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SCHENECTADY HAS NEW HIGH COUNT

Guy Bartlett
Compiler

Schenectady's 39th annual Christmas Count totals were 47 species and about 8469 individuals, with a little more than half of them starlings. The 8469 figure was a new maximum; previously it was the 7700 of 1932.

The ground was bare, all streams were wide open, but smaller ponds and part of Watervliet Reservoir were iced, as were some marshes. Despite the open conditions of the countryside, however, birds were flocked and concentrated.

The Rosendale Road-Niskayuna area, with 34 species, was the heaviest contributor. Included in one of its flocks of about 30 white-throated sparrows was a pair of rufous-sided towhees, previously recorded only in 1958. White-throats were singing during a brief snowsquall. White-throats, incidentally, have been at numerous feeders. The Carolina wren was the first on count day since 1959, although recorded during the period three times since then.

In addition to the record-breaking total of 8469, there were other maxima: herring gull 64 (was 63), robin 205 (13), cedar waxwing 205 (141), cowbird 869 (107), cardinal tied at 36, towhee 2 (1), and white-throated sparrow 59 (6).

On the minus side were: only one in-flight duck, the golden-eye, for the entire open Mohawk River (the black ducks and mallard were Meadowdale records), only two kinds of hawks and one of owls, a lone pheasant, and a lack of winter finches. Goldfinches were widespread and there were two pine grosbeaks in Central Park, but no records of purple finches, siskins, redpolls, crossbills or evening grosbeaks, although a very few of these grosbeaks did appear later in the week.

Schenectady's composite list for the 39 years remained at 101 species, plus one hybrid. There are, however, now four species on near dates only, including this count's white-crowned sparrow.

The record, in National Audubon Society form:

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. (42°44'N, 73°55'W) (15-mile circle centered at Lydius Street and Lone Pine Road, Town of Guelderland, to include all of Schenectady and Scotia, part of Albany, Mohawk River from Lock 8 to Mohawk View, Indian Ladder, Watervliet Reservoir; urban and suburban 35%, open farmland 30%, light deciduous woods 15%, mixed deciduous woods and evergreens 10%, cattail marshes 10%) December 23, 6:45 am. to 5:30 pm. Overcast to partly cloudy. Temperature 28 to 34 degrees; wind west, 0-15 mph. Ground bare, only a few ponds iced.

SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS COUNT - DECEMBER 23, 1967

	T	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Mallard	1		1						
Black Duck	23		23						
Common Goldeneye	1	1							
Red-tailed Hawk	5	1	1	2			1		
Sparrow Hawk	3		1		1			1	
Ruffed Grouse	2	1			1				
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	1							
Common Snipe	1		1						
Herring Gull	64	44			4		14		2
Ring-billed Gull	1	1							
Mourning Dove	28	8		1		1			18
Great Horned Owl	2	1	1						
Belted Kingfisher	1			1					
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1		1						
Pileated Woodpecker	2	1	1						
Hairy Woodpecker	24	6	4	6			2	3	3
Downy Woodpecker	34	5	9	2	1	2	4	4	7
Horned Lark	60		56	1				3	
Blue Jay	118	37	5	15	4	27	9	7	14
Common Crow	657	15	477	100	8	35	1	12	9
Black-capped Chickadee	122	32	23	10	5	13	8	8	23
Tufted Titmouse	11	1	1				2		7
White-breasted Nuthatch	39	7	7	6	2	5	6	3	3
Brown Creeper	15	2	2	9			2		
Winter Wren	3		3						
Carolina Wren	1	1							
Mockingbird	1				1				
Robin	205	1	164	1				1	38
Golden-crowned Kinglet	8	2	3		2		1		
Cedar Waxwing	205	10							195
Northern Shrike	1			1					
Satrling	4449	234	1579	2000	83	33	12	45	463
House Sparrow	544	150	110	70	27	47	30	56	54
Red-winged Blackbird	4	2						2	
Rusty Blackbird	2	1		1					
Common Grackle	1	1							
Brown-headed Cowbird	869		868		1				
Cardinal	36	13	7		4	1	1	2	8
Pine Grosbeak	2							2	
American Goldfinch	254	107	53	40		25	17	7	5
Rufous-sided Towhee	2	2							
Slate-colored Junco	72	6		1		29	5	8	23
Tree Sparrow	489	106	190	40	47	40	23	3	40
White-throated Sparrow	59	50						2	7
Swamp Sparrow	1	1							
Song Sparrow	34	17	4		2	4	4	2	1
Snow Bunting	11		2	9					
Total Species	47	34	27	21	16	13	18	19	19
Total Count	8469	868	3596	2317	193	262	142	171	920

Twenty-one observers in seven parties, plus feeding station and home-area observers. 34 hours afield (13 afoot, 21 by car); 218 miles afield (31 afoot, 187 by car). Total, 47 species, about 8469 individuals. Seen in area during count period, but not on count day: rough-legged hawk, Eastern meadowlark, evening grosbeak, white-crowned sparrow.

SCHENECTADY HIGHLIGHTS

- Group A - Will D. Merritt, Jr., Aaron and Harvey Spivak, Rudolph H. Stone, Robert P. Yunick. Rosendale and River Roads, Niskayuna Landfill to Mohawk View. 6:45 am. to 4:15 pm. 10 miles afoot, 25 by car; 8½ hours afoot, 1 by car. 34 species, 868 count.
- Group B - Walton B. Sabin and Peter P. Wickham. Guilderland, Altamont, New Scotland, Indian Ladder and Meadowdale areas. 7:15 am. to 5:30 pm., with Wickham in am. only. 3 miles afoot, 33 by car; 1 hour afoot, 8 by car. 27 species, 3596 count.
- Group C - Guy Bartlett, Benton R. Seguin. Watervliet Reservoir and environs. 7 am. to noon. 5 miles afoot, 18 by car; 3 hours afoot, 2 by car. 21 species, 2317 count.
- Group D - Francis P. and Hazel F. Bundy. Saratoga County, River-view Road to Vischer Ferry Game Management Area, Lock 7. 8 am. to 12:30pm. 3 miles afoot, 20 by car; 1½ hours afoot, 3 by car. 16 species, 193 count.
- Group E - Betty Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Byron T. Hipple. Albany Airport and environs. 8:40 am. to 3:40 pm. 5 miles afoot, 38 by car; 4½ hours afoot, 2½ by car. 13 species, 262 count.
- Group F - Libby Brown, Alice Holmes, Mary Kerley. Scotia, and Campbell, Schermerhorn, Gordon and River Roads. 9 am. to 2:15 pm. 2½ miles afoot, 25 by car; 3¼ hours afoot, 2 by car. 18 species, 142 count.
- Group G - Irene S. and Stephanie F. Podrazik. Central Park, Park-view Cemetery, Municipal Golf Course, Balltown Road. 10 am. to 1 pm. 2 miles and 3 hours afoot. 19 species, 171 count.
- Group H - Mr. and Mrs. B.D. Bedford, Laura Brown, John N. Fuller, Esly Hallenbeck, Mary Linch, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shedd, Beverly Waite, Carol Wernick and Anne Yunick. Feeders; urban and suburban. 19 species, 920 count.

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HIGH TOTALS ATTAINED ON TROY COUNT

Peter P. Wickham and Paul Grattan

Co-compilers

The Troy Christmas Count was a great success both artistically and numerically: artistically- since to be out on that clear, crisp day with the fresh snow misting off the evergreens and decorating the hills, with birds flashing by in the bright sunshine, was pure pleasure, and numerically- since this year's count pro-

duced the second highest total of species and, we believe, the highest total of individuals ever seen on a Troy Christmas Count.

The most startling change in this year's count was the rise in the number of starlings counted: 4094 this year compared with 1195 last year and only 360 the previous winter (groan!). Hawks remained about the same as in 1966; except for a sharp drop in sparrow hawks observed. Pheasants and grouse continued in low numbers.

On a brighter note, most small land birds have increased in numbers this winter. Although most winter finches were again absent from the count, numbers of evening grosbeaks and goldfinches were up sharply this year over last. Finally, the various sparrows sighted provided the highlight of the count- the first Oregon junco and included unprecedented high counts of white-throated, white-crowned and tree sparrows.

Last but not least, a hearty "thank you" to all of you who participated in the count, making it such a success, and best wishes for a pleasant 1968.

TROY, N.Y. (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 0.3 mile east of 73°40' and 0.1 mile south of 42°50' as in previous years). December 30; 6 am. to 4 pm. Clear in am.; partly cloudy in pm.; temperature -5 to 25 degrees; wind S, 0-5 mph.; 12 in. fresh snow, only fast waters open. Twenty-one observers in seven parties plus 28 feeding station reports. Total party-hours, 54 (22½ on foot, 31½ by car); total party-miles, 385½ (19½ on foot, 366 by car).

TROY HIGHLIGHTS

Group A - Hudson Highlands: Betty Hicks, Byron and Margaret Hipple, Lois and Douglas Norton. 9:15 am. to 3:30 pm.; 1½ miles afoot, 44 by car; 2 hours afoot, 4¼ by car.

Group B - Tomhannock - Melrose: Pete Wickham, Monte Gruett. 6:15 am. to 4 pm. 3 miles afoot, 75 by car; 4¼ hours afoot, 5½ by car.

Group C - Cohoes - Green Island - Mohawk shore (north): Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin. 7:30 am. to 1 pm. 2 miles afoot, 30 by car; 2 hours afoot, 3½ by car.

Group D - Hudson River (North Troy to Stillwater): Sam Madison, Frances Adams, Elizabeth Macauley, Peggy McGuirk. 8:45 am. to 4 pm. 2 miles afoot, 38 by car; 4¼ hours afoot, 3 by car.

Group E - Tamarac - Center Brunswick - Troy: Paul Grattan, John Fuller, Dave Rothaupt. 6 am. to 1:30 pm. ¼ mile afoot, 70 by car; ½ hour afoot, 7 by car.

Group F - Mohawk View: Aaron and Harvey Spivak. 7:25 am. to 4:10 pm.; 7½ miles afoot, 5 by car; 8½ hours afoot, ¼ by car.

Group G - Northwest Quadrant (Saratoga County): Walt Sabin, Francis and Hazel Bundy. 7:45 am to 4:45 pm. 3 miles afoot, 64 by car; 1 hour afoot, 8 by car.

Group H - Feeder Reports: total 28 feeders. Lois Norton, coordinator.

FEATHERS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1968

TROY CHRISTMAS COUNT - DECEMBER 30, 1967

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	T
Mallard			40	61					101
Black Duck	4		250	48					302
Pintail				2					2
Green-winged Teal			1						1
Common Goldeneye				6					6
Common Merganser			1	2		1			4
Red-breasted Merganser			1						1
Cooper's Hawk					1				1
Red-tailed Hawk	5	5	2	3			1		16
Rough-legged Hawk					1	1	4		6
Sparrow Hawk	2			1			1		4
Ruffed Grouse		3			1	1		1	6
Ring-necked Pheasant							1	5	6
Great Black-backed Gull				1					1
Herring Gull			3						3
Ring-billed Gull				1					1
Mourning Dove	30	15		60	30	2	26	93	256
Screech Owl					1				1
Great Horned Owl		1							1
Yellow-shafted Flicker				1		1	1		3
Pileated Woodpecker	1			1		3		3	8
Hairy Woodpecker	6	5	2	2	1	10		20	46
Downy Woodpecker	6	14		5	4	8	3	30	70
Horned Lark	9	24	2	20			358		413
Blue Jay	20	57	20	45	30	12	56	143	383
Common Crow	23	34	25	22	40	1	27	6	178
Black-capped Chickadee	23	62	10	40	14	41	17	181	388
Tufted Titmouse							2	8	10
White-breasted Nuthatch	12	6	2	7	4	9	1	47	88
Red-breasted Nuthatch		4							4
Brown Creeper		2		1*		2	1		6
Mockingbird								1	1
Robin	3	7							10
Hermit Thrush				1					1
Golden-crowned Kinglet		9				1			10
Cedar Waxwing		1		108					109
Northern Shrike		1							1
Starling	687	548	1000	350	200	683	435	191	4094
House Sparrow	184	102	62	125	60	35	265	468	1301
Red-winged Blackbird		8						1	9
Rusty Blackbird							4		4
Common Grackle		1					1	4	6
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	57			1		6		65
Cardinal	4	5	1	1	1	3	4	26	45
Evening Grosbeak		3			5			54	62
Purple Finch					3			2	5
American Goldfinch	12	18		9	6	22			67
Oregon Junco				1					1
Slate-colored Junco	24	20	2	28	4		27	46	151
Tree Sparrow	143	203	75	85	130	60	210	135	1041
Field Sparrow					2				2
White-crowned Sparrow	3					1		1	5
White-throated Sparrow	2	6		3		2	8		21
Song Sparrow	11	18	6	1		6	5	20	67
Snow Bunting	29				10		22		61
Total Species	24	29	19	30	23	22	25	24	55
Total Count	1244	1239	1505	1040	550	905	1486	1488	9457

* Seen outside of Group D's territory.

OSPREY AND ORIOLE FEATURE REN. COUNT

Monte D. Gruett

Co-compiler

A few observations and comparisons with the previous year revealed increases in the population of several species. Wintering finches, though still not numerous compared with some previous years, were more common than last year when no evening grosbeaks or purple finches were reported from our area. Goldfinch populations increased nearly three-fold. However, siskins and redpolls like last year, appeared to be entirely absent. Tree sparrows were up 100 percent and blue jays appeared to be somewhat more numerous. White-throated sparrows, which were unreported last year, have been seen quite regularly especially at several feeders.

On the other hand, chickadees and crows were somewhat fewer. Almost no gulls were seen here, but this is purely a reflection of ice conditions in the river. Pheasants and mourning doves were also seen in fewer numbers but this may have been a result of the prevailing weather conditions on the day of the count.

The increase in the starling roost count at the Plaza and Dunn Memorial Bridge in Albany probably resulted from better coverage rather than any substantial increase in starlings. The starlings reported in the field and feeder counts were not included in the totals since many of these same individuals were probably counted at the roost. The cowbird roost at the Plaza seems to have been largely abandoned.

