"To put the shoe on the other foot, we recently received a letter from another person who had picked up a banded gull. In

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Editor's note - reprinted from EBBA NEWS, January-February, 1966. Miss Meleney is a retired school teacher who has banded gulls and terns for many years on Martha's Vineyard. It was my good fortune to band with her and others during July, 1965 on the Vineyard. A story will follow later in the year.

this instance, instead of the gull being eaten by a fish, this gull had caught a blowfish which promptly inflated in the gull's throat and the gull could neither swallow nor disgorge it and subsequently choked to death. This is a sort of classic example of "biting off more than you can chew."

"I appreciate your interest and cooperation in reporting this band to us. I will process your letter through our routine channels and you will receive an IBM card in the future noting the banding information I have provided you in this letter."

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NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

HERE DOGGIE

Country folks should adopt a variation of the city folks "Curb-your-dog" slogan. For farmers and other rural dwellers the slogan should be "Restrict your dog; know where he is at all times". This is mainly applicable in the winter during periods of deep snows when deer have trouble getting around in the woods in quest of something to eat, as well as the spring period when all forms of wildlife are raising families.

Dogs, including vagrant or wild dogs as well as pet dogs, are among the greatest destroyers of wildlife. In the case of wintering deer, these deer have gone, or are going, through a very difficult period when they are particularly vulnerable to predation. It is during this time that the deer suffer some of their heaviest population losses. Dogs are able to pursue and kill deer, because they are lighter and do not break through the crusts as do the deer. Then it isn't a very pleasant sight seeing what a pack of roving dogs will do to a deer.

In the spring time a young man's fancy turns, etc. In a similar way all the creatures of the woods, fields, and streams are in the process of raising young. Young birds and animals, not wise in the ways of the world, are very vulnerable and are easy prey to roaming packs of dogs.

Again "Restrict your dog; know where he is at all times", should be the slogan of all rural dog owners.

--Walt Sabin

ONTARIO ROCK WREN

Speaking of the Rockport rock wren, there is a specimen of the species in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology at Toronto first seen December 5 and then collected December 6. The bird is considered accidental east of central Oklahoma and eastern Kansas. It was frequently a long, boulder-strewn jetty at the entrance to the Welland Canal at Port Weller, Ontario. It is a bird of the rocky barrens, talus slopes and eroded badlands of the far West.

Details of the record were described in THE PROTHONOTARY, Buffalo Ornithological Society, March 1965, in an article co-authored by Joanna Burger of BOS and formerly of SBC.

COULD PETERSON BE WRONG?

There was a time, when the inevitable deterioration of aging hadn't yet impaired my hearing, when I was pretty good at identifying birds by their notes. As a matter of fact, it was the only area of bird identification in which I had any reasonable amount of self-confidence; it made up for my visual weakness and poor memory.

Hence I tend to be a little stubborn when it comes to distinguishing between the various bird notes. I think this stubbornness may have finally paid off, in the case of the redpoll/siskin notes.

Peterson in his Field Guide says of the redpoll voice: "In flight a rattling chut-chut-chut-chut." He is more expansive when it comes to the siskin and among his comments there he says: "...a long buzzy shreeee - latter unique among bird notes."

Well, for some years now I have insisted I have heard redpolls give this "shreeeee" note, but my SBC friends have insisted with equal strength that I am wrong about this. However, on a field trip Sunday, February 27 with Guy Bartlett and Benton Seguin we observed a redpoll on a fence wire alongside the road where we had stopped the car, and we could simultaneously see and hear it sing the "shreeee" note. I think Bart and Beezer are convinced, but I doubt if anyone else in the Club will believe it.

--Barry Havens

SCHENECTADY MUSEUM

Schenectady Museum is planning construction of a new home on the former Nott Terrace Athletic Field, with a subscription drive planned to start soon. Meanwhile the Schenectady City School District has developed its plans for a new Halsey Elementary School to be constructed on the Steuben Street site of the present museum. A change in plan not anticipated by school authorities necessitates removal of part of the museum building, so the large rear building (Building III) will be turned over to demolition crews July 1. This structure currently houses the auditorium-gallery, two smaller galleries, two art studios, two offices, four storerooms, studio of the artist-in-residence, the African and Japanese exhibits, and several other areas.

Arrangements to house these facilities in the Nott Terrace High School have been completed. The planetarium, and history, natural science and American Indian exhibits will remain available for school tours and public viewing in the Steuben Street building.

WILSON MEETING

Wilson's Ornithological Society's 1966 meeting will be from Thursday, April 29, through Sunday, May 1, at Pennsylvania State University, adjacent to State College, Penna. There will be early-morning field trips to local areas before the paper sessions Friday and Saturday, and a choice of four trips on Sunday. Included are a bird population netting project; Centre County Barrens for warblers; Black Moshannon Lake for migrating water-

fowl; and Carnegie Museum's bird-banding station at Powdermill Nature Reserve.

--GB

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ELSEWHERE IN THE STATE

Edited by
Guy Bartlett

N.Y.S. FEDERATION MEETING

In connection with the annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, at Lido Beach, Long Island, May 20-22, some interesting field trips have been arranged.

For those who do not attend the business meeting Saturday morning, May 21, there will be one morning trip to the Jones Beach area and another to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. On Sunday morning these sites will be revisited. Some of the more interesting species likely to be seen at the two coastal localities are common and snowy egret, yellow-crowned night heron, glossy ibis, brant, gadwall, shoveler, ruddy duck, clapper rail, common gallinule, piping plover, knot, great black-backed and laughing gulls, common and least terns, black skimmer, house finch, sharp-tailed and seaside sparrow. Also possible: little blue and Louisiana heron, willet, curlew sandpiper, ruff, Wilson's phalarope, roseate and black tern, mockingbird.

Also scheduled is a pelagic (offshore) trip Sunday, but reservations for this were closed March 15. Expected species include sooty shearwater, Wilson's petrel, gannet, red and northern phalarope. Also possible: great shearwater, pomarine and parasitic jaeger, and Leach's petrel.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

POLLAK'S DICKCISSEL

Word spread rapidly that a dickcissel had been found at Joseph Pollak's well kept feeder on Rosendale Road in Niskayuna on the Christmas Count. Peculiarly the bird had the habit of visiting the feeder always after noon and usually after 3 pm. It had been discovered on the count at 4:20 pm. in the fading light of a very cold, windy day. Once it was apparent that those late visits were the bird's habit, a number of people visited the Pollak's yard and the bird appeared on schedule. Not long after, the bird was also found visiting Dr. Fraser Price's feeder on Rosendale Road.

Then as fate would have it, this bird, with local notoriety already under its belt, was singled out for what some would consider a notorious act. One afternoon in mid-January, Joe Pollak stepped out his backdoor. He immediately caught sight of a flushing sharp-shinned hawk. In the shrub from which this

feathered terror flew stood a very disheveled, shaken dickcissel. Joe approached to within three or four feet, but could not reach the bird. It was obviously seriously injured. One leg protruded at a peculiar angle, the bird bobbed back and forth struggling to maintain its equilibrium, and payed no apparent attention to Joe's presence. That was the last of Schenectady County's first dickcissel record in the history of SBC. The bird was not seen again.

To some this is a tragic experience, but only because of the emotion that is attached to it. Predation is a necessary force in nature. One might ask why a rarity like this dickcissel among so many other birds was the victim -- why not a tree sparrow or chickadee? Apparently the dickcissel's solitary habit promoted his demise. He appeared aloof of other birds about him and somewhat less wary. He lived in his own world, as it were, and that world was shattered by the sharp-shin. A predator attacking a flock is usually detected much earlier by at least one of the flock and the alarm and confusion that ensues usually foils the predator's attempt. However, when the attack focuses on a single victim, the attack is more intent and likely to be successful.

OUR IBIS SCORES AGAIN?

A recent note from Jim Merritt quotes from a letter from Dave Cutler, AUDUBON FIELD NOTES editor. 'On August 31 Dr. Robert L. Suter of 3100 Glenview St., Phila., Pa. in company with (3) others (unnamed) observed at the Belvidere, N.J., Bridge along the Delaware River a full-plumaged scarlet ibis for approximately 20 minutes, both in flight and feeding. Seen approximately one-half hour later again one-half mile from original area. Also, boy scouts in canoe on same day reported large red bird in same area. Dr. Suter reported there was a fading of feathers near the neck and when approached (the bird) flew. No sign of clipped wings. Bird probably the same as that observed earlier in N.Y. State.'

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FROM THE SECRETARY

ANNUAL MEETING 1966

The annual meeting was held on February 28, 1966; it was attended by twenty-five members. The business part of the meeting included numerous reports by both officers and committee chairmen.

Eleanor Byrne and Barry Havens gave interim reports on the film lecture series. It appears that the Club's income from these lectures will be approximately the same as last year. Our membership continues to grow at a healthy rate. Lenny Thomas and Don Tucker read off the names of 43 new members, who were accepted into the Club. Pete Wickham reviewed our extensive field trip schedule of 40 field trips, 3 evening seminars, and 2 Christmas counts. Pete also reported that over 240 species had been reported in our eleven county area last year, all but 5 of these were seen by Club members. Sam Madison, as

Conservation Comm. chairman, gave a review of the delayed Cornwall Project as well as a report on several federal and state conservation programs. Bob Yunick reported that there had been 100 pages of FEATHERS printed last year and that about 230 copies were now being sent out bimonthly. The Site Selection Subcommittee is still actively looking at several pieces of property.

The following officers and directors were elected:

President - Walton B. Sabin	Directors (to 1968)
Vice president - David Stoner	Dr. Paul Grattan
Secretary - Mrs. Robert Wernick	Dr. Clifford M. Tepper
Treasurer - Robert Nerton	Stephen C. Fordham, Jr.

Bob Yunick also presented the evening's entertainment with an extensive display of mammal skulls and skins. Bob gave an informative talk on classifications of mammals along with their relationships to each other and to man.

Refreshments were served by Joyce Bliven, Peggy McGuirk and Ginny Sabin.

COMING EVENTS

- Apr. 13 - Wed. - WATERFOWL SEMINAR, 8 pm. at Niskayuna High School, Room 77.
- May 3 - Tues. - SPRING LAND BIRD SEMINAR, 8 pm. at Niskayuna High School, Room 77.
- May 9 - Mon. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING, 8 pm. at Dave Stoner's, 2636 Troy Road, Schenectady.
- May 14 - Sat. - CENTURY RUN, consult the field trip schedule. Mail reports promptly to the editor.
- May 16 - Mon. SPRING MEETING, 8 pm. at the Pine Room, First Methodist Church, State St., Schenectady. The meeting will feature a film, "Living Wilderness." This is a purely SOCIAL meeting. There will be no business. Come and enjoy the film, discuss the Century Run and your other spring birding. Bring a friend, or new member. Refreshments will be served.
- May 21-22 - Sat.-Sun. - Fed. of N.Y.S. Bird Clubs' annual meeting at Lido Beach, L.I., New York.

Consult your field trip schedule frequently during April and May. There are trips planned for every weekend. --DS

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Mr. Robert Yunick

1527 Myron St.
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WEATHER, TIED RECORD FEATURE CENTURY RUN

Donald J. Tucker

The weatherman said "more of the same with rain". He couldn't have been more wrong. For the third year in a row, it was a beautiful day. Again it started chilly - about 30°, but rose to the 60's and was a cloudless, windless day. It was wonderful, and some 43 observers in 11 parties went on to tie the record set last year with 162 species, and again managed to add to the composite list when a black-bellied plover was identified at the Niskayuna Widewaters by members of Group J. This brings the total to 225, plus two hybrids.

It is the usual practice in our area to set aside the second weekend in May for the Century Run. It is at this time that the migration of the greater number of species is at, or near, its peak. Foliage is usually moderately well advanced at lower elevations so that some leaf is always between you and the elusive warbler. Of course, May is not noted for settled weather and all extremes - rain, cold, heat waves - may follow one on the other, and this results in "waves" of migration. Over the years birders have learned to anticipate most everything.

But one would have to go back a good many years to find a first two weeks in May as dismal as this year. Except for Friday the 6th, it was bad, very bad - in fact, miserable. Spring never came. Almost everything was late. By the end of April one could have recorded almost everything he normally did, but they trickled in. The late April migrants were meager. If it weren't for ruby-crowned kinglets, there would have been next to nothing. April ended cold and rainy, and the first days in May were little different. There was a brief break the evening of the 5th, and on the 6th orioles could be heard in city streets. On the following day a cold, drizzly rain developed and continued through the 8th. On the 9th the rain turned to snow which accumulated to 1-2 inches. Temperatures dipped to 29° on the 10th and 11th. Newly emerging fiddleheads of interrupted fern were wiped out. It rained again on the 12th and finally began to clear on the 13th, but the weatherman said rain again on Saturday. Fortunately for all of us, the low pressure failed to materialize. Raincoats were left in the car, and on the first really nice day in May we went out and ran up a resounding 162 species.

Few Highlights: It was generally a pretty unexciting day as far as the unusual was concerned. Numbers of migrants were low; in fact, one had to work hard to find most of them. Numbers of individuals were limited to one or two each in many of the warblers. The woods were almost silent, except for the abundant ruby-crowned kinglets, which were everywhere. Last year none

was recorded as all had passed through. There were a number of misses in the warbler list: Wilson's, prairie, pine, bay-breasted, and blackpoll, and a number of others were seen only by one or two groups. Among other conspicuous misses were indigo buntings, screech owl, whippoorwill. All the vireos were found except the Philadelphia, but only by a few groups. Group J, which ran up 125 species, could find only the solitary.

Shore Birds Well Represented: In all, 13 species were found. This helped make up the deficit in other migrants. Group J had the black-bellied plover at the Widewaters, along with the dunlin; and they are still trying to puzzle out what the unusual call was echoing over the flooded grassy flats at Meadowdale at dawn. Some have suggested the godwit, but it must remain as one that got away.

Connecticut Warbler: Always a rarity in these parts, especially in spring, is the Connecticut warbler. One was singing loudly and repeatedly in a brush and slash ravine at Saratoga Lake. The song was "like that of the second part of Canadian record and unlike Peterson's". The bird was well viewed and had all the field marks.

Mute Swan: One was at Vischer's Ponds where it had been for about 2 weeks.

Lincoln's Sparrow: One is on the composite list, but not by any of the groups. It appeared on and off at Dave Stoner's feeder during the day.

To what can we attribute the seemingly phenomenal success this year in view of such poor conditions? Certainly the cold weather held over many of the waterfowl, kinglets, evening grosbeaks, and white-crowned sparrows which in normal years frequently would have passed on. It appears that shore bird migration persists in spite of the weather. Although the great numbers of migrants remained dammed up to the south, one or two vanguards of each species always moves ahead. A number of groups now have become familiar enough with the area and adjusted their time schedules accordingly to find these loners. Some day an individual group will break 130 and move toward 140, and one day the composite may reach 170.

It's all very unscientific and grueling, but friendly competition, and those bitten by it, always look forward to the big day in May - snow or no snow.

CENTURY RUN - 1966 - 162 SPECIES

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>Group</u>
Common Loon	abc 1j	Black Duck	abcde 1j
Horned Grebe	a j	Gr.-winged Teal	d
Pied-billed Grebe	a d j	Blue-winged Teal	abcd g 1j
Great Blue Heron	b d j	Wood Duck	ab de j
Green Heron	abcde g 1jk	Ring-necked Duck	c
American Bittern	abcd f j	Lesser Scaup	a c 1j
Mute Swan	ab j	Common Goldeneye	c
Canada Goose	a d j	Bufflehead	a j
Mallard	abcdef 1jk	Common Merganser	abc g j

Red-br. Merganser	a	j	Bl.-cap. Chickadee	abcdefghijk
Sharp-shinned Hawk	c		Tufted Titmouse	a g
Red-tailed Hawk	a cd	j	Wh.-br. Nuthatch	abcd fghijk
Red-shouldered Hawk		g	Red-br. Nuthatch	a d fg j
Broad-winged Hawk		g j	Brown Creeper	a de g
Marsh Hawk	a d	ijk	House Wren	abcdefghijk
Osprey	a e	h j	Winter Wren	d j
Sparrow Hawk	a cde	g jk	Long-bld. Mrsh.Wren	a d j
Ruffed Grouse	a cde	jk	Mockingbird	a efg
Bobwhite	d fg	j	Catbird	abcdefghijk
Ring-necked Pheas.	ab d	g jk	Brown Thrasher	a cde g ijk
Virginia Rail	a d	g j	Robin	abcdefghijk
Sora	a d	j	Wood Thrush	abcde g ijk
Common Gallinule	ab d fg	j	Hermit Thrush	a e j
American Coot	a		Swainson's Thrush	b de g
Semipalmated Plover	e		Gray-cheeked Thrush	f
Killdeer	abcde	g ijk	Veery	abcdefghijk
Black Bellied Plover		j	Eastern Bluebird	ab defg jk
American Woodcock	de	g j	Bl.-Gr. Gnatcatcher	a j
Common Snipe	ab d	ij	Gold.-crnd. Kinglet	cd j
Upland Plover	c f	ij	Ruby-crnd. Kinglet	ab defghijk
Spotted Sandpiper	abcdefghij		Water Pipit	d
Solitary Sandpiper	ab defg	ij	Cedar Waxwing	b d g j
Greater Yellowlegs	abcd	g ij	Starling	abcdefghijk
Pectoral Sandpiper	a	j	Yel.-throated Vireo	cd
Least Sandpiper	abcde	j	Solitary Vireo	ab j
Dunlin		j	Red-eyed Vireo	g
Semipal. Sandpiper	c		Warbling Vireo	abcd g k
Gr. Bl.-backed Gull	d	j	Black & Wh. Warbler	abcdefg ijk
Herring Gull	abcde	g ij	Worm-eating Warbler	d j
Ring-billed Gull	abcde	g ij	Golden-wngd. Warbler	d j
Bonaparte's Gull	c	ij	Blue-winged Warbler	d
Common Tern	abc		Tennessee Warbler	a
Black Tern	abcd	g ij	Nashville Warbler	abcde g j
Mourning Dove	abcdefghijk		Parula Warbler	a d
Yel.-billed Cuckoo	d		Yellow Warbler	abcdefghijk
Great Horned Owl	d		Magnolia Warbler	a j
Common Nighthawk		g	Cape May Warbler	c
Chimney Swift	abcde	ghijk	Blk.-thr. Bl. Warb.	ab defg jk
Ruby-thr. Hummingbd.	d	g j	Myrtle Warbler	abcdefgh j
Belted Kingfisher	abcdefghij		Bl.-thr. Gr. Warb.	ab d g j
Yel.-sh. Flicker	abcdefghijk		Blackburnian Warb.	b defg jk
Pileated Woodpecker		g	Chestnut-sided Warb.	a d g j
Yel.-bel. Sapsucker	b d	g i	Palm Warbler	d f j
Hairy Woodpecker	abcd	efghijk	Ovenbird	abcde g ijk
Downy Woodpecker	abcdefghijk		No. Waterthrush	ab e g k
Eastern Kingbird	abcdefg	ijk	Louisiana Waterthr.	a d j
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	d	j	Connecticut Warbler	a
Eastern Phoebe	abcd	efghijk	Yellowthroat	abcdefg ijk
Traill's Flycatcher	d	j	Yel.-br. Chat	d j
Least Flycatcher	ab d fg	ij	Canada Warbler	g
Eastern Wood Pewee	b d	g	American Redstart	a fgh j
Horned Lark	abcdefg	j	House Sparrow	abcdefghijk
Tree Swallow	abcdefghijk		Bobolink	abcd fg j
Bank Swallow	abcdefgh	j	Eastern Meadowlark	abcdefghijk
Rough-wngd. Swallow	abcd	g ij	Red-winged Blackbird	abcdefghijk
Barn Swallow	abcdefg	ijk	Baltimore Oriole	abcdefghijk
Cliff Swallow	abcd	j	Rusty Blackbird	b d
Purple Martin	abcd	g j	Common Grackle	abcdefghijk
Blue Jay	abcdefghij		Br.-headed Cowbird	abcdefghijk
Common Crow	abcdefg	ij	Scarlet Tanager	b de jk

Cardinal	abcdefghijkl	Henslow's Sparrow	d	j
Rose-br. Grosbeak	abcdefg ij	Vesper Sparrow	abcd	g j
Evening Grosbeak	a cdefgh j	Slate-colored Junco	a cde	gh j
Purple Finch	abcdefghijkl	Tree Sparrow	d	k
Pine Siskin	fg	Chipping Sparrow	abcdefghijkl	
American Goldfinch	abcdefghijkl	Field Sparrow	abcde	gh jk
Red Crossbill	i	Wh.-crnd. Sparrow	abcde	gh jk
Rufous-sided Towhee	abcde ghijk	Wh.-thr. Sparrow	abcde	g ijk
Savannah Sparrow	abcd f j	Fox Sparrow	g	
Grasshopper Sparrow	de j	Swamp Sparrow	abcdefg ij	
		Song Sparrow	abcdefghijkl	

Participants and Areas

Group A- Guy Bartlett and Benton Seguin, 5 am. to 9:30 pm. Balltown Road, Vischer Ferry, Stony Creek, Miller Road, Mohawk River, Round Lake, Saratoga Lake, Lisha Kill, Central Park, Watervliet Reservoir, Meadowdale, Tygert and Black Creek Marsh. 112 species.

Group B- Marjorie Foote, Dave and Jean Johnson, Hazel Bundy, 6 am. to 8:30 pm. Stony Creek, Vischer Ferry, Lock 7, Niskayuna Widewaters, Central Park and Burnt Hills. 88 species.

Group C- G. Angst and Esly Hallenbeck. Round Lake, Saratoga Lake, Mohawk River. 83 species.

Group D- Mrs. Helen Arnold, Betty Hicks, Mary Johnston, Mary Linch, John Fuller, David Rothaupt and Hazel Eddy, 5 am. to 9 pm. Albany and Schenectady Counties. 120 species.

Group E- John Steadwell and David Harrison, 4:30 am. to 8:30 pm. Scotia and vicinity. 72 species.

Group F- Elizabeth Macauley and Frances Adams. Meadowdale, Vly Reservoir and Vly Creek. 58 species.

Group G- Lillian Stoner, Mrs. Charles Baehr, Mrs. Charles Betts, Mrs. Werner Liebich, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Hipple, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Malone, Mrs. Frank Samuels and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Thomas, 7 am. to 9 pm. Washington Park, Albany, Karner Road, Albany Airport, Coal Pocket, along Mohawk River, Meadowdale, Slingerlands, Selkirk, Glenmont, Van Wie Point on Hudson River and Rensselaer. 95 species.

Group H- Mrs. Chester Zimmer. Gallupville. 39 species.

Group I- Fred Klemm and C.W. Huntley. Lock 7 and Niskayuna Widewaters. 63 species.

Group J- Donald Tucker, Peter Wickham, Walt Sabin, Hollis Ingraham, Robert Korns, Sam Madison, S. Magnusson and Carl Parker, 4 am. to 9:30 pm. Black Creek Marshes, Indian Ladder, Meadowdale, Watervliet Reservoir, Karner, Albany Airport, Niskayuna Widewaters, Stony Creek Reservoir, Vischer's Ferry, Round Lake and Saratoga Lake. 125 species.

Group K- Nancy Slack and family, George Prehnus and family and others, 6 am. to 8 pm. Ridge Road, Glenville. 51 species.

(Editor's note: Group K reported seeing a possible red-headed woodpecker at the north end of Wolf Hollow. Had the identity of this bird been confirmed, it would have set a new species high for the Century Run.)

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL FEDERATION MEETING

Peter P. Wickham

A fine omen of warming temperature and clearing skies greeted several SBC members who - with about 300 other birders - attended the Federation's annual meeting May 20-22 at Lido Beach, Long Island. On Saturday, May 21, while several SBC enthusiasts roamed the dunes and marshes, Walt Sabin and I sat through the rather dull but fast-paced annual meeting. Most exciting was the report that, through the assistance of the Dan Calkins Fund, John Bull has been retained full-time for three to four years as editor and compiler for a completely new and authoritative volume on New York State birds, to appear about 1970.

New officers selected included Allen Benton, president; Watson Hastings, vice-president; Mrs. Frederick Marsi, Corr. Secretary; Mrs. R. Barrie Strath, Recording Secretary; and Dora Cameron, Treasurer - all but the last three serving a second straight year.

Resolutions to support (1) establishment of a Long Island National Wetlands Recreation Area (16,000 acres), (2) legislation to establish a Great South Bay Conservation Commission, (3) H.R. 13185 to create a Long Island Sound Advisory Commission and to support a study of the ecology of Long Island Sound, (4) protection of the Hudson River while an Interstate Hudson Commission is formed and (5) several minor issues - all offered by the Conservation Committee - were approved. The meeting approved a resolution opposing the continued reliance on DDT in Suffolk County's mosquito control program.

In the afternoon, several informative talks were given. Most interesting to me were John Bull's summary "The Present Status of the New York State Bird Book" and Ed Reilly's report on "Conservation of National Areas in the Hudson River Valley and New York City Region". The latter talk not only showed many interesting areas in our region but also was full of lovely slides. The high point as far as I was concerned, however, was Sam Yeaton's presentation, "Long Island Habitats and their Ecology". As a Long Island resident of some 20 years, I was impressed to discover how little I really knew. In addition the presentation was breathtakingly beautiful and painstakingly organized - from the Harbor Hill moraine of the North Shore to the last light of the sun above the ocean.

Finally, the birding was superb - Saturday was highlighted by at least 10,000 brant at Jamaica Bay together with hundreds of black-bellied plover, ruddy turnstones and other shore birds; and on Sunday, our off-shore trip, while yielding no really pelagic species, did afford fine views of a pure white Iceland gull and three gannets fishing spectacularly in the ocean.

The Federation is eagerly seeking new individual members. Chief among your reasons for joining might be to (a) receive the KINGBIRD, a quarterly publication containing articles and reports of all sorts of birding information from various parts

of New York State and (b) support State-wide projects, such as the upcoming State bird book, sponsored by the Federation, which are of value to all of us.

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CONSERVATION BILL OF RIGHTS

(Editor's note- this article is reprinted from a release which was distributed at the eighteenth annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at Lido Beach, May 20-22, 1966.)

Over half a century ago it was determined to be necessary to preserve the Adirondack and Catskill mountain forests with the strength of the New York State Constitution. By the late 1800's it had become obvious that the New York State Legislature and the vagaries of local rule were simply not enough to protect this precious reserve.

Today it is equally obvious that our other natural resources are being attacked from every side and are being depleted at a frightening rate. We are no longer participants in a battle to save natural areas for the convenience of recreation, birding, boating, fishing, hiking or any other purely personal reason. We are now truly battling for a long-term survival for the last vestiges of a way of life which has long been our heritage.

It may well be that the time has come to establish a conservation Bill of Rights. Such a proposal has been made and a suggested document has been drawn by Irving Like, whose work in the Fire Island National Seashore battle and the Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference struggle and many other conservation endeavors has been outstanding. The attached is a draft of that proposed Bill of Rights for conservation.

CONSERVATION BILL OF RIGHTS

- 1) The right of the people of the State to enjoy the outdoors and the protection of their heritage of natural beauty and their natural resources is hereby guaranteed.
- 2) The forever wild constitutional protection contained in Article 14, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution is hereby extended to include such other areas outside the forest preserve as now fixed by law which are of unusual natural, wilderness, or scenic character, and which areas shall be designated by the Legislature after a comprehensive survey.
- 3) No public agency, body or authority shall be authorized to or exercise the power of condemnation, or undertake any public work, issue any permit, license or concession, make any rule, execute any management policy or other official act which vitally affects the people's heritage of natural beauty and natural resources, or the lands or waters now or hereafter placed in the public domain, without first giving reasonable notice to the public and holding a public hearing thereon, and

any official act which involves the public domain, the natural resources of the State, and which vitally affects the quality of the natural environment, shall be subject to judicial review and such other form of review as may be enacted by the Legislature.

4) The people expressly reserve to themselves the right to propose measures regarding the protection of their heritage of natural beauty and the use to be made of natural resources, and the lands or waters now or hereafter placed in the public domain, which measures the Legislature shall enact and submit to a vote of the electors of the State, and also the right to require that any laws which the Legislature may have enacted, or any acts of public agencies, bodies or authorities which involve such subject matter, shall be submitted to a vote of the electors of the State before going into effect, except such laws as may be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety support of the state government and its existing public institutions, provided that not more than five per cent of the qualified electors of the State shall be required to invoke either the initiative or the referendum.

5) A special constitutional convention shall be convened at intervals of not more than five years to consider solely such revisions and amendments as may be necessary to extend the forever wild status and the protection of the Conservation Bill of Rights to additional areas, and to consider what additional constitutional protection, if any, is needed to preserve and protect the people's heritage of natural beauty and to secure the wisest use of the lands and waters of the public domain, and the wisest use of their natural resources.

6) The Legislature shall have the power to enforce the provisions of the Conservation Bill of Rights by appropriate legislation.

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BRIEFING THE RECORD

THE SEASON - WINTER - DECEMBER 1, 1965 TO MARCH 31, 1966

Peter P. Wickham, Records Committee Chairman

After a mild, very dry December and January, February and March were near normal in temperature and provided us with a surplus of precipitation. Temperature in December (all data taken at Albany Airport) averaged 31°, 4° above normal; and precipitation totaled only 0.97 in., 1.62 in. below normal. Temperatures in January, February and March averaged 22, 23 and 34.3°, respectively; these were one degree below mean average temperatures for January and February, and about one degree above that usual for March. Total precipitation: January- 2.29 in., 0.18 in. below normal; February- 2.71 in., 0.51 in. above normal; March- 3.63 in., 0.91 in. above normal.

Due to the late onset of cold weather, ducks and gulls remained in good numbers into late December and January on larger lakes, reservoirs and Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. Numbers of gulls were

even higher than last year in early January. The widespread movement of finches expected materialized; redpolls and evening grosbeaks were especially abundant, but pine siskins, goldfinches and to a lesser extent, crossbills were all frequently reported. Purple finches, however, were decidedly uncommon. The discovery of a cowbird roost of at least 1000 birds in Albany was also of much interest.

Migration in march seemed closely related to three periods of above-average temperatures during the month: March 1-5 (featured by killdeer, the blackbirds and the early ducks and gulls); March 18-20 (many more ducks, woodcock, snipe, robin, bluebird, meadow-lark and fox sparrow); and March 23-24 (sparrow hawk, phoebe, tree swallow, savannah sparrow and field sparrow).

The local highlight of the period was the bright male varied thrush which appeared at a Rensselaer County feeder. Other rare or unusual species reported during the period included mute and whistling swans, shoveler, peregrin falcon, pigeon hawk, glaucous gull, red-bellied, red-headed and black-backed three-toed woodpeckers, four dickcissels, hoary redpoll, oregon junco and a wintering Lincoln's sparrow.

Abbreviations used: (ad)- Alan Devoe Bird Club record; (adcc)- Alan Devoe (Chatham) Christmas Count; (gc)- Greene County Bird Club record; (gccc)- Greene County (Catskill-Coxsackie) Christmas Count; MR- Mohawk River; nr- near; NWW- Niskayuna Widewaters; SL- Saratoga Lake; (sbc)- Schenectady Bird Club record; (scc)- Schenectady Christmas Count; SS- Stockport Station; RL- Round Lake; TR- Tomhannock Reservoir; (tcc)- Troy Christmas Count; UH- Upper Hudson River (Troy to Stillwater). Species abbreviations are not listed, because check-list order is used.

Observers: (GA)- Gus Angst; (GB)- Guy Bartlett; (KB)- Katherine Bordt; (HFB)- Hazel Bundy; (HE)- Hazel Eddy; (JF)- John Fuller; (EH)- Esly Hallenbeck; (MK)- Marcia Kent; (CK)- Clarissa Ketcham; (SRM)- Samuel Madison; (PM)- Peggy McGuirk; (DR)- David Rothaupt; (WBS)- Walton Sabin; (BRS)- Benton Seguin; (DS,MS)- David and Muriel Stoner; (DJT)- Dr. Donald Tucker; (BW)- Beverly Waite; (PPW)- Dr. Peter Wickham; (RPY)- Dr. Robert Yunick; (GMZ)- Gladys Zimmer; (bsh)- Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barry Havens.

LOONS - DUCKS

Due to the late freeze of SL, TR and the rivers, many waterfowl remained later than usual in the region.

Com Loon: repd to Dec 18, SL (bsh); no spring reps.

Red-thr Loon: present to Dec 5, SL (bsh).

Horned Grebe: at SL to Dec 18 (bsh). Several Mar reps, first Mar 20, NWW (HFB,SRM,EH,PM) and nr Castleton (ad).

Pied-billed Grebe: early rep Mar 8, Chatham (ad).

Great Blue Heron: first Mar 25, Palenville (gc) and Mar 31, Alplaus (HFB).

MUTE SWAN: two were at Embought Mar 20 (gc).

WHISTLING SWAN: one appeared at SL Dec 18 (bsh).

Canada Goose: no Dec reps; first spring Mar 5, Latham (HFB,PM); small groups in Mar, max 100 Embought Mar 20 (gc).

Amer Widgeon: no winter reps; first Mar 6, SS (PPW).

Pintail: one remained on UH through Jan 19 (sbc); very com in Mar, groups of up to 40, first Mar 4, SS (ad).

Green-w Teal: one remained at TR to Jan 1 (sbc) and one at SS to

- Jan 2 (ad); first spring Mar 8 SS (ad), widely Mar 19.
 Blue-w Teal: first Mar 22 (GB,DS,MS), widely the following week.
SHOVELER: two males and a female appeared at a pond at NWW Mar 31 (early) (HFB,MS).
 Wood Duck: first Mar 8 Castleton and SS (ad), widely Mar 19-25.
 Redhead: two were at RL Dec 5 (bsh) and six were at Cementon Mar 28 (gc).
 Ring-n Duck: three remained on UH to Jan 19 (HFB,PM); first spring Mar 8 Castleton (ad), rapid influx after Mar 19.
 Canvasback: one was at Green Island Jan 8 (sbc) and three were at Stillwater Feb 12 and 27 (HFB,PM); one was nr Castleton Mar 9 (PPW) with seven additional records later in Mar, max six Mar 28, Cementon (gc).
 Scap: last Dec 26 SS (ad); also six Feb 5, Stillwater (HFB,PM); first spring Mar 19 Nww (GB,BRS).
 Com Goldeneye: remained on Upper Hudson through winter, with modest passage noted in Mar.
 Bufflehead: remained at SL through Dec 11 (bsh) and one was on MR nr Niskayuna Dec 26 (sbc); first spring Mar 23 NWW (PPW).
 Oldsquaw: seven remained at SL to Dec 18 (bsh); two Mar 20 NWW (HFB,EH,SRM,PM)- early.
 White-w Scoter: remained at SL to Dec 18 (bsh); three Mar 27 on MR nr Crescent (bsh)- early.
 Ruddy Duck: two nr Castleton Mar 8 (ad)- very early.
 Hooded Merganser: remained to Dec 18 SL (bsh); first spring Mar 10 Castleton (PPW).
 Com Merganser: a few remained on UH throughout winter. Return flight in Mar relatively low in numbers.
 Red-br Merganser: first spring Mar 26 MR (PPW,HFB,PM).

HAWKS - OWLS

- Turkey Vulture: only rep- one Mar 10 at Catskill (gc).
 Goshawk: only rep- one Mar 6 at Greenville (CK).
 Sharp-sh Hawk: one rep each in Dec, Jan and Feb; probable migrants noted Mar 13 and 24, Schodack Center (ad).
 Cooper's Hawk: at least nine reps, Dec 26-Mar 9.
 Red-t Hawk: most com hawk of winter, max 15 (tcc).
 Red-sh Hawk: no reps in Dec or Jan but four reps Feb 12-22; probable migrants observed Mar 19 (GB,BRS) and Mar 25 (ad).
 Rough-l Hawk: widely seen this winter but not numerous, last of period Mar 20 Altamont (BW).
 Marsh Hawk: repd at SS Jan 2 (ad) and sporadically during the winter at Ghent (ad). First spring Mar 26 Berne (MK).
PEREGRIN FALCON: an imm flew low over several observers nr TR Jan 1 (sbc)- only record.
PIGEON HAWK: a female or imm of this species was seen at close range perching and flying on at least three occasions by one group: Jan 2 nr Look 7, MR; Feb 12, Meadowdale; and Mar 6 Meadowdale (all bsh)- very likely the same individual. Unfortunately, no other observers were able to see this bird.
 Sparrow Hawk: widely but sparsely repd through the winter, with evidence of a return movement in late Mar; for example DS recorded eight Mar 21-27, and (gc) six Mar 23.
 Bobwhite: scarce, repd only from Catskill and Meadowdale.
 Ring-n Pheasant: markedly decreased throughout region this winter.
 Virginia Rail: one at Tygert Rd marsh nr New Salem Mar 17 where the species has wintered some recent years (EH,GA).
 Amer Coot: a flock of 30 remained at SL to Dec 18 (bsh).
 Killdeer: no Dec records; first spring Mar 3 Schodack Center (ad) and Mar 6 Meadowdale (GB,BRS); more widely Mar 11-19.

Amer Woodcock: first Mar 8 Castleton (ad), widely Mar 18-25.
 Com Snipe: three were at Tygert Rd marsh nr New Salem Feb 5 (bsh), where usually one-two have wintered through severe weather in other recent years. First spring Mar 17 Collins L (DJT).
GLAUCOUS GULL: an adult was on UH Jan 1 (WBS,SRM,PM)- lone rep.
 Great Blk-b Gull: remained until Jan 8 UH (sbc), max 44 (too) Jan 1; first spring Mar 4 SS (ad), max 50 Mar 6, SS and 40 Mar 19 (PPW). Composition changed from predominantly adult Mar 6 to largely imm in late Mar.
 Herring Gull: remained in numbers into Jan, with 475 on (tcc) Jan 1. A few seen throughout winter, rapid influx Mar 3 on.
 Ring-b Gull: less com than preceding two species in late Dec and early Jan, only 34 (too) Jan 1; a few individuals repd through winter. First spring Mar 6 SS (PPW); in late Mar the most abundant gull. In contrast to the herring and great blk-b gulls present (at this time mostly imm birds), these were almost exclusively adults.
 Mourning Dove: again wintered in high, though local, numbers.
 Screech Owl: very scarce- repd once in Gallupville in Dec (GMZ), once in Old Chatham in Dec (DR. E.M.Reilly, Jr.) and at West Sand Lake Mar 20 (KB) but missed on all local Christmas Counts.
 Great Horned Owl: fairly com in less settled parts of the region, with six recorded on local Christmas Counts.
 Barred Owl: repd at Canaan (one), TR (new area, two), Altamont (one) and Lisha Kill (one).
 Short-eared Owl: only rep of one, Niskayuna Feb 20 (SRM,PM).

GOATSUCKERS - SHRIKES

Belted Kingfisher: very scarce- repd to Dec 18 SL (bsh); also two Cohoes area. (too) Jan 1; one Lock 7 MR Mar 12 (GB,BRS); one late Mar West Sand L (KB).
 Yellow-sh Flicker: more repd this winter than usual, from at least ten localities; a light influx during Mar.
 Pileated Woodpecker: not particularly com, but recorded in most reporting areas.
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: one was seen in an orchard nr Catskill Dec 26 (gc)- the first record for the region in several years.
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: one was repd as wintering in Oak Hill, Greene Co (go)- very unusual.
 Yellow-b Sapsucker: a female was observed and banded in Jan and a male, but not the female, appeared several times in Feb at a feeder in Niskayuna where this species has appeared in previous winters (RPY)- it is usually unrepd at this season in the rest of the area.
BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: one visited a feeder in Catskill and was repd to eat suet there Jan 26-27 (gc)- lone rep.
 Eastern Phoebe: marked influx Mar 23-27 (mob).
 Horned Lark: rather scarce in early winter, but much more com in Feb and very early Mar.
 Tree Swallow: only rep- three Mar 25 Vly (gc).
 Com Crow: pronounced migration occurred in late Feb and most of Mar.
 Blk-c Chickadee: com in all areas with 445 (too) Jan 1.
 Boreal Chickadee: appeared at feeders in Catskill (gc), Chatham Center (ad) and West Sand L (C.W.Greene and mob) and one was seen at Meadowdale Feb 20 (bsh).
 Tufted Titmouse: widely repd, especially in southern areas- a total of 31 recorded on four area Christmas Counts.
 Red-br Nuthatch: one or two individuals repd at a number of local feeding stations as well as the regular resident populations in some of the larger evergreen tracts.

- Winter Wren: one repd on (gccc) Dec 26 and one was flitting about a stone wall in Niskayuna Feb 3 (HE).
- Carolina Wren: one appeared at a feeder in Chatham Dec 12 and remained into Jan (ad); two were seen at a feeder in Catskill Jan 5 (go) and one was singing at SS Mar 6 (PPW).
- Mockingbird: continuing its recent rapid increase; at least 22 repd during the period from eleven localities in five counties.
- Catbird: one appeared at a feeder in West Glenville Jan 19 and remained in the vicinity until Feb 21 when it was found dead (Mr. and Mrs. L.P. Harris).
- Brown Thrasher: lone rep- one Jan 8-10 Glenville (fide Nancy Slack)
- Robin: widely repd throughout winter with a general influx Mar 18-20 in most areas.
- VARIED THRUSH: a male in bright orange and soft gray plumage appeared at a feeder in Slitters' Corners, Town of West Sand Lake, Rensselaer Co on Jan 20 and remained until Mar 17 (mob). Surprisingly, this thrush fed exclusively on typical "bird-seed." When the ground was free of snow, it usually disappeared from the feeding area.
- Hermit Thrush: only reps- one Feb 6 TR (WBS et al.) and one late Feb in Colonie (Mrs. W.H. Enos).
- Eastern Bluebird: wintering birds repd only from Greene and Columbia Cos. In the Chatham area; bluebirds roosted in a hole in a tree during sub-zero periods (ad). A marked influx of the species occurred Mar 15-20.
- Cedar Waxwing: wandering groups of up to 40 seen occasionally.
- Northern Shrike: twelve reps for the winter, with no particular pattern, last Mar 14 Schodack Center (ad).

VIREOS - SPARROWS

- Myrtle Warbler: one was seen feeding in low brush along the shore of TR Jan 1 (PPW, DS, JF, DR).
- Eastern Meadowlark: more than the usual number of reps from at least six areas, max ten Jan 9 Kiskatom (go) and eight Jan 19 UH (HPB, PM). Noticeable influx Mar 15-20 in many areas.
- Red-winged Blackbird: ten reps Dec 20-Feb 28. One repd in Catskill area Mar 1 (go), and 28 Mar 2 Castleton marshes (PPW); on Mar 3 1500 were present Castleton marshes (PPW), and the species was repd from many other localities.
- Com Grackle: also arrived in many sections Mar 3.
- Rusty Blackbird: recorded Dec 18 SL (bsh), Feb 6 Meadowdale (EH, GA) and Mar 6 (bsh).
- Brown-b Cowbird: a large winter roost was discovered in Jan in the city of Albany independantly by Paul Connor and PPW. Evening counts at the roost: about 780 Jan 24 and 1040 Feb 5 (PPW). These counts far exceed the largest previous winter maxima of the species for the area. To my knowledge, this is the first icterid winter roost found in this area.
- Cardinal: somewhat less com this winter than last; on the (adcc), (gccc), (scc) and (tcc) combined, 101 repd compared to 139 in 1964-65.
- DICKCISSEL: two were at a feeder nr Chatham in Dec (ad). Another was discovered at a Niskayuna feeder Dec 26 (RPY et al.) and remained there until mid-Jan when it was attacked and injured (presumably fatally) by a sharp-sh hawk. Still another appeared in the Gallupville area about Jan 10 and was seen in that area occasionally through Mar 31 (GMZ).
- Evening Grosbeak: very com all winter with apparent influx in late Dec and early Jan, max 511 (tcc)- a record number. Numbers peaked at a Niskayuna banding station the first two weeks

- in Feb (RPY); throughout Mar the population dwindled, although many were still present at the end of Mar.
- Purple Finch: very scarce all period.
- Pine Grosbeak: fairly com in small groups, especially in highland areas Dec-Feb. By Mar 15, very few were left, although still present at Taborton Mar 27 (PPW).
- Com Redpoll: abundant throughout winter; 845 repd on (adco), (gcc), (scc) and (toc) combined; some representative max: 600 Jan 9 (bsh); 325 Feb 19 (SRM,PM); 700 Feb 20 (bsh).
- HOARY REDPOLL: one was banded, photographed and released Mar 20 Niskayuna (RPY,DS). The bird was pale with white, unstreaked rump, short bill (7.8 mm.) and only faintly streaked sides of breast, and was associated with a large group of com redpolls.
- Pine Siskin: widely repd, but not in very large numbers.
- Red Crossbill: five reps of three-12 during winter, last Mar 4 Karner (JF,DR).
- White-w Crossbill: ten reps scattered throughout winter, max 14 Feb 12 nr New Salem (bsh), last Mar 9 Lfsha Kill (HFB,PM)
- Rufous-s Towhee: one appeared at a feeder in East Ghent on Jan 24 and remained the rest of the winter (ad).
- Savannah Sparrow: one arrived in Ghent Mar 23 (ad).
- Slate-c Junco: scarce in all sections this winter.
- OREGON JUNCO: a junco with very dark hood, brownish-gray back (with sharp line of demarcation between hood and back) and tinge of pink on the sides appeared at an East Greenbush feeder in Jan and Feb (Mrs. Robert Don).
- Tree Sparrow: still not as com as two years ago, but more com than in 1964-65.
- Field Sparrow: a flock of about 12 wintered in Colonie (JF,DR); first spring Mar 24 Altamont (BW).
- White-thr Sparrow: at least 18 repd, including five at one feeder in Chatham (ad).
- Fox Sparrow: repd into mid-Dec in Greene and Columbia Cos and two were still coming to a feeder at Oak Hill in Jan (go). An abrupt spring movement occurred Mar 18-20, although this was less widespread and spectacular than that of 1965.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW: a medium-sized sparrow with striped brown and white crown, prominent buff breast band and thin but noticeable eye ring was noted at a Cropseyville feeder Jan 27-Feb 10 (WBS,bsh,PPW,et al.).
- Swamp Sparrow: remained in some of the denser local marshes well into Feb.
- Lapland Longspur: only reps- one (adco) Dec 26 and two with a flock of snow buntings nr Muitzeskill Feb 26 (ad).
- Snow Bunting: scarce early in the winter; groups of up to 75 noted in Jan and Feb excepting 200 Feb 21 Greenville (CK) and 600 Feb 26 nr Muitzeskill (ad)- possibly evidence of spring movement. No Mar reps.

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CONSERVATION CONSENSUS

Samuel R. Madison, Chairman
Conservation Committee

MOURNING DOVES SAFE FOR THE PRESENT

The bill to amend the conservation law to provide for an open

season on mourning dove is dead for the present session. As of this writing it is still bottled-up in the Senate Conservation Committee under Chairman Watson B. Pomeroy's control. Its companion measure in the Assembly has been amended and recommitted to the Committee. The bill has not yet been formally killed for this session.

WHOOPIING CRANES

The Fish & Wildlife Service reports that the whooping cranes are heading north. Forty-four spent the winter at the Arkansas Wildlife Refuge. Eight of the forty-four are yearlings. The flight commenced on April 5 and on the 6th a group of twenty departed, the largest single mass exodus of whoopers on record.

CALIFORNIA REDWOODS

The clash over the establishment of a national Redwood Park in California continues. Practically the only matter in which the various protagonists agree is that there should be such a park in Northern California. The so-called "big park plan" if provided would be established by legislation creating a park of approximately 90 thousand acres in the Redwood and Prairie Creek Valleys. This would include about 33 thousand acres of excellent redwood forest, including many tall trees.

The Federal Administration is recommending a park consisting of approximately 43 thousand acres. This consists of 14 thousand already in state parks and 29 thousand acres of private lands. Slightly less than 8 thousand acres of these private lands consist of virgin redwoods.

COASTAL WETLANDS IN MASSACHUSETTS

On November 23, 1965 Governor Volpe of Massachusetts signed into law the Coastal Wetlands Bill. This was the culmination of a two-year campaign led by Commissioner Foster of the Department of Natural Resources, and the heads of private conservation bodies, to save these lands from spoliation by industrial and housing developments.

The problem was to convince the general public, as well as the Legislature, that at stake was not only the scenic and wild-life importance of salt marshes, but also their great economic value as the chief source of nutrients for fin and shell fish. The fishing and shellfish industries would face bankruptcy if this source were destroyed.

The new law, first of its kind in the Union, gives authority to the Department of Natural Resources to oblige owners to preserve their marshes undisturbed.

The Nature Conservancy took an active part in the campaign; eighteen months ago it advanced \$10,000 needed by the Department of Natural Resources to obtain appraisals of marsh areas; later, the Conservancy contributed \$1,000 towards the campaign fund.

* * * * *

Last year the NYS Conservation Department expanded Perch River Game Management Area, and is developing more wetland marsh along Perch River West of Route 12 in the Watertown area.

SUMMER FILM FESTIVAL

Once again this summer the New York State Museum in Albany is sponsoring a summer film festival. Due to past success, the program has been expanded to three days per week.

This summer's film festival will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from July 5 to August 26 at 12 noon and 3 pm. As in the past several years, the movies will be shown in Banner Hall of the Museum, 5th floor of the Education Building, Washington Avenue, Albany. Admission is free - everyone is invited. Each showing will last approximately 40 minutes.

July 5, 6, 7	African Wildlife Sanctuary The Ancient Egyptian
July 12, 13, 14	Nature's Strangest Creatures Rivers of Time
July 19, 20, 21	The Stream Children of the Plains Indians
July 26, 27, 28	Pelican Island Eskimo River Village
August 2, 3, 4	Vanishing Prairie (3 short films)
August 9, 10, 11	The Sea Egypt: Cradle of Civilization
August 16, 17, 18	Wingbeats on the Sand Arctic Outpost
August 23, 24, 25	Desert Fishing on the Coast of Japan

* * * * *

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

David Stoner, Chairman
Field Trip Committee

FEEDER OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 5

The heavy downpour on March 5th kept the early birds away but not the early birders. At 7 am. 13 people arrived at Ann and Bob Yunick's. Bob explained the process of banding birds. He showed us how mist nets are used and the type of traps that he uses. At 9 am. we went on to Hazel and Gil Eddy's and were met there by eight more birders. Hazel had a most interesting display of bird books including foreign and antique ones. At 11 am. the group went to Muriel and Dave Stoner's. Dave showed slides of birds that visit their yard. A group trudged through the snow to walk along the Lisha Kill in Stoner's back yard. Pine grosbeaks, purple finches, and a white-winged crossbill

were seen in this area. Other than these birds, only the winter regulars were seen in small numbers at each feeder.

Refreshments were served at each house. Everyone agreed that this was a "fun trip", with an opportunity to socialize.

—Muriel Stoner

LOWER HUDSON TRIPMARCH 19

Although the forecasts were ominous, and the storm clouds threatening, more than 20 SBC'ers gathered on a mild morning for a taste of spring along the Hudson River between Albany and Hudson. Redwings called and displayed their bright epaulets in every slough and marsh, and robins- apparently just arrived- were found at several stops. Nine species of ducks were seen, and the group had a fine view of two Canada geese standing quietly on a mud flat at Stockport. The final list totalled 36 species- and we finished in time to beat the rain!

—Pete Wickham

ROUND LAKE-SARATOGA LAKEAPRIL 16

There was nothing unusual about the trip. There were fewer people than I would have expected- also fewer species and members! Twelve people assembled for the trip and tallied 35 species including ten species of waterfowl.