Some unusual species reported on this year's count were the osprey, peregrine falcon, yellow-bellied sapsucker, Baltimore oriole and Oregon junco.

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY, N.Y. (42°37'N, 73°38'W) (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Best, at intersection of Route 152 and Best-Luther Road, to include part of Troy, Poestenkill, Averill Park, Nassau, narrow belt of Albany County west of Hudson River; deciduous woods 30%, conifers 10%, fields and pastures 30%, marshes 15%, orchards 2%, river 3%, towns 5%, city 5%; 24 feeders. December 31; 5:45 am. to 4:45 pm. Overcast, snow late pm.; temperature -12 to 22 degrees; wind S, 0-15 mph.; 12-in. snow cover, streams and ponds mostly frozen. Eighteen observers in eight parties. Total party hours, 56 (10 on foot, 46 by car); total party-miles, 452 (13 on foot, 439 by car).

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

Group A - M. Gruett, R. McCullough, H. Spivak and P. Wickham; Hudson River marshes south of Rensselaer, east to Phillips Road, eastern East Greenbush and downtown Albany. 6:30 am. to 4:45 pm. 3 miles afoot, 70 by car; 2 hours afoot, 8 by car.

Group B - D. Gorman and W. Gorman; western East Greenbush and Rensselaer. 5:45 am. to 3:45 pm. 7 miles afoot, 50 by car; 4 hours afoot, 6 by car.

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY CHRISTMAS COUNT - DECEMBER 31, 1967

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Feeder Report	T
Black Duck			2							2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	3	5	2		1	1			15
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1								2
Osprey								1		1
Peregrin Falcon		1								1
Sparrow Hawk	1	3	2				4	1		11
Ruffed Grouse		1						1		2
Ring-necked Pheasant	4		2	6		2				14
Herring Gull		1						1		1
Ring-billed Gull		2								2
Mourning Dove	5	2	3	4		20	9	5	22	70
Screech Owl		2								2
Great Horned Owl	1							1		2
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2									2
Pileated Woodpecker	1	1	3							5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker								1		1
Hairy Woodpecker	6	6	6	2		2		1	17	40
Downy Woodpecker	10	20	8	2	1	12	12	3	44	112
Horned Lark	23	71	11	40		81	77		19	322
Blue Jay	25	30	40	50	13	90	56	9	141	454
Common Crow	27	20	30	20	4	75	22	11	9	218
Black-capped Chickadee	20	15	12	40	24	23	24	18	139	315
Tufted Titmouse	4	4						2	3	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	12	2	10	1	5	1	3	34	70
Brown Creeper		3					1		1	5
Mockingbird							2		2*	3
Robin	1						3		1	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1							2	3	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet								1		1
Cedar Waxwing		20						7		27
Starlings**	15750	1500	200	x	20	136	200	150	165	15750
House Sparrow	70	40	80	150	12	211	136	24	286	1009
Eastern Meadowlark		1					2			3
Red-winged Blackbird	3					1				4
Baltimore Oriole							1			1
Common Grackle							1			1
Brown-headed Cowbird	10	2		30					1	43
Cardinal	12	8		6	1	4	3	4	19	57
Evening Grosbeak	7		12	20			15		22	76
Purple Finch	2			4		2				8
American Goldfinch	6	1	12	10		4	40+		5	78+
Slate-colored Junco	1	16	2	15	2	68	27	12	85	228
Oregon Junco									1	1
Tree Sparrow	144	90	45	100	12	246	460	15	237	1349
White-throated Sparrow	3	2				4	2		4	15
Song Sparrow	42	4					4		8	58
Snow Bunting	2		25					18		45
Total Species	31	30	20	19	10	19	24	23	24	47
Total Count	16189	382	302	511	70	851	903	123	1101	20451

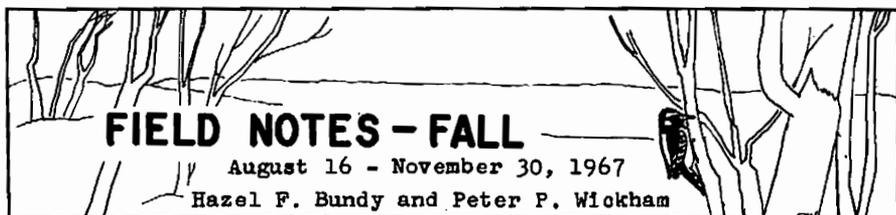
* One mockingbird at feeder same as reported by Group G.

** Total includes only starlings reported at Albany roost by Group A.

- Group C - G. Bartlett and B. Seguin; Hudson River north of Rensselaer, south of Troy and North Greenbush. 7:45 am. to 1:15 pm. 2 miles afoot, 50 by car; 1 hour afoot, $4\frac{1}{2}$ by car.
- Group D - Mr. and Mrs Robert Brown and Mr. and Mrs. J. Estabrooks; Poestenkill area. 65 miles and $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours by car.
- Group E - Mrs. F. Bordt; West Sand Lake, Averill Park area. 7:30 to 9:30 am. and 1:30 to 4:30 pm. 35 miles and 5 hours by car.
- Group F - W. Sabin and E. Somers; Nassau and eastern Schodack area. 7:40 am. to 4:20 pm. 105 miles and $8\frac{2}{3}$ hours by car.
- Group G - Mr. and Mrs. L. Burland; central Schodack and southern East Greenbush. $46\frac{1}{2}$ miles and $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours by car.
- Group H - R. Korns; Glenmont area. 9:30 am. to 1:30 pm. 1 mile afoot, 15 by car; $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours afoot, $1\frac{1}{2}$ by car.

Compilers: P.P.Wickham and M.D.Gruett.

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Temperatures for the latter half of August averaged a little higher than usual, those for September were slightly below average, and then in October they were slightly above average once more. The latter half of August was cloudy and wet, with precipitation a little below normal. Precipitation for September was only 2.23 in., well below the normal 3.58 in. In contrast, there were 3.48 in. of precipitation in October, 0.71 more than average. There were three wet snows in November - more than are usual for this month.

This year, in contrast to last year, favorable conditions for shore birds did not develop in the area. Watervliet Reservoir, our best source of shore birds last year, was maintained at a high level, and there were no mud flats. Seventeen species were recorded, but many of these were reported only once, and often as single individuals. Two whimbrels, which were found nowhere near water, were the first ever reported in this area. The Western sandpiper was the other most unusual shore bird.

Generally, herons seemed very scarce; no common egrets nor night herons were observed during August or September, continuing a downward trend of the last several years. Again there were relatively few reports of most species of hawks; in fact, only four accipiters were reported throughout the period.

On a more optimistic note, swallows lingered later than usual, with unprecedented late dates recorded for barn and tree swallows. There were also especially good flights of golden-crowned kinglets and cedar waxwings. The winter finch flight, while better than that of last fall, was on the whole disappointing. Large numbers of goldfinches, lesser numbers of evening grosbeaks and purple finches and a few others characterized the flight.

Other unusual or rare species seen included: whistling swan (summer record), blue goose, sandhill crane, and sharp-tailed sparrow.

Abbreviations used: AR-Alcove Reservoir; BR-Basic Reservoir; CL-Collins Lake; GL-Galway Lake; MR-Mohawk River; NWW-Niskayuna Wide Waters; RL-Round Lake; SCR-Stony Creek Reservoir; SL-Saratoga Lake; TR-Tomhannock Reservoir; VFG-Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WR-Watervliet Reservoir.

Observers cited: (ad)-Alan Devoe Bird Club record; (sbc)-Schenectady Bird Club record; (GA)-Gustave Angst; (HFB)-Hazel Bundy; (MDG)-Monte Gruett; (DH)-David Harrison; (EH)-Esly Hallenbeck; (gc)-Greene County Bird Club record; (MK)-Marcia Kent; (HHS)-Harvey Spivak; (WBS)-Walton Sabin; (RSM)-Robert McCullough; (BRS)-Benton Seguin; (PPW)-Peter Wickham; (RPY)-Robert Yunick; (BSH)-Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barrington Havens.

LOONS-DUCKS:

Common Loon: Sep 17 SCR(EH) to Nov 26, max 6 (sbc).
 Red-throated Loon: only one report - Nov 22 SL (bsh).
 Red-necked Grebe: only one-Oct 28 SL (sbc).
 Horned Grebe: Oct 1 SCR (EH) to Nov 26 SL (sbc), max eight.
 Pied-billed Grebe: many reports throughout period.
 Double-crested Cormorant: two reports - three flying south along the Hudson River at Albany Sep 13 (PPW, MDG), and one sighted at VFG Sep 30 (RPY).
 Great Blue Heron: frequent reports throughout period, with max ten Sep 2, and the last Nov 12 RL (bsh).
 Common Egret: one Aug 13 at a pond in East Chatham (ad).
 Eastern Green Heron: few reports, last Oct 21 GL (sbc).
 Black-crowned Night Heron: not even one report -- reported sparingly during the six preceding years.
 American Bittern: a few reports; one found dead (hit by car) on the road by NWW Nov 13 (Irene Podrazik).
 Least Bittern: only one report - Aug 19 VFG (RPY).
 Swans: one mute and two whistling swans appeared during Aug at Lock 6 MR and remained there through at least Sep 10 (Elizabeth McCauley, Frances Adams et al.). The two whistling swans were decidedly smaller than the mute, had black legs, feet, and bills, and considerably shorter and more erect necks. This is the first summer regional record.
 Canada Goose: many reports Sep 29 (MK) to Nov 5 (sbc), with the largest report, "25 flocks seen Oct 6, numbering from 20 to several hundred" (Walter Smith).
 Snow Goose: a flock of 200 sighted passing over SCR Nov 3 (GA); one on Nov 25-30 at Valatie (ad)
 BLUE GOOSE: two reports of single individuals - one Nov 3, flying with flock of snow geese over SCR, and one alone, at Stony Hill, Route 43 Nov 11 (GA).

- Gadwall: one Nov 1 at CL (EH), and four Nov 8-9 SCR (GA, HFB).
- Am. Widgeon: one adult male at SCR Aug 30 (fide WBS); in small numbers Sep 17 SCR (EH) to Nov 26 SL (sbc).
- Pintail: about Sep 1 at SCR (fide WBS) to end of period.
- Green-winged Teal: seen throughout period in small numbers.
- Blue-winged Teal: last reported Oct 21 CL (DH), with max 400 Sep 4 SCR (PFW).
- Shoveler: one report - six Sep 20 SCR (EH et al).
- Wood Duck: last Nov 18 NWW (HHS).
- Redhead: three Oct 29 SL (bsh), one Oct 30 CL (DH), three Nov 11 BR (sbc), and ten Nov 19 SL (bsh).
- Ring-necked Duck: not even one report!
- Canvasback: from Nov 11 when 15 were seen at BR (sbc) to Nov 26, 75 SL (sbc).
- Scaup: Oct 18 at Chatham (ad) through period, each species identified on various dates.
- Common Goldeneye: Oct 21 GL (sbc) throughout period.
- Bufflehead: small numbers from Oct 21 GL (sbc) through period, max 47 Nov 5 NWW (GA).
- Old-squaw: two reports - Oct 22 SL (bsh), three Nov 26 SL (sbc).
- White-winged Scoter: several reports Oct 13 Chatham (ad), to end of period.
- Surf Scoter: five reports, all of female or immature individuals (first since 1965); two Oct 19 Lock 7 MR (GA) to one on Nov 26 SL (sbc), max five Oct 28 SL (sbc).
- Common Scoter: ten reports - from Oct 13 when 28 were seen at Chatham (ad), to Nov 26, two reported at SL (sbc).
- Ruddy Duck: Oct 19 one at Lock 7 MR (GA) to Nov 26 SL (sbc), max 22 BR Nov 11 (sbc).
- Hooded Merganser: only five reports - from Oct 12 SCR (EH) to Nov 11 AR and BR (sbc).
- Common Merganser: Oct 20 Castleton through end of period.
- Red-breasted Merganser: only five reports - Oct 22 SL (bsh) to Nov 26 SL (sbc), max three.

HAWKS-OWLS:

- Turkey Vulture: reported regularly from southern sections, last Oct 7 Catskill (gc).
- Goshawk: one Oct 29 SL (BRS), and one Nov 11 AR (sbc).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk: only one report again - Aug 23, Schodack Center (ad).
- Cooper's Hawk: one report only - Nov 25 VFG (RPY).
- Red-shouldered Hawk: one each in Aug in Ghent and Hillsdale (ad), and one in Castleton Nov 7 and 13 (ad).
- Broad-winged Hawk: several reports - from Aug 16 SCR (HHS) to Oct 7 Castleton.
- Rough-legged Hawk: several reports - from Oct 4 Scotia (EH) throughout period.
- Marsh Hawk: several reports - from Aug 28 Ghent (ad), through Oct 28 Ghent and Castleton (ad).
- Osprey: to Nov 5 TR (sbc).
- Sparrow Hawk: reported regularly; 50 were seen Oct 28 Schodack (ad).
- Bob-white: unreported during period.
- SANDHILL CRANE: second report for the year, first year recorded in area - one young bird in a plowed cornfield on Gibson's farm, five miles north of Kinderhook, from Nov 12-19, seen by many members of ad and sbc, verified by Ed Reilly.