—Sam Madison

TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIRAPRIL 16

A first look at Tomhannock Reservoir was encouraging from its abundance of water if not its quantity of waterfowl! Where the group had walked, accumulating burrs last November 6th while stalking a pair of white-rumped sandpipers, diving ducks could now feed. At this very point we watched a group of ring-necks, common and hooded mergansers having breakfast. When the group- Muriel Stoner, Carol Bressler, Nancy and Shirleyann Todd, Beth Soley and C.E. Safford- had gathered and scanned the area we moved on, for cars were whizzing by too fast and too close to please us.

At the first bridge there were buffleheads and herring gulls on the water, a phoebe and song sparrows serenading, and in the distance a towhee called and a grouse drummed. A familiar sound reached our ears, growing louder, and searching the sky a double "V" of Canada geese came into sight followed by a single file higher and beyond. They moved so quickly and flew so high they were soon lost to the naked eye and even to glasses, but they had not eluded us entirely in the cloudless sky.

Driving on to walk to the shore by the island, we flushed a grouse but only heard his flight. Again the high water was impressed upon us, for in the fall we had explored the island and now swimming would be in order. We picked up blacks and more common mergansers here. The next jaunt took us down the longer woods road which was strangely silent by comparison with other trips...only a few chickadees and a white-breasted nuthatch. Four ring-necks were feeding close to the shore of the cover beside the road and afforded a good view while across to the far side was a group of 14. Turning through the picnic spot to the water, a pair of common mergs took off flying a foot from the water along the shore to the point. The surface was a perfect

mirror and it was a memorable sight to look down on their two aspects in flight. Some of the party wanted to leave and were saying "goodbye" while we checked the blacks and mallards once more, and walked a bit farther to discover nine Canadas, more blacks, another pair of mallards and - two pairs of shovelers. Lucky last look!

Some of us continued to the dam, but nothing was seen on the way. The trip was officially disbanded, but Mrs. Price had joined us late so she, Mrs. Stoner and I walked up to the dam and spied a loon. They decided to check him on their return to be sure, because he was quite far from us at that point. I started home via Melrose, but coming to the corner with a choice of Raymertown or Melrose decided to explore the road to Raymertown. A turn into the Troy water works produced a pair of blacks, a stop by the first house offered a path through the woods and more chickadees, nuthatches, song sparrows and a cowbird. Driving on a cardinal's call halted me and with the motor off a soft sound of movement in the pines caused me to look up. A red crossbill was foraging on an outer branch and was joined by three more as they moved through the trees. Walking along the road a pair of phoebes darted out from the conduit under the road to take an "en garde" position on the bank even though I did not bother their nest. Around the turn 12 ring-necks left the shadows of the trees and swam to deeper water. The road skirted the shore much of the way and gave views of the water and from the heights of the hills, sweeping vistas of the whole reservoir. I was sorry I had been ignorant of this route and thus had no one to share its pleasures. Upon finding myself again back at Route 7 and Ford Road, I concluded it should be a part of future trips. This could satisfy for others the desire I have often felt - to know what is on the opposing shore when birds have been tantalizingly too far away for identification even with a scope.

--Betty Hicks

MEADOWDALE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

MAY 7

The annual "May Breakfast" was actually scheduled on May 7th at Meadowdale. 42 observers arrived - some at 6 am., others later - the birds cooperated - 76 obligingly if somewhat numbly. Only the weather failed to catch the spirit of the venture, for the temperature was 30 degrees at six and may have risen to 40 by ten, and the wind seemed more like March than May.

A bobwhite braved the chill to call a cheery welcome note on our arrival, song and swamp sparrows were everywhere, myrtle and yellow warblers flitted around - probably trying to keep warm - and yellowthroats deserted their usual secrecy. The early group walked east along the tracks and was rewarded by good views of the gallinules, snipes and ducks. Swallows were active and two ospreys cruised the area. Fortunately one did not have to walk far to enjoy the trip for both sides of the road were alive with birds. The bobwhites ambled and called constantly, the trees blossomed with warblers and a veery stayed in one spot so long he seemed determined to be noticed. Everyone agreed that despite the cold, the number and variety of birds made the trip successful.

At ten o'clock the group migrated to Howard Johnson's at Stuyvesant Plaza for a most welcome breakfast. Our private room was comfortably filled by the 30 members who attended. A few had left and two joined us for a delicious and leisurely break-

fast. The list was compiled with good-natured agreement as to numbers. As usual there was little doubt concerning species, but not all of us reckon numbers with computer similarity! The whole day was enjoyable and the number of both observers and observed omens well for the busy May schedule of trips.

--Betty Hicks

SECOND LISHA KILL TRIP

MAY 8

Our luck held true to form as in the winter Lisha Kill trip - rain - not as heavy however, and down to a drizzle by the time we started, and later a sickly pale sun came out.

Present were Mr. and Mrs. Koch and their sons Bruce and Mark, and Mr. and Mrs. Novak, as well as the undersigned. Frank Ham was only able to stay with us a short while - he has a new baby in the family.

We covered all the trails on the reservation on the west side of the ravine. The creek was running bank full so we didn't cross. We found the best spot for bird finding was where the entrance trail from the fire station crosses the first tributary ravine. Most numerous were black-throated blue warblers, myrtle warblers and ruby-crowned kinglets. We had a fairly good list for a rainy afternoon.

--Carl Runge

WARBLER WATCHING

MAY 15

Twenty-one people including some brave souls who had been up early for the Century Run the previous morning, and several children, explored the Slacks' 50 acres on Ridge Road, Glenville on May 15. Fifty-two species of birds were found here and at the neighboring Prehmus ponds. The warbler waves had not yet arrived as there was sleigh riding on the scene only four days previously. Eight kinds of warblers were there, including the promised golden-wing which had arrived only that morning and performed beautifully for some watchers with a telescope, as did a lesser yellow legs and a pair of bluebirds. As luck would have it, the first real warbler wave arrived the next morning and 20 different warblers were seen in the "backyard" during the week.

The flower watchers among us found trailing arbutus, red trillium and hepatica still in flower and quantities of white trillium and shad blow just coming into bloom.

Those who stayed enjoyed breakfast of scrambled egg, rolls, coffee and donuts and conversation around the picnic tables.

--Nancy Slack

NISKAYUNA WIDEWATERS

MAY 21

The meeting place - the parking turn-out on Rosendale Road east of junction with River Road - is a mess. The new sewer line going in in that area seems to be an unusually and unnecessarily messy operation. The road along here is also somewhat mauled, as well as the Lock 7 Road.

There were 16 in the group and we started our walk at the narrow culvert on Lock 7 Road, walking from here eastward along the old wood road, thence up on the abandoned R.R. track east-

ward to the marsh and widewaters just west of old Niskayuna village.

The most discouraging part of the trip was the sight of the destruction wrought by bulldozers in the little wood lot between Lock 7 Road and the railroad on the south and the Mohawk River on the north. It would seem that one ought to be able to run a sewer line without cutting a swath up to a hundred feet wide. Since this wooded area is less than 200 feet wide, this represents a loss of over half the woods. In former years this small piece of woods was one of the most productive in the area relative to nesting birds; being the summer home of numerous pairs of veerys, redstarts, chickadees, orioles and red-eyed, warbling and yellow throated vireos.

Most numerous song birds observed were redstarts and yellow warblers, and all had a good opportunity learn the songs of these two species as well as those of the warbling vireo, yellow-throated vireo, rose-breasted grosbeak and oriole. Surprisingly the veerys were not singing at all on Saturday morning.

Three active nests were seen - a phoebe in the wooden culvert on Lock 7 Road, and two catbird nests along the R.R. track.

Both geese seen were travelling as lone individuals overhead. The most dramatic observation of the trip was the sight of the three great blue herons, flying high over the Lock 7 Road, in perfect triangular formation. --Carl Runge

HOW DO YOU LIKE OUR FIELD TRIPS?

Enclosed with this issue of FEATHERS is a short questionnaire. We, the Field Trip Committee, would like to ask all of the members to give us an honest appraisal of our present field trip activities. We have tried to add new interests to our program and have increased the number of field trips, but surely there are many more ideas that can come from the entire membership.

To enable you to present the activities which are of prime interest to you, we must know your preferences. Please help us plan our 1967 field trip schedule by telling us about your likes and your dislikes too, by answering this questionnaire.

Thank you,
Field Trip Committee
Dave Stoner, Chairman

ELSEWHERE IN THE STATE

Edited by
Guy Bartlett

JENNY LAKE REPORT

Evening grosbeaks hint at a banner season at Jenny Lake. At least several pairs became feeder-visitors by mid-May, along with pairs of purple finches, red-breasted nuthatches, white-throated sparrows and ovenbirds, among others.

CHRISTMAS COUNT TALLY

Christmas bird counts were submitted by 45 New York State groups, including ten Long Island counts, for publication in AUDUBON FIELD NOTES. Texas had 55 counts, and California 42. Long Island, of course, was high for the state; Central Suffolk County had a 122 count. High count for mainland New York was that of the Bronx-Westchester region, with 99 species.

The two dickcissels at Chatham and the one at Schenectady were mentioned as among the outstanding observations in the upstate region.

GULL BEHAVIOR

Howard Cleaves of Staten Island, who on several occasions has talked to SBC audiences, has raised an interesting question about gull behavior. Writing in HIGH ROCK NATURE NOTES, the publication of the nature conservation center on Staten Island, he says:

"The behavior of the herring gull in relation to the bridges spanning the different waterways around New York has interested me for many years. The Outerbridge Crossing, so named in honor of Eugenius H. Outerbridge, first chairman of the Port Authority, being but a mile from my home in Pleasant Plains, is the bridge I have used most during the 34 years of residence in the Plains. On many occasions I have seen gulls following the course of the Arthur Kill and noticed that as they approached the bridge they elevate themselves in order to pass over the structure although much less effort would be required to fly under. The 135-foot clearance at mid-channel is sufficient to permit a small plane to fly safely under the bridge, yet I have never seen a herring gull pass beneath the Outerbridge."

Other observers reported to Mr. Cleaves that some gulls fly under some bridges - maybe one out of every eight or ten - particularly if they are on or following garbage scows towed on the East River.

GOLDEN EAGLES

There may still be nesting golden eagles in the Adirondacks, Dr. Walter Spofford told the State Federation in May.

TRACE OF PESTICIDES CAN KILL

Scientists have revealed that amazingly small amounts of pesticides can kill shrimps, crabs and other aquatic life. One part of DDT in one billion parts of water (1 ppb) was found to kill blue crabs in eight days. One part per billion is the relationship one ounce of chocolate syrup would bear to 10 million gallons of milk.

Under experimental conditions, the oyster was found to detect and store pesticides present in the water at concentrations as low as 10 parts per trillion and the growth of oyster shell was stunted.

There is accumulating evidence to show that if certain levels of pesticide residue are found in an animal's brain, it can be said that the pesticide caused the death. The researchers found that the brain of eagles which died after being fed various levels of DDT contained very similar quantities of DDT despite differences in dosage levels and the time it took to die. Some

researchers believe that similar levels of DDT in the brain, and the substances into which the chemicals break down, may indicate DDT-induced mortality over a wide range of bird and mammal species.

These and other new findings on the dangers of certain chemicals to wildlife are given in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1964 annual report on pesticide research. The purposes of the continuing study are to determine the kinds and amounts of pesticides that are injurious to fish and wildlife and to assist in discovering ways to achieve pest control with least hazard to fish and wildlife resources.

Copies of the report, "The Effects of Pesticides on Fish and Wildlife," Circular 226, may be obtained without charge from the Fish and Wildlife Information Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

--CONSERVATIONIST (N.Y.S. Conservation Dept.), Dec.-Jan., p.33.

* * * * *

OFF THE BOOKSHELF

Edited by
Elva Link

For some summer fun in reading

Peterson, Roger Tory. BIRDS OVER AMERICA. Illus. with 105 photos. by the author. New and rev. ed. 1964. 342p. illus. ports. 10 in. Dodd, \$7.50.

"Both text and photographs of the original, 1948, edition of these observations on birds and bird watching are retained with only a minimum of change in the text. Statistics on bird population and bird watchers are brought up to date, the abandonment of several bird nesting sites recorded, and the harmful effects of pesticides noted. The photographs are reproduced in a darker tone and some are less clear than in the original." Booklist.

Hvass, Hans. BIRDS OF THE WORLD IN COLOR. Tr. by Gwynne Vevers. Illus. by Wilhelm Eigener. 1964. 210p. illus. Dutton, \$4.95.

"One thousand and one common and rare species and subspecies are covered including most European birds, many North American varieties, and a scattering from other parts of the world. Groups are present in a classification ranging from the more highly developed to the more primitive types. Verbal descriptions are minimal giving only details not observable in the small but distinct and vivid color illustrations." Booklist.

A bit of light reading.

Gutteridge, Evelyn and Gutteridge, Hubert. KIKI, THE MOUSEBIRD. 1965. 128p. illus. Morrow, \$3.95.

"The delightful ways and captivating personality of an Adrican mousebird in residence as an intimate member of their household is as warmly and unpretentiously narrated by Mrs. Gutteridge and illustrated photographically by her husband who concentrates on Kiki's characteristic postures. Glimpses of the Gutteridges' environment and their existence running a bird and wildlife sanctuary in St. Lucia Estuary in Zululand enhances a cheerful, minor opus for bird and nature enthusiast." Booklist

For the small fry

Conklin, Gladys. IF I WERE A BIRD. Words by the author, Pictures by Artur Marokvia. 1965. 40p. col. illus. Holiday House, \$3.50.

"In an attractive picture-book format a brief, elementary text and artistic colored drawings on every page present 27 different birds, "each one in some typical activity in a place which it frequents." -Author's note. Musical notations are given for songs or calls. The factual discussion of feather collecting at the end of the book, also addressed to children, is at variance with the main text which is in first person as though by a child imagining himself to be each bird in turn. An inviting aid to watching and listening to birds. Ages 4-8." Booklist.

* * * * *

A HOARY AND THEN SOME

Robert P. Yunick

The weekend of March 18-20 was the weekend that was banding-wise. On Friday evening, the 18th I sat typing Barry Havens' article on the hoary redpoll for the last issue of FEATHERS. Since redpolls had been coming to our feeder, I had been reading about some of their plumage characteristics, and typing Barry's article helped set some of these differences in my mind.

On Saturday the redpolls came in numbers like I have never seen. The first came about 8:30 and then they flocked in and at 8:45 I began emptying the nets. I had 56 redpolls - 36 in one net. On and on they came. By day's end I banded 184 birds of which 174 were redpolls. Each bird was banded, measured, fat-classed, weighed and its plumage noted. As Barry pointed out, there is great variation in size and plumage. Two birds matched exactly the description in Forbush for Holboell's redpoll - a subspecies of the common redpoll. The status of Holboell's redpoll is controversial - some people do not recognize it as such. In fact, the whole "redpoll problem" is quite interesting - much like recognizing junco species and subspecies.

On Sunday, the redpolls came at 9 am. I waited a bit to see how things would develop and then placed a call to Dave Stoner for help and got out to start taking birds from the nets. I had 91 birds in the first haul. This apparently exhausted the local supply, for only 14 more birds were taken the rest of the day. The weekend's total was 289 birds of which 271 were redpolls.

Sunday's take also included some birds matching the Holboell's description, but the real treat was a hoary. The bird was not as pale as I had expected, but Barry's emphasis on the white rump made me recognize the bird quickly. It was a life bird for Dave and I. Beside the rump, another distinction was the lack of heavy streaking on the upper breast and side.

On this particular weekend, the ground was beginning to be exposed here and there, and the redpolls came out of the birch tops to feed on the ground. Their gregarious nature is what led to mass capture. Typically on both mornings only one to five birds would show up at first to feed on the ground. In their flitting about one would hit a net. That's when the fun began. In answer to the captured bird's calls, redpolls within earshot flocked to the scene. They came in swarms, hitting the nets - some entangling, others bouncing off only to try again until the nets sagged under the birds' weight. And still they came, swarming into the yard. When the nets filled with birds, they lost slack and no longer captured birds. Thus many birds went uncaptured. Birds perched on the nets, the fence, trees, bushes - anywhere, while others hovered in front of the nets probably puzzled over their comrades' suspension in air.

These full nets can be a frightening experience. Fortunately previous experience with migrant swarms at Island Beach and bank swallows in Glenville helped in handling the situation. I did panic a little with the first influx on Saturday. Rather than wait for the influx to subside, I simply dashed out of the house with two carrying cases and started removing birds while others flew within five and six feet of me. At one point I thought I saw a hoary redpoll on the ground, but could not take the time to confirm it. Thus this first haul was 56 birds. On Sunday I decided to let one of these redpoll storms spend itself before I would go out to get the birds. It proved worthwhile, for by waiting 15-20 minutes for the influx to subside, I found that I had 91 birds netted.

Once it was all over, I had a chance to examine my notes and find out what I had done. The timing of the whole thing interested me. On Saturday during two hauls of 56 and 70 birds, I removed birds from the nets at the rate of 2.3-2.8 birds/minute. The total time required for removing, banding, etc. varied from 1.7 to 1.9 minutes/bird. On Sunday a group of 91 birds was removed from the nets at the rate of 2.6 birds/minute and the total operation of removing, banding, etc. required 1.8 minutes/bird. It was an exhausting experience and sleep came easily that evening.

Two days later in Pittsburgh I stopped at the Carnegie Museum and had the opportunity to examine redpoll skins. Much to my surprise, a number of hoary redpolls had pinkish rumps, but none had a streaked rump and all were very lightly streaked on the breast and side. Their size varied according to where they came from. There were no Holboell's in the collection (the collector did not recognize the subspecies), but several were greater redpolls - another subspecies of the common redpoll - and except for the obtuseness of the bill, these birds resembled strongly the would be Holboell's in the yard. They were large, darker and their markings gross and diffuse.

Perhaps another "redpoll winter" will bring an equally interesting banding experience.


 NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF
ORANGES FOR ORIOLES

Nothing need be said about the value of sunflower seed, cracked corn, suet, crumbs, etc. to attract our common yard-feeding birds, but have you ever tried fresh fruit? I had been told that oranges were a favorite food of the Baltimore oriole. With some disbelief, I hung a half of an orange on our maple tree on the first of May. On Saturday the 7th, the first oriole arrived and where do you suppose I saw him? He was feasting on the hanging orange getting more than his share of vitamin C for the day.

The oriole has visited my yard daily and on May 12th I placed an orange in a ground trap which I use to catch birds for banding purposes. The oriole came to the trap, was caught, banded, and released. Within a half hour he was back again feeding on the orange in the tree, completely unruffled by his banding experience. Try your luck! Cut an orange in half, run a wire through one half and hang it, cut side up, about 3 inches below the branch so that the bird can easily cling to the branch and enjoy its fresh fruit. Your first sight of the rich orange breast of the oriole contrasted with the yellow-orange fruit will make this project well worth the effort. --Dave Stoner

CALLING ALL RECORDS

So you made a rare find recently - GREAT! - or compiled a fine list the other day - WONDERFUL! - and I hope you'll let me - your SBC records chairman - know about it come the end of the month.

As most SBC members know, the field data for Club records are supplied by about 20 regular contributors together with a number of irregular ones. We encourage all Club members to submit their records at the end of each month. If this is not always possible, reports must be submitted to the Records Committee in time to meet the following deadlines:

Dec. 1 - Mar. 31	Deadline- Apr. 7
Apr. 1 - May 31	Deadline- June 7
June 1 - Aug. 15	Deadline- Sept. 7
Aug. 16 - Nov. 30	Deadline- Dec. 7

As our Club grows both in members and diversity, we hope that many more observers will submit records to us. If you see only a few interesting birds each month, just jot them down on a note or postcard; if you see more, I can furnish you with monthly report forms used by many regular observers, and you can send these in. Whatever your preference, let me know what you're seeing, when and where you're seeing it.

--Pete Wickham
Records Chairman
12 Columbia Drive
East Greenbush 12061

NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for material for the July-August issue will be July

15. Why not take a minute or two to write a note on a recent out-door experience and share it with others. Feature articles will be welcomed as well. If you enjoy reading other people's contributions to FEATHERS, why not brave a try of your own. The results may pleasantly surprise you and fellow readers.

BACK ISSUES AND MAILING

A few people have noted that they did not receive either the directory or field trip schedule which was part of the March-April mailing. If you inadvertently did not receive either of these and would like a copy, please contact the editor. Also, anyone who recently joined part way through the year and does not have, but would like, a complete set of FEATHERS for that year, please contact the editor for missing copies. Also available are extra copies to contributors if they want them. Also within reason, missing copies in people's files can be replaced.

FEATHERS SET AVAILABLE

Anyone interested in a complete, bound set of FEATHERS which Dorothy Caldwell has for sale should contact Guy Bartlett at his summer address: R.D. 2, Box 211, Corinth, N.Y. 12822. Rg

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SBC HAS NEW VICE-PRESIDENT

Walton B. Sabin

President

Because of an impending transfer to his company's home office in Wisconsin, David Stoner tendered his resignation as vice-president at the Board of Directors' meeting on July 11, 1966. The board, in accepting his resignation with regret, wished Dave and his family well in their new location.

To fill Dave's unexpired term, the board elected Stephen Fordham to the vice-presidency. Steve's elevation to vice-president therefore created a vacancy on the Board of Directors. The board then elected Dr. Peter P. Wickham to this vacancy, but only to the next annual meeting. The Club's by-laws prohibit the board from filling a vacancy beyond the next annual meeting and election. Steve's term as a board member was to have continued to the 1968 annual meeting and election.

In reporting these changes to the members I wish to express my appreciation for the splendid cooperation of all concerned. I am sure you will all join with me in thanking Dave Stoner for his generosity, willingness, and eagerness to serve the Club in the short time he resided in our area. Many times it was his enthusiasm that kept certain activities going. Even though he came to our area in 1964, he and his wife Muriel joined the club and became two of its most enthusiastic and ardent supporters. Almost immediately he became involved in club activities and was elected secretary for 1965. Then in 1966 he was elected to the vice-presidency, the position he finds himself resigning because of his transfer. As you can see, the SBC was not the only organization recognizing his ability! Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have known the Stoners will greatly miss them, but by the same token will count them among our friends to be long remembered.

Another job which Dave undertook shortly after being elected vice-president was that of field trip chairman. Even though the 1966 field trip schedule is made up you saw in the last issue of FEATHERS that Dave was getting right to work on next year's schedule with the short questionnaire on field trips. He was trying to find out what sort of trips club members were interested in and perhaps how they might be more diversified and interesting. This information will be a tremendous help to the field trip committee in setting up the 1967 field trip schedule.

Another activity Dave started this year, though not actually a club activity, began when he received his bird bander's license. His enthusiasm here is reflected in the fact that in the few months he has had his permit he has banded over 600

birds and was cooperating with the editor (a bander also, if you didn't know!) on several banding projects.

By the way, did you know that Muriel has been working on getting FEATHERS in condition for mailing and then actually mailing each issue? She had Mrs. Price and Mrs. Leschen working with her on the collating and mailing and Mildred Crary cared for folding and addressing.

Again, the club members will sorely miss the Stoners and sincerely wish them well.

Steve Fordham is a welcome addition to the Board of Directors since the last annual meeting, and now as interim vice-president. Steve joined the club back in 1950 but because of other interests has not been active in club affairs for several years. Steve is a bander and has led many field trips in the past. We know he will help in whatever way he can.

Probably more club members know or have heard of our newest board member, Dr. Peter P. Wickham. For the last four years he has been chairman of the records committee and regional editor of field notes, etc., for the KINGBIRD, the organ of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Pete writes up the periodic reports of birds seen in the SBC area, which appear in FEATHERS regularly.

For the past two years he has been chairman of the field trip committee as well. The increased number and variety of field trips in the last two years are directly as the result of Pete's efforts. Further than this he has been very active on the Site Selection Sub-committee of the Planning Committee seeking a piece of property suitable for a club sanctuary.

Those club members who took the time to look over the 1966 club directory which lists all members, officers, and committees will note that, in addition to Stephen Fordham, there are two other new board members this year (whose terms run for two years each). These are Dr. Paul E. Grattan, a resident of Waterford and very active there in the Waterford Historical Society, and Dr. Clifford M. Tepper of Niskayuna. Dr. Tepper is quite an accomplished bird photographer and several years ago provided us with a very nice program at an annual meeting. Dr. Tepper finds time in his busy professional practice to be very active in other civic affairs in Schenectady as well.

In addition to the new board members SBC has a new secretary and a new treasurer. Mrs. Robert J. (Carol) Wernick is our new secretary having replaced Dave Stoner who stepped up to vice-presidency as mentioned earlier. Carol is doing an excellent job. Our new treasurer is Robert Norton of Troy. Bob recently suffered a slight heart attack, but is back on the job and keeping our books in good form. He has done such a swell job that many of you no doubt were not even aware of his recent misfortune. Continued good health, Bob!

Bob succeeds as treasurer another, unfortunately, departing member whose service to the club has been monumental. Dr. Donald J. Tucker has completed his term of residency in pathology at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady and is leaving shortly for France to serve in the military. Don's original membership

in the club dates to the late 40's, but was interrupted during his school years. Don's contributions to the club as treasurer, committee member, field trip leader, century runner par excellence and writer extraordinaire have been greatly appreciated. Don ably handled the office of treasurer on Beverly Waite's resignation in 1964. He was duly elected to the office in 1965. His constructive suggestions and futuristic thinking have helped immeasurably in promoting the aims of the numerous committees and subcommittees he has served, and the board meetings he has attended. He is one of those rare individuals who has pursued dependably and effectively whatever one asked him.

Those who have attended a Tucker-led field trip knew they were in the hands of a competent, experienced birder and naturalist. Similarly he has added greatly to recent record century run lists. He has helped to mold the present form of FEATHERS and has contributed competently to the publication. It isn't everyone who can hybridize a lion roar with of all things a thrush to produce a laugh. Those of you who attended the May meeting enjoyed some of Don's photographic efforts and I am sure would like to see more.

His talents will be greatly missed, however, we sincerely hope that when the grand tour is complete, the SBC will once again share the wealth of his efforts.

Another change that should not go unnoticed is that the Program Committee has a new co-chairman in Mrs. Francis P. (Hazel) Bundy. Hazel, a resident of Alplaus, brings with her a background of valuable experience which will be very helpful in this job. This position carries with it the responsibility of scheduling and arranging the Audubon Wildlife Film Series which we all enjoy so much. This is no mean feat and also one of the most important jobs in SBC since it is the proceeds of the ticket sales that provide the club with the necessary funds to grow and furnish services to us and the community. We all appreciate her willingness to serve and will assist her in whatever we can!

As most of you certainly know the fellow who created so efficiently those big shoes for Hazel to fill was Barry Havens. Barry's years of experience and ability to foresee and circumvent difficulties made the job look easy and effortless. However, those who knew the magnitude and nature of the job knew that it was Barry's acumen in these matters that produced such successful results.

It is hoped that Barry's leaving this post of co-chairman does not constitute "retirement" for one who has served so well. We hope to see more of him in the future.

Just as this is being written word has been received that Mrs. Thomas (Peggy) McGuirk has been appointed field trip chairman replacing Dave Stoner. We will all cooperate fully with her as she makes up next year's field trip schedule. Those of you who have not sent in your completed questionnaires on field trips from the last issues of FEATHERS to Dave Stoner, please mail them to Peggy at 4 Kaine Drive, Albany, New York 12203. In the event you wish to contact her by telephone her number is 482 - 4821.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS - 1966-1967

Hazel F. Bundy

Program Committee Co-chairman

The schedule of Audubon Wildlife Films for the Club's 1966-1967 season is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Sept. 29, 1966	John D. Bulger	Wild Rivers of North America
Nov. 3, 1966	G. P. Lyons	Mexican Adventure
Jan. 12, 1967	Walter H. Berlet	The Untamed Olympics
March 2, 1967	Charles T. Hotchkiss	Wilderness Trails
April 13, 1967	Alvah W. Sanborn	Wings of the Wild

All of these films will take place on Thursday nights. We are happy to have the use of the auditorium of Niskayuna High School for the first, second, and third lectures. Please note that the fourth and fifth lectures are scheduled for the auditorium of Colonie High School, since Niskayuna High School is not available for these dates.

Miss Eleanor Byrne, co-chairman, is handling publicity and ticket sales, as for several years past. This is a tremendous undertaking and perhaps we can make Eleanor's task a little lighter by replying promptly after she has contacted us in regard to purchasing tickets.

Thank you for your past support of Audubon Wildlife Films. The subjects for this next season sound very interesting indeed, and we hope you will find them to be so.

* * * * *

BRIEFING THE RECORD

WILLET RECORD - A FIRST

THE SEASON - SPRING - APRIL 1, 1966 - MAY 31, 1966

Peter P. Wickham

Records Committee Chairman

Both April and May were cold months, averaging 44.0° and 53.9°, 2.2° and 4.0° below normal, respectively, at Albany Airport. Precipitation totaled 1.46 in., 1.31 in. below average, in April; and 2.35 in., 1.12 in. below average, in May. Warm periods included April 15-19, 21-23; May 5-6, 14-15 and 20-29. The end of April

and beginning of May was a most noticeable cold period, and had a remarkable affect on the spring land bird migration.

Surprisingly, the shore bird migration did not seem noticeably influenced by the cold weather and proceeded nearly on schedule. Despite considerably higher water levels this year, we again enjoyed a good number and variety of these birds, with the highlight being the first area record for willet (where were these birds going?). A remarkable flight of dowitcher resulting in unprecedented numbers in the area was also outstanding.

Rails and gallinules were much more common- perhaps due to the higher water levels this year- than the past two years. Ducks were also seen in good numbers; a scoter and oldsquaw flight on May 8 was especially noteworthy.

The land bird migration, however, was even more interesting. Due to the cold weather from April 25-May 14, the usual April migrants, such as sapsucker, kinglets, hermit thrush, etc., lingered well into May. On the other hand, many migrants normally arriving in late April or early May were held up. On May 5 and especially the night of May 5-6, the weather moderated, and a fine wave of a good variety of land birds, including many warblers, was observed on May 6. However, cold weather returned the following night, and many of these birds just disappeared. Finally on May 14 and subsequently, temperatures moderated and there was a great rush of land birds through the area during the following week, particularly from May 16-20. The remainder of the month seemed more "normal."

Other features of the period included: 1) an impressive increase in the number of gnatcatcher and mockingbird, 2) a continuing low population of hawks and owls- with the exception of the sparrow hawk, 3) a heavy tern migration and 4) a very poor cuckoo flight.

Unusual species recorded, other than those mentioned above, included red-throated loon, double-crested cormorant, cattle egret, mute swan, shoveler, bald eagle, black-bellied plover, white-rumped sandpiper, short-billed marsh wren, migrant shrike, Philadelphia vireo, Brewster's warbler, cerulean warbler, Connecticut warbler, dickcissel and Lincoln's sparrow.

Abbreviations used: arr- arrived, BCM- Black Creek Marshes, BRD- Barney Road Development area near Clifton Park, CLTN- Castleton, CHTM- Chatham, CL- Collins Lake, COL- Columbia, com- common, EG- East Greenbush, GL- Glenville Landfill, IL- Indian Ladder, imm- immature, JL- Jenny Lake, max- maximum count of period, MWDL- Meadowdale, mob- many observers, MR- Mohawk River, Nisk-Niskayuna, nr- near, NWW- Niskayuna Widewaters, RL- Round Lake, SCR- Stony Creek Reservoir, SL- Saratoga Lake, TR- Tomhannock Reservoir, VFG- Vischer Ferry Game Management Area.

Observers: (ad)- Alan Devoe Bird Club record, (gc)- Greene County Bird Club record, (sbc)- Schenectady Bird Club record, (GB)- Guy Bartlett, (HFB)- Hazel Bundy, (HE)- Hazel Eddy, (MF)- Marjorie Foote, (EH)- Esly Hallenbeck, (BH)- Barry Havens, (MK)- Marcia Kent, (CK)- Clarissa Ketcham, (PM)- Peggy McGuirk, (WBS)- Walton Sabin, (BRS)- Benton Seguin, (DS,MS)- David and Muriel Stoner, (PPW)- Peter Wickham, (RPY)- Robert Yunick, (bsh)- Bartlett, Seguin and Havens.

LOONS - DUCKS

Com Loon: Apr 2, SL (GB,PPW) to May 25, SL (BRS).

RED-TR LOON: two reps- Apr 2, Lock 6 MR (PPW,DS) and May 11 NWW (PPW).

Red-n Grebe: only rep, ~~five~~ Apr 9-10, RL (GB,BRS,PPW).

Horned Grebe: many Apr reps, last May 14, SL (sbc).

Pied-b Grebe: at least ten Apr reps, last May 14 in several areas (ad,sbc).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: most spring reps in many years- repd Apr 19 and 23, SL (bsh) and May 5-17, MR (mob).

Great Blue Heron: more reps this spring than last, throughout period.

CATTLE EGRET: only rep- one at a farm pond near Catskill May 8 (gc).

Com Egret: one Apr 10, Embought (gc)- very early, only rep.

Eastern Green Heron: late most areas

Black-cr Night Heron: only rep- an adult at CL May 8 (David Harrison, John Steadwell).

Amer Bittern: first Apr 17, BCM (bsh).

MUTE SWAN: a pair was seen at Embought during Apr and May (gc) and two were seen flying up the MR nr VFG May 1 (bsh); in addition, one remained at VFG from May 1 on (mob) and a pair was repd at SCR during May (fide BRS).

Canada Goose: flights continued through Apr to mid-May, most flocks small (less than 50 birds).

Brant: large flock at Catskill May 23 (gc) only record.

Snow Goose: only one, Apr 17, Embought (gc).

Amer Widgeon: many reps through Apr, last Apr 28 (BRS) and Apr 29, Catskill (gc).

Pintail: many in Apr, last May 1 (bsh).

Green-w Teal: repd through period, last May 24, SCR (HFB) and May 28, Averill Park (WBS);

SHOVELER: one to three at NWW Mar 31- Apr 10 (mob), four at Vly Marsh Apr 6 (gc), four at TR Apr 16 (sbc) and two at TR Apr 23 (PPW)- more reps than usual.

Ring-n Duck: repd through May 14, late (ad,sbc).

Canvasback: several reps early Apr, max eight Apr 2 (HFB,FM), last Apr 17 (bsh).

Scaup: seen in good numbers through May 14, last May 15, Alplaus (HFB).

Com Goldeneye: last May 8, SL (GB,BRS).

Bufflehead: many reps to mid-May, last May 25, SL (BRS).

Oldsquaw: repd Apr 9- May 8, max 18 May 8 (GB,BRS).

White-w Scoter: repd Apr 24- May 13, max 100 May 8 SL (GB,BRS) and 40 May 8, Nisk (EH).

COM SCOTER: repd Apr 24- May 8, SL, max 10 May 8 (GB, BRS).

Surf Scoter: no reps.

Ruddy Duck: only reps Apr 23-24 RL,SL (sbc), max eight Apr 23 (PPW).

Hooded Merganser: last reps May 8 (EH,GB,BRS).

Com Merganser: numbers peaked first week in Apr, max 145 Apr 2 (GB,EH) and 151 Apr 3 Stockport (PPW), rapidly dwindled in numbers, last May 14 (sbc).

Red-br Merganser: repd well into May, last May 19 (GB,BRS).

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: reps scattered through Apr and May, all in southern half of area.

Sharp-sh Hawk: three reps, Apr 10- May 19.

Cooper's Hawk: three reps, Apr 25- May 14.

Red-t Hawk: repd from all sections, but not com.

- Red-sh Hawk: at least seven individuals repd during period.
 Broad-w Hawk: poor flight Apr 26- May 14, max only five, Apr 30, Greene Co (sbc).
 Rough-l Hawk: last Apr 3, MWDL (GB,EH).
 Bald Eagle: an imm was repd over CL Apr 8 (EH) and an ad over VFG Apr 30 (EH).
 Marsh Hawk: many reps through May 18, max six Apr 30, VFG (EH).
 Osprey: Apr 15, VFG (HPB) to May 15, several areas (ad,sbc) - somewhat late.
 Sparrow Hawk: good migration, max 16 Apr 9 and Apr 10 (bsh).
 Bob-white: reps from Alplaus, Coxsackie, MWDL, Nisk and COL Co.
 Virginia Rail: first Apr 10, BCM (bsh), widely Apr 23-30, max six, more than the previous two years.
 Sora: Apr 23, BCM (GB,EH) to May 15, BCM (sbc) - several reps.
 Com Gallinule: several May reps from BCM, VFG and NWW.
 Amer Coot: several reps, Apr 9 SL (bsh) to May 14 BCM (sbc).
 Semipalmated Plover: May 14 (sbc) through end of May, max eight May 30, BRD (PPW).
BLACK-B PLOVER: one May 14, NWW (PPW, Carl Parker) - only rep.
 Upland Plover: first Apr 30 (GB,BRS) - repd from MWDL, Nisk and Colonie.
 Spotted Sandpiper: first Apr 22, West Glenville (EH), most arr first half of May.
 Solitary Sandpiper: May 7, Embought (gc) to May 27 GL (RPY), max 20 May 15 (sbc).
WILLET: first area record - four sitting on some pilings at Lock 7. MR on May 17. The birds remained all afternoon without moving, other than to occasionally stretch or preen, revealing the black and white wing pattern (BRS,GB,HE,MS,RPY). The birds were not present the following morning.
 Greater Yellowlegs: Apr 23, BCM (GB,EH) to May 26, BRD (PFW), max six May 8 (GB,BRS).
 Lesser Yellowlegs: singles repd at Greenville May 7 (CK), GL May 19 (RPY) and BRD May 31 (BRS).
 Pectoral Sandpiper: only rep May 14 (sbc).
WHITE-R SANDPIPER: one May 31 BRD - only rep (BRS).
 Least Sandpiper: many reps, May 14 to end of period.
 Dunlin: more seen than usual; two NWW May 11-14 (PPW); two GL May 16, one (banded) reappeared May 19 (RPY); one May 19 RL (GB, BRS) and one May 30-31 BRD (BRS,PFW).
 Dowitcher: an abrupt and unprecedented movement occurred on May 22, when about 100 were observed in the Medusa area (MK) and 74 were at BRD (RPY); no other reps of these or other birds on other dates.
 Semipalmated Sandpiper: only reps May 19 and May 26-29, GL, max two, very low (RPY) and one BRD May 30-31 (PPW,BRS).
 Great Black-b Gull: after first week of Apr, only a few repd, last May 14 (ad,sbc).
 Herring Gull and Ring-b Gull: remained throughout period.
 Bonaparte's Gull: good flight, Apr 17- May 18, max 16 May 17 at Lock 7 MR (RPY).
 Com Tern: Apr 24- May 14, max 26 May 1 (bsh).
 Black Tern: May 7, Greenville (CK) to May 19 (GB,BRS), max at least 30, widespread May 14 (ad,sbc).
 Yellow-b Cuckoo: very poor flight, first May 6, Karner (WBS); a few repd May 14-31.
 Black-b Cuckoo: even poorer flight, only four reps from May 23 on.
 Screech Owl: only one rep, from COL Co, May 14 (ad).
 Horned Owl: several repd from various areas, some with young.
 Barred Owl: repd only at JL (GB).
 Saw-whet Owl: one was netted and banded Apr 19 at Nisk (RPY) and

another was seen and heard in Old Chatham Apr (mob).

GOATSUCKERS - SHRIKES

- Whip-poor-will: no Apr reps, first May 7 Kiskatom(go), most reps May 19 on- either late or not calling
- Com Nighthawk: first May 14, Albany (sbc).
- Chimney Swift: first Apr 22, Greenville (CK); most arr early May.
- Ruby-thr Hummingbird: first May 14 in several areas; many May 18-27
- Belted Kingfisher: widely repd through period.
- Red-h Woodpecker: only rep- one May 7, Embought (go).
- Yellow-b Sapsucker: good migration, Apr 13 Ghent (ad) to May 18 (GB,BRS)- definitely extended due to cold weather.
- Eastern Kingbird: first Apr 29, Rotterdam (RPY); next reps May 6-7, most birds decidedly late.
- Great Crested Flycatcher: First May 6 EG (PFW).
- Yellow-b Flycatcher: again repd from JL (probable nesting area) May 30-31 (GB).
- Trail's Flycatcher: May 14 to end of month, most arr May 25-30.
- Least Flycatcher: first May 5 CLTN (PPW)- late; seemed scarce through May 14.
- Aestern Wood Pewee: first rep May 14 (ad,sbc), most arr May 20-27.
- Olive-s Flycatcher: only reps May 24, BCM (BRS) and May 28 nr Berlin (sbc).
- Tree Swallow: repd widely Apr 2-7. It appeared to at least one observer (RPY) that the last week in Apr with its attendant cold weather was especially hard on swallows, with tree swallows most affected. In most places, nesting attempts were sporadic and delayed throughout Apr and well into May, in contrast with recent years.
- Bank Swallow: arr Apr 23-30 in marked influx. The colony at GL numbered only about 330 nest holes on May 24 compared with 550-600 in 1964 and 1965 (RPY).
- Rough-w Swallow: marked influx Apr 22-30 in many areas.
- Barn Swallow: first Apr 9, VFG (BRS), but most arr Apr 21 on.
- Cliff Swallow: first Apr 14, Durham (go), but most much later, migration peaking about May 7.
- Purple Martin: first rep Apr 19 (BRS); repd at Durham, Glenville, Helderberg Lake, Nisk and Saratoga.
- Tufted Titmouse: no noticeable increase, but seen and heard regularly in many valley areas.
- Red-br Nuthatch: winter feeder visitors disappeared in early Apr; few migrants repd, last May 18, Nisk (HFB,PM) and May 20, Burnt Hills (HFB,MF)- somewhat late.
- Brown Creeper: repd throughout period, main migration Apr 25- May 7
- House Wren: only one Apr record- Apr 27, CHTM (ad); next records May 4 (late) and thereafter.
- Winter Wren: poor flight- repd Apr 23-May 14.
- Long-b Marsh Wren: first May 7, BCM (sbc).
- SHORT-B MARSH WREN: one rep- May 7, BCM (sbc).
- Mockingbird: a further increase in this area in late Apr and May, when individuals were repd from several new localities. Several nests have already been repd.
- Catbird: first Apr 30 (GB,BRS); widely May 4-11.
- Brown Thrasher: first Apr 18, Alplaus (HFB)- a gradual migration in most areas.
- Wood Thrush: first Apr 22 Westerlo (MK); slow influx, repd widely by May 10.
- Hermit Thrush: more than usually seen; Apr 21, Nisk (RPY) to May 18 (GB,BRS).
- Swainson's Thrush: May 10, Nisk (RPY)- May 27 CLTN (PPW).

Grey-oh Thrush: three reps, May 14-16.

Veery: first May 5, slightly late.

Eastern Bluebird: rare in suburban areas, but doing fairly well outlying rural sections.

Golden-cr Kinglet: a few reps in late Apr, last May 14 (late, sbc).

Ruby-cr Kinglet: protracted migration, Apr 20- May 21. On May 14, more than 100 were recorded by some groups (sbc).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: more com this spring than ever before; repd from nr CLTN (at least three birds), MWDL (four localities), RL (one), Gallupville (two, building a nest), Kiskatom (two), Greenville (one) and Catskill (one, found dead)- first Apr 23, BCM (BRS).

Water Pipit: repd May 14 (ad) and May 20 Coxsockie (gc).

Cedar Waxwing: quite scarce until beginning of May, then seen sporadically in all sections.

MIGRANT SHRIKE: one was at Kiskatom Apr 23 (gc) and an ad shrike- probably of this species- was observed critically eyeing some mist net at GL May 26 (RPY).

VIREOS - WARBLERS

Yellow-thr Vireo: first May 5 CLTN (PPW); most had either not arrived or were not singing until May 15-20.

Solitary Vireo: May 6- May 20- late.

Red-e Vireo: first May 14 (ad, sbc), more widely the following week.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: one rep- May 18 at IL (GB, BRS).

Warbling Vireo: first Apr 28, Alplaus (HFB); next May 5, CLTN; no other reps before May 13!

Warblers

Black and White: first Apr 23, Greenville (CK).

Worm-eating: only rep, May 14, IL (sbc).

Golden-w: first May 14 (sbc), widely the following week.

Blue-w: first May 6, Defreestville (PPW), next May 14-18.

BREWSTER'S: repd nr Catskill May 15 (gc), nr New Salem May 18 (GB, BRS) and at two localities in Guilderland (fide WBS).

Lawrence's: none repd.

Tennessee: extremely poor migration; May 7 MWDL (sbc) to May 18 Nisk (PPW).

Nashville: first May 6, EG (several, PPW); the species was already late then, yet most observers did not record it until May 14-16.

Parula: May 7, BCM (sbc) to May 22, IL (HFB, PM).

Yellow: first Apr 30, several areas (sbc).

Magnolia: May 6-22, no large waves noted.

Cape May: one May 7, Kiskatom (gc); all other reps May 14-22.

Black-thr Blue: May 6-25, fairly good numbers noted.

Myrtle: notable influx Apr 22-24, several areas; last May 25, SL (BRS).

Black-thr Green: first May 1, Vly (gc), more widely May 6-8 and thereafter.

Blackburnian: first May 6, Defreestville (PPW); a noticeable influx May 16-20.

CERULEAN: a singing male was observed May 27 in same grove of trees nr CLTN in which a pair was seen last year (PPW)- only rep.

Chestnut-s: first May 6, Karner (WBS), more widely May 13-15.

Bay-br: short migration, May 16-24.

Blackpoll: May 14 (ad) to end of period.

Pine: five reps of migrants, Apr 22, Schodack (gc) to May 14 (ad); also seen nr Warrensburg, presumably nesting, May 21 (EH).

Prairie: first May 1, Vly (gc); late appearing in Karner Area,

first May 17 (John Fuller).

Palm: Apr 17- May 14, somewhat late.

Ovenbird: noticeable influx May 6-8, many sections.

Northern Waterthrush: first May 1, Vly (go); good migration to May 21. At least five were singing in the Tabornton area May 28 (sbc), more than previously encountered in the same area.

Louisiana Waterthrush: few reps, first Apr 27, Wolf Hollow (HE).

CONNECTICUT: one was seen and heard loudly singing May 14 and 19 nr SL (GB, BRS).

Mourning: one migrant May 22 nr Valatie (ad); one was at JL breeding area May 29 (GB).

Yellowthroat: arr May 6-7 in good wave.

Yellow-br Chat: repd only from MWDL, first May 14 (sbc).

Wilson's: first May 6, Catskill (go); max ten May 16 (BRS)- a good count. Most observers saw none.

Canada: first May 7, Kiskatom (go) and May 8, Lisha Kill (sbc), most arr May 14-22.

Amer Redstart: first May 7 in Albany and Greene Co; seemed somewhat scarce.

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

Bobolink: arr May 6, Catskill (go) and May 7, BCM (sbc)- slightly late.

Baltimore Oriole: first influx May 6-8, several areas.

Rusty Blackbird: main migration Apr 22- May 7.

Scarlet Tanager: first May 6, Catskill (go); main influx May 14-19.

Rose-br Grosbeak: first May 6, large wave (late).

Indigo Bunting: rapid movement into the area May 14-18 and later.

DICKISSSEL: remained at a Gallupville feeder to the week of Apr 18 (Gladys Zimmer).

Evening Grosbeak: heavy flight during Apr and well into May, with many feeders receiving visits from 15-40 individuals. Most of these left on or before May 15 when the weather moderated, but a few remained, last May 24, BRD (PPW).

Purple Finch: no early spring flight this year; a light movement during Apr and a widespread incursion in early May.

Com Redpoll: numbers dropped rapidly in early Apr, last May 7, Greenville (CK).

Pine Siskin: a fair flight lasting into mid-May, last May 22, BCM (HFB, PM).

Red Crossbill: repd at TR Apr 16 (four, sbc) and at Nisk through May 18 (C.W.Huntley, F.A.Klemm).

Rufous-s Towhee: repd Apr 16, TR (sbc), more generally Apr 23 on.

Savannah Sparrow: first Apr 6, Greenville, impressive wave Apr 23-4.

Grasshopper: first May 7, Kiskatom (go); other reps May 14, COL Co (ad) and at MWDL from May 14 on (sbc).

Henslow's: repd only from BCM, May 14 on (sbc); max eight May 14 (WBS, Donald Tucker, PPW).

Vesper: widely repd from Apr 10 on; notable wave Apr 24.

Slate-c Junco: gradually passed through during Apr and early May; most observers repd fewer than usual. A junco with two white wing bars was netted and banded in Nisk Apr 10 (RPY); this junco was on the large size (wing measured 79 mm.) and had two pure white outer tail feathers and the third from the outside was white in the center but edged with a dark portion on each side. Three color slides were taken of the bird in hand.

Tree Sparrow: most departed by late Apr, but some remained very late, last May 16, Westerlo (MK). A photograph of one (banded) was taken on May 11.

Field: gradual movement into area during Apr.

White-cr: rather heavy migration, Apr 20 at Greenville (CK) to May 20, Burnt Hills (HFB,MF), max 40 May 8, BCM (Carl Parker).

Also one at a feeder at JL May 28-29 (GB), very late.

White-thr: good numbers in migration, Apr 17- May 22.

Fox: a few records, last May 7, MWDL (abc) and May 9, Westerlo (MK) - late.

LINCOLN'S: one at a Nisk feeder May 12-24 (banded, DS,MS et al.), another in COL Co May 14 (ad) and one Central Park, Schoenectady May 17 (MS).

Song and Swamp: appeared in good numbers throughout period.

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JULY 4th RETREAT

Elton C. Lowerree

We have long since dedicated ourselves to a quiet sensible 4th of July, and this past holiday was no exception. It was, however, made much more enjoyable by the birding success that we had.

Our destination was, to all intents and purposes, a deserted farm house well back from any highway or other disturbing factors. Albeit a few jets were heard and seen now and then passing through a puffy white cloud far above us in the beautiful blue sky.

While we were making ourselves comfortable in our folding chairs, with our glasses at the ready, our attention was attracted to a tall, at least thirty-five feet, cherry tree. A scarlet tanager was silhouetted against the azure blue sky, with a reddish-yellow cherry in its beak, with the sun contributing to the fullest the brilliancy of the sparkling red plumage and contrasting black wings. On another limb, also exposed in all his glory, was a rose breasted grosbeak with its patch of rich red and white background covering its breast. His mate, in her subdued dress, was also feasting on nature's bounty.

Not to be outdone, a Baltimore oriole arrived at the festive table in all his orange glory. His mate in her yellowish garb, but with distinctive white wing bars soon joined him in this holiday repast. All of the above birds made repeated trips to the tree. It was both interesting and amusing to observe their tactics, some made a direct approach, others came in via a circuitous route.

There were a few catbirds, with the rufous tail patch, feeding. Also present was a hairy woodpecker; no red was visible so I assume it was a female. Then a towhee put in his appearance, to feed from the top most branches, and now and then proclaimed his rapture with heartfelt song. Isn't it a thrill to watch him tilt his black hooded head and give forth with his distinctive call?

It was most interesting to observe the birds' methods in devouring each bit of fruit. The tanagers, grosbeaks, orioles

and towhees would deftly eat the pulpy portion and then toss the pit to the wind. The catbirds invariably swallowed the fruit in its entirety (this must have caused some digestive problems). I might say that the tree has, apparently, "gone wild" for many years which, in conjunction with the recent drought, might account for the rather small size of the fruit.

The lane leading into the farm house had a border of many colorful flowers including black-eyed susan; the familiar ox-eye daisy; Queen-Anne's lace; the dainty, fragrant pink wild rose and now and then an elderberry bush loaded with blooms insuring a future bounty for our feathered friends.