- Virginia Rail: two to three adults with seven young observed VFG Aug 18-19 (HFB, Ruth Bates, and RPY), two adults and one juvenile Sep 3 and 5 NWW (HHS) one Sep 9 VFG (RPY).
Common Gallinule: widely reported in Sep, last Oct 18 Chatham (ad).
Coot: Sep 9, one at BR (PFW), Sep 30 one at NWW (HHS), several reports through period, max 75 Nov 1 (EH).
Semipalmated Plover: only three reports, all single individuals - Aug 27 RL (PFW), Sep 4 RL (PFW, HHS), Sep 16 NWW (HHS).
Killdeer: widely reported, max 45 Sep 17 (EH), last seen Nov 13 Greenville (Clarissa Ketcham).
Black-bellied Plover: only report - seven Aug 19 SCR (HHS).
Am. Woodcock: reported irregularly up to Oct 20.
Common Snipe: four reports for period, last Nov 5 VFG (HHS).
WHIMBREL: first record in area - two seen on Sep 12 near State Office Building in Albany (WBS) and observed daily thereafter (mob) until Sep 27, when they were found dead, apparently having flown against a building; the specimens are in the collection of the State Museum in Albany.
Upland Plover: one remained until Aug 18 Niskayuna (RPY).
Spotted Sandpiper: last Oct 2 CL (EH).
Solitary Sandpiper: only three reports, all single individuals - Aug 20 GL (EH), Sep 4 SCR (PFW, HHS), and Oct 4 Chatham (ad).
Greater Yellowlegs: Sep 9 (PFW, RPY), to Nov 8 (GA).
Lesser Yellowlegs: first reported Sep 4 SCR (PFW, HHS), last at the same location Nov 8 (GA).
Pectoral Sandpiper: very few - one Sep 16 SCR (PFW); one to six Oct 16-Nov 1 SCR (GA, EH).
Least Sandpiper: reported on seven different dates, max 8, from Aug 27 RL (PFW) to Nov 1 CL (EH).
Dunlin: only two reports - Sep 29, a flock of 13 at NWW (HHS), and Oct 22, when one was seen at SCR (BRS).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: several reports - from Aug 26 Lock 6 MR (PPW, MDG) to Sep 29 NWW (HHS), max 4.
WESTERN SANDPIPER: first report since 1963 - Sep 4, one at RL studied in company with semipalmated and least sandpipers (PFW, HHS).
Sanderling: one Aug 26 at Lock 6 MR (PPW, MDG); two Aug 27 and Sep 10 Brown's Beach, SL (PFW).
Great Black-backed Gull: one immature reported Nov 5 TR (sbc).
Bonaparte's Gull: five Oct 22 SL (BRS), and one Nov 3 Lock 7 MR (GA).
Common Tern: the first fall report since 1959 - one Sep 3 and 16 NWW (HHS).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Aug 23, one (EH); late reports Oct 1, 2, 15 Ghent (ad).
Black-billed Cuckoo: reported for five dates, last on Oct 23 Ghent (ad).
Barn Owl: one young and one adult observed in a silo near New Scotland Jul 16-Sep 6 (Beverly Waite); also, a nest holding a few nestlings was discovered beneath the Western Gateway Bridge, Scotia, in late Aug (fide WBS).
Screech Owl: one observed in Ghent from Aug 18-26 (P & GE); three reports in Oct and three in Nov.
Great Horned Owl: pair resident in West Charlton (Emily Halverson); also reported on several dates in Oct in Castleton (ad) and Chatham Center (ad) and from Catskill Nov 5 and Freehold Nov 7 (gc).

Snowy Owl: one observed Nov 26 on top of TV antenna just south of Albany (ad).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING:

- Common Nighthawk: seen until Sep 13 Albany (PFW et al.) and Catskill (gc).
- Chimney Swift: last date Sep 20 Ghent (ad).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird: migration peaked in mid-Sep, max. 12-15, Sep 16 VFG, last Oct 2 Niskayuna (RPY).
- Pileated Woodpecker: reported regularly throughout period.
- Red-headed Woodpecker: reported on four dates - Sep 16 and 30 and Nov 7 at Ghent (ad) and Oct 15, one immature at Delmar Game Farm (WBS).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: a few reports, last Nov 12 Ghent (ad).
- Eastern Kingbird: late report, Sep 29 (ad).
- Eastern Phoebe: last Oct 27 (ad).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two reports - Aug 28 one at Ghent (ad), and one near GL Sep 6 (EH).
- Traill's Flycatcher: last one banded Sep 16 VFG (RPY).
- Least Flycatcher: last one banded Sep 16 VFG (RPY).
- Eastern Wood Pewee: late report Oct 3 Castleton (ad).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher: one report - Sep 16 Ghent (ad).
- Tree Swallow: numbers greatly diminished by mid-Sep; reported to Oct 3 (ad); also, a very late straggler, an immature, was seen Nov 5 TR (sbc).
- Bank Swallow: large flocks reported the last part of Aug, last report Sep 7 (HHS).
- Rough-winged Swallow: seen to Aug 20 in Hillsdale (ad).
- Barn Swallow: last report very late - one at East Greenbush Nov 1 (ad).
- Cliff Swallow: only report received was of a nesting in Hillsdale and successful hatching of three young (ad).
- Tufted Titmouse: still increasing.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: first migrant Sep 9 Karner (sbc), few migrants observed.
- House Wren: last date Oct 13 Ghent (ad).
- Winter Wren: two reports - Sep 16 Canaan (EP), and Sep 30 VFG (RPY).
- Long-billed Marsh Wren: last reported Oct 30 GL (DH).
- Mockingbird: reported regularly in a few areas; apparently on the increase in Greene Co (gc).
- Catbird: to Oct 27 (ad).
- Brown Thrasher: last reported Oct 23 (ad).
- Wood Thrush: few reports, last Sep 22 Ghent (ad).
- Hermit Thrush: several reports - Aug 27 at Berne (MK), Oct 7-15 VFG (RPY), and one Nov 26 Lock 7 MR (GA).
- Swainson's Thrush: only reports from banding station, Aug 12-Sep 30 VFG (RPY).
- Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Oct 2, East Greenbush (PPW).
- Eastern Bluebird: many reports, last Nov 8 Freehold (gc).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet: good flight, widely reported from Oct 8 through Nov, max. 30.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Sep 23 Ghent (ad) to Nov 19 Ghent (ad) and Schodack Center (ad).
- Water Pipit: Oct 22, 43 at SCR (WBS, bsh); last reported NWW Nov 20 (HHS).
- Migrant Shrike: one immature Aug 25 Ghent. Another shrike reported Oct 14 near Nuitzenkill.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:

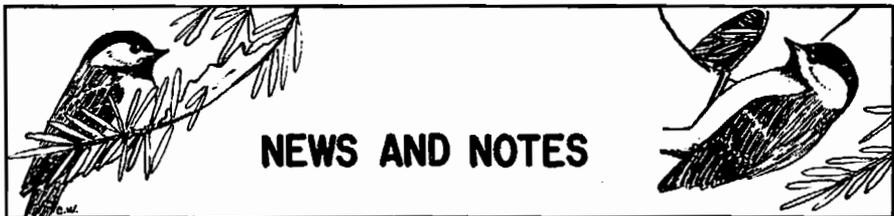
- Vireos-Yellow-throated: only one report - Sep 11-15 Ghent (ad).
 Red-eyed: seen regularly in Aug (ad), last report Sep 23 VFG (RPY).
 Philadelphia: one banded on each of two dates, Sep 15 and Oct 1 at VFG (RPY).
 Warbling: last date Sep 30 NWW (HHS).
 Warblers-Black-and-white: Aug 26 VFG (RPY), Sep 16 Ghent (ad), Sep 20 Canaan (EP).
 Tennessee: Sep 16, 17 Ghent (ad), only report.
 Nashville: Aug 20 (EH) to Oct 2 CL (EH).
 Parula: only report - Oct 12 near Charlton (R.H. Stone).
 Yellow: a very late date - Oct 16, one described as a male - yellow, with chestnut-red breast-streakings - reported near Muitzenkill (ad).
 Magnolia: Aug 26 VFG (RPY) to Sep 29 Ghent (ad).
 Cape May: only report - Oct 5 Castleton.
 Black-throated Blue: only report Sep 9 Karner Pine Barrens (sbc).
 Myrtle: Aug 5 Hillsdale (ad) to Oct 28 (GA).
 Black-throated Green: Sep 9 Karner (sbc) to Oct 16 Castleton (ad).
 Blackburnian: few reports, from Sep 10 NWW (HHS) to Oct 1 VFG (RPY).
 Chestnut-sided: last reported Sep 11 Ghent (ad).
 Bay-breasted: eight Aug 27 Berne (MK) to Oct 2 Ghent (ad).
 Blackpoll: to Oct 2 Ghent (ad).
 Palm: Sep 16 VFG (RPY) to Nov 2 Catskill (gc).
 Ovenbird: last, Oct 2 Ghent (ad).
 Northern Water-thrush: only one report - Aug 19 VFG (RPY).
 Connecticut: one only, Sep 16 Ghent (ad).
 Yellowthroat: to Nov 4 Catskill (gc).
 Wilson's: Aug 24 Ghent (ad) to Sep 29 NWW (HHS).
 Canada: to Sep 12 East Greenbush (PFW).
 Am. Redstart: last reported Sep 16 Canaan (ad).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS:

- Bobolink: last reported Sep 16 Catskill (gc).
 Baltimore Oriole: last two dates - Sep 29 Schodack (ad); Oct 21 VFG (RPY).
 Rusty Blackbird: Sep 29 Old Chatham (ad) to Nov 26 (bsh).
 Common Grackle: throughout period; flock of 2000-3000 Sep 16 VFG (RPY), and "many thousands" Oct 3 at Catskill (gc).
 Scarlet Tanager: last report - two NWW Oct 1 (HHS).
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last observed Oct 7 VFG (RPY).
 Indigo Bunting: three on Oct 1 NWW (HHS), last date.
 Evening Grosbeak: a flock of 30 appeared Oct 8 East Greenbush (PFW), with several reports of smaller numbers thereafter.
 Purple Finch: few reported throughout period.
 HOUSE FINCH: one male remained at a feeder in Niskayuna until Nov 2 (GA).
 Pine Siskin: two reports - Oct 22 (bsh), and three at Catskill Oct 26 (gc).
 American Goldfinch: seemed numerous, including a flock of 550 the last part of Sep near NWW (HHS).
 White-winged Crossbill: one report - six at SL on Nov 12 (bsh).
 Sparrows: Rufous-sided Towhee: late report of one male at a feeder in Berne on Nov 22, and again on Nov 30 (MK).

Savannah: several reports, last on Oct 12 at NWW (HHS).
 SHARP-TAILED: (Nelson's subspecies) one banded for second year in succession, Oct 1 VFG (RPY).
 Henslow's: new late record - Nov 2 and 6 at Ghent (ad).
 Vesper: reported to end of the period.
 Chipping: last date, Nov 5 and 6, one at feeder in Alplaus (HFB).
 Field: Last reported Nov 8 Catskill (gc).
 White-crowned: Oct 1 VFG (RPY) to Nov 5 TR (sbc).
 White-throated: many reports throughout period.
 Fox: several reports, Oct 20 VFG (RPY) to Nov 29 Alplaus (HFB).
 Lincoln's: from Sep 16 VFG (three) (RPY) to Oct 15 West - Glenville (RSM).
 Swamp: last reported Oct 22 VFG (RPY).
 Snow Bunting: flock of 40 Nov 11 AR (sbc); three later dates reported, max. 50.

* * * * *



A SINGING FOI

This is a revival of the old question of whether female purple finches sing. Last summer, among the many purple finches of all ages and sexes that visited my camp feeding station, there was one that put on an interesting performance, which I'd like to record here.

It was during the latter part of the summer, when the species was represented at the feeders by both adult males and fois (female or immatures). There may be some who can distinguish between a female and an immature of this species, but I admit I cannot.

One day, as I happened to be watching the feeder visitors, I noticed two purple finches in particular. One was definitely a foi, but I am not sure I remember what the other one was. It was, however, the behavior of the foi that interested me. It was fluttering its wings in the manner of a young bird begging for food, and it was singing.

I realize that there is a possibility of two conclusions that could be drawn from this. I have observed female birds behaving in this manner in the presence of males during the breeding season. I leave it to the more sophisticated students to decide the facts on the basis of the evidence. --Barry Havens

(Editor's note - With no pretense at being a "sophisticated student", my own observations with purple finches lead me to believe that this bird was a subadult male putting on a courtship

display. However, no really adequate explanation can be offered without knowing the identity of the second bird. The rosey adult male plumage is not acquired until the second breeding season, so one is likely to see first-year, brown-plumaged males singing in the spring or summer. The subtle differences in the plumage of the adult female and immature are difficult to distinguish in the field, however, a telescope at close range should show the yellow fleshy gape at the base of the bill of a young bird, and one should be able to distinguish the worn tattered plumage of an adult versus the softer, newer plumage of an immature.)

DEFORMED DOWNY

Early in December a female downy woodpecker appeared at our feeding station. From the bird's beak, something extended about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. At first sight, we thought it was a small-diameter twig, such as some birds use in nest building. I am not certain that the extension was the upper beak (maxilla), but believe it was. This bird was feeding on suet, and, in spite of the extension, was able to feed by using the side of her beak. The lower member (mandible) appeared normal.

The beak of a bird, I believe, is a horn-like substance similar to our finger nails. Does the beak grow as nails do? Rodents, such as woodchucks and beavers, have special gnawing teeth, two upper and two lower, that are aligned to provide a cutting edge. These teeth grow or lengthen as they wear. If the wear is not equal to the growth, the teeth keep on growing and extend outside the animal's mouth and are useless for gnawing.

Can any of our readers throw any light on what caused the malformed bird we saw?
--B.D.Miller

(Editor's note - Dr. Edgar Reilly, Jr., Curator of Zoology, of the N.Y.S. Museum in Albany was consulted regarding this matter, and had these comments. Birds' beaks do indeed continue to grow and for this reason caged birds like canaries require cuttle bone as an abrasive to trim their bills.

Thus this woodpecker could have a deformed maxilla which has not worn naturally and has grown oversize at an abnormal angle. Other possibilities include an accident in hammering that led to the impaling of some foreign object into the base of the bird's bill, or a wound that led to an ulcerous growth.

In addition to Mr. Miller's report of this bird, a similar report, undoubtedly involving the same bird, was reported by an observer a block or two away, and also from Hilltop Road about one-half to one mile away.)

WHY DO BIRDS BATHE?

Over all the years that I have observed, or known about, birds bathing, in bird baths or elsewhere, it had never occurred to me until recently to question their motives in doing this. The natural assumption was that the birds used this method to cool off during hot weather.

But this past fall (1967), circumstances raised doubts in my mind about this. The last few weeks of my sojourn at my camp at Jenny Lake brought some very cool weather, and there were some nights that the temperature dropped below freezing. Yet on those

cold mornings, sometimes while there was still frost on the ground, I would see birds bathing in my bird bath.

The natural conclusion for me to draw was that these birds, at least, were not bathing to cool off. But if not that, what was their motivation?

After giving the matter considerable thought, I was able to come up with only one solution. The birds might be using this method to relieve the soreness or irritation caused by their parasites. Anyone who has ever handled live birds knows that they are the hosts of bird lice. Anyone who has ever observed birds any attention will remember that birds do quite a lot of scratching with bills and feet. So it seems logical that the lice bite, and the bites itch. Perhaps bathing eases the itch.

Probably this matter has been already extensively researched and the findings published. It might be interesting, if so, to learn what was discovered.

--Barry Havens

(Editor's note - Again, Dr. Reilly was contacted on this matter and offered the following. Explaining why birds bathe is difficult and controversial. Not all birds of the same species bathe at the same frequency. The availability of water has an affect, thus habitat influences bathing. Some ornithologists believe that birds bathe to wash dust and dirt from their plumage and skin for purposes of comfort, just as humans bathe their skin. Admittedly, birds have different senses from those of humans, but it is still reasonable to expect that bathing is done for reasons of cleanliness.)

ARTHUR A. ALLEN AWARD

Roger Tory Peterson, artist, author and world famous ornithologist, has been honored at Cornell University as the first recipient of the Arthur A. Allen Award for distinguished service to ornithology.

Mr. Peterson has served as art director of the National Wildlife Federation since 1950 and each year selects subjects and commissions artists to paint the birds and other wildlife used in its series of conservation stamps. He also designs the annual stamp albums and writes the educational and descriptive text. He has observed and photographed birds on every continent, including Antarctica, and in all 50 states and most provinces of Canada and Mexico. His book on birds has sold more than four million copies and FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS is used by serious "birders" across the country in their identification and study of America's bird life. He has served the National Audubon Society in various posts since 1934 and is currently on its board of directors. Born in Jamestown, Mr. Peterson studied in New York City. (N.Y.S. Conservation Department's CONSERVATIONIST; Dec.+Jan., 1967)

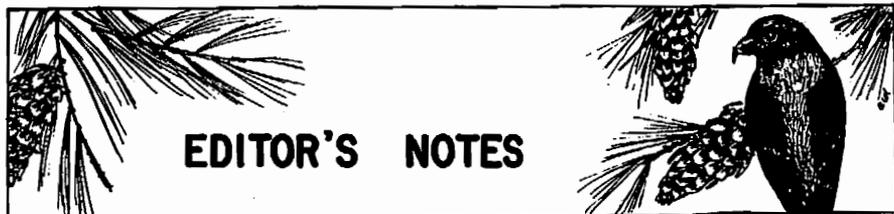
ADK'S "ADIRONDACK LANDSCAPE"

A trip through the Adirondacks - whether on foot or on horseback - becomes more of an adventure as the result of a new publication by the Adirondack Mountain Club. It is entitled, "The Adirondack Landscape - A Hiker's Guide."

This 72-page pocket-sized booklet gives a layman's explanation

of the geology of the Adirondack Mountains and how they were formed. Numerous photographs show typical formations.

Jerome Wyckoff is the author of the booklet which was prepared with the assistance of the natural history committee of the club. It is available at \$1.50 a copy from the club at Gabriels, N.Y. (N.Y.S. Conservation Department's CONSERVATIONIST, Dec.-Jan., 1967)



BLUEBIRD BOOKLET

The N.Y.S. College of Agriculture at Cornell University, Ithaca has available (single copy free to N.Y.S. residents - 10 cents to others) 4-H Bulletin M-5-7 by Wayne T. Bell, Jr. entitled, "Bluebirds in New York." The booklet contains 11 pages of information on the construction of bluebird boxes, suggested location, maintaining a "bluebird trail", a guide to identifying other than bluebird residents by their nest construction and suggested forms for keeping records of one's occupants.

CONDORS AND CRANES

Because of the precarious status of the California condor and whooping crane, regular counts are made of their numbers to keep their fight for survival under constant surveillance. This pulse taking involves annual fall surveys of both species.

At Los Padres National Forest in California, condor counting is a problem because the birds are scattered over eight or more counties and may be airborne or sheltered among the mountains. Observers at 68 stations on an appointed day helped to pinpoint the birds and after the data were analyzed, it was concluded that 46 birds were counted. While this count was down slightly from last year, wildlife biologists concluded that there had been no significant change in the status of these huge aerial scavengers.

At Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, however, comes mixed news. The returning of 48 whooping cranes to their wintering grounds was heralded as a record high. The last bird arrived November 11 and represented an increase of five over the number that left Aransas in the spring. The birds numbered as few as 14 in 1938.

The flock of 48 consisted of nine young of the year. In addition to these 48, there are 12 birds in captivity, including four birds hatched in captivity from wild eggs. The eggs, one from each of five nests, were taken by Fish and Wildlife personnel in conjunction with Canadian Wildlife Service personnel from nests on the Canadian nesting grounds in the spring of 1967. These four

young are at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge near Laurel, Maryland where they are part of a program aimed at preserving endangered species of wildlife.

Last April, Anne and I had an opportunity while attending the annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association at College Park, Md. to visit Laurel as part of the meeting program. There beside a large penned enclosure of sandhill cranes, the birds from which the crane handling experience for the whooper experiment was gained, we heard the clarion trumpeting of these cranes fade away into the rolling Maryland countryside, as one of the Fish and Wildlife Service personnel explained to our group the intentions of the service's program. One could not help but feel a bit awed by the risk of the venture.

We saw also a pair of nene geese from Hawaii and snail kites, relatives of our Everglade kite, from South America. However, we were not allowed to enter the whooping crane area where a flightless adult was captive. Little did we know of the immediacy of the pending plan. These captive young will be raised for either attempted breeding in captivity, or releasing to their native habitat to bolster the existing flock.

The bad news from Aransas involves the January 4th shooting of a whooper two miles from the Aransas refuge by a so called goose hunter. The National Audubon Society protested the shooting saying that it indicated a need for greater education among hunters, and an expansion of the refuge area. At present the NAS leases 5700 acres near the refuge to provide added protection to the cranes. The shooting is ironic coming on the heels of a gift of an additional 7000 acres last November to the Aransas refuge by Mr. and Mrs. Meredith Tatton of Aransas County. Part of their Salt Creek Ranch was donated to the F&WS. This addition to the refuge is also home to the endangered Attwater's prairie chicken.

CHRISTMAS COUNT CHAMPS

With such upstarts as Alaska replacing Texas' long-time title of largest state in the Union, and California dethroning long-time population champ New York, it may not come as too much of a surprise to some people that Florida's Cocoa Beach would finally have to give up its long-held top spot on the Audubon Christmas Count high species list. Not only did San Diego, California outdo Cocoa by 209 to 195 on the December count, but the 209 species is a new record high species count for the history of the count that dates to 1900.

BIRDS OF THE SOVIET UNION

The six volumes of the book BIRDS OF THE SOVIET UNION (Ptitsy Sovetskogo Soyuza) edited by Dement'ev and Gladkov are being made available in English translation as part of the National Science Foundation's technical translation program. The Smithsonian Institution and Department of Interior were instrumental in making the book available. Translation is being done in Jerusalem by the Israel Program for Scientific Translations. To date, volume 1 is available. It carries a price tag of \$10.28 and reportedly is selling in Europe for \$10-25. However, it is available paperback, for \$3 from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Clearing House for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, Springfield, Virginia 22151.

I have a copy and will gladly make it available for inspection to people considering buying it. So far, I have only leafed through it and find it intriguing and fascinating. Some of the distributional maps show, particularly among boreal species, the North American as well as Russian distribution of the various races.

The write up for each species typically covers 1) distribution including range, habitational status, biotope and numerical status; 2) ecology covering breeding, molt and diet; 3) field marks including size, structure and coloration. In addition there are taxonomic notes on various species.

CHRISTMAS MEETING

The December 11th Christmas Meeting was attended by 25 members who saw the National Geographic national television program, "Winged World." Most amazing about the program was the homing of shearwaters removed from their nest in the British Isles and flown to Boston for release. In one to two weeks the birds were again on their nests.

The main business of the evening was the organization of the three Club-sponsored Christmas Counts. Guy Bartlett coordinated the Schenectady count, while Walt Sabin, in Pete Wickham's absence, took care of the Troy and Southern Rensselaer counts.

With the finish of business, Ginny Sabin, Hazel Bundy and Ruth Bates served refreshments that brought people back for seconds.

ANNUAL MEETING AND DUES

Enclosed with this issue is the notice for the annual meeting, February 26th. Plan on attending to find out what has taken place in the Club in the past year, and to participate in the election of officers and directors.

The evening's entertainment should provide quite a change of scenery for most of us. The black swifts that Dr. Knorr will talk about are high-altitude cliff dwellers of the West. They nest on sea cliffs or wet mountain cliffs particularly near waterfalls. Dr. Knorr, now with the N.Y.S. Education Department, spent 30 years as a professional ornithologist in Colorado.

Once again it is dues time. Last year our treasurer had great difficulty in getting in the last of the dues. So this year, as she explains in the attached dues request, she is trying a new tack to avoid the confusion of the holiday mail. Please cooperate with her and forward your dues promptly.

RECORD REPORTS

The winter reporting period will end March 31st and the records committee would be grateful for your reports. December, January and February reports should be sent in as far ahead of the March deadline as possible. Not only is the committee interested in rarities, but also in arrival and departure dates and changes in abundance of the common species. Send your reports to Mrs. Francis P. Bundy, RD 1, Box 55, Scotia 12302.

NEXT ISSUE

Material in the form of articles and notes is welcomed for the March - April issue. The due date is March 13.

NEW ART

By now, I trust that you have noticed something different about this issue. We have Carol Wernick to thank for our new art work. Those of you who know Carol know that she is an accomplished artist. Line drawing with pen and ink was new to her, so she spent many hours to master the technique and came up with a series of delightful column headings.

It will take about a year to present all of them, so you will have something to look forward to with each issue. I think you will agree that she has perceptively captured a bit of the outdoors with these excellent drawings. She has packed much realism into so little space.

* * * * *

(Issue assembled January 28, 1968)

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WICKHAM ELECTED PRESIDENT

Mary Becker
Secretary

The annual meeting of Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. was held February 26, 1968 at the First Methodist Church in Schenectady at 8 pm. New members present were introduced and accepted into membership. Lois Norton, treasurer, gave her report of the financial status of the Club. Hazel Bundy, program co-chairman, reported on the finances of the wildlife films. Lenny Thomas, membership chairman, gave the names of 36 new members for the year.

Appreciation and thanks were expressed to all who helped on the records committee and all who helped to contribute to FEATHERS. Chairman of the nominating committee, Monte Gruett, read the slate of proposed new officers for the coming year to be voted on by the members present. New officers are:

President - Dr. Peter Wickham
Vice-president - Mr. Samuel Madison
Secretary - Mrs. Elizabeth Brown
Treasurer - Miss Elizabeth Macauley
Directors - Dr. Robert Yunick
 Mrs. Peggy McGuirk
 Mrs. Hazel Bundy

After the business meeting was adjourned, a very interesting and informative talk was given by Dr. Owen A. Knorr on "First Discovery of the Nesting of Black Swifts in the Rockies." He is one of the first to study the bird and spent 15 years doing research on the black swift's habits. He illustrated his talk with slides showing the almost inaccessibility of their nests on sheer cliffs and under waterfalls.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Sabin and Mrs. McGuirk.

* * * * *

"BOUNTY" OFFERED

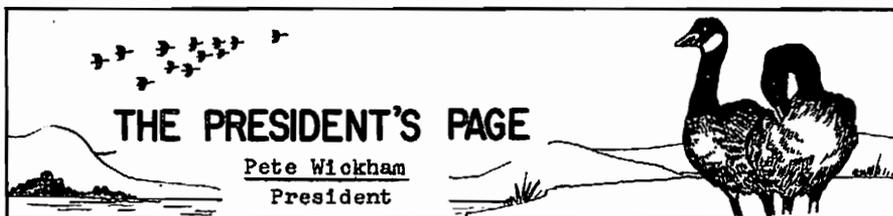
"\$1000 in rewards will be paid by the Federation of New York Bird Clubs, Inc. at the rate of \$5 apiece to the first 200 land-owners reporting a successful red-tailed hawk nesting on their property," announced Dr. Peter P. Wickham, president of the Schenectady Bird Club, Inc., a member of the Federation which represents 42 bird clubs throughout the state.

Dr. Wickham added, "The birds of prey, among man's best friends,

are in serious danger of extirpation in New York as a result of the unnecessary use of persistent pesticides, loss of habitat, and their senseless slaughter by unthinking hunters, even though protected by law."

Landowners learning of occupied hawk or owl nests on their property are urged to protect the nests, keep people away, and report them to either President Wickham or Walt Sabin so that they may be checked. If one should be a red-tailed hawk nest and the young are successfully raised, the landowner will receive a \$5 reward. The Federation of Bird Clubs is making this dramatic offer to impress upon people the value of these rapidly disappearing birds.

The president concluded by saying, "The birds of prey eat tens of thousands of rodents each year. Our state is engaged in a \$4.5-million war against rats at this very moment, and the birds of prey are willing to help. The game bird they may kill on occasion is a very small price to pay for their service. They ask only that we leave them alone and let them do their job."



It's an honor to be able to speak to you this month from a different position than that which I've occupied in the past. In the light of the outstanding service and leadership given the Schenectady Bird Club by its previous three presidents, I feel somewhat awed by the challenges and opportunities ahead of us. I hope that all of you will contribute your help and ideas in the coming months as so many did when I was editing SBC records.

At the beginning of a year or term of office, it seems appropriate to look at our present situation and chart both long- and short-range goals. Hopefully, after such goals have been identified, priorities may be assigned to them, and steps may then be taken to implement them to work toward their fulfillment. At our recent board meeting, we did consider this problem. There was large, although not complete, agreement on the following important needs:

- 1) Much increased local publicity, stimulated by a committee;
- 2) An increase in informal (non-business) programs on nature for the Club membership;
- 3) The already much-discussed name change;
- 4) The acquisition of a sanctuary;
- 5) A vastly enlarged program of outreach to young people.