* * * * *

CONSERVATION CONSENSUS

Samuel R. Madison

Conservation Committee Chairman

INTERIOR REPORTS INCREASE IN WATERFOWL NESTING POPULATION

A general increase in nesting ducks has been reported by the Department of the Interior following completion of an aerial survey of major waterfowl nesting grounds.

The survey, covering eastern Montana, western Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Canada, and Alaska, was conducted by flyway biologists of Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. It showed that the duck-breeding population had increased almost 37 percent above 1965.

The 1966 gains are encouraging, although the breeding population is still below the long-term (13-year) average.

In Montana nesting ducks increased 25 percent over last year. The Tri-State region (western Minnesota and North and South Dakota) was about 5 percent over 1965, but no better than the long-term average. Early reports from Alaska indicate a hatch slightly less than 1965.

A survey crew in central Alberta reported a 57 percent increase in ducks over the 1965 breeding population, but nesting ducks in Alberta were still 25 percent below their long-term average. The situation was better in Saskatchewan with a 65-percent increase in ducks over 1965. On the long-term average, Saskatchewan's breeding duck population was still down 20 percent. Nesting conditions were excellent in southern Manitoba, but waterfowl there did not show the gains noted farther west, remaining at the same population level as in 1965.

CALIFORNIA REDWOODS

The various bills concerning the creation of two national Redwood Parks in California (see FEATHERS, May-June 1966, Vol. 28, p. 57) are in limbo. The many unresolved conflicts between

the measures and the supporters thereof have caused the matter to be shelved until next year.

WHOOPIING CRANES

The report regarding the nesting of the whooping cranes is very encouraging. Five nests have been spotted by aerial surveys of the Canadian Wildlife Service. At least three young whoopers have been spotted. Last spring forty four headed north.

* * * * *

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Peggy McGuirk

Field Trip Committee Chairman

CONSALUS VLY

JUNE 5

Our annual trip to the vly was made on a fine, clear, spring day; starting out from the Scotch Bush Church on Sacandaga Road. Because of the unwieldiness of the group last year, we decided to divide into two groups of about 12 each. Robert Wernick and Mrs. Ruth Schottman headed one, and Mrs. Betty Jane Leschen and Clifford Tepper, the other. Nancy Slack was kind enough to furnish several of her advanced students as botonists. Mrs. Schottman, and Mrs. Leschen were two of these.

The trail was not only better marked, but also avoided the deep water, and was indeed easy both ways. As on previous trips in the area, we demonstrated again that this was primarily a trip in botany, and secondarily a trip in bird watching. In the approaches to the bog itself, we began to see large numbers of red maple, black cherry, yellow birch, black ash, Eastern hemlock, and, finally, abundant larch and black spruce. We saw mountain holly in bloom. In the bog, we were impressed. First, the bog is undergoing rapid maturation, and it is clear the open area is significantly smaller than it was one to two years ago.

The usual bog plants were seen: *Laborador tea, *bog Rosemary, leather leaf, *sheep (bog) laurel, pitcher plants, *sun dew, *cranberry, buck bean sedge grass (three-leaf and cotton), *twin flower, grass pink, bogonia, arethusa bulbosa (dragon's mouth), and orchids. Unlike last year, we saw no orchids in bloom in the bog itself. No unusual birds were seen; a total of 32 species was counted.

It is of interest to note that as a direct result of our trips, some of the schools are using the bog for teaching purposes. Several classes were taken in this year, and one of my youngsters reports that the trail, which we had marked, has now become a path. --Cliff Tepper

*In bloom.

DELPHUS KILLJUNE 18

On Saturday, June 18, 1966, nine Schenectady Bird Club members explored the Delphus Kill area. Delphus Kill flows into the Mohawk about 3/4 miles west of the Northway bridges over the river. It flows from south to north, originating near Pollack Road. The area contains ravines, hills, swampland, a bog with floating islands, and many tall hemlocks, oaks, and maples. Approximately 3/4 of a mile south of the Mohawk there is a flat meadow which appears to be the results of the physical efforts of a beaver of a by-gone era --- commonly known by the proverbial countryman as a beaver flat.

It appears that more mosquitoes than birds find the area to their liking. They attacked mercilessly, despite the liberal use of the products of various chemical companies. One individual thwarted their efforts in the only successful manner: he ignored them completely.

The area has been considered as a possible club sanctuary but the pollution of the stream by a tannery upstream and increased pollution from the inexorable spread of housing detract greatly from its natural advantages. We were surprised by the lack of warblers, only three species being sighted. The list of 43 contain no unusual species. The outstanding feature of the trip was the terrain of the area. In addition to the above, the meandering kill at times was walled by sharp cliffs barely 50 feet apart. The east side of the largest swamp area, which is just south of the abandoned New York Central railroad tracks, is bordered by a high ridge which rises almost vertically. The varied topography was accompanied by many forms of plant life. It was an enjoyable incursion in nature, both physically taxing and mentally relaxing.

--Samuel R. Madison

JENNY LAKEJUNE 25

Mourning Warblers were, as expected, the highlight of the annual early-summer Jenny Lake trip. Bill Huntley, Barry Havens and the writer were each able to take up-hill hot-weather hikers to spots where the birds could be heard, if not always seen, distinctly.

The feeder-tamed species were as conveniently visible as usual but with evening grosbeaks reduced to one pair, and with purple finches very common and conspicuous in song.

No starling or house sparrows were included in the "local" count of the dozen observers, who listed 48 species.

--Guy Bartlett

CHERRY PLAINMAY 28

Five-thirty on Saturday, May 28th dawned earlier than usual, and left me with thoughts of all the things we should have done the night before to make preparations for the take-off to Cherry Plain a bit less hectic. An overcast sky greeted me as I scanned the east, but visions of cherry trees in blossom filled with all kinds of warblers brightened the early hours.

At Latham we met the early birds, Mary Johnston, Mary Lynch, and Betty Hicks. Soon the leader, Peter Wickham, and Monte

Gruett arrived, as well as Helen Abel. As the group started on Route 43, we picked up Walt Sabin and family, and commenced to wind our way into the mist-laden mountains where Katherine Bordt, Beth Soley and Bob and Lois Norton gradually increased our numbers.

Our first stop, near a merry brook, revealed a red-eyed vireo high in a tree across the road. At frequent stops, the distinctive warble of birds was easily identified by Peter Wickham, but left me tuned into a strange foreign language where everything sounds the same. A warbler was sighted, but by the time I found it in the foliage it was a blur or a bird of non-descript nature. A beautiful Northern water thrush did cooperate with me, however, and sat on a dead tree in the middle of a bog in fine view for all. Even the children's activity up and down the road did not disturb the Northern.

Further into the deciduous forest, the blue-winged warbler's call lured Peter into the thicket with the group in hot pursuit. I held off from the chase, because I was engaged in a disagreement with some black flies who were trying to claim me for a meal---- this was one argument that was to continue for the rest of the day. For the moment I was not sure which way the tide of battle was going and a plunge into the dark forest made me feel the battle would be lost with few remaining to spread the word of disaster.

Behold! The victors did emerge with tales of sighting the blue-wing and a pair of vireos close enough to see the red of their eyes. With this news, I took heart and felt my superiority over the impending hoard of black flies. Then the cry of the yellow-bellied sapsucker revealed a specimen, who displayed his talents in the spotting scope's field of view.

Off again, and another stop, since Peter heard another warbler. It may be noted that I did not notice any obvious tuning device mounted on Peter's car, but the next time I will certainly search for a huge ear or some strange electronic device. We did see a goldfinch in its summer splendor, a towhee and my first chestnut-sided warbler.

More pauses along the road gave us quick flashes of red-starts, black-throated greens, blackburnians, black-throated blues and many distinguishable only to the talented ear. Somewhere I do remember a magnolia, who was still long enough for me to see his classic markings.

A walk along a stream flowing from a bog brought more firsts: an olive-sided flycatcher with its "vest" open down the front and an alder flycatcher. Both of them perched in dead trees and remained still for all to observe. A yellowthroat, as well as a swamp sparrow and tree swallows appeared across the stream. Peter closed in on a Nashville warbler, who finally gave up the game to fly into a favorable viewing position. Another chestnut-sided warbler actually posed for us here, too.

Proceeding toward the picnic area, we heard the call of the scarlet tanager, when a pair flew into range of the naked eye. This caught me up the road trying to identify some activity in the pine trees, which Walt Sabin labelled as a myrtle warbler, and then the male myrtle flew out into view, displaying its

yellow markings. Here a mischievous black-throated blue neglected to read the sheet music - singing a peculiar song - and kept the group at bay until it was finally sighted.

A hearty picnic lunch satisfied a hungry crew at the picnic area. For a climax, the most interesting part of the trip was the tally; for here an amazing "new math" evolved, while I asked my wife what trip they were talking about.

With the sighting of many interesting birds, the cloudy day, the bugs and the elusive cherry trees were forgotten. A final check revealed only one doubtful bug bite could be accounted for. --Ed Koch

(Editor's note: one might say that Ed Koch has been duly initiated. Welcome to the Club Ed.)

* * * * *

ELSEWHERE IN THE STATE

Edited by

Guy Bartlett

TOWER KILLS

Not only airport ceilometer lights, but also high radio and similar towers can be bird-killers, Dr. Stephen W. Eaton told the State Federation meeting in May. He asked for reports and specimens from such kills.

BUFFALO PUBLICATION

Available at the State Federation meeting at Lido Beach in May was an interesting little publication of Buffalo Audubon Society, ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR HOME. In its 20 pages it covers:

Why Attract Birds to Your Home?
 Planting to Attract Birds
 Bird Feeding Stations
 What Do Birds Eat at Feeders?
 Water to Attract Birds
 Natural Cover and Nesting Sites
 Bird Houses You Can Build Yourself
 Some Problems You May Encounter
 Care of Orphan Birds
 Backyard Ecology - the Community of Nature

GENESEE COUNTY BIRDING

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH BIRDS IN GENESEE COUNTY is a new publication of Rochester Academy of Science, with Paul W. Weld and Allan Klonick as editors. Really pocket-sized - 4 by 6½ inches and having 80 pages - the booklet tells complete stories about a dozen and more of the better birding areas of the region, with maps and lists of species.

MORE BUFFALO PUBLICATIONS

Buffalo Ornithological Society has brought out its third, revised editions of its DATE GUIDE TO BIRDS OF WESTERN NEW YORK AND ADJACENT ONTARIO. Recent publication of Harold Mitchell's and Clark Beardslee's BIRDS OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION - AN ANNOTATED CHECK-LIST has greatly served to centralize and add to the region's previous information. The booklet of 24 pages is pocket-sized, $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 7 inches. "As a sort of rule book as to which observations required detailed written reports and which did not, the DATE GUIDE was created as a part of the verification system." The revised issue contains a format for the B.O.S. Verification Form and this concluding comment:

"Observers are encouraged to review a good field guide's write-up of an unusual bird while it is actually under observation in the field, so that each important field mark may be looked for and checked out on the spot."

BROOKLYN MEETINGS

Brooklyn Bird Club has monthly meetings, beginning at 8 p.m. A 15-minute identification class precedes each meeting. Among recent subjects were identification and nesting habits of owls known to nest in the area, and a discussion of differences between house and purple finches.

ALAN DEVOE FILMS

Alan Devoe Bird Club has been having series of three Audubon Wildlife Films, all at the Chatham High School on Saturday evenings. Five instead of three films will be offered next season. Two will be shown in Hudson, and one will be on Sunday afternoon.

NORTH COUNTRY SANCTUARY

North Country Bird Club purchased 102 acres of mostly wooded land in October for a wildlife sanctuary. The land is in the town of Rutland, seven miles east of Watertown.

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERS

Lenny Thomas

Membership Committee Chairman

We are pleased to announce the names of those listed below as people who have applied for membership in SBC. We hope that all members will continue to seek new members. Remember, if you have the name and address of a possible prospective member whom you would like to receive a complimentary copy of FEATHERS, field trip schedule and application blank, please call me or drop a note. Thank you for your past cooperation.

SUSTAINING

Dr. and Mrs. Henry J. Haase
1447 Western Ave.
Albany 12203 438-3973

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Hugs
2313 Niskayuna Dr.
Schenectady 12309 346-9003

ACTIVE

Mr. and Mrs. Russell O. Blodgett
824 Dean St.
Schenectady 12309 474-5624

Dr. James H. Lade
Glenmont 12077 465-4279

Mrs. Richard M. Bressler
27 Sutherland Dr.
Scotia 12302

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lemmond
61 St. Stephens La.
Scotia 12302 399-3970

Mr. and Mrs. Allen M. Hosier
P.O.Box 14
Quaker Street 12141 895-2778

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Merrell
6 Olde Coach Rd.
Glenmont 12077 439-5896

Dr. and Mrs. Hollis Ingraham
291 McCormick Rd.
Slingerlands 12159 438-0850

Will D. Merritt, Jr.
Riverview Rd.
Rexford 12148 372-3255

Dr. and Mrs. Robert F. Kornis
Simmons Rd.
Glenmont 463-5464

ASSOCIATE

Mrs. Paul J. Soley
Box 128
Cambridge 12816 677-2421

STUDENT

Harvey Spivak
11 Crystal La.
Latham 12110 785-9016

* * * * *

NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

SEEN ANY FOIS LATELY

How many of us, in describing a bird we have seen, have been subconsciously annoyed by the inconvenience of the cumbersome description: "female or immature?" It's easy to say we've seen a male, where the two sexes have different plumages, but it's not always easy to distinguish, let alone describe succinctly, the category I have mentioned.

The simple word I propose, "foi", would be a very convenient term for this purpose. It is, of course, an acronym for the more cumbersome expression female or immature.

If I may carry my suggestion one step further, let's pronounce it to rhyme with "boy" rather than get involved in the French pronunciation of the word meaning "faith" in that language.

--Barry Havens

EDITOR'S NOTES

WINDOW CASUALTIES

Mrs. Raymond J. Campbell of Speigletown writes, "It was suggested to me by one of your members that I pass on my experience this winter with reviving first a sparrow (variety?) and then a male evening grosbeak. Both hit our picture window with such force that they fell to the ground. I brought them into our basement and gave them a few drops of whiskey and in no time at all they were ready to fly off into the woods across the road from my home here in Speigletown. Perhaps this is not news to your readers, if so, just disregard it, but I'm wondering if there is anything wrong with the idea? I would be interested to know, because I would discontinue doing it if it were.

"I still have the one mockingbird that showed up on the Christmas Count. Could you please tell me why, in your opinion, we only have one? I have had a notion that there should be a pair but for the last two years have never seen more than one at a time."

Well now, this is news! It would seem that your intention of using alcohol to stimulate these birds is a hangover (no pun intended) from medical practice of years ago. Today it is recognized that while there might be a temporary stimulating affect produced by alcohol, the overall affect is depression. If a bird is just slightly stunned, it can use its own resources to recover and if it is injured internally, alcohol can do little for it. A better practice would be to put these birds aside in a darkened, ventilated cage and check them periodically. When the bird becomes active release it. If it dies, do not feel at fault, for there is nothing that one can do to aid internal injuries of this sort in a bird.

There are perhaps several explanations for having only one mockingbird. Some birds, and the mocker is one, show no flocking tendency or gregariousness. During the winter the mockingbird is usually a loner. Secondly, even though you have had a mockingbird for two years, this particular mocker may be an immature, and sometimes immature birds behave peculiarly. Thirdly, the mockingbird is a rare bird locally, and in the process of extending its range. Range extension is accomplished by birds leaving their usual range and striking out on their own. Since the mockingbird density in this area is very low, but increasing, it may be that your bird has not had an opportunity to attract another mocker.

CENTURY RUN LISTING CORRECTION

Lillian Stoner has informed me that Group G in last issue's Century Run listing should include the names of Mrs. Paul O'Meara and Mrs Leo Novak. These were accidentally left out of the group's report.

NEXT ISSUE

The due date for material for the Sept.- Oct. issue will be September 10. Receipt of material for publication by that time

will be greatly appreciated. I should like to encourage those of you who had interesting birding vacations this summer to consider a note or article to FEATHERS.

GO WEST.....

It is with a deep personal regret that I accept Dave and Muriel Stoner's leaving our area. Space limitations and Walt's already appropriate praise of the Stoners' contribution to SBC make any lengthy discourse impractical at this point. However, very briefly, I want to thank Muriel for her unfaltering service which has helped greatly in promoting the increased size and circulation of this publication. Without her help and that of those working with her, the preparation and delivery of FEATHERS would be a difficult job indeed. I am pleased to announce that Betty Jane Leschen will take over where Muriel left off.

To Dave go my sincerest regards for success in his job and all his many hobbies. His companionship in banding, seeking the elusive once-in-a-life-time photograph of a bird, tramping the marshes or just plain snooping around to see what we could do next (sometimes to our wives' dismay) has been very enjoyable. There are few people who after having minor, but painful, surgery on Friday evening and sleeping little that night will rise bright and early Saturday to spend most all the day tramping hundreds of acres of Vischer Ferry marsh in search of red-wing nests. Similarly, arising at 0315 to eat breakfast to be on hand at 0400 for bank swallow banding requires a bit of devotion, and makes one's neighbors wonder. The contact has been all too short, but very memorable. Ry

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TAME A CHIPMUNK AND HAVE A BALL

Barry Havens

You may have read that article a year or two ago in READER'S DIGEST entitled "That Charming Cheater, the Chipmunk." If so, you were probably fascinated by what some people can do to cultivate the friendship of wild things, and you might have wished wistfully that you could do it, too.

Well, you can. You can, that is, if you live - or vacation - in an area where chipmunks make their homes. And don't think that such areas are confined to the strictly rural surroundings, for chipmunks can be found not only in our local suburban areas but also right in the city of Schenectady - or Scotia.

So, if you are in a chipmunk locality at home or on vacation, why don't you try your hand at it? It can be great fun. All you need is a supply of peanuts (5 pounds for \$2 at some stores) and a reasonable amount of patience. Here's how to go about it!

Step No. 1: Watch the chipmunks to see if they have some particular spot they frequent a great deal. Establish a feeding table in that vicinity - it can be a stump, or a large stone, a pile of bricks, or whatever strikes your fancy. Put a couple of peanuts there and keep an eye on them. The chipmunks should soon find them and take the bait. Replace with more peanuts, and keep this up until the animals have become accustomed to finding peanuts there, and come back to the spot looking for more.

Step No. 2: Establish yourself near this chipmunk's dinner table and sit there quietly, without moving. The chipmunk should not take long to get accustomed to your presence, and he should then keep coming to his table for peanuts. Don't get too close at first; start far enough away so as not to frighten him, then move a little nearer after two or three of his feeding trips, and continue in this manner, gradually getting closer as he gets accustomed to your presence. Finally you will be able to sit right beside the chipmunk's table without disturbing him. You should arrange something to sit on, and it should be of such nature that his dinner table will be right beside your lap.

Step No. 3: After the chipmunk has become used to your being there when he comes to the table for peanuts, start putting your hand on his table when he comes. When he gets used to that, keep the peanuts in your hand instead of putting them on the table. How long it will take for him to overcome his normal timidity and take a peanut from your hand depends on the individual chipmunk - and your patience and ability to hold still.

But when he does, you've won your battle; from here on you'll find it relatively easy.

Step No. 4: Start bringing your hand, with the peanuts in it, nearer to your lap, a little at a time, between his trips. Eventually you will have him feeding from your hand next to your lap. Then move your hand partly up over to your lap, so that he has to reach for peanuts. Next bring the hand entirely on the lap, but near his table, so he can still see it and know where to go. Then move, a little at a time, between trips, so that soon he is coming entirely on to your lap to get the peanuts from your hand. Keep this up until he is entirely accustomed to using you as his feeding table.

Step No. 5: From here on, it's just a matter of training your pet. There are many possibilities for you to explore. It's advisable to get him used to coming to you as a feeding spot, rather than any particular location. This is a matter of training, for the chipmunk ordinarily associates additional food with the location where he found the first helping. Thus, he will return to the feeding table, even if he learned to take feed from your hand in your lap. One helpful aid in such training is to establish a conditioned response: from the start of your training, use some simple sound repeatedly, like a whistle or a clucking note with the mouth, before and during the feeding process. It is my experience that, in time, the chipmunk will come to associate the sound with feeding. I've had tame chipmunks that would come to me from some distance when they heard the feeding call. Once this sound is recognized by the chipmunk, you are likely to have more success in getting the animal to come to you in some location other than the one where you tamed him. It is advisable, during this teaching process, to take a new position not very far away from the original feeding spot, moving to different locations nearby little by little, until the chipmunk finally recognizes you as the feeding spot rather than a fixed location.

Another training possibility is to teach the chipmunk to climb up your leg (wear slacks or trousers, for their claws are sharp) to take peanuts from your hand. The average chipmunk will learn this trick rather quickly, and there are many variations of it you may try.

Summary: It should be obvious that there are three stages to the successful training of a chipmunk: (1) you tame him, (2) you train him, and (3) he trains you. For once your pets become really tame, they seem to lose most of their normal fears, and they make you their slave. Thus you'll find you dare not venture where they are without having peanuts with you.

Identification

If you have more than one tame chipmunk, you'll find it convenient to establish some system of distinguishing one from another. Most people like to give their pets names, and this is what I prefer to do. The names can be strictly arbitrary, or they can derive from appearance, habits, or location of burrow. I have used all three forms. Chipmunks often show scars of combat with others of their species, and I have always had a Scarry among my pets. At present I have been feeding Creepy, Timmy,

Scrappy, Blocky, and Stubby, in addition to Scarry, and their names were derived from behavior (Creepy, Timmy, and Scrappy - Timmy was timid at first), location (Blocky liked to hide in a pile of concrete blocks), and appearance (Stubby had nothing but a stub of a tail).

By watching where the chipmunks go with their peanuts, you'll usually be able to find their burrows. Those that have established burrows usually hide the peanuts there, presumably storing them for the winter. Some, however, seem to have no definite burrows, and they bury their peanuts in random spots. I suspect these are ones who have but this year been born and emerged from the burrows of their parents. Until you develop some other method of identification, the burrow location is a good one.

Combativeness

Chipmunks are constantly on the alert for other chipmunks, whom they automatically resent and will chase from the feeding area.. The most aggressive chipmunk is one who is in his own territory, for these animals, like others in nature, establish definite territories near their burrows, and they will chase and fight any chipmunk intruders in defense of those territories.

When one chipmunk sights the approach of another, he usually will "freeze." When the second chipmunk becomes aware of the first one, he too is likely to "freeze," and this tableau will continue until one makes a move, when one or the other will take up the chase and the other will flee. Sometimes, however, the hunter becomes the hunted, depending on various circumstances, the most important of which is whose territory it is.

These chipmunk chases and battles can be disconcerting when they occur "over your dead body," so to speak. Two chipmunks reaching your lap in search of peanuts at the same time usually spell trouble, and there is rather more than likely to be a brief Donnybrook right there.

Precocity

Not all chipmunks are alike in their characteristics. Some are definitely more precocious than others, learning quickly and adapting to circumstances. Others may tame readily but act quite stupidly, seemingly finding it difficult to adapt to changing conditions. You're likely to find one that combines a number of desirable features, and that one will become your favorite.

My favorites are Creepy and Scarry. Creepy lost his original shyness (he was so timid he would creep to me on his belly, ready to fly at the slightest alarm) quite quickly and developed a degree of relative intelligence that is unequalled among the others of my pets. He recognizes me wherever I may be, and will come begging when I least expect it. Others, in contrast, recognize me only at the site where they first learned to associate me with peanuts. Still others will pay no attention to me, even when they're close by, until I make the feeding sound. Scarry is even more precocious than Creepy, but he lives farther away from me and I don't see him as often.

Good chipmunk hunting! In another article I may tell you how to tame chickadees.

* * * * *

BRIEFING THE RECORD

F. & W. S. BREEDING BIRD COUNTS BEGUN

THE SEASON - SUMMER - JUNE 1 TO AUGUST 15, 1966

Peter P. Wickham

Records Committee Chairman

June and July were surprisingly "normal" this year- a refreshing departure from recent precedent. Temperatures averaged 67.4° in June and 72.2° in July at Albany, very close to the normal, and precipitation totaled 2.95 and 3.88 inches, 0.30 inches below and 0.39 inches above normal, respectively. Early June was quite cool, whereas the latter part of June and the first two weeks of July produced the hottest weather of the summer. Late July and early August were again cool.

The results of eight breeding bird counts conducted in the area for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service are included. A total of 96 species was recorded. The twenty-five most abundant were: red-winged blackbird, 1021; starling, 935; robin, 565; house sparrow, 456; common grackle, 361; song sparrow, 329; barn swallow, 269; common crow, 219; chipping sparrow, 193; wood thrush, 159; American goldfinch, 156; catbird, 142; mourning dove, 133; yellow-throat, 132; veery, 128; red-eyed vireo, 124; brown-headed cowbird, 118; blue jay, 117; Eastern meadowlark, 102; yellow-shafted flicker, 99; ovenbird, 96; rufous-sided towhee, 94; chestnut-sided warbler, 83; bank swallow and house wren, 82 each.

Unusual species recorded during the period included double-crested cormorant, least bittern, white-rumped sandpiper, Bonaparte's gull, saw-whet owl, boreal chickadee and red crossbill.

Abbreviations used: L- Lake, max- maximum count, nr- near, Res- Reservoir, SCR- Stony Creek Reservoir, VFG- Vischer Ferry Game Management Area.

Breeding bird counts:

(DBB)- Duaneburg, July 4, Walton Sabin and David Ellers.

(GBB)- Ghent, July 3, Peter Wickham and Monte Gruett.

(NEBB)- North Easton, July 11, Peter Wickham and Staffan Magnusson.

(NRBB)- North River, June 26, Walton Sabin and Samuel Madison.

(PBB)- Petersburg, June 18, Peter Wickham and Monte Gruett.

(WBB)- Warrensburg, June 19, Walton Sabin and David Rothaupt.