How do you feel about these? Are there others you would like to pursue? Let me know of your ideas, thoughts and talents. Let's make this column a method of two-way communication ---not just a presidential monologue!

PROBLEMS IN IDENTIFICATION--EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS

Hazel Bundy

Will I ever learn to be more thorough? In identification of birds, that is. On a recent trip to Florida I had my usual difficulties in identifying hawks and shore birds. And now, here was one of those baffling Empidonax flycatchers. I watched this little individual perched on the end of a slender, swaying branch, at eye level, about six feet from the window of my room in Fort Myers, until it was too dark to see him - a period of about an hour. He apparently had settled for the night, and had fluffed out his feathers for warmth in the cilly evening. Twice I went out-of-doors with binoculars to view him from other angles, and he never moved.

I was already aware of the problems which faced me in identifying a silent Empidonax - but it proved to be astonishingly easy! So I thought for several days, anyhow. Now for the steps I took in attempting identification. In BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA by Robbins et al., there was a picture of an acadian flycatcher which was an exact portrait of my bird. Furthermore, the accompanying map showed that the acadian was the only Empidonax found in Florida, although I was less than satisfied by the fact that there was only red cross-hatching for the area, which, according to the key, "...shows where a species may be seen in both spring and fall but where it does not breed or winter." Now this did cause me to have some doubts, for this was February 6, not the dead of winter, but hardly spring, either. Next I consulted Peterson, and found, "It is a greenish Empidonax with a yellowish wash on the sides." "Exactly," thought I. For the moment I chose to ignore the following words, "...but is not safely identified except by habitat, range and voice." I was reassured by the words which followed: "It is the only Empidonax in most of the South." These last words were enough for me, and, too, it was so gratifying to be able to add "acadian flycatcher" to my life list. I was more than willing to be satisfied with my speedy identification.

My satisfaction lasted for a few days - specifically until I returned home and talked by telephone with an SBC member who is an expert in identification. When I announced I had seen an acadian flycatcher, he politely but firmly inquired, "How do you know?" just as had happened several times in the past. With great confidence in my sleuthing ability this time, I recounted the steps I had followed in reaching my conclusion, and was startled by the comment, "I'm not so sure about that." Whereupon he opened some reference material and started reading to me as follows: "It says here in AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, Vol. 21, No. 2, 1967, page 193, under the Florida Christmas counts for 1966 that the Coot Bay Everglades count reported one Empidonax flycatcher (species unknown). In the Fort Lauderdale count, there were two least flycatchers which had been identified by their calls. In the South Brevard County count, there were listed three Empidonax flycatchers (species unknown)." Obviously, even the Floridians could not be sure of the identities of silent Empidonaces in their home areas, and this shook me up a little. I hurriedly excused myself from the conversation and rushed to my other reference material.

Now it would several pages to adequately describe the details

of the ensuing search, and any interested parties can read about these Empidonaxes in their own field guides and in various other sources. For the sake of brevity, I shall summarize my findings and conclusions in the following two paragraphs.

It had been my mistake to rely so heavily on the Robbins range map, for these maps are small and can include only a limited amount of information. Also, I had been too ready to interpret Peterson's statement, "It (the acadian) is the only Empidonax in most of the South," as including Florida, when literal interpretation does not necessarily include Florida at all. It is indeed a matter of record that the yellow-bellied, acadian and least flycatchers have been observed in Florida. Further search on my part might find that the alder flycatcher has also been seen there.

In the case of difficult identifications, many sources should be consulted: field guides, area check-lists, AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, experts in the field, etc., and great caution should be used in applying the information found in these sources. The AUDUBON LAND BIRD GUIDE sums it up very well: "During migration it is generally impossible to identify any of the Empidonax flycatchers in the field unless the bird gives its distinctive call. Of the four species, the yellow-bellied, because of its coloring, might constitute an exception. At all seasons it is much yellower below than the others and is the only one with a really yellow throat." Please notice the word 'might.' It is my understanding that an individual without this uniform yellow coloring could possibly be a yellow-bellied in different plumage, as well as any of the other three. To further emphasize the difficulties, I should like to quote Peterson as follows: "Many acadians look suspiciously like yellow-bellies in the fall, and thus it is contended by experts that these two cannot be safely distinguished in autumnal migration." We have only a few records of the acadian flycatcher in the Mohawk-Hudson 11-county area. There have been no reports since 1956, and only one per year for the years 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1952, and 1956. We can hardly expect to see an acadian, and yet it is possible. The other three species are reported regularly. I would like to add that I now understand more clearly the reasons why the records committee must for the sake of the accuracy of our records, reject most sight records of the Empidonax flycatchers.

Thus it was that I arrived regretfully, but I think wisely, at the inescapable conclusion that although this little bird may have been an acadian flycatcher, he may just as well not have been, and no wishful thinking on my part can make him one. So now this little Empidonax has joined the ranks of the "unknowns," but better to have him there than to misname him! It is still my great pleasure that for the rest of my life I can picture that fluffy little bird sitting quietly on the end of a swaying branch, while dusk closed around him.

* * * * *

SUMMER WORK AVAILABLE

The Student Conservation Association, Inc., has about 100 openings for qualified high school, college and graduate men and women to work in forest and national park jobs this summer. For further information, please write the association at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, Box 304, Oyster Bay, New York 11771.

THE BENEDICT BIRD COLLECTION

R. W. Carter
Schenectady Museum

James E. Benedict was one of the best field naturalists of his generation. Born January 5, 1854 to a Connecticut family of English ancestry and Revolutionary stock, Jim Benedict early displayed an interest in natural history. In 1865, when he was only 11 years old, he served as an orderly in the Armory Square Hospital in Washington, D.C., where his father, an Army veteran, was a patient. The hospital was just across the street from the National Museum (Smithsonian Institution), and young Benedict's interest was whetted by frequent visits to the museum collection. Some 25 years later, he returned to the National Museum as a member of the staff, and completed much distinguished scientific work there.

By 1873, Benedict had collected a number of birds and mammals on his own. When he was 22, in 1876, he enrolled at Union College and soon began collecting birds for the large collections of animal life being amassed by Prof. Webster. During the summer, the professor and a group of his students collected marine life along the Carolina coast. Young Benedict collected a number of shore birds at Beaufort and Cape Lookout.

In the fall of 1877, he took a ruddy duck near Schenectady and the next spring collected quite a number of birds, including the now-extinct passenger pigeon. During his remaining years at Union, he went on a number of expeditions with Prof. Webster, collecting birds, insects and marine invertebrates for the college collection. By the time he left Union, Benedict had mounted and preserved some 300 bird specimens, of which about 100 are now in the collection of the Schenectady Museum.

The Benedict bird collection has been an important feature of the museum's exhibition program from the time the infant museum opened its doors at Brandywine School in 1934. Dr. James E. Benedict retired as chief of exhibits in the biology department of the National Museum in 1930, and by the time of his death in 1940, his bird collection, the gift of Union College, was an important part of the growing science collections of the Schenectady Museum. Today, these well-mounted specimens are a fitting memorial to one of Schenectady's greatest naturalists.

(Reprinted from MUSEUM MONTH, Vol. 16, No. 5, February 1968, published by Schenectady Museum Association)

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A TRANS-CANADA TRIP

Doris and Bill Copping

If you like to travel and are a bird enthusiast, you may wish to take a trip similar to one we enjoyed in September 1967. We drove west over the road "that is wet at both ends," the recently completed Trans-Canada Highway, entering Canada at Ivy Lea, Ont.

The builders of the Ontario section did a marvelous job cutting through rocks to make a channel for the road. Tiny lakes were nestled everywhere but no waterfowl were in view.

At the edge of Regina, Saskatchewan we stopped at our first bird sanctuary, "Wascana Park." There we saw many Canada geese, crested cormorants, whistling swans and various kinds of ducks. Then as we drove on into Alberta we became acquainted with the ferruginous hawk, recognizable in the air by the "y" its dark legs made against the light underparts. We were thrilled by the black-billed magpie with its long tail shining in the sunlight. There were Canada jays, Clark's nutcrackers and common ravens.

In Calgary, Alberta we found the Aquarium and Horseman's Hall of Fame very entertaining. The city had an aviary-conservatory that was delightful. Unusual birds from all over the world flew about us as they pleased, only metal chain portieres in the doorway kept them from flying into the adjacent lunch room.

After being awed by the beauty of the mountains around Lake Louise and the Columbia Ice Fields we turned south into Glacier Park, Montana, where our attention was drawn to four immature golden eagles soaring among the mountains.

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, Montana is on the flight path of the central flyway and overlapped by the Pacific flyway. As we headed for Malta, a town near the refuge, we became excited watching a flock of at least one hundred white pelicans circling in the sky. The sanctuary has over fifteen miles of roads winding through the islands and there is a birdlist of 160 species of waterfowl, shore birds and song birds for the area. We were rewarded by watching waterfowl by the thousands swimming and flying. Among the more spectacular were sandhill crane, the avocet with its long tipped up bill, yellow-headed blackbirds, marbled godwit, and sharp-tailed grouse.

We will be happy to share more information with anyone wishing to know details about such a trip.

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REVIEW - 1967

Peggy McGuirk

Field Trip Chairman

1967 was a good year as far as the field trip committee was concerned. Most of the trips were well attended both by people and birds. It was really our first complete year and we enjoyed it.

Some of the highlights that come to mind are Cape Ann with the eared grebe, harlequin duck and Ipswich sparrow. What a way to start the year with 54 species and several life birds. As the winter moved to spring, which we didn't think would ever get here, we went on one of our usually good trips to Saratoga Lake which for me really set off the spring season. At our first stop while walking out to Stoney Point, we came across three singing palm warblers - boy, what a thrill!

The usual on rush of warblers was a week late for the Century Run. One group that went on a rerun the following week said that they were everywhere. By the way, have you ever seen a worm-eating warbler? Well, try going on the Indian Ladder trip this year. It's practically a sure thing.

Summer saw several new trips in the offing, but none was too well attended by people. The bluebird trip had practically no participants, however there were bluebirds still nesting.

The birds in the fall were very scattered and no great wave did we notice. At Cape May I saw more birds than I've ever seen in one day. Brigantine was just magnificent and the heron rookery was really a sight to behold. At the rookery, several of us were investigating the place and what do you think we found? Herons, yes, and more importantly, a lone lark sparrow. What a weekend!

Fall and winter came at last and Pelham Bay produced owls, finally. Everyone saw a little saw-whet - only an arm's reach away. The Christmas Counts produced no new highs, but were better than a year ago.

Thus, 1967 field trips accounted for 227 species seen. We'll be trying for more this year.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a-Annual Duck Count, Jan. 8 | s-Cherry Plain, May 27 |
| b-Tombhannock Reservoir, Jan. 14 | t-Crane Mountain, May 28 |
| c-Cape Ann, Mass., Jan. 28-29 | u-Pleasant Valley, June 3 |
| d-Meadowdale, Feb. 11 | v-Bluebirds, June 10 |
| e-Feeder Trip, Mar. 4 | w-Schodack Island, June 25 |
| f-Lower Hudson, Mar. 18 | x-Jenny Lake, July 16 |
| g-Niskayuna Widewaters, Mar. 26 | y-Jamaica Bay, Aug. 12 |
| h-Vischer Ferry, Apr. 1 | z-Karner, Sept. 9 |
| i-Montezuma, Apr. 8 | a-Columbia County, Sept. 16 |
| j-Saratoga, Apr. 15 | b-Cape May, Sept. 23-24 |
| k-Tombhannock Reservoir, Apr. 16 | c-Watervliet Reservoir, Sept. 30 |
| l-Aloove Reservoir, Apr. 22 | d-Galway Lake, Oct. 21 |
| m-Delmar Game Farm, Apr. 23 | e-Saratoga Lake, Oct. 28 |
| n-Greene County, Apr. 28 | f-Tombhannock Reservoir, Nov. 5 |
| o-Christman Sanctuary, Apr. 29 | g-Aloove Reservoir, Nov. 11 |
| p-Meadowdale, May 6 | h-Saratoga Lake, Nov. 26 |
| q-Indian Ladder, May 21 | i-Pelham Bay, Dec. 2 |
| r-Karner, May 24 | |

Common Loon	a c	jkl	efgh
Red-throated Loon	c		
Red-necked Grebe	c	j l	e
Horned Grebe	c	j l n	de ghi
Pied-billed Grebe		hij l	y b def
Eared Grebe	c		
Gannet	c		
Double-crested Cormorant		j	b
Great Cormorant	c		
Great Blue Heron	a	i p	y ab e
Eastern Green Heron			y ab
Little Blue Heron			b
Cattle Egret			b
Common Egret			y b
Snowy Egret			y b