Observers: (GB)- Guy Bartlett, (HFB)- Hazel Bundy, (JF)- John Fuller, (MDG)- Monte Gruett, (EH)- Esly Hallenbeck, (DH)- David

Harrison, (CK) Clarissa Ketcham, (PM)- Peggy McGuirk, (WBS)-
Walton Sabin, (BRS)- Benton Seguin, (PPW)- Peter Wickham, (RPY)-
Robert Yunick.

LOONS - DUCKS

Pied-b Grebe: only report- one Jul 25 on a pond nr Galway L (DH).
DOUBLE-CR CORMORANT: two adults and three flying immatures were
seen at Alplaus on the Mohawk River Jun 12-13 (HFB).
Great Blue Heron: more seen this summer than last; reported from
Greenville, Catskill, SCR and VFG.
Com Egret: only report- one Aug 14, SCR (HFB).
E. Green Heron: widely reported.
Night Herons: none reported during period.
LEAST BITTERN: two nr nest at VFG Jun 4 (RPY) and at least four
were in the area Jul 23.
Mute Swan: at least one remained in the SCR-VFG area through
Jul 3 (EH,BRS).
Canada Goose: an individual able to fly remained at a pond nr
Poestenkill to the beginning of July when excessive disturbance
apparently caused it to leave (fide RPY). No reports of pre-
viously stocked birds.
Mallard, Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Duck were present
as breeding species.
Green-w Teal: two males were at SCR Jun 20-21 (HFB).
Hooded Merganser: a female and two immature (non-flying) birds
were on SCR Jun 20-21 (HFB,EH). Another female was flying along
the Hudson on the (NRBB).

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: noted occasionally in Columbia, Greene and western
Albany County.
Cooper's Hawk: a pair nr Greenville Jul 9 (CK) the only report.
Sharp-sh Hawk: no reports.
Red-t Hawk: only about 11 individuals reported all period, with
but three (plus one unidentified buteo) reported on the breed-
ing bird counts.
Red-sh Hawk: only one nr Berlin Jun 12 (PPW,MDG).
Broad-w Hawk: only four reports during period.
Osprey: a returning individual was at VFG Aug 14 (DH).
Sparrow Hawk: still nests in area, but not common; eight breeding
bird counts (200 miles of stops) produced only 13 individuals.
Bob-white: reported nr Athens, East Greenbush and Meadowdale.
Virginia Rail: reported from VFG (RPY), Meadowdale (where a chick
was seen) (Robert and Mary Lou Shedd) and a small marsh nr
Johnsonville (NEBB).
Com Gallinule: no reports.
Killdeer: widespread as breeding bird; flocks grouping at
reservoirs and mudflats mid-Jul on.
Upland Plover: at Niskayuna a max of eight on Jun 24 (HFB,RPY), nr
West Charlton (DH), and nr Esperance where a group of 19 was
seen (DBB).
Solitary Sandpiper: first fall Jul 10, Basic Res (WBS), few reports.
Lesser Yellow Legs: first fall- three Basic Res Jul 10 (WBS), a
few through period.
Least Sandpiper: spring migrants were at VFG to Jun 4 (RPY); three
"peep" were at Basic Res Jul 14 (PPW) and returning birds of
this species were at Glenville Jul 22 (RPY).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: two at Glenville Jul 22 (RPY)- only report.
WHITE-R SANDPIPER: two at Turner L Jun 2 (HFB,PM) the only record.

Herring and Ring-b Gulls reported occasionally.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: a small gull with black head and prominent white patches on its wings was studied both at rest and on the wing at Galway L Aug 1 (DH, John Steadwell). It was not seen again.

Yellow-b Cuckoo: very scarce, only four scattered reports.

Black-b Cuckoo: somewhat more frequent, but still not com.

Great Horned Owl: two nr East Greenbush during Jun (PFW) and two at Tomhannock Res in Jun (Bob Norton)- only reports.

Screech Owl: no reports.

Barred Owl: at least two were heard hooting Jul 16 at Devil's Tombstone Campsite nr Tannersville (PFW).

SAW-WHET OWL: one spent Jul 13 in a power company garage in Schenectady despite considerable truck noise, but did not subsequently return (JF).

GOATSUCKERS - STARLINGS

Ruby-thr Hummingbird: seemed somewhat scarce as a breeding species.

Red-b Woodpecker: at least one bird spent the summer nr Gansevoort in an area where three were observed last year (fide PFW).

Yellow-b Sapsucker: at least 34 were observed in the Greene County Catskills Jul 15-16 (PFW).

E. Kingbird: migration clearly underway as early as Jul 22 when 30 were observed (HFB).

Traill's Flycatcher: appeared equally com in river valley marshes and in upland marshes and swamps.

Least Flycatcher: much more com in northern areas or at higher altitudes than in southern valley sections; for example 16 and 13 were recorded on the two Warren County breeding bird counts whereas only one and two were recorded on the (GBB) and (NEBB), respectively.

Tree Swallow: (RPY) noted that the adverse weather of the spring had cut down numbers of birds much less in areas where food seemed had cut down numbers of birds much less in areas where food seemed abundant. Most fledging at VFG occurred Jun 22-29, last about Jul 25, late.

Bank Swallow: most fledged Jul 6-10 at Glenville, about ten days late. A total of 681 banded there this year, and 200-300 more could have been banded (RPY). One cliff swallow was also banded there.

Purple Martin: no data on hand on colonies.

BOREAL CHICKADEE: a pair was observed at a Schroon L golf course Aug 13 and 20; on Aug 27 three young had joined them (JF).

Brown Creeper: a nest was found Jun 12 nr Berlin (PFW,MDG).

House Wren: seemed very com this summer, max 28 (GBB).

Winter Wren: reported Jul 16-17 in Greene County Catskills.

Carolina Wren: none.

Mockingbird: several nests with young reported; one pair in Schodack raised three broods.

Swainson's Thrush: seemed rather com at about 2500 feet elevation, Black Dome Mt., Catskills (PFW).

Veery: the most commonly heard thrush in northern type habitat in the area with 38 (NRBB), 36 (WBB) and 27 (PBB) representative.

E. Bluebird: readily recorded in rural areas, but virtually absent from the suburbs.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one at Schodack Island Jul 1 (HFB) and four at VFG Aug 14 (DH).

Shrikes: none seen.

VIREOS - WARBLERS

Warblers- Brewster's: at least two were seen nr Guilderland during Jun (vide WBS).
 Cerulean: two males were singing on Schodack Island nr Castleton Jul 2 (HFB,PM) in an area where one pair had been in 1965.
 Prairie: one was singing nr Kinderhook L Jul 3, (GBB); also reported from known nesting areas at Ghent, Catskill and Karner.
 Mourning: Jul 30 nr Ballston Spa (HFB,PM); at an elevation of about 3400 feet, Black Dome Mt., Jul 16 (PPW) and in the Jenny L area (GB).
 Yellow-br Chat: reported nr Glenville and at Meadowdale in Jun (EH,PPW).
 American Redstart: seemed quite scarce, especially in lowland areas; three local breeding bird counts listed one each, and another had none.

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

Bobolink: many colonies noted in Jun.
 Orchard Oriole: unreported during period, with none at former nesting sites; only report for the year- one May 8 nr Castleton (Juanita Cook).
 Evening Grosbeak: reported from Pilot Knob in Jul (Alice Holmes) and from Jenny L (GB).
 Pine Siskin: one was seen singing at 2200 feet elevation, Black Dome Mt. trail Jul 16 (PPW).
RED CROSSBILL: about six remained at a Niskayuna feeder to Jun 12 (Frederick Klemm). No evidence was found of their nesting in the area.
 Grasshopper Sparrow: five on (GBB) surprisingly high.
 Henslow's Sparrow: seems to have vanished from several former nesting areas- no reports all period.

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THE HUNTER - WHO NEEDS HIM?

Conservation is "In"! After years of being considered a whim of "bird watching fuddy duddies" and "blood-thirsty, self-centered hunters", the realization that our natural resources cannot stand continued abuse has finally become wide-spread, and conservation is accepted.

With high level interest and approval, conservationists -- by nature loners -- have begun to band together. Conservation interests are of wide variety, ranging from nature study to mountain climbing to water pollution to population control. Divergent opinions exist as to where emphasis in the conservation movement should be placed, but most seem to agree that hunting is wrong and cruel and that hunters are a lesser breed to be spoken of with disdain as "that kind of person" or "those people."

This opinion is difficult to comprehend by anyone who has worked closely with sportsmen and watched the interest with which they have encouraged the wildlife program to develop.

Of course, hunters can be classed in two groups -- the sportsmen and the killers. The killers, a group which includes poachers and game hogs, are regarded with the same disfavor by

sportsmen as they are by any other conservationist. The sportsman, as does every outdoorsman, enjoys the crisp twang in the air of a fall afternoon; he thrills to the whirl of wings as a flock of ducks wheels through the frost-touched dawn of the December day, exalts in the skill and comradeship of his dog, trained from puppy days.

In addition, he takes pride in his skill as a marksman, a skill which reflects the speed of his reflexes as he hears a bird, locates, identifies and fires in one swift motion. This type of hunting is not wanton killing, as it is often condemned. It is a test of skill against a respected opponent.

It is a fact of nature that well over 75% of the young produced by most of our game species will not survive the winter. Their part in the pattern of existence is to supply food for other species. Only a small fragment of the young can survive to fill the space vacated by the adults, unless additional suitable space becomes available, for a given piece of land can only support the amount of life that conditions such as fertility, vegetation and water will permit. Life in the wild is not easy. Each being lives in constant fear, forever on the alert against myriad enemies. When populations within a species become too abundant for a covert, either the food supply is depleted and the animals die of starvation or the high concentration draws predators which eliminate the surplus. Death by gun, although as final, is not as painful as slow starvation or being eaten alive.

Our ideologies differ. Some conservationists who disagree with hunting may be financing a gravel operation, housing development, or a road construction job which will destroy wildlife more surely than will hunting. Others, while deploring hunting, are collecting dividends from companies whose function is denudation of hillsides, with stream pollution as a side effect. And still others have, by their apathy toward local government, permitted destruction of valuable habitat.

All of these can, by total destruction or alteration of habitat, cause loss of wildlife far more permanent than the take of the hunter.

Perhaps a more penetrating look at our sportsmen might be an interesting and eye opening experience to those who cast their stones so easily.

(Reprinted from THE CONNECTICUT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BULLETIN, Jan.-Feb., 1966.)

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NEW TREASURER NAMED

The board of directors at its regular bimonthly meeting on September 12, 1966 unanimously elected Mrs. Leo Norton as treasurer, to fill her late husband's unexpired term.

Lois graciously consented to continue the fine work that Bob was doing. All matters involving the treasurer will now be handled by her. She still has the same address and telephone number as given in the 1966 SBC directory.

--Walt Sabin

A STATE HISTORIC SITE

Lillian C. Stoner

"Not often are State Historic Sites established in honor of a naturalist." This was said by one of the program speakers at the September 17th formal opening of John Burroughs Memorial Field at Roxbury, as a New York State Historic Site.

The formal invitation, which the writer received, had been issued by The John Burroughs Memorial Association, The Roxbury Burroughs Club and The New York State Education Department for the two o'clock meeting at Burroughs' Home, Woodchuck Lodge, Roxbury, New York.

On this warm sunny afternoon about 200 people either stood nearby or sat on the chairs on the lawn near Woodchuck Lodge, which is the name of the farm house where John Burroughs was born and lived most of his life. All the speakers were seated on the narrow front porch of the house.

The use of the newly installed microphone on this porch enabled the audience to hear well William C. Fennell, president of The John Burroughs Memorial Association, and the other scheduled program speakers.

Several distinguished guests were first introduced. These included Farida A. Wiley of New York City who has written much about John Burroughs; Wilber Wright of the Education Department at Albany; two grandnephews of the naturalist, namely Curtis and E. Wilson Burroughs; and Mrs. T. Howard Smith who has done much in past years with this project and who also had charge of arrangements for the present meeting.

Remarks were given by the local club president, Herbert Van Valkenbergh, and respects were paid to two absent New York State Legislators who had sponsored the bill enabling Memorial Field to become a state historic site.

Mrs. John G. Dow, wife of the United States Congressman from Grandview, New York, spoke for her absent husband about their mutual interest in John Burroughs' residence and writings in Delaware County.

Dr. Hugh Flick, Associate Commissioner of Cultural Education, State Education Department, said that this naturalist was claimed not only by Delaware County but by the entire State of New York.

The present Supervisor of Historic Sites in the Education Department, Anna E. Cunningham said her work with this project and preparation for this eventful day had been easy as compared to openings of other historic sites. Often her tasks had included the care of valuable rugs, chairs, antique furniture and pictures. Also, sometimes in the past she had to make sure that the newly polished floors were dry and safe enough for expected visitors to walk on.

The main speaker who was present to honor the memory of John Burroughs was Roger Tory Peterson, the author of well-known bird guides. He spoke of Burroughs as more of a "naturalist" than a "naturalist", referring to his appreciation of nature as seen in his walks in woods and fields. He also spoke of Burroughs' ability not only to enjoy nature but said that he was able to write about it and thus communicate it to others. Over a million copies of his books (which numbered 27) have been sold. So his influence affected the people of his lifetime of 1837-1921, and others of later generations.

The bluebird and black-throated blue warbler were mentioned with other birds that the naturalist enjoyed. We too, heard a bluebird in the distance during the program. The above named warbler was the small bird that the naturalist wrote about seeing as a young boy and how he had difficulty in identifying it with his limited available bird books. There were not many field guides printed about birds at that time.

The speaker told the following story which may or may not be true as he questioned the authenticity of it. Years ago Burroughs was in a car with good friends Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone and Henry Ford when they stopped at a gas filling station. Mr. Ford said to the attendant, "I am Henry Ford." Then both Edison and Firestone introduced themselves. The attendant said to Burroughs, "Yes, now don't tell me that you are Santa Claus." This last remark was due no doubt to Burroughs' personal appearance as he had a long beard. Other stories biographers tell are about his difficulty in driving the Ford car which Henry Ford gave to him.

Mr. Peterson concluded his speech by telling a little of the newer scientific studies that ornithologists are doing at the present time.

The crowd then walked up the hill to Memorial Field where the program was continued. The first speaker was Elizabeth Burroughs Kelley who gave some excerpts from letters and books her grandfather had written. She told how he had enjoyed this hilltop spot and said that he wished to be buried here.

In his speech Lansing Christman, Schenectady County Historian and member of SBC, told how Burroughs had influenced his late father W.W. Christman to become a writer.

A great granddaughter placed a pink and white flower lei around the bronzed tablet on Boyhood Rock, which is Burroughs' tombstone. This had come by air mail from a friend in Hawaii. The program ended with singing of "America".

John Burroughs Memorial Field of 3.45 acres includes the naturalist's grave which is in a walled area near the rock called John Burroughs' Boyhood Rock, but does not include Woodchuck Lodge. The view from either of these places as well as the scenic views enroute are well worth the 60-mile ride from Albany to Roxbury area.

Also in attendance were Mrs. Roger Tory Peterson, Howard Cleaves from Staten Island, Professor Richard B. Fischer of Cornell University and members from four bird clubs, namely,

Greene County, Ralph T. Waterman, Sassafra and Schenectady Bird Clubs. Other people came from Rhode Island, Connecticut and other parts of our state.

* * * * *

NEW MUSEUM EXHIBITS OFFERED

The New York State Museum in Albany has announced two new exhibits that are now on display.

THE HORSE'S TALE is an exhibit of one of paleontology's best-documented examples of evolution. The family history of equines - their change in size, structure and food habits through fifty-five million years - is abundantly illustrated in the fossil record. Featured in this exhibit is a life-sized model of Eohippus, from which evolved the many horses including the horse of today. Eohippus was hardly like the modern horse. It was small, with a blunt face and had eyes set midway between the muzzle and back of the head. Each foot rested on a dog-like pad which bore the weight of this swift, light runner.

Eohippus (=Hyracotherium) was an inhabitant of forest and brush; its low-crowned cheek teeth were suited to eating leaves and twigs rather than grass. As the forces of evolution worked on this dog-sized horse its brain, body and head enlarged, the face lengthened, toes were reduced in number, the lower leg bones fused and the legs became restricted to backward and forward motion.

Horse evolution by no means followed a straight path; like other animals, equines went through a long, irregular adjustment to the altering conditions of the world in which they lived. Those horses developing advantageous variations survived changes and formed new species; the least adaptive types died out. Some of these species - Mesohippus, Merychippus, Hypohippus, Neohipparian and Equus - are shown in models in this exhibit. Others, as well as certain variations in structures, are depicted in drawings. Two skulls - one of Mesohippus, the other of Equus - are included to show some of the changes that were part of this fascinating record of horse evolution.

MEET SOME DINOSAURS is the second new exhibit at the museum. It features models, fossils and cut-outs of those interesting creatures, the dinosaurs - which, along with other reptiles, were the dominant form of animal life during the Mesozoic Era (225-65 million years ago). Most of these resembled the majority of their remote living relatives - the crocodiles, lizards, alligators, snakes and turtles - in that they were cold-blooded, had scales and hatched from eggs.

All dinosaurs evolved from the thecodont, a four-to-six foot long, meat-eating reptile that walked on its hind legs, using its forelegs for grasping. For the most part, dinosaurs continued walking on their hind legs, although their bodies and habits changed greatly. Eight of the dinosaurs, showing some of these changes, are shown in model form; Diplodocus, Dimetrodon and Triceratops are a few of these. Brontosaurus (60-70 feet long

and weighing 20-30 tons) is represented by the cast of a huge footprint that was left in the Texas mud, which later hardened into a fossil. Rhamphorhynchus, the flying reptile, is shown in another cast - the animal's wing's, long tail and toothed mouth having been excellently preserved. A third fascinating model in this exhibit is that of a baby Protoceratops hatching from eggs that were found fossilized in Outer Mongolia.

What caused the extinction of the dinosaurs is uncertain. Changing environments may have had something to do with it. Also, at the time of their decline, they were competing for survival with increasing numbers and varieties of mammals. Continued studies of fossils and ancient environments may someday fill out the story.

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OFF THE BOOKSHELF

Edited by
Elva Link

A pot pourri of recent specialty items

Larson, Peggy Pickering and Larson, Mervin W. ALL ABOUT ANTS. 1965. 220p. illus. World, \$5.95.

"This introduction covers the classification, evolution, life cycle, distinguishing characteristics, and social organization of a wide variety of ant species. Information on collecting is included." Bibliography but no index.

Fenton, Carroll Lane. TALES TOLD BY FOSSILS. 1966. 182p. illus. Doubleday, \$4.95.

"Animal fossils beginning with the triobites and continuing through increasingly complex forms are described and their place in the evolutionary scale indicated. Introductory material explains what fossils are, how they are found, and what can be learned from them." Glossary, bibliography, and list of fossil collections in U.S. museums are included.

Stupka, Arthur and Robinson, Donald H. WILDFLOWERS IN COLOR. 1965. 144p. col. illus. Harper, \$5.95.

"266 color plates of the wild flowers of the Southern Appalachian Mountains have descriptive notes giving information on the habitat, size, properties, flower and fruit of each specimen; by a former chief naturalist of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park." Bibliography

Dufresne, Frank, NO ROOM FOR BEARS. With drawings by Rachel S. Horne. 1965. 252p. illus. Holt, \$6.00.

"In a blending of tales of amusing and grim encounters with bears, and objective discussion of their habits, evolution, and varieties, a former Alaska Game Commission director makes an eloquent plea for wildlife conservation."

Amadon, Dean. BIRDS AROUND THE WORLD; a geographical look at evolution and birds. 1966. 165p. illus. Natural History Press, \$3.95.

"The chief ornithologist at the American Museum of Natural History explains the effect of natural barriers, principally mountains and bodies of water, and ecological conditions, such as food, shelter, parasites, predators, and competition, on the habitat of different bird species." Diagrammatic drawings.

Haynes, Bessie Doak and Haynes, Edgar, eds. THE GRIZZLY BEAR; portraits from life. With an introd. by the editors. With drawings by Mark Baker. 1966. 386p. illus. Univ. of Oklahoma, \$5.00.

"These reports of encounters with grizzly bears by explorers, hunters, mountain men, naturalists and settlers, as well as legendary tales and accounts of present-day grizzlies in Yellowstone Park cover the lore and legend of the grizzly bear over a period of two centuries." Bibliography.

Austing, G. Ronald and Holt, John B. THE WORLD OF THE GREAT HORNED OWL; photos. by the authors. (Living world books) 1966. 158p. illus. ports. Lippincott, \$4.95.

"This informal study of the horned owl combines striking photography with routine commentary. A chronicle of the first year of an owl based on the authors' observations is included."

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POISONOUS SNAKE GUIDE

E. M. Reilly, Jr.

New York State Museum

The North Carolina State Museum at Raleigh has published a booklet entitled POISONOUS SNAKES OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES WITH FIRST AID GUIDE written by Harry T. Davis. Copies of the booklet are available from: Museum Extension Fund, N.C. State Museum, Box 2281, Raleigh, N.C. 27602, for only 25 cents each. In this day and age when any family might travel by private car or trailer over wide regions of the United States to enjoy our natural areas it would be ridiculous to limit such a handy, valuable guide only to those snakes found in one state regardless of size. The North Carolina State Museum is to be congratulated for publishing such a widely useful booklet.

It should be emphasized that we have so few really poisonous snakes that it is easy to learn these few. It is very helpful to the doctors if one knows which species did the biting. The bite of any of the harmless snakes need only be given the simple first aid for cuts and scratches. The booklet is well illustrated and the writing is clear and the data about habitat are adequate enough to help one avoid meeting too many venomous reptiles when

within their natural ranges. Future additions might add a few paragraphs on how to make campsites and dwelling areas less attractive to the snakes of the region as, for example, clearing away brush and rock piles near the sites and sealing the cracks and crevices in house foundations with cement to prevent entry.

Mr. Davis, in a footnote on page eight, is in favor of using the word moccasin for the copperhead (highland moccasin) and the cottonmouth (water moccasin) as the dictionary definition clearly identifies a moccasin as a poisonous snake. The reasoning is sound, but in New York State, and elsewhere in the Northeast, popular misuse has applied the name water moccasin to the non-poisonous water snakes with the result that many water snakes are beaten into a frenzied pulp and people bitten by these may go into dangerous medical shock through fear alone. In New York, we have no cottonmouths and only the timber rattle snake, copperhead and massasauga.

The first aid directions at the back of the booklet are simple and adequate. I should like to add the warning, which I feel was too briefly noted in the booklet, that the T-C method is not fully approved by the medical profession. Careless handling of the freezing process may result in extensive tissue damage. It is also worth stressing again and again that first aid is a necessary expedient till the doctor comes and only if such professional help is too remote should one resort to anti-venom injections and freezing techniques. If you camp, fish, hunt, or go birding or hiking in areas where there are poisonous snakes the money expended for this booklet is very well spent indeed.

(Reprinted from THE CONSERVATIONIST, Aug.-Sept., 1966, published by State of New York Conservation Department.)

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ELSEWHERE IN THE STATE

Edited by
Guy Bartlett

ANY OLD RECORDS?

One of the most important aspects of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES' Breeding-bird Census, and of the more recent North American Nest-Record Card Program at the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, is the opportunity these provide to establish base-line standards and a means of measuring population fluctuations in time.

The nest-record card program offers a special opportunity for many to go back in journals and notebooks of past years and abstract unpublished data on nesting records. This is one way to make up, partially at least, for the failure to collect such information in the past. One man's data may not be scientifically significant, but from the accumulated work of hundreds new significance may emerge.

Particularly needed now are data on the nesting of raptorial birds -- hawks and owls -- from prior years. AUDUBON FIELD NOTES takes pleasure in joining with the Laboratory of Orni-

thology in urging all our readers to examine old notebooks and put pertinent nesting data on cards. Analysis of such information should provide clues that will aid in the planning of new field research. Nest record cards may be obtained from the North American Nest-Record Card Program, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., 14850.

--Audubon Field Notes, August 1966

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEETING

The 62nd annual convention of National Audubon Society will be at Sacramento, California, November 11-16. Convention theme is "Silver Linings in Conservation." Among field trips will be Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge and Gray Lodge State Waterfowl Management Area, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Calaveras Big Trees State Park, and to American River Parkway, a 23-mile trip in a "wilderness within a city."

MAURICE BROUN RETIRES

Maurice Broun has retired after serving more than 31 years as curator of Pennsylvania's Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

NEIGHBORING AUDUBON FILMS

The Alan Devoe Bird Club, Inc., of Columbia County, in its 9th series of Audubon Wildlife Films has increased from three to five programs. The October, November and March programs are at the Chatham High School, and the February and April programs at Hudson High School. Single admissions are available. Four are Saturday nights, and one Sunday night. The schedule:

- Oct. 8 Doris Boyd, "Place in the Sun"
- Nov. 12 C.P. Lyons, "Mexican Adventure"
- Feb. 18 Walter H. Berlet, "Northwest to Alaska"
- Mar. 18 Charles T. Hotchkiss, "Wilderness Trails"
- Apr. 16 George Regensburg, "Around the Bay"

DUTCHESS COUNTY PUBLICATION

BIRDS OF DUTCHESS COUNTY, 1933-1964 is being issued as a series of 8½ x 11 3-punch pages distributed as a supplement to the WINGS OVER DUTCHESS publication of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club. It lists current status, abundance, dates and comments as regards all the known species of birds found or formerly found in Dutchess County, N. Y. Data are, whenever plausible, subsequent to that published by the Linnaean Society of New York as VOLUME THREE - THE BIRDS OF DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK from records compiled by Maunsell S. Crosby, and edited by Ludlow Groscom, dated December 1933.

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NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

THE RECORDS REBELLION NEEDS YOU!

Some of you, no doubt, have wondered what happened to those records which disappear - forever - into the spacious maw of the Re-

ords Committee. NOW is your chance to find out! The committee is being expanded to five members, and three new ones are now needed. NO previous experience is necessary nor do we require considerable field work as requisites for committee members - we feature on-the-job training. Besides collecting, sorting, evaluating and summarizing records, the committee oversees operation of the rare bird alert (RBA), the breeding bird counts, and other special projects concerning the populations and fluctuations of birds.

Interested? Contact Pete Wickham, 477-6345, before November 15, and tell me so.

MORE NEW MEMBERS

The following people applied for membership during the month of September:

Sustaining

Stephen T. Schryver
128 Bloomingrove Drive
RD 1, Rensselaer
283-0233

Associate

Mrs. Ruth Schottman
55 Goode Street
Burnt Hills 12027
399-5728

Active

Mr/Mrs William C. Dixon III
RD 3
Ballston Spa 12020
584-0489

Mr/Mrs John Kimball
49 Patroon Place
Loudonville 12211
436-9093

Mr/Mrs Robert Fleischer
1356 Waverly Place
Schenectady 12308
372-7434

Mrs Clyde H. Eastman
Box 344
Altamont 12009
861-6687

--Lenny Thomas

* * * * *

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Peggy McGuirk

Field Trip Committee Chairman

JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

AUGUST 13

Five "early birds" met at 4:30 am. on Saturday morning, August 13, at the Selkirk interchange of the Thruway for the field trip to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. They arrived at 7:30 and were met by nine other club members who had made arrangements in advance to meet there. The day broke beautifully and remained that way all day. There was a slight breeze which, along with a moderate temperature made birding very enjoyable.

The group recorded 57 species by noon, among which were little blue heron, common egret, snowy egret, Louisiana heron, yellow-

crowned night heron, glossy ibis, gadwall, shoveler, clapper rail, laughing gull, least tern, black skimmer and house finch.

In the afternoon some of the hardier souls went to John F. Kennedy Memorial Sanctuary (Tobay) near Jones' Beach. Here 14 more species were added, making the day's total 71. Some of the new ones added were piping plover and seaside sparrow.

One of the more interesting incidents of the day occurred: at Tobay as the group was about to leave. Sam Madison made a side trip to have one more look at the pond area. Suddenly he came anxiously toward us to say he had seen a red fox. The group crept silently (as they could!) to the vantage point. Someone remarked that he didn't see a thing and accused Sam of "pulling our legs!" However, in a moment the fox stood up and for the next 15 to 20 minutes (it seemed like an hour!) we were treated to the most Disney-like sequences as the fox hunted in the meadow for grasshoppers, mice etc. When first seen by us he was devouring something, perhaps a mouse. All subsequent captures were very small, probably grasshoppers. We all left quietly, not disturbing the fox in the least, and decided unanimously that it was the highlight of the day.

--Walt Sabin

VISCHER FERRY AND STONY CREEK RESERVOIR

AUGUST 20

Looking out across our back yard at the willow trees standing majestically against the clear blue sky in the clean brisk air of a late summer afternoon, I remember the morning birding activities with the pleasure of a banquet given by Greek gods, where the day is at their command. Let's go back to that early morning repast...

As with all pleasant events, there was no hint of things to come, except that the morning was clear, cool and perfect enough, so that I was a bit suspicious, since these mornings usually find me going to work, with dreams of far away places. Mrs. Bundy was busy observing some ducks across the road from the canal at Vischer's Ferry, when we drove up and flushed them. We were in time to see a rose-breasted grosbeak and some goldfinches, however.

A few minutes' wait did not increase our party and the morning beckoned Mrs. Bundy to lead my family and me down the old canal path. Goldfinches and song sparrows flicked in and out of the wildflowers to direct us down the path where an abundance of cedar waxwings called from the next tree, and the serene kingbirds caught insects in the tree tops. A wood duck swam in the pond to play its role of leading us to a spotted sandpiper feeding along the opposite shore. A break in the growth along the canal allowed me to set up the spotting scope for an excellent view. A large bird rose into the air. Silhouetted against the sky, we knew it must be a great blue heron with its slow wing beats.

The spotting scope found a bird perched in a dead tree, a heron to be sure - to "Peterson" and the choicest - an immature green, yellow-crowned night, or a black-crowned night heron (American bitterns seldom perch in trees, according to Peterson) Peterson)? Now this marvelous bird posed for us, so we could narrow the choice down. More posing, more Peterson, more discussion confirmed it was a black-crowned night heron. Our party

now grew with the addition of Eleanor Byrne, Mary Healy and Sally Kelly to view our find.

Back down the dike and up the road we found two smiling faces of happy bird banders, Bob Yunick and Dave Stoner. This gave us an interesting opportunity to observe their catch and accompany them on a check of their nets. The nets revealed swamp sparrows, two Baltimore orioles, a least flycatcher, and a yellow warbler. To see a yellow warbler close at hand is like an intrusion. The fine jeweled brush marks of a beautiful yellow upon greenish feathers was an exciting sight. Dave Stoner was patient enough to explain the difference between a song sparrow and an immature swamp sparrow. With one in each hand he pointed out the difference in bills, eyes and feather markings.

Bob mentioned there were wood ducks and a gallinule in the next pond. The mention of a gallinule I couldn't take lightly. The female wood ducks were still swimming, but the gallinule hid in the shadows. Shyly he strutted out to appear in the scope. The red lacquered bill with its yellow tip, the white wing markings and the large greenish webbed feet were a pleasure to see and capture in my memory.

Donned in his waders, Bob decided to flush some birds by walking into the swamp and canal. This decision left me with mixed emotions. I would have fears of being swallowed up by the swamp, but for Bob it was probably fun. Ducks and herons flew about. Bob's head appeared now and then among the reeds and I do believe he emerged from the quagmire with a satisfaction I will never feel.

Since Stony Creek Reservoir was next on our list, we said goodbye to the banders and good luck to Dave Stoner. I look back with pleasure to that morning, but I'm sure Dave will have a special place in his memory for it.

With one eye out for birds and the other on the road, we followed Mrs. Bundy over toward Stony Creek. She pointed out a couple of red-tailed hawks soaring overhead. Along the road we stopped to identify some shore birds, but these were something special. Consulting Peterson, the choice was northern phalarope! The dark thin bill and dark eye patch were the clinchers. It wasn't long before the rest of the group came to see our "first". (They also reported that Bob and Dave had captured an ovenbird and a redstart in their nets.) We had to leave, but heard later that the rest of the group saw an American egret. I recall now that we also saw flickers, killdeer and heard the "mewing" of a catbird, but the highlight of the day was discovering the phalarope. How fortunate we were for the few pleasant hours.

--Ed Koch

* * * * *

MT. GREYLOCK

Those of you who have shared the natural, undeveloped offerings of Mt. Greylock will be pleased to know that the agreement between the Mt. Greylock Reservation Commission and Tramway Authority to build a ski resort on the mountain has been declared illegal. The administration of Greylock now belongs to the Department of Natural Resources.

"BOB" NORTON

There are a few people one meets of whom it may be said, "To know them is pure pleasure." Although I didn't get to know Bob. Norton really well, this is the way in which I remember him. Many SBC'ers, I am sure, will miss his ready smile, which crinkled up the corners of his eyes, and his booming laugh. Perhaps not so many knew that for a number of years he had constructed, set out and kept track of many bluebird houses, both in the Troy area and also in the Cambridge (N.Y.) region. At the same time, his active curiosity concerning all aspects of nature led to an interest in moths and butterflies, which his son Doug shared and has taken up earnestly. Not least, he had recently assumed the post of SBC-treasurer, and had played an increasingly useful and important part in board meetings.

So - fascinated student, modest teacher, engaging humorist, industrious worker - we are surely much enriched from our brief but memorable encounter with "Bob" Norton. --Pete Wickham

* * * * *

EDITOR'S NOTES

ZIP CODE AGAIN

As of January 1, 1967 a new postal law requires all addresses for publications, mailed other than first class, to have a zip code, otherwise the post office will not deliver the publications.

Therefore if we are to continue to enjoy the financial advantages of third-class mailing, we must have a zip code from every recipient of FEATHERS. Without your zip code we cannot guarantee delivery of your copy as of the above date. In order to determine whether we have your zip code, please consult the 1966 directory. If no zip code is indicated for your address, please drop a post card to Miss Mildred Crary, 804 Locust Avenue, Schenectady 12307 and inform her of your zip code. Your prompt cooperation will save you and us much grief over undelivered copies.

THANKS TO MARY LINCX AND MARY JOHNSTON

The Club wishes to acknowledge the gift of numerous volumes of THE AUK, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, THE KINGBIRD, THE CONSERVATIONIST, AUDUBON FIELD NOTES and other miscellaneous publications by Mary Lynch and Mary Johnston. These publications are in the possession of the editor and will become part of the Club library in the future.

SYMBOL OF OUR NATION

The Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior in conjunction with the Superintendent of Documents of the U. S. Government Printing Office is offering a large attractive document, "Symbol of Our Nation." Copies are available from the Printing Office for 50 cents. Because of the attractive print and timely message of this document, SBC is ordering 100 copies and will have them on sale at the Audubon films.

The document is $11\frac{1}{2} \times 15\frac{1}{2}$ and depicts the Great Seal on the cover. Inside is a color print of a bald eagle by Bob Hines and a brief commentary on the Great Seal and the plight of the bald eagle. For further information, contact the editor.

LOST YOUR BINOCULARS?

Walt Sabin has received a letter from a person in New Jersey regarding a pair of lost binoculars. It seems that this person was birding at Cape May this summer and met some birders from Schenectady. After talking for some time the Schenectady people left leaving the binoculars behind. Through the National Audubon Society this woman obtained Walt's name and was kind enough to write in an attempt to locate the owner.

Therefore if you lost your binoculars this summer at Cape May, or know someone who did, contact Walt and give him either a description of the glasses or a snap shot of yourself and he will contact the holder of the lost glasses.

Ry

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VFOR

Robert P. Yunick

If I told you that VFOR stood for Visoher Ferry Operation Recovery, you would probably still say, "So what, what does that mean?" Therefore let me start by briefly explaining what Operation Recovery is and then how it applies to Visoher Ferry.

Operation Recovery is a cooperative bird banding program that was begun in 1955 along the Atlantic coast at selected points of concentrated fall migration. Its purpose was to hopefully determine energy and time requirements of migrating birds on the basis that a bird banded and weighed at one station might be recovered and weighed the following day at another station along its route south. Hence the name Operation Recovery. Well, after 11 years and 500,000 birds that objective has unfortunately not been met.

In these same 11 years, "OR fever" has spread and in 1965, 50 OR stations in 20 states and the West Indies reported nearly 87,000 birds banded for the period August-October. The coverage included Maine to Colorado to New Mexico to Georgia to Jamaica. Top honors went to Island Beach, New Jersey where 18,573 birds of 132 species were banded, but that is the subject of another story.

If OR's original objective has not been met, then what is it accomplishing? Well the answer is, "Plenty," and much more is yet to come, because OR is shifting into high gear with greater and greater coverage each year. The emphasis in the operation of an OR station is to gather as much data on birds as possible. Just banding a bird and releasing it is not sufficient. Cooperators are asked to measure wing chord length; determine the extent of visible fat deposit; ascertain age by examination of skull ossification or plumage characteristics; determine sex by plumage, eye color or wing or tail measurement; collect weight data; and most recently, studies are underway on foot pox and ticks. Banders are asked to collect foot pox lesions for biopsy. The tick project is aimed at determining what species of ticks are transported by birds and which birds are hosts.

What is the value of all this measuring, aging and sexing? Data of this type are providing more insight into migrational phenomena and bird identification. Since all OR data are stored on either tape or punch cards, statistical analyses of many problems are possible. From wing chord lengths it has become possible in some cases to sex or age birds, because adults and immatures or males and females fall into distinct groups differing in measurement. Aging birds provides information on breeding success, population dynamics and age segregation during migration. Sudden arrivals of large numbers of a species at a station can be associated with weather phenomena and the occurrence of these waves of

migrants at a number of geographically scattered stations provides further data on the extent of these effects. The handling of large numbers of a species by one person or one station has led to the detection of plumage differences which have helped in aging and sexing various species.

OR stations are providing data on a local basis as well. Greater understanding of local migrational effects, new extreme migration dates, evidence on peak times of migration and even the presence of rare species are being noted. Elusive or shy species suddenly become unexpectedly common when stopped by a mist net, previously "unidentifiable" silent flycatchers become known in the hand, the "confusing" fall warblers are no longer confusing in the hand. After a number of years this tremendous backlog of information will be even more valuable in determining trends in abundance. One could go on and on listing the accomplishments and possibilities. Briefly some of the non-scientific aspects deserve mention also. OR banding is an opportunity to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Most OR stations are away from people's homes; in fact some are great distances where the comforts of home are not available and one makes home in a tent or trailer. Some OR stations are on public property and as such are visited by people who are provided with an opportunity to learn about birds, birding and banding. Therefore there are educational and recreational values attached. Both of these values are served by the photographer with his unparalleled opportunity to collect film of birds in the hand.

Now, on to Vischer Ferry. Many SBC'ers are familiar with Vischer Ferry Game Management Area and its birding possibilities. The area consists of about 800 acres of cattail marsh and meadow under the management of the Conservation Department which leases the land from the Bureau of Canals. The original dike and spillway system, which maintains the water level in the ponds, was constructed in 1935 by CCC volunteers. The spillway washed out in a few years in a spring flood. After World War II a new concrete spillway was built. In 1961, steel pilings were used for a new spillway which is in use today. In 1952 the Conservation Department began a duck management program at VF. An attempt was made to limit waterfowl hunting by permit in order to prolong better hunting. By 1955 it was apparent that the experiment did not work. Once the shooting began, the ducks left. Typically the opening day of the season finds many ducks and many hunters, but both learn a lesson, depart, and very few of either return. It is not difficult to count 500 shots or more on opening day, but one would be hard pressed to count 500 for the remainder of the season.

Presently VF lies in a semi-dormant state which is the way a number of people like it. However, it will probably see some kind of recreational development in the near future. It is frequented in season by fishermen, duck and pheasant hunters, muskrat trappers, birders and those people with cottages along the river on land leased from the Bureau of Canals. The Conservation Department maintains the road to the river, stocks pheasants, keeps some of the meadow vegetation in check to improve pheasant management, plants corn for the same purpose and maintains wood duck nesting boxes.

Topographically VF lies in the flood plain of the Mohawk River and is periodically inundated by spring flooding. The area contains remains of the former Erie Canal. In fact, just west of the management area near the hamlet of Vischer Ferry is an excellently

preserved example of an Erie Canal lock. The stone work, over 140 years old, stands in mute testimony to a daring undertaking that contributed greatly to the economic development of the Empire State. In 100 years will our Thruway enjoy a similar abandonment? Beside the canal, numerous shallow ponds dot the landscape giving rise to the sometimes used name of Vischer Ponds. These ponds were the former marshes of the area, but with the building of the dikes and raising of the water level, the marshes receded to the pond periphery. Water level fluctuation can be considerable, because while the level is artificially held, it cannot be completely controlled because there is no artificial water source for the area. The area depends on spring flooding, rain and creek drainage. Therefore, during dry years, the level recedes considerably and while the marsh nesters suffer, the shore birds flock to the mud flats in August and September. This year was an exception. It was a wet year at VF because river dredgings were pumped onto the north shore and ran off into the ponds.

The soil is heavy and rich from river silt and gives rise to great growths of weeds, Goldenrod, Queen Anne's lace, burdock and thistle abound. Without some kind of management of the weed growth, the area becomes impenetrable. For this reason, banding is done near the corn plantings, although at first it was done at the meadows near the river. Annual cultivation helps to keep the weed growth partially in check. Since no natural succession of weed growths is allowed in these cultivated fields, they have an entirely different population of weeds than the uncultivated meadows. Smart weed, pig weed and velvet-leafed mallow among others compete with the corn. These weeds provide an attractive food source and cover for the usually secretive sparrows. The corn itself attracts various birds by providing food and cover also. The combination of alder and cattail buffer zones around the edge of this food supply coupled with the availability of water proves attractive to other species.

I began banding at VF on August 28-29, 1964, though not as part of the OR program. I was half considering an OR station at the time and decided to see what VF had to offer. The catch of 65 birds of 16 species impressed me that the area had possibilities. I was able to return only the following weekend and did no banding after that at VF that year. A total of 80 birds of 17 species was banded. Due to low water, shore bird netting was included and resulted in the taking of eight species. Some of the high lights involved birds that got away, such as a gallinule that flopped out of the net as I reached down to remove it, and a Virginia rail that missed being netted when flushed by flying at water level and squeaking through the six-inch gap between the net and water.

In 1965 Walt Sabin and I banded at VF as part of the OR program. We banded on weekends from August 27 to October 31. Our take was small, 562 birds of 37 species, but we were still learning where best to set our nets. In September the base of operation was shifted from the river meadows to the corn fields near the Conservation Department barn. Here we netted in the field in back of the barn, east field, and in the field across the road, west field. Due to the kind consent of Asa Smith of the Conservation Department, the barn became our shelter from wind, cold and rain.

It was becoming apparent from the 1965 results that VFOR was a "sparrow station." The most frequently banded species was the

song sparrow with 227, or about 40 percent of the total. All sparrows (tree, white-crowned, white-throated, fox, Lincoln's, swamp and song) totaled 380 birds or nearly 68 percent of the take. The more interesting captures included a screech owl and seven Lincoln's sparrows.

(Next issue will cover VFOR 1966 and a summary)

* * * * *

OFF THE BOOKSHELF

Edited by
Elva Link

BIRDS IN OUR LIVES. Alfred Stefferud, ed. U.S. Dept. of the Interior. 1966.

This book will be offered for sale by SBC. Bird clubs and conservation groups throughout the United States are being asked to help in the promotion of the book in order to give to the public a "deeper insight into the nature and extent of the impact of birds on the lives of all of us."

Usually when you buy books published by the Superintendent of Documents you get a lot for your money, and this book is no exception. There are 576 pages devoted to nine general topics, and 54 articles written by 61 authorities, many internationally known. The book begins with Roger Tory Peterson writing on "What are birds for?" and ends with John S. Gottschalk on "We, the people." The pages in between cover all aspects of man's use and abuse of birds and bird's use and abuse of man, and all facets of the relationship seem to have been touched upon. Birds in art and literature, in sports and recreation; what science has learned about birds and from birds; the problems caused by man's use of land and control with pesticides; banding; migration; attracting and enjoying birds; commercial production of birds for food; laws and conservation; these are a few of the topics covered.

Fortunately, the broad scope of the book is accompanied by considerable depth in the individual articles. They abound with good solid factual material and data, practical ideas, and provide food for thought. The quality of the writing is good and consistent throughout the book. The illustrations are all in black and white except the frontispiece which is in color. There are 80 wash drawings that I cannot enthuse over, but the 372 photographs are of good quality, well placed, and coordinated with the text. I cannot help but wish some of the pictures were in color, but it is better to have good black and white than poor color. There is an adequate index, a short glossary (too short?) and identifying biographical notes on the contributors.

If you are looking for a book to read in bed, you will have a little trouble managing this one. It is big,

8½ X 11½, and two inches thick. The print is large, black and clear. The two-column format may or may not appeal to you, but the good print makes the reading easy. A good buckram and stitched binding hold together an excellent book. --E.L.

(Editor's note: As pointed out by Elva, this interesting book is available for sale by the Club. It is also available directly from the Superintendent of Documents for \$9. The Club price to members is \$8 and to non-members \$9. We have a small supply on order and as necessary, we shall order more. This is a lot of book for \$8 and you will be impressed by its wide scope. Place your order with the editor at 377-0146. The book will be on display and sale at Club meetings and Audubon Wildlife Films. Hurry to reserve a copy now - you will not be disappointed.)

* * * * *

AN INTRODUCTION TO WINTER TREE STUDY

PART I - SOME FUNDAMENTALS

Barry Havens

Learning to identify trees can be a very enjoyable pursuit if you are interested at all in the subject. There is a great deal of satisfaction involved in being able to recognize at least the common species, and that ability is not very difficult to cultivate. In many respects it is a great deal easier to recognize the various species of trees (except, of course, the really tricky ones) than it is to distinguish one bird from another. For not only do you have to be familiar with the distinguishing characteristics of a bird, or learn its notes, you have to see it - or hear it - in the first place.

Trees, on the other hand, stand still. They permit you to examine them freely and, if necessary, to take certain relatively harmless liberties with them in order to make as complete an examination as is necessary.

(Editor's note: This is part one of a five-part series by Barry whom many of you know has pursued the study of trees for a number of years. He has led Club field trips on this subject of winter tree identification. This series, as its name implies, is an introduction. It is meant to help the person who thinks that the identification of trees is impossibly complicated. Armed with the basic concepts of this series, and a proper field guide, one should be able to attack this problem with the confidence that there is some rhyme and reason to the whole thing.)

There are, of course, some excellent printed guides available to the identification of trees. My own favorite is ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO TREES AND SHRUBS by Arthur Harmount Graves. But often as not such publications do not tell enough of the story, or they have some other deficiency that makes it difficult for the beginner to find them very helpful.

My own experience bears this out. My interest was first generated by a brief course conducted for the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club by Vincent Schaeffer. He gave us just enough to stimulate our interest and a desire to pursue the subject more deeply. But what literature was then available was either inadequate or too technical. I got what I could from the inadequate literature and then followed it up the hard way by familiarizing myself with the technical language.

It is my hope to help others overcome this difficulty by avoiding technical language as much as possible and providing a sufficient groundwork to enable those interested to carry on by themselves. For by that time I hope my readers will be sufficiently familiar with the more common technical terms used to pick up the others they need without too much inconvenience.

Why Winter?

The winter identification of trees is, in my opinion, a better and more reliable method than the use of summer characteristics. By summer characteristics I mean, of course, examination of leaves. All the other aids to identification - with the exception of flowers and, to some extent, fruit - are available for study virtually all the year round. Buds, for example, are to be found on the branches of most trees during all but a relatively few months in the year.

Leaves are, of course, very helpful, when they are there, and there is no reason why they should not be used as an aid in tree identification. But they are not essential, and you will find you can get along well enough without them if necessary.

Another advantage of winter tree study is the fact that, if you are a person of many hobbies, especially in the field of nature study, you may find yourself less preoccupied with other things in the winter. Many have found winter tree study a welcome addition to their hobbies because it gives them something to do in what might otherwise be a relatively dull season.

Some Basic Information

Before going any further into the subject, we need to consider a few fundamental facts. For example, what is a tree, anyway?

Plants can be sorted into various categories. For example, we can dispense with the herbs, which are non-woody plants that die down to the ground in the winter. The so-called woody plants have some kind of growth above ground that is alive all year round but dormant during the winter.

Woody plants, in turn, can be subdivided into three groups: trees, shrubs, and vines. Since we are going to confine ourselves - with a few possible exceptions - to trees, let us dis-

pose of the other two.

Vines, of course, are climbers. They twine around other plants or anything they find suitable, or they attach themselves in some way or other to such supports. Some of them trail along the ground. The technical name for vines is "lianas".

Shrubs are not always as easy to distinguish from trees as vines are. The authorities use height as one mark of distinction, but the authorities do not all agree on where to draw the line; some say eight feet, and others 15 or 20. Bushy shrubs like the lilac are easy to recognize, and most of them seem to have this characteristic of a group of stems growing together from the ground, but this is by no means an infallible sign. I have a pussy willow, for example, that starts from a single stem, although it branches considerably above the ground. Yet it is definitely a shrub. Personally, I don't draw too fine a line between a tree and a shrub, and there are many I consider borderline cases that I have learned to recognize, although I have confined my studies mainly to trees.

So I look upon a tree as a woody plant having a very definite stem or trunk (but some of them grow in clumps, like birches) and capable of growth to a considerable height, but I have to include in my studies many of the borderline cases already mentioned. For example, most of the striped maples I find are what I would call shrubs, but often I find them grown into sufficient size and form to put them definitely in the class of trees.

Classification

Before you get any further into tree study, you should know something about the way trees are classified. Although much of this information is knowledge you will not need to obtain a general familiarity with trees, it might be well to give it a quick review for the record.

The plant kingdom is divided into four principal divisions, the first three of which (including things like algae, mosses, and ferns) are outside the field of present interest. The fourth division, the Spermatophytes, includes all the plants that bear true seeds. The Spermatophytes, in turn, have two subdivisions, the Gymnosperms, which have naked seeds, and the Angiosperms, whose seeds are enclosed in an ovary. As the Gymnosperms are mostly tropical or subtropical in habitat, your main concern will be with the Angiosperms. These are further subdivided into two classes, the Monocotyledons and the Dicotyledons, and it would be well to have some familiarity with these.

Monocotyledons, whose embryo contains but a cotyledon or seed leaf, include all the grasses, reeds, lilies, orchids, etc. The palms are Monocotyledons and may be considered a glorified grass. I have found it easy to recognize Monocotyledons by the arrangement of veins in the leaf; all the veins radiate directly from the base of the leaf; they do not branch and further subdivide. This class name is usually called "monocots" for short.

Dicotyledons, familiarly known as dicots (rhymes with "pie pots"), have two cotyledons or seed leaves in the embryo. This

is the class with which we shall be mainly concerned in this discussion, for it includes virtually all the trees and shrubs found in our area. (A palm tree is a monocot, but we do not find them around here.)

So far, this classification information is not too essential; you could get along without it in getting acquainted with trees. You should, however, become familiar with what is meant by a species, a genus and a family.

We can think of a species as a very specific kind of tree, like a sugar maple, a white ash or a balsam fir. When necessary, species are subdivided into subspecies, but you will probably be satisfied to learn to recognize trees by species.

A genus is a group of two or more species. The plural is genera. The genus could include a single species only, and some genera are represented in our area by but a single species, although they do include more species elsewhere. For example, the hemlock is the only local, native representative of its genus, and the same thing is true of the balsam fir - although other species of both genera might be found here as introduced species, purchased from nurserymen or brought here from other regions.

Genera, in turn, can be grouped together in a more comprehensive category, the family.