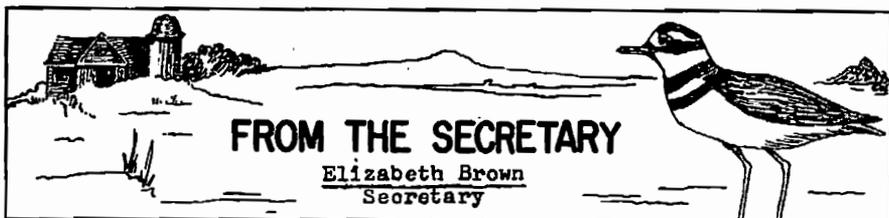
FEATHERS

MARCH - APRIL, 1968

Ruddy Turnstone						y	b		
American Woodcock									i
Common Snipe	d		j	n	p				h
Whimbrel							b		
Spotted Sandpiper						t	v	y	b
Solitary Sandpiper					p				b
Greater Yellowlegs					p		y	b	
Lesser Yellowlegs							y	b	
Knot							y		
Purple Sandpiper	c								i
Pectoral Sandpiper			i						
Least Sandpiper							y		
Dunlin					p				
Short-billed Dowitcher							y	b	
Stilt Sandpiper							y	b	
Marbled Godwit								b	
Hudsonian Godwit							y	b	
Sanderling	c						y	b	i
Iceland Gull	c								
Kumlein's Gull	c								
Great Black-backed Gull	c	f	h	j			y	b	f
Herring Gull	a	c	f	g	h	i	j	w	y
Ring-billed Gull	a	c	g	h	i	j	n	w	y
Laughing Gull								y	b
Forster's Tern									b
Common Tern								y	b
Least Tern								y	
Royal Tern									b
Black Tern								y	b
Black Skimmer									b
Dovekie									c
Mourning Dove	a	c	e	f	g	h	i	m	n
Yellow-billed Cuckoo								o	p
Black-billed Cuckoo								q	r
Great Horned Owl								s	t
Snowy Owl	c							u	v
Long-eared Owl								w	x
Saw-whet Owl								y	z
Whip-poor-will									r
Chimney Swift								p	q
Ruby-throated Hummingbird								s	t
Belted Kingfisher	a		h	i	j	l	n	o	p
Yellow-shafted Flicker			h	i	j	l	m	n	o
Pileated Woodpecker	a								
Red-headed Woodpecker									
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker						k	o	p	q
Hairy Woodpecker	a	c	f	h	i			o	p
Downy Woodpecker	a	c	d	f	h	i	j	l	n
Eastern Kingbird								q	u
Great Crested Flycatcher								q	s
Eastern Phoebe						k	l	o	q
Trail's Flycatcher									v
Least Flycatcher								q	s
Eastern Wood Pewee							n	p	q
Olive-sided Flycatcher									q
Horned Lark	a	c	d	e	f	h			
Tree Swallow						h	i	l	m
Bank Swallow								p	s
Rough-winged Swallow								l	m
Barn Swallow								l	o
Cliff Swallow								l	p

Blue Jay	a cdefgh	l nopq s uv	xyzabcdefghijklmnopghi
Common Crow	abcdefghijklmnop	l nopq s uvwx	abcdefghijklmnopghi
Fish Crow	b		
Black-capped Chickadee	abcdefghijklmnop	lmnopq stuv	xyzabcdefghijklmnopghi
Tufted Titmouse	c		i
White-breasted Nuthatch	ab e h	nopq s uvw yz	defghi
Red-breasted Nuthatch		t x z	f
Brown Creeper	abc g k	n pq st x z	fg i
House Wren		opq s vw z b	
Winter Wren		o t x	
Long-billed Marsh Wren		p w	
Mockingbird	f	v	b i
Catbird		pq s uvwx	yz abc
Brown Thrasher		op	b
Robin	a hi	lmnopq stuvwxyz	bcdefg
Wood Thrush		q stuvw	
Hermit Thrush		stu x	
Swainson's Thrush		q x b	
Veery		q stuvw	
Eastern Bluebird		l no v	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		u b	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	h	n t	f i
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		l nopq t	b d i
Water Pipit			b fg
Cedar Waxwing	a	s uv xy	bc e
Northern Shrike	c		
Starling	a cdefghi	lmnopq s uvw y	abcdefghijklmnopghi
White-eyed Vireo			b
Yellow-throated Vireo		q w	
Solitary Vireo		s x	
Red-eyed Vireo		q s wx	b
Warbling Vireo		w	
Black-and-White Warbler		q stu	b
Worm-eating Warbler		q u	
Golden-winged Warbler		q	
Tennessee Warbler		v b	
Nashville Warbler		pq s x	b
Parula Warbler			b
Yellow Warbler		op uvw	b
Magnolia Warbler		st z	
Cape May Warbler		s	
Black-throated Blue Warbler		pq stu	z b
Myrtle Warbler	c	pq st x	bcd
Black-throated Green Warbler		q st x z	
Cerulean Warbler		w	
Blackburnian Warbler		q stu x	b
Chestnut-sided Warbler		q stu x	
Blackpoll Warbler			z b
Palm Warbler			
Ovenbird		q stuv x	
Northern Waterthrush		p s	
Louisiana Waterthrush		o q x	
Mourning Warbler		x	
Yellowthroat		pq st vwx yz	b
Wilson's Warbler		q	
Canada Warbler		q s v	
American Redstart		q stuvw x z	b
House Sparrow	a cdefghi	lm opq wxy	bodefghi
Bobolink			b
Eastern Meadowlark	a c f hi	l nopq v	abc f
Red-winged Blackbird	efghi	lmnopq s uvwx y	abc e g

Baltimore Oriole			q	tuvw	b		
Rusty Blackbird	a			nop		de	i
Common Grackle		efghi	lmnopq	s uvw y	b		i
Brown-headed Cowbird	a	c e hi	lmnopq	s uvwx y	b	f	
Scarlet Tanager				q s uv x	b		
Cardinal	a	efghi	lmn pq		w yzab		f h
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				q	stu wx	b	
Indigo Bunting					v		
Evening Grosbeak					x		fg
Purple Finch			no	q st	wx	b	
House Finch					y		i
American Goldfinch	e	hi	l	nopq	stuvw	zabcd	efghi
Rufous-sided Towhee				nopq	s u w yz	b	i
Savannah Sparrow			k	p		b	i
Sharp-tailed Sparrow						b	
Seaside Sparrow						b	
Vesper Sparrow							i
Lark Sparrow						b	
Slate-colored Junco		e ghi	lmno	q st	x		def h
Tree Sparrow	a	cdefg	l	p			fghi
Chipping Sparrow				no	q s	wxyz	b d
Field Sparrow			kl	no	q s v	z b	
White-crowned Sparrow					t		f
White-throated Sparrow				op	s v x		d f i
Fox Sparrow		h					g i
Lincoln's Sparrow				q			
Swamp Sparrow				nop	s w	c	i
Song Sparrow	a	c e fghi	lmnopq	stuvwxy	abc	efg	i
Lapland Longspur		o					
Snow Bunting		c f					g

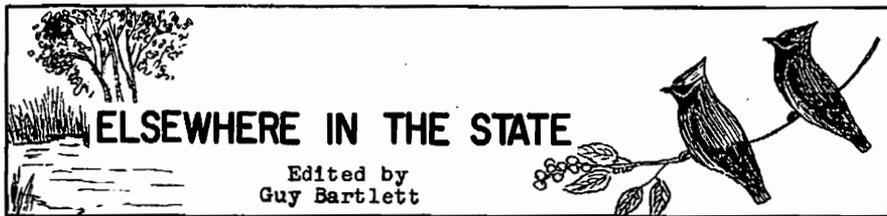


At the meeting of the SBC board of directors at Peter Wickham's on March 14, 1968, the following committee chairmen were named:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Field Trip | Peggy McGuirk |
| Conservation | Will D. Merritt |
| Records | Monte D. Gruett |
| Publications | Robert P. Yunick |
| Program | Hazel Bundy and Ruth Bates |
| Membership | Lenny Thomas |
| Youth Activities | Lois Norton |

In addition, Hazel Bundy will authur our region's field note summaries for FEATHERS and THE KINGBIRD.

Among the items of new business discussed were the Federation of N.Y.S. Bird Clubs' convention to be held in Rochester on April 26-28. SBC is entitled to send two delegates. Walt Sabin reported that he needs 100 observers to run woodcock counts. A motion was approved that SBC would finance the sending of a boy to the conservation education camp this summer.



FEDERATION MEETING

The annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. will be held in Rochester April 26-28, a week earlier than originally announced. The change has been made because of the conflict with the Wilson Ornithological Society meeting the first weekend in May.

The banquet speaker will be Dr. Tom J. Cade, research director of Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology. He will tell and show pictures of the latest Alaskan trip to study the peregrin falcon and other birds. The banquet will be at the Sheraton Hotel. The Sunday morning breakfast before the field trips will be at Bausch and Lomb, Inc.

AOU AND WILSON MEETINGS

The 86th stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held June 18-23 at the University of Alaska, College (Fairbanks), Alaska. The University of Alaska and the Fairbanks Bird Club are hosts. Field trips prior to and following the formal meetings are being arranged.

The 1968 meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society will be held from Thursday to Sunday, May 2-5, at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill. The meeting is sponsored by the university. Field trips are planned for early morning Friday and Saturday and on Sunday.

CHRISTMAS COUNT HIGHLIGHTS

Alan Devoe Bird Club (Chatham), with 16 observers in four parties, had 43 species and 5978 count on its most recent Christmas Count. Included were a snow goose and dickcissel, and two great black-backed gulls. They found the Hudson River open but waterfowlless -- the snow goose had been wintering on a pond at Valatie.

Two new species, lesser scaup and killdeer, were included in Saw Mill River Audubon Society's recent Christmas Count. The 51 species equalled the high count, but the 1245 individuals were well below average.

OTHER STATE RECORDS

How scarce evening grosbeaks were in early and mid-winter is indicated by a single one on January 31st being shown on Rochester's list of noteworthy records.

Tioga Bird Club members had good opportunities to study a

varied thrush at a feeder in Candor in January and February. The species was new for that area.

Dutchess County was operating its "hot line relay" recently for its first Harris' sparrow.

Alan Devoe's sandhill crane, first identified November 12, was last seen in its corn field at Muitzeskill on the 19th.

BIRDS IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

There is now a revised, second edition of ENJOYING BIRDS IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, prepared by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. and Sally Hoyt Spofford, and published by the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, Ithaca. The first edition was dated 1963. Major changes have been made in the section on "Where to Find Birds in Upstate New York," reflecting the effects of new major highways and urbanization. Also updated is the list of "Sources of Information on Birds," with prices of publications and phonograph records omitted. New and helpful is an index in the final three pages.

RECORDS CONTRIBUTOR

In Part 1 of Elon Howard Eaton's BIRDS OF NEW YORK, issued in 1910, credit was given to all those who had contributed county lists. There was only one contributor for Schenectady County -- James E. Benedict of Washington, D.C. whose bird collection is mentioned in this issue.

BIRDS OF WYOMING COUNTY

BIRDS OF WYOMING COUNTY -- A Contribution to the Ornithology of the Northern Allegheny Plateau by Richard C. Rosche has been published as Bulletin 23, 1967 by Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. The 90-page soft-covered bulletin measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ X $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches and is \$2.75 postpaid. It suggests treatments for a publication SBC might project.

CONSERVATION COURSES

Two college-level correspondence courses, at \$10 each, are being offered by Cornell University: "Conservation of Natural Resources" and "Current Topics in Conservation." Write Prof. R.J. McNeill, 122D Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

NATURE CONSERVANCY

Quoting the Eastern New York chapter of the Nature Conservancy: "One of Rensselaer County's most beautiful natural areas is being acquired for preservation by the Nature Conservancy. Spectacular Barbersville Falls, just east of the hamlet of Poestenkill, containing the full flow of historic Poestenkill Creek as it goes on its way to Troy and the Hudson River. These falls are located at the junction of Route 154 and Ives Corners Road at Barbersville and descend 110 feet to a large pool. Its waters then go through a gorge walled in by hemlocks and mixed hardwoods that cling to rocky cliffs."

Also announced by the Nature Conservancy is that "The latest purchase for the Lisha Kill Natural Area has now been fully paid

for. All contributors should be pleased on the achievement of this addition of a buffer zone for the protection of a significant native woodland."

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A NEW MUSEUM SHOP

The New York State Museum and Science Service has recently built a large, attractive museum shop where visitors can purchase books and other material relating to the natural sciences. These include a large assortment of sea shells, geology hammers, mastodon models, jewelry, color slides and a wide range of books, particularly paperbacks. The museum shop will be open during museum hours: 10 am. to 4:30 pm. throughout the week and on holidays. The entire museum is open daily from 9 am. to 4:30 pm. but is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

GET OUT YOUR FIELD GUIDE

Every experienced birder has heard descriptions of birds that can only be identified as members of a species previously unknown to science. As a general rule, skepticism is the only reasonable response -- usually, but not always.

As a case in point, consider the finch which appeared at our feeder at 2229 Niskayuna Drive on Saturday, March 2, 1968. The bird was grosbeak-size and grosbeak-shape, a veritable evening grosbeak in all respects save one: head, body and tail were entirely bright yellow, the color of a summer male goldfinch, and the wings were completely white; the bird bore not a speck of brown or black. Since it was traveling with a flock of normal evening grosbeaks, six males and a female, we concluded that the bird was a grosbeak "sport." I suspected it might be a partial albino, but Bob Yunick suggests that it may also have been an example of xanthochromism, or total yellow pigmentation.

We had a good look at close range, for the flock remained around the feeder for almost half an hour. Judging by the inroads on the sunflower seeds, I would say that color problems had not inhibited the grosbeak's normally gross appetite.

--B. R. Carman

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

Once again, the Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey will be conducted in New York this June. Last Year Pete Wickham recruited volunteers for 11 survey routes in our area. This year, our new records committee chairman, Monte Gruett, will be coordinating the area counts. Those of you who helped last year and wish to do so again this year should contact Monte at

477-6246. If you would like to get involved for the first time this year, there is a need for additional observers, recorders and drivers.

Last year's completed local routes were as follows:

Austerlitz by Georgia Erlenbach	- Duanesburg by Walton Sabin
Petersburg by Peter Wickham	- South Berne by Carl Parker
Catskill by James Bush	- North River by Walton Sabin
Ghent by Peter Wickham	- Salem by Paul Connor
Ballston Lake by Benton Seguin	- North Easton by William Gorman
Durham by Owen Knorr	- Warrensburg by Walton Sabin
Cobleskill by Walton Sabin	

Additional routes needing coverage are as follows:

Argyle (Washington County)	- Hope Falls (Hamilton County)
South Horicon (Warren County)	

DUES ARE OVERDUE

SBC's new treasurer, Miss Elizabeth Macauley of 192 Hudson River Road, Waterford, 12188, is eager to receive 1968 dues for which a notice was included in the Jan.-Feb. issue of FEATHERS. Please send your check today. Follow up reminders are not only costly but time consuming. As of May 1 a new directory will be made up and members whose dues are not paid will be removed from the list.

WOODCOCK CENSUS

Walt Sabin is organizing a state-wide woodcock census for the N.Y.S. Conservation Department. There are 100 randomly distributed routes throughout the state. The census will be held during the period April 20 to May 10. It will involve driving, stopping and listening for the woodcock call note for one-half hour at dusk. If you would like to volunteer to help with routes in this area, please contact Walt at 439-1144.