It quite often helps to know the Latin name of a tree, for it is usually a more reliable identification. However, it is not absolutely reliable, for some botanists disagree on the Latin names. Any given species of tree will have two Latin names, one for the genus and the other for the species, with the genus always named first. Thus the Latin name for the genus of birches is *Betula*, and black birch is *Betula lenta*; the "lenta" identifies the particular species of birch. Where it is important to distinguish between different subspecies, three Latin names are used, the first two of which are the same in all cases, but the third indicating the subspecies in question.

With this introductory and fundamental information in mind, we can go on to more specific considerations in getting acquainted with the trees.

(Next issue: Parts II and III: The Evergreens;
Deciduous Trees and Buds.)

* * * * *

A SEQUEL TO THE BLOOMINGDALE MERGANSER

Betty Hicks

The July, 1965 issue of THE KINGBIRD (p. 174) carried a note of a female common merganser rescued from a chimney. The information had been supplied to the Adirondack-Champlain field note editor as part of his spring write up. The incident happened on Memorial Day in Bloomingdale less than 17 miles from our camp at Silver Lake.

This must have been an eventful spring for female mergs! A red-breasted merganser managed to find her way down the chimney of one of our cabins along the lake shore at Silver Lake. She did not take cover there during the bad weather of Memorial Day nor those wintery days which followed it. The women started cleaning at that time and began in the fateful cabin and ours which we occupied by June first. (I had to be at camp early to attend the weekend of birding at Adirondack Loj.) We were back at camp for pre-camp opening by June 13th and had occasion to check THE cabin. It was closed and locked and I left it that way until it was to be used. This information is not given to emulate Alfred Hitchcock, but this tale does have a little of his mystery.

Sunday, June 19th, one of the counselors called on the inter-camp phone asking me to come to THE cabin immediately - there was a duck in the kitchen! Knowing she had unlocked the door to gain entrance I was curious - to say the least. When I got there the merganser was lying under the table - very dead. The trail of her flight or plight - down, droppings and blood - was everywhere. On the mantle, the railing of the balcony of the half-story room, the window sills, the hanging chandelier, any place she could land she had left her marks. The bird bore no noticeable injury and was perfectly preserved so we did not know how long she might have been inside. How she got in was even more a mystery. The stone chimney looks large from the outside, but it has a damper which was partly closed and the flue is quite narrow. Why she entered is still unsolved. Mergansers are not even common on the lake and only black ducks have been seen breeding on the beaver pond at the inlet.

The fact remained she was there so I thought her death might serve a good cause. I sealed her in a plastic bag, covered by a paper bag and marked "Hicks - PERSONAL". This was placed in the freezer until the campers had the opportunity to study her later. This care was taken because North Country cooks are particular about what they find in their domain and this would not have been well received.

Would that we had rescued our merganser for more than the one reason of saving her life! Since I am the bird lover rather than the cleaning woman, after my trip to the kitchen I returned to THE cabin. Collecting the broom, dust pan, mop and scrub pail I erased the evidence of the mystery without ever solving it.

* * * * *

LET FLORIDA AUDUBON HELP YOU

Barry Havens

If you take a winter vacation in Florida, you'll find it will pay you to visit the headquarters of the Florida Audubon Society and take advantage of the help you can get there. I did so during my annual southern trek this past winter, and I'm glad I did.

Doris Mager was at the desk when I finally found the headquarters building in Maitland, and she was very friendly and helpful. There is a wealth of material available there which can be purchased for reasonable fees. This includes a checklist of Florida birds (5¢ each), and a publication, "Where to Find Birds in Florida," - I forget what I paid for that, but I think it was about a dollar. It's worth the price, not only because it tells you what to find in the various Florida locations but also because it is profusely illustrated with a full-color cover. However, the section devoted to birds in the Cocoa-Merritt Island section is out of date, for the rocket/satellite boom there seems to have destroyed the landmarks the guide refers to.

Florida Audubon has chapters in many Florida places, and you're likely to find one near where you decide to stay. A list of these is to be found on the back cover of THE FLORIDA NATURALIST, published by the society, and if you can't conveniently locate a copy, I have one.

On my last trip, incidentally, I added the following species to my life list: mottled duck, fulvous tree duck, caracara, limpkin, American oystercatcher, dunlin, dowitcher, royal tern, black skimmer, burrowing owl, and painted bunting. I know I didn't have to go all the way to Florida for some of them, but that's the story of my life.

* * * * *

CONSERVATION CONSENSUS

Samuel R. Madison
Conservation Chairman

CALIFORNIA REDWOODS

As previously reported (See FEATHERS, May-June 1966, Vol. 28, p. 57; July-August 1966, Vol. 28, p. 80) the attempts in Congress to create a National Redwood Park or Parks in California were put over until 1967. President Johnson has recommended legislation suspending for one year all logging of the giant redwoods in the area proposed by his administration for a national park. Subsequently it was announced by Senators Kuchel (California) and Jackson (Washington) that the lumber companies had agreed to stop cutting in the areas under consideration. Consideration by legislation creating a Redwood Park is expected to begin in the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in January 1967. It is hoped that differences over the size and location of the park can be ironed out in the next session.

CANADA GEESE

A large buildup of the Canada goose population in Horicon National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin occurred in September and early October. Efforts of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to push some of the birds further south were only

partially successful, although there were many more geese than normal in Southern Illinois. The goose-hunting season began on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, October 8, 9, and 10 under excellent hunting conditions. An actual take of 9600 was registered for the three-day period in the Horicon area. Hunting success in adjacent areas was also high. Consequently, the Interior's Bureau closed the hunting season on October 14 in seven Wisconsin counties in the Horicon area.

* * * * *

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Peggy McGuirk
Field Trip Chairman

TRAPP MOUNTAIN

SEPTEMBER 17

Nine observers spent the afternoon on Trapp Mountain near New Paltz hoping for a good flight of hawks. The weather was cool, with a strong breeze and sunny most of the time.

Six species of hawks were observed and a total of 43 individuals were counted, not including a few of the inevitable "unidents" that raced by too fast or distant.

The high spots of the afternoon were a red-headed woodpecker which flew by quickly pursued by a tree swallow, and an olive-sided flycatcher which busily fed on a peak to the north for over an hour.

--Sam Madison

COLUMBIA COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 24

Saturday, September 24, the day of SBC's trip in Columbia County was cool, cloudy and unsettled at sunrise, but the sun did appear several times, during the morning.

Dr. Edgar Reilly led the group of thirteen birders around the perimeter of the county's best birding sites and stopped frequently to watch birds, examine wildflowers, mushrooms and a wood frog, brownish in color with a black mask on the face.

Once, baying of hounds sounded close at hand and considerably louder than the whispers of migrating birds. At this point some one said, "Here come horsemen." We lined up on either side of a grassy road to watch hounds and horsemen gallup by. Later we heard the tones of the hunter's horn recalling the dogs. Soon after, Dr. Reilly called us together to move along to another area.

On top of the Taconic highlands at Howburne, we faced northwest for a view of the familiar Helderberg escarpment in Albany County, then a quarter turn southwest and one saw several peaks of the Catskills along the skyline. The group had gone up the hillside scanning for hawks. Now we continued to hope for hawks as we returned to the cars, and had the pleasure of seeing an osprey as well as several broad-winged hawks.

A cup of hot coffee, prepared by our hosts gave us the needed warmth to continue the search for birds, which all seemed to be on their coffee break too.

We reached the Alan Devoe Wildlife Sanctuary by early afternoon and after a picnic lunch, a few birders walked through a part of the sanctuary. This was the signal for showers to begin.

A list of 41 species was agreed upon, and we said goodbye until next week. --Hazel Eddy

VISCHER FERRY BIRD BANDING

OCTOBER 8

This was the first attempt at this type of trip at Vischer Ferry. If the number of people present to observe was any clue to the trip being a success, it was! There were 35 observers throughout the morning.

Bob Yunick and Walt Sabin led us around their net lanes as they proceeded to remove various kinds of sparrows from the nets for banding. They explained the hows and whys of banding - an interesting aspect of banding.

The birds didn't seem to be as cooperative as we, although an hermit thrush and Lincoln's sparrow were seen among the 102 birds banded. Actually at the end of the trip we realized there's a lot more to banding than meets the eye. --Peggy McGuirk

TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR

OCTOBER 12

Five brave souls showed up at the appointed time and place. Perhaps the rainy weather at the start discouraged others who had indicated an interest in attending. The light rain stopped at about 9 am. From then on the weather improved.

A total of 35 species was seen around and on the reservoir. Among those seen were six loons, one pied-billed grebe, 47 Canada geese, four American widgeon, ten scaup ducks, two marsh hawks, one osprey, 13 greater yellowlegs, one dunlin, four tree swallows, 20 pipits and four myrtle warblers. --Walt Sabin

PLEASANT VALLEY SANCTUARY, MASS.

OCTOBER 15

Eleven of us started from Latham on a beautiful fall day. The drive was as picturesque as the sanctuary itself. The weather was warm and the birds, although slightly scarce, were seen under ideal circumstances. To the delight and surprise of many, life birds were added to people's lists.

For the most part it was the golden-crowned kinglets which were very obliging to give us a very good view. Also two palm warblers greeted us as we started up the trail. Their fall plumage, with the sun on them, made a very pretty picture.

We had lunch on the sanctuary grounds. The most industrious remained for the afternoon. All in all everyone had a wonderful and enjoyable day. --Peggy McGuirk

HUDSON HIGHLANDSOCTOBER 22

Ten of us took part in the Hudson Highlands trip and the day, weatherwise, was really perfect. The birds didn't put on too much of a show. We picked up a dozen or more of the common birds in Pleasantdale. Included in this group was one cooperative cowbird which sang to us for fifteen minutes from the top of a telephone pole. We then drove to Turner Road and explored SBC members Sally and John Murphy's property for a while. The colors were still bright and beautiful and though hunters had been in the area at 6 am that morning, we managed to see a pheasant which had escaped them, as well as myrtle warblers, and lots of robins.

From there we drove down Calhoun Drive. About halfway down to River Road, we spotted some meadowlarks and we just got back in our cars when several people (including two new members) shouted, "Bluebirds!!" There were five of them -- their colors flashing in the bright sunlight.

Anything seen after that was an anticlimax and at one o'clock, apple checked and satisfied, we went to lunch. Twenty-six species had been seen and we also had a lesson in entomology when Doug Norton showed us a tree hopper that looked just like a walking thorn -- good camouflage since he was on a thorn bush!

--Lois Norton

HAWK MOUNTAIN, PA.OCTOBER 29, 30

Eleven individuals made the trip via auto to Pennsylvania's Hawk Mountain Sanctuary on Friday, October 28, 1966. After an overnight stay at the Holiday Inn at Reading, we drove about 25 miles to the sanctuary. A fifteen-minute hike brought us to the heap of broken rock on the northeastern face of the promontory. Where once hunters had stood and senselessly shot at every passing hawk, we "shot" via binoculars, telescopes and camera.

Before departing we knew that the broad high-pressure system which had been quite stationary and centered over Kentucky and West Virginia would not produce the best flights. Upon arrival we learned that the total hawk count for Thursday and Friday had been zero. At 9:30 am, on Saturday the first hawk sailed past. The high was moved on by a narrow low driven by another strong high coming down from Canada. The wind picked up and gusts of over 60 mph were measured. Before we left we had counted over 100 red-tails. An immature golden eagle flew and sailed by below us on the north side of the slope.

Five flocks of Canadian geese were spotted, flying high, obviously bound for a distant point and not interested in Hawk Mountain. Equally unimpressed with the spot were the common loons, except for a pair which flew in circle after circle, directly overhead, taking advantage of the updraft to gain altitude before peeling off directly south.

One interesting phenomena was the great number of large leaves, sheets of paper and long corn sheaths which were carried by at various altitudes. Some floated by serenely at

eye level as if they would never come to earth; others were carried to great heights by strong updrafts; a few tumbled end over end like a discarded portion of a space vehicle.

What may have been lacking in quantity was more than offset by quality. A great many of the hawks were at eye level, or slightly above or below, permitting easy tracking through our scopes. The bright sunshine which prevailed on both days, except for a few hours on Saturday afternoon, made observing more enjoyable and enhanced the clear panoramic view of the countryside in autumn foliage.

Those species of hawks observed passing Hawk Mountain that weekend included merlin, sharp-shinned, red-tailed, marsh hawk, red-shouldered, Cooper's and goshawk. Also seen were turkey vulture, golden eagle and bald eagle. --Sam Madison

ALCOVE RESERVOIRNOVEMBER 6

The trip coordinator decided to scout the Alcove area a day ahead. He and two others had a clear day and 35 species while visiting the main Alcove Reservoir only. On the day of the scheduled trip it was colder, raining and snowing. Only one additional birder appeared on the scene. 'Twas a pretty scene; a scattering of snow on the ground and a white mantle covered the evergreens. But even though they worked harder, and covered Basic Reservoir as well, only 31 species were seen by the group. Some spotted on Saturday but not on Sunday were a common loon, eight pintails, five old squaws and 60 snow buntings.

--Sam Madison

ROUND LAKE AND SARATOGA LAKENOVEMBER 12

A group of eleven - Hazen Eddy, Mary Johnston, Mary Linch, Elsy Hallenbeck, Peggy McGuirt, Walt Sabin, Monte and Kenny Gruett, Peter Wickham, Katherine Bordt and Betty Hicks - gathered at Round Lake and scanned the area eagerly. The sky was overcast, so colors were muted, but there was a dead calm which made the lake surface a mirror for the landscape. Little appeared until a great blue heron sailed lazily by, a few gulls preened themselves in the middle and at the far shore a pair of American widgeons and several ruddies fished.

Going on to Saratoga we shared the lake with many fishing boats and a few hunters so little could be seen from the parking spot or at Stony Point. At Brown's Beach a common loon rode calmly off shore and permitted everyone to study him. He still wore a changing plumage with the barring faintly evident on his back. Horned grebes, ducks and more loons were visible in the distance so we moved on toward Snake Hill. This stop gave a close view of a red-throated loon, so a comparison could be made. Blacks, white-winged scoters, common goldeneyes, old-squaws, scaups and canvasbacks were found in rafts on the water or on the wing. A better view of some buffleheads with an old-squaw was obtained at the end of the lake. After straining for distant views it was good to enjoy the full colors and details so easily.

The park was closed to cars and afforded little more than repeats of land birds during the walk to the bank. We returned by the west shore and added little, but the drive was pleasant.

The total list of 36 species offered a fair variety of both water and land birds. The lack of sunlight was more than made up by the lack of wind, so everyone ended the trip contented.

--Betty Hicks

* * * * *

YOU TOO CAN TAME CHICKADEES

Barry Havens

If you have a bird feeder, and it has a substantial, regular attendance of chickadees, chances are you can tame at least some of them. With a little patience and a certain amount of calculated opportunism, you should be able to teach them to take sunflower seeds from your hand.

First step, of course, is to get them thoroughly accustomed to using your feeder as a regular source of food. Then, if attendance is good, the normal development of rivalry and conflict over feeding rights should pave the way towards your next step: getting the birds accustomed to you as an alternate source of supply.

In my own experience, when it became obvious that the birds were contesting for the right to the feeding tray, I would make it a habit of standing relatively near the tray. Chickadees are not very timid birds, and they speedily became accustomed to my presence and carried on as usual with their feeding - and quarreling. Usually there would be birds waiting somewhere nearby for their turn at the feeder.

At this point I would extend my arm, with sunflower seeds in the outstretched hand, holding the hand as near the feeding tray as possible, but keeping the rest of me as far away as possible. Usually the response would be quick, if not immediate, and birds would fly down to investigate the new food supply. Usually there would be one or two, more daring than the others, that would light on my hand almost without hesitation and take seeds. Rivalry and mimicry act as powerful forces, in addition to hunger, to stimulate others to follow their example.

In the final two weeks of my stay at my summer camp this past season, I had my first opportunity to tame chickadees this year. The method described worked so successfully that, by the time I left, two weeks later, I had at least a half dozen chickadees feeding from my hand, plus two or three red-breasted nuthatches.

There will always be timid souls among the bird population. You will find certain individuals which will investigate but not land, flying down near your hand, holding a fluttering position nearby for a brief moment, and then flying away, usually vocalizing sharply as they do so. I have found it interesting to observe them as they make progress in overcoming their fear, but either they never do succeed in outgrowing their timidity or there is a regular influx of newer individuals going through the same routine, for there always seem to be a certain number of shy ones.

As a matter of fact, as so often happens with wild life, you are likely to learn to recognize individual birds by their characteristics and habits. Certain ones will grow to accept the situation so completely that they seem to look upon you as just another feeding tray; they will take you completely for granted. Others will display varying degrees of timidity. A few may develop the habit of picking and choosing among the seeds in your hand, scattering several before making their final selection. I had one that I got to recognize because it would try to eat my fingers as if they were suet. Some got so tame that they would fly to me wherever they saw me, even if far from the feeding station. There was one winter season that they followed me wherever I went.

If you have tame chipmunks as well, by the time you reach this stage you will find it wise always to have a supply of sunflower seed in one pocket and peanuts in another, whenever you venture outdoors. For once you tame wild things, they expect food from you whenever they find you, not just when you are in the mood for feeding them.

* * * * *

WILDLIFE HIGHWAY FATALITIES

Jan Reese

Did you ever wonder how many birds die a highway death? Or how many dead rabbits you could count on the road in the course of a year?

During 1964 I took two counts of highway fatalities daily, one at 7 am. and the other at 6 pm., along a typical sixteen-mile stretch of Maryland highway in Talbot County. The highway, Maryland Route 33 from Tilghman Island to St. Michaels, is two lanes wide with twelve miles of level, paved road, bordered by new shoulders. The remaining four miles are practically shoulderless and the road surface is rounded. The grass is very tall along all sixteen miles, as the State cuts it only once a year (early spring, tax paying time). The countryside is largely used for farming. Fields adjoin the highway for most of its length, but there are some wooded areas (especially loblolly Pine), a little marsh, and one town.

Table I gives a complete record of the dead reptiles, birds, and mammals that I observed on my twice-a-day trips in 1964. This does not, however, represent the total annual mortality of these wildlife species along this particular stretch of highway. During rainy or snowy periods, when the driver and the victim are partially blinded, fatalities are high and counting is especially difficult. Wildlife come to feed at the clear roadside and are readily killed and quickly disintegrate or are taken by scavengers. Some victims are critically wounded, but

(Editor's note: Conducting a road kill survey on mammals in particular has long interested me. Here is an example of one conducted in Maryland. Reprinted from the December, 1965 issue of MARYLAND BIRDLIFE.)

TABLE I
Highway Kill by Months

<u>SPECIES</u>	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	YEAR TOTAL
<u>REPTILES</u>													
Snapping Turtle						1							1
East. Mud Turtle				1	1								3
East. Box Turtle				1	2	3	6	3	2				18
No. Black Racer					3	1	6	4	5				27
<u>BIRDS</u>													
Chicken	2	1						1					4
Bobwhite	1	1	1	1	4	9	11		2	5			40
Mourning Dove	1		1						1	1			4
Yellow-bill. Cuckoo							2	3	1	1			6
Yellow-shaft. Flicker						1			1	1			3
Red-bell. Woodpecker						1							1
Tree Swallow										5			5
Common Crow							1					1	2
Mockingbird										1			1
Catbird					1		3						4
Brown Thrasher								1	1				2
Hermit Thrush									1	1			1
Robin		2											2
Starling		1			1					4			6
House Sparrow			1		5	5	15	6	21	9			62
Eastern Meadowlark			1				1		1				3
Common Grackle			2	1	7	4		1		2			17
Brown-headed Cowbird						1							1
Cardinal		1	1					4	1	1			8
Savannah Sparrow									1				1
White-thr. Sparrow	19												19
Song Sparrow										1			1
Unidentified Bird	4	2	1		9	5	9	6	10	3			49
<u>MAMMALS</u>													
Virginia Opossum	1		2	2	6	4		2	2	1	1	2	23
Raccoon		1				1		1	1	9	1	1	15
Striped Skunk		3	1				4	1	2	5	2		18
Domestic Dog							1	2		2			5
Domestic Cat	3			2	4	2		1		2	3	3	20
Gray Squirrel	2					2			2	1			7
Meadow Vole										1			1
Muskrat			1	1	1								3
Norway Rat			1		1								2
Common Cottontail	8	10	18	16	6	7	9	5	6	12	7	12	116
White-tailed Deer										1			1
Unident. reptile, mammal	1	1		1			2		4				9
Total reptile kill	0	0	0	5	6	5	14	7	7	5	0	0	49
Total bird kill	27	8	8	2	27	26	42	22	39	35	5	1	242
Total mammal kill	15	15	23	22	18	16	16	12	17	33	15	18	220
Grand total	42	23	31	29	51	47	72	41	63	73	20	19	511

manage to move to a secluded spot to die. The tall grass, shoulderless road, immediate pick-up by scavengers, birds wedged in grilles, and the human pick-up of deer and domestic pets are some of the factors that contribute to the incompleteness of this story.

I did not attempt to count frogs or other amphibians. On rainy nights in early spring these little animals are killed by the hundreds when they come out of the ditches to bask in the warmth of the asphalt.

Returning to the recorded casualties, there is an answer to how and why each of these victims dies. The majority of the mammals are blinded by headlights at night. The reptiles are unable to move fast enough to avoid an approaching vehicle. The birds, especially young ones with no previous experience with traffic, misjudge the speed of automobiles. The slaughter, as with human fatalities, will go on and will grow with each coming year as the numbers of highways, cars and drivers continue to increase.

In this one year, at least 116 rabbits died on this sixteen-mile segment of road. One hundred miles of similar road would have an annual kill of more than 700 rabbits. I do not know how many miles of highway there are in the State, but at the rate of seven rabbits per mile the total kill would be staggering. Average yearly traffic passing over this piece of road was 866,875 vehicles. When divided by my total annual kill of 511, one out of every 1696 cars killed some visible form of wildlife.

Some interesting correlations can be made by studying Table I. Reptile fatalities were recorded during only seven months of the year, April through October. These fellows are active during the warm portion of the year only. The peak kill came during the hottest months, July, August, and September. The black snake heads the reptile list, thanks to the "hate snake" drivers.

As you can see, birds are well represented. If I had not been a birder and had not looked a little sharper for small birds beside the road, I believe the recorded kill of mammals would have been higher than for birds. Locally breeding birds and a few fall migrants kept the bird kill fairly steady for six months, May through October. Most of the birds killed were immatures and juvenals. One upsurge in mid-winter can be blamed entirely on the small amount of snow that we had. July was the worst month for bird casualties and all these birds were probably local breeders. House sparrows led the list, but bobwhite was not far behind. Note the low numbers for some of the most common, year-round roadside feeders: cardinal, robin, common grackle, starling, and song sparrow. The species that surprised me the most was the mockingbird. I think you will agree with me that the mockingbird is among the top three roadside birds one sees from a car in Talbot County. Yet I found only one fatality of this species all year.

The mammal casualties were highest at two periods during the year: just prior to hibernation and just after hibernation. In both periods the animals had to search harder for food, as they do every year at these times. Also, spring brings on the search for a mate by some species, and fall the search for a

good spot to spend the winter. These being the most restless times of the year for these animals, the kill also reached its highest points. The rabbit kill was five times as high as that detected for any other mammal. Note that the peak domestic dog kill came during "dog days" (July and August). Domestic cats ranked third highest in mammal fatalities. I always thought cats were fast; maybe their kill is high just because there are so many of them.

I would encourage others to make similar daily counts in other areas. Data from different parts of the State would be interesting for comparison. If anyone else has kept a record of wildlife highway fatalities in Maryland, or would be interested in keeping one, I would like very much to know about it.

* * * * *

EDITOR'S NOTES

AND THE PIGEON WAR CONTINUES

In recent years the "pigeon problem" has grown considerably in crowded metropolitan areas particularly in the East. However, the West has proved equally vulnerable and San Francisco's recent attempt to solve the problem is amusing from a distance.

It started as an ordinance making it a misdemeanor to feed San Francisco's 100,000 pigeon population, and allowed the SPCA to catch and kill pigeons. With this came war between bird lovers and the former allied SPCA. It was complete with the jailing of a grandmother who in order to achieve arrest had to tempt with grain a flock of pigeons to the steps of City Hall and then demand from the mayor that she be arrested. Her sentence: 29 days.

In a little over two months the SPCA has removed 4,500 pigeons to country surroundings. Supposedly 50,000 birds will be relocated. The call "murderer" prompted relocation rather than execution. Mum is the word on where the birds are going, but it is said that a ranch about 200 miles distant is being duly adorned.

No one is immune in the war. One rancher offered to take some pigeons and reportedly 1) his foreman threatened to quit, 2) the county talked legal action, 3) the telephone rang so frequently with calls of angry neighbors that the offer was withdrawn. The company doing the trapping is meeting its share of problems. It claims that half of August's catch was released by people tampering with traps. Businesses which have allowed traps to be placed atop their roofs have been so besieged with calls that 20 percent of the traps have been relocated. One trap at a bank was relocated in five days.

Therefore add San Francisco to the ranks behind Indianapolis which shoots, Buffalo which gages, Milwaukee which poisons, St. Louis which decapitates and Albany, Schenectady and Troy which do nothing.

CHRISTMAS MEETING NOTICE

At the Christmas meeting, to be held at 8:00 p.m., Monday, December 12, 1966 in the Pine Room of the First Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, Mr. Joseph Munoff of South Glens Falls, N.Y., will give a slide-illustrated talk on our vanishing birds of prey. Some of the members may recall that Mr. Munoff presented a paper on the marsh hawk at the N.Y.S. Federation of Bird Clubs Annual Meeting in 1960 at Albany. Included in the slide program are series of nesting sequences for the great horned owl and harrier. The program lasts 45 to 60 minutes.

Plans will be formulated for the Schenectady Christmas Bird Count to be held on Saturday, December 24, 1966 and the Troy Christmas Bird Count to be held Saturday, December 31, 1966.

Refreshments will be served.

(Issue assembled November 24, 1966)

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