* * * * *



HOUSE FINCH STUDY

With the arrival of mid-April, one can usually expect the northward arrival of purple finches which have wintered to the south of us. For the last two weeks of April and first of May, one can expect constant arrivals of these melodious finches at one's feeder.

By all means examine these flocks carefully for the somewhat

similar house finch. This species is a bit slimmer and trimmer than the purple finch and has a more flitting, nervous manner. The male is more red-orange and brightest on the upper breast compared to the "raspberry juicy" purple finch which is brightest in the crown. In the females of the two species, the house finch has finer, more clearly delineated streaking.

Pay especial attention this year, because Elinor McEntee, who bands large numbers of house finches in northern New Jersey, has a special study under way. In order to readily trace the movements of these birds from her station, she is painting the center tail feather yellow. She would appreciate reports on any of her birds. So, if you see a "purple finch" with a yellow tail feather, it's an HOUSE FINCH and Mrs. McEntee would appreciate hearing from you. Her address is 490 Fairfield Avenue, Ridgewood New Jersey 07450.

PURPLE FINCH SHUTTLE

Because of their attachment to feeders, purple finches are usually banded in large numbers during flight years or where they regularly occur. Malcomb Oakes of Westport Point, Mass. has banded 3143 of these birds in the past ten years. In a summation of his ten years' work in a recent issue of EBBA NEWS (Vol. 31, No.2, p. 73, Mar.-Apr., 1968) he lists his banding and retrapping of two eight-year old birds, as well as the foreign recoveries he has had.

In particular, one bird, a female, has displayed a most fascinating record of recaptures in the past five years. She has summered at Westport and wintered at Richmond, Va. Her record is as follows:

August 22, 1963	Banded at Westport Point, Mass.
January 1, 1964	Trapped and released at Richmond, Va. Repeated at Richmond Jan. 25, Feb. 11 and Feb. 23.
July 25, 1964	Returned to Westport
May 18, 1965	Returned to Westport
September 25, 1965	Returned to Westport
January 11, 1966	Trapped and released at Richmond. Re- peated at Richmond Jan.11, 14, 15, 25 31 and Mar. 12.

RECENYS

How many of you know about the Capital district's newest addition to the organization roster? Meeting at the N.Y.S. Museum in Albany at 1 pm. on selected Saturdays is the Regional Entomology Club of Eastern N.Y.S. In addition, did you know that SEC'er Doug Norton is the entomology club's newly elected recording secretary? In case you are interested in insects, contact Doug for details about club membership.

MORE BAND RECOVERIES

THE RING, an international banding journal, recently carried mention of two unusual band recoveries. One involved a report by C.F. Yocum, reported originally in CONDOR, about a pintail banded on February 2, 1956 at Humboldt Bay, California at 40°45'N, 124°15'W and recovered on October 25, 1963 at Baikal Lake in southern

Siberia, U.S.S.R. at about 53°N, 106°E. Baikal Lake is near the Mongolian border well within Russia. The direct-line air distance between the banding and recovery site is about 4500 miles.

The second one mentioned in THE RING and also EBBA NEWS was originally printed in the NEWSLETTER of the Cornell University of Ornithology by Dr. Olin Pettingill, who has appeared in Schenectady several times as an Audubon Wildlife Film speaker. Dr. Pettingill banded the bird at Duck Rock near Monhegan Island, Maine. The fact that the bird was found recently dead by a troop of girl scouts along the shore of Lake Michigan within a few miles from the University of Michigan Biological Station where Dr. Pettingill teaches in summer was unusual enough. However, when one considers that the bird was banded on June 29, 1930 and recovered on June 20, 1966, one has the making of a possible world longevity record of 35 years, 11 months, 22 days for a wild herring gull.

ADDRESS CHANGES

From time to time we encounter great difficulty with the delivery of this issue, because someone moves without sending an address change ahead of time. We pay 10 cents for the return of the copy and then must spend six or 12 cents to mail it first class provided we obtain a forwarding address. Therefore the eventual delivery of every returned copy can conceivably cost up to 23.4 cents postage, instead of the 1.4 cents it would normally have cost had we received a change of address and made delivery as a part of our regular bulk mailing. Our last issue had eight returns, so you can see how expensive this can be. If you anticipate moving, please contact Emmy Koch whose address is on the mailing cover and inform her of the change.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Some of the species of birds that banders usually encounter at feeders are ones which tend to flock together. Through the years, banders have been intrigued to know how firm flock cohesion is. Cases are known where tree sparrows banded on the same day, perhaps even in the same trap load, have been recaptured in subsequent years still in association with one another at the same banding station.

More recently a report in EBBA NEWS (Vol. 31, No. 2, p.84, Mar.-Apr., 1968) by G. Hapgood Parks of Hartford, Conn. describes some interesting cases of association. Two purple finches banded by Mr. Parks during a finch invasion in 1959, a female on March 18 and a male on March 20, were subsequently trapped and released on the same day, February 20, 1967, near Cairo, Ill! Also, two of his slate-colored juncos banded October 8 and 26, 1963 were captured and released on April 29, 1965 at Indiana, Pa.

MORE ON BIRD BATHING

Grace Liebich of Slingerlands writes, "I note on p. 16 of the Jan.-Feb., 1968 issue Mr. Havens' request for information about bird bathing. I have an unusually large bird bath on my woods-surrounded lawn where I see flickers teach young flickers to bathe, and the elements of survival in the bird world. Later in the fall, just before the flickers leave, I see them bathe.

"Also I have had a bird bath for three-four years on a window sill with a heating element in it and have wondered at birds bathing in it when zero or below. Now this comes to me: since birds constantly oil their feathers with their beaks, against the elements of weather, would not this oil hold dust particles and dirt from air which is so full of pollution these days? Would not the bathing remove somewhat these particles?"

"I in turn have a question. In 1953-1956 a number of evening grosbeaks were banded in the Slingerlands area. What source of information is available to a lay person as I as to where these birds eventually spend the winter or summer in the years following banding?"

In reply to this, first a note on the bird bath in zero weather. Bird bath heaters are fine devices for keeping water liquid in cold weather so that birds can have drinking water. Short of this birds will eat snow and get by. But, beyond providing drinking water at moderately cold temperatures, there is a hazard involved in providing water in zero weather. Some birds may not know when not to bathe, or at least when not to keep their feet out of water. In zero weather, a song bird that bathes in a heated bath and flies off to land on a zero-degree fence or other metal object will freeze to the fence and be stranded. Therefore, heated bird baths should not be operated below an air temperature of about 20 degrees F., because it is unnatural for water to exist at that temperature and some birds may not know enough to leave it alone.

Now for your question. Unless a bander takes it upon himself to examine and publish his song bird banding data, there is little likelihood that the lay public will ever see much of the data. Most of the information will lie dormant filed away. At present numerous banding publications, as well as several ornithological journals cover banding data of various sorts. Little of this filters into the popular periodicals. Partly, this is due to the fact that most scientifically valid banding data do not lend themselves to popular treatment. In fact, statistical validity is stressed as a desirable attribute of most banding data treatments. Today, there are undoubtedly enough recovery data collected on evening grosbeaks that anything short of a computer treatment of these data would be almost impossibly difficult and might be misleading.

In short, banding data provide valuable means of providing technical answers to problems in bird biology, but at times are difficult to present to the public. Often the prime difficulties are a lack of time and funds on the part of people with access to the data to do anything with them.

AGGRESSION

Dr. James H. Lade of Glenmont writes, "For years I have been reading and hearing that aggressive species like the house sparrow and starling drive away the less bold species. But I do not see this at my feeder. All systematic aggressiveness is intraspecific only: tree sparrows harassing tree sparrows, but not threatening house sparrows, juncos or whatever other species are there.

"I will admit that larger birds like jays simply shoulder the smaller species aside, but they don't drive them away. Perhaps this is a matter of definition. The only systematic aggression I

see at the feeder is a manifestation of territoriality. If this is true, why all the talk about aggressive species?

"However, some of my bird-feeding friends do not agree with my observation. Perhaps the subject could stimulate some discussion in FEATHERS?"

You raise a good point. My own experience with starlings at suet definitely labels the starling as a aggressor on the rights of woodpeckers and other suet feeders. The starlings always drive away the non-combative woodpeckers should the woodpeckers be there first, and as long as the starlings are there, the woodpeckers do not return.

However, consider the regard that most people have for the starling in its relation at the nest site with the Eastern bluebird. Most people label the starling as an "aggressor", when in reality it is mostly a usurper. Because it nests earlier, it assumes possession earlier than the bluebird of natural nesting cavities. Once established at a nesting site, it defends it vigorously and thus prevents the bluebird from using the site. This is termed "aggression" and yet, it is not an unprovoked attack which is the true definition of aggression. Then consider the sabotaging efforts of the house wren as it pierces other birds' eggs or even destroys nests.

When one considers the many aspects of bird behavior, it becomes apparent how complex a subject it is. In defining aggression, it becomes necessary to consider the circumstances, i.e., nesting, mating, feeding, etc. To complicate matters about a feeder, a feeder represents an highly localized source of food and such a site does not typically occur in the wild. Thus, depending on how one goes about feeding birds, one may create situations which promote aggressive interplay (intraplay?). Limiting the source and availability of food could lead to sharp competition. On the other hand, liberal distribution of food may simulate nearly wild conditions. Thus one can see why some people observe aggression at their feeders and other people do not.

LITTER

The Feb.-Mar. issue of THE CONSERVATIONIST, published by the N.Y.S. Conservation Department, carries a staggering article entitled, "80,000,000 Bottles A Day." It deals with litter. Senator Seymour, the author, has put into focus a problem which a number of us look at, shake our heads at, and more or less accept as a blight on the land. However, the statistics and facts of this article carry such an impact that one cannot shrug them off. They are too revolting and disgusting.

Our 'no deposit, no return' affluence contributes greatly to the problem. As a nation we have reached such a state of technological and economic standing that reclamation is a dirty word. We are drawing upon our abundant natural resource endowment with such high-priced help and machinery that we can't afford to reclaim the steel in scrapped automobiles, the tin-plate or aluminum in cans or the glass in bottles. It's too expensive to do so. It seems that somewhere our economic outlook has led us astray.

Secure a copy of THE CONSERVATIONIST from a friend or your li-

brary and arm yourself so that as a tax-paying, voting citizen you can be prepared to do battle with an issue which is undoubtedly going to enter the legislative circle in grand scale in years to come.

NEXT ISSUE

The due date for material for the next issue is May 10. Notes and articles on your winter or spring birding experiences, feeder visitors, etc. are most welcome. The next issue will contain the 1968 directory plus an interesting write up on a trip to Texas by Barry Havens.

Ry

(Issue assembled March 23, 1968)

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Non-profit Organization

CENTURY RUN HAS NOTHING NEW

Guy Bartlett
Compiler

This year's Century Run set no records. There were no new species, and the count was four short of the maximum. A list of 158 species was attained on SBC's 23rd Century Run, on Saturday, May 18, when 46 observers in 11 groups investigated a fairly large section of their 11-county area. Three groups reached the 100 mark, with the maximum 110.

The composite list remained at 227 species plus two hybrid warblers. Last year's report showed the house finch as No. 226 in the list. The mute swan became No. 227 in 1966 but went unlisted as such.

Foliage was well advanced. Rain, starting anywhere from 2:30 to 4 pm., interfered with several groups. Observations started as early as 3:30 am. with two groups, and included two talking barred owls at Jenny Lake then and a great horned owl in voice there a half hour later.

Hawks were not heavy contributors; the vulture, sharp-shinned and marsh, and osprey were missed. Four of the 11 groups found none - and that included Group H with its 108 species. The sparrow hawk was the only one appearing on all the other seven lists.

Last year all three expected grebes were listed; this year, for the first time in five years, there was none. The gnatcatcher was missing after four successive years. Warblers, to the total of 27 species, were widespread and in song.

Possibly the most interesting record was that of the goshawk, last included in 1948. This year's bird, along a hill-climbing jeep-only road in northern Saratoga County, repeatedly swooped in close, alighted in nearby trees, and loudly screamed "a fierce, deep-toned, staccato 'ca, ca, ca, ca, ca, ca, ca, ca, ca' uttered as an alarm note about the nest" to quote Pough's Audubon Guide.

Three more species were listed for only the second time. The red-throated loon was previously recorded only in 1962. The mute swan, feeding in a marsh at Saratoga Lake, had been seen only in 1966 at Vischer Ferry GMA. The black-bellied plover had also been found in 1966.

Three species were recorded for only the third time: least bittern, 1950 and 1953; white-rumped sandpiper, 1948 and 1967; and Lincoln's sparrow, 1949 and 1958.

Nineteen species were listed by one group only, as indicated in the following tabulation. Twenty-two species were on all

lists: mourning dove, chimney swift, flicker, kingbird, tree, bank and barn swallows, blue jay, crow, chickadee, house wren, cat bird, robin, wood thrush, starling, chestnut-sided warbler, house sparrow, red-winged blackbird, Baltimore oriole, grackle, cowbird and song sparrow. Missing on only one list each were another 15: mallard, black duck, spotted sandpiper, downy woodpecker, phoebe, veery, yellow warbler, yellowthroat, bobolink, cardinal, rose-breasted grosbeak, goldfinch, towhee and chipping and field sparrows.

Participants and Areas

Group A - Peggy McGuirk and Hazel Bundy; 4:30 am. to 10 pm. Vischer Ferry GMA, Stony Creek Res., Central Park, Rosendale and River Roads, Lock 7 and Niskayuna WW, Round and Saratoga Lakes, West Glenville, Black Creek Marshes. 93 species (every species identified by both observers) - red-throated loon, white-rumped sandpiper, yellow-bellied flycatcher.

Group B - Guy Bartlett, Barry Havens, Benton Seguin; 3:30 am. to rain at 4 pm. Dominantly Warren and northern Saratoga Counties, including Saratoga, Jenny and Efner Lakes, Davignon Pond; Corinth, South Corinth and Glens Falls secondary roads. 100 species - mute swan, goshawk, red-shouldered hawk, great horned owl, evening grosbeak, pine siskin.

Group C - John Steadwell and David Harrison; 4:30 am. to 6 pm. Galway Lake, Scotia and vicinity. 79 species - black tern.

Group D - Helen Arnold, John Fuller, Betty Hicks, Mary Johnston, Mary Linch, Douglas and Lois Norton, Robert Massimillian; 5:45 am. to 4:45 pm. Hennessey Road, D&H tracks, Indian Ladder, Vly Creek, Niskayuna WW, Lisha Lill area. 102 species - pintail, sora, whip-poor-will.

Group E - Gus Angst, Esly Hallenbeck, Bob McCullough; 6 am. to 6 pm. 6 hours and 5 miles afoot; 6 hours and 70 miles by car. 74 species.

Group F - Marie and B.D. Bedford; 11 am. to 7 pm. Ridge Road, West Glenville, Galway Lake, with heavy rain after 4 pm. 33 species.

Group G - Will Merritt and Robert Yunick; 5 am. to 1 pm. Vischer Ferry GMA, during banding operations. 51 species - least bittern, Lincoln' sparrow (this one also seen by Group K).

Group H - Pete Wickham, Monty Gruett, Bill Gorman and (in part) Harvey Spivak and Louise Wickham; 3:30 am. to 6:30 pm. Vosburgh, Alcoe and Basic Res., Indian Ladder, Meadowdale, Niskayuna, East Greenbush. 108 species - black-bellied plover, dunlin.

Group I - Hollis Ingraham, Robert Korns, Samuel Madison, Carl Parker, Walton Sabin; 4:15 am. to 9:15 pm., with rain after 3 pm. Black Creek Marshes, Indian Ladder, Vly Creek, Delmar Game Farm, Waterliet Res. Karner Pine Barrens, Albany Airport, Lock 7, Niskayuna WW, Stony Creek Res., Round Lake, Malta, Saratoga Lake, Saratoga Springs. 110 species - olive-sided flycatcher.

Group J - Lillian C. Stoner, compiler; Eleanor Byrne, Lucy Dean, Byron and Margaret Hipple, Seguin Newell, Stella Novak, 42

Stephen Schryver, Lee and Lenny Thomas, Gladys Samuels, Helen Budlong (miscellaneously grouped); 6:15 am. to nightfall, with bad rain from 2:30 pm. Albany's Washington Park, Cary and New Scotland Roads, Meadowdale, Selkirk, Albany Airport, Mohawk River, Karner, Thatcher Park. 92 species - common tern.

Group K - C.W. Huntley and Patrick E. Kilburn; 5 am. to 3 pm. Sohenectady to Vischer Ferry to Indian Ladder to Hennessey Road and Black Creek. 75 species.

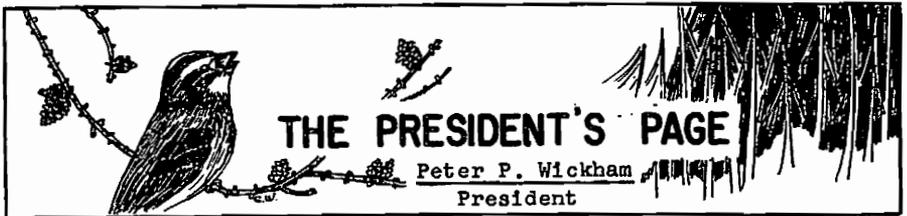
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CENTURY RUN -- MAY 18, 1968 -- 158 SPECIES

Common Loon	ab d hi	Black-billed Cuckoo	bc g
Red-throated Loon	a	Screech Owl	h j
Great Blue Heron	a gh k	Great Horned Owl	b
Green Heron	a ode hi k	Barred Owl	b i
Least Bittern	g	Whip-poor-will	d
American Bittern	a de ghijk	Common Nighthawk	a c j
Mute Swan	b	Chimney Swift	abcdefghijkl
Canada Goose	d i	Ruby-thr Hummingbird	b de ghij
Mallard	abode ghijk	Belted Kingfisher	ab de hi
Black Duck	abode ghijk	Yellow-sh Flicker	abcdefghijkl
Pintail	d	Pileated Woodpecker	b d hi
Green-winged Teal	h	Yellow-b Sapsucker	b j
Blue-winged Teal	a d hijk	Hairy Woodpecker	bcdef hij
Wood Duck	a cd hij	Downy Woodpecker	abcdef hijk
Scaup	a i	Eastern Kingbird	abcdefghijkl
Bufflehead	a	Great Cr Flycatcher	abcd ghi
Hooded Merganser	a	Eastern Phoebe	abcdef hijk
Goshawk	b	Yellow-b Flycatcher	a
Cooper's Hawk	b e	Trail's Flycatcher	d ghi k
Red-tailed Hawk	a ode ij	Least Flycatcher	abcde gh jk
Red-shouldered Hawk	b	Eastern Wood Pewee	ab de hijk
Broad-winged Hawk	ab	Olive-s Flycatcher	i
Sparrow Hawk	abcde ij	Horned Lark	a cd hij
Ruffed Grouse	bc hi	Tree Swallow	abcdefghijkl
Bobwhite	d i	Bank Swallow	abcdefghijkl
Ring-necked Pheasant	de ghijk	Rough-winged Swallow	ode hijk
Virginia Rail	d hi	Barn Swallow	abcdefghijkl
Sora	d	Cliff Swallow	a hi k
Common Gallinule	de hij	Purple Martin	ab e i
American Coot	d h j	Blue Jay	abcdefghijkl
Killdeer	a ode hij	Common Crow	abcdefghijkl
Black-bellied Plover	h	Black-c Chickadee	abcdefghijkl
American Woodcock	hi	Tufted Titmouse	a cd j
Common Snipe	ab d hi	White-br Nuthatch	abode hij
Upland Plover	a c ij	Red-br Nuthatch	b j
Spotted Sandpiper	abcde ghijk	Brown Creeper	ab d
Solitary Sandpiper	b hij	House Wren	abcdefghijkl
Greater Yellowlegs	hi	Winter Wren	b i
White-r Sandpiper	a	Long-b Marsh Wren	a de hijk
Least Sandpiper	c hi	Mockingbird	a cd j
Dunlin	h	Catbird	abcdefghijkl
Herring Gull	a c e hij	Brown Thrasher	bcde hijk
Ring-billed Gull	ab hi	Robin	abcdefghijkl
Common Tern	j	Wood Thrush	abcdefghijkl
Black Tern	c	Hermit Thrush	b d k
Mourning Dove	abcdefghijkl	Swainson's Thrush	abc ghi k
Yellow-bellied Cuckoo	de hi	Veery	abcde ghijk

Eastern Bluebird	ab de	ij	Yellow-br Chat	de hi
Golden-cr Kinglet	b d		Wilson's Warbler	a d ghi k
Ruby-cr Kinglet	b	g jk	Canada Warbler	a cd ghi jk
Cedar Waxwing	ab	hi k	American Redstart	abcd ghi jk
Starling	abcdef	ghijk	House Sparrow	abcdefghijk
Yellow-thr Vireo	ab e	hijk	Bobolink	abcdef hijk
Solitary Vireo	b d		Eastern Meadowlark	abcdef hijk
Red-eyed Vireo	abcde	hijk	Red-winged Blackbird	abcdefghijk
Warbling Vireo	abcde	hijk	Baltimore Oriole	abcdefghijk
Blk-and-White Warb	abcde	hijk	Common Grackle	abcdefghijk
Worm-eating Warbler	de	hi k	Brown-h Cowbird	abcdefghijk
Golden-w Warbler	cd	hi j	Scarlet Tanager	abode hi jk
Blue-winged Warbler	c	h	Cardinal	a cdefghijk
Tennessee Warbler	b	ghijk	Rose-br Grosbeak	abcde ghi jk
Nashville Warbler	b e	hi k	Indigo Bunting	ab de hi k
Parula Warbler	b	h k	Evening Grosbeak	b
Yellow Warbler	abcde	ghijk	Purple Finch	ab de i
Magnolia Warbler	bc	gh j	Pine Siskin	b
Cape May Warbler	ab	j	American Goldfinch	abcde ghi jk
Blk-thr Blue Warbler	bc	i	Rufous-s Towhee	abcdef hijk
Myrtle Warbler	bdefg	ijk	Savannah Sparrow	ab d hi j
Blk-thr Green Warb	abcde	hi	Grasshopper Sparrow	de hi k
Blackburnian Warbler	bc	hi j	Henslow's Sparrow	d i
Chestnut-s Warbler	abcdef	ghijk	Vesper Sparrow	abcd h j
Bay-br Warbler	c	hi j	Slate-colored Junco	b hi jk
Blackpoll Warbler	d	h	Chipping Sparrow	abcdef hijk
Pine Warbler	b d		Field Sparrow	abcdef hijk
Prairie Warbler	c	j	White-cr Sparrow	ab g jk
Ovenbird	abcde	hijk	White-thr Sparrow	abcd f hijk
Northern Waterthrush	b d	ghi k	Lincoln's Sparrow	g k
Louisiana Waterthrush	d	h	Swamp Sparrow	abcde hijk
Yellowthroat	abcde	ghijk	Song Sparrow	abcdefghijk

* * * * *



Recently I read that the number of U. S. citizens interested in birds was estimated by the U. S. Census Bureau at over 11 million, and that this group would soon pass the number of licensed hunters. This means that about one in each 17 persons throughout our country is interested in some way in birds, or, in the Capital district over 25,000 persons are interested in birds.

With all this present interest in birds, and presumably other facets of nature, it seems unfortunate that, at this writing, we have no organizes programs to offer to the public other than our successful and long-running Audubon film series program. An obvious need would seem to be a selction of several set lectures on birds, flowers, trees or any other interesting natural topic. These could be illustrated with slides or in some

other visual manner, and might then be offered to local groups of both mature and young people.

To make such a program a reality, we need both a greatly improved collection of slides (the present SBC collection is rather sad looking and very small) and some members who would volunteer to organize the slides in some coherent order and/or arrange for various club members to speak. I believe such an arrangement would be extremely popular in this area, and would be very rewarding to those who took part in it. If you have an interest in this project, or possess some attractive or interesting slides from which we might make copies, let me know - your enthusiasm is the most important credential!

* * * * *

BIRDING WITH BEEZER IN TEXAS

Barry Havens

What would you think of a place where there are no crows or blue jays, where the starling is a rare bird, where you can spend two weeks without finding a single chickadee, where there's a flycatcher that also feeds on mimnows - and where you can make splendid observations of one of the rarest birds in the world? That's Texas, pardner, down by the Rio Grande!

Those are only some of the highlights of a two-week vacation spent by Beezer Seguin and the writer in southern Texas. Rockport was our home base, but we spent a few days in the Rio Grande Valley, making McAllen our headquarters.

The rare bird, of course, was the whooping crane, which winters in the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Of the 47 birds known to be in existence at this writing, we saw 18. Our observations were made from a boat that brought us to a point not more than a few hundred yards from the birds on more than one occasion. In two instances we saw a pair with an immature bird.

We weren't able to log a single crow, but that species seems to be amply replaced by the boat-tailed grackle. The only jay we logged was the green jay, which we found in the Rio Grande Valley, a spectacular, unforgettable creature. Although chickadees are listed by Peterson for Texas, we found none in the areas we visited, but there were plenty of its generic counterpart, the titmouse. But the titmouse was the black-crested species, not the familiar tufted one.

It was difficult to become accustomed to the rarity of the starling. We logged it on but five of the 15 days that we spent afield. The house sparrow, on the other hand, we logged consistently - but it was not confined to human dwelling areas. Instead, to our astonishment, we often observed lone individuals perched in treetops in such "wild" areas as the 57-mile stretch of road between Riviera and Raymondville - a highway unbroken by a single village or town.

The unusual flycatcher mentioned in the opening paragraph is the kiskadee flycatcher, another striking bird, which we found in the Rio Grande Valley. Peterson mentions its habit of catching

fish, but we were not fortunate to see that happen. We were told, however, by a birder who regularly camps in the Benson Rio Grande National Park, that he had had a kiskadee flycatcher perch on the rim of his bait bucket while out fishing and dip into it for minnows.

Other highlights of the trip included: chachalacas so tame in one of the Rio Grande refuges that they followed us in flocks looking for handouts; the striking beauty, in the same area, of Lichtenstein's oriole; a flock we estimated to include several thousand ducks feeding in a marshy field, of which at least 500 were black-bellied tree ducks and most of the remainder, pintails.

Rockport might almost be considered a birder's paradise. At the time we were there, the emphasis was on water and shore birds, for the migration had not yet begun in earnest. We logged 11 species of herons, 25 ducks and geese, 28 plovers and sandpipers plus the avocet and black-necked stilt, and 13 gulls, terns and skimmers.

We visited four wildlife refuges. The Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, not far from Rockport, is the one that protects the whooping crane, and there is an observation tower from which one may at times see the birds. We weren't lucky, the day we were there, but we more than made up for this by taking the boat trip mentioned in an earlier paragraph. Also in the general Rockport area is the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation, a private refuge where over 400 species of birds have been found. In the Rio Grande Valley we visited the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and the Benson Rio Grande National Park near McAllen and the Laguna Atacosa National Wildlife Refuge near Harlingen. Birders were most welcome at all these places, and check-lists were available, in addition to descriptive leaflets.

In passing, I might mention that birders are a way of life in southern Texas. Instead of being looked at as oddballs, they are accepted as the normal human beings they are, everywhere. On more than one occasion we saw sign designating private property that bore the additional legend: "Birders Welcome."

Among the odds and ends of observations:

We found no brown pelicans, only whites, which is the reverse of our Florida experiences.

We logged but few black ducks and mallard, but redheads (we called them McGuirks), baldpates, pintails, shovelers and lesser scaup were everywhere.

After getting up at 3 o'clock, driving quite a distance, and waiting for daybreak by the side of a prairie road, we didn't hear the booming of the greater prairie chicken as scheduled. We finally gave up after the sun rose and started back, only to find two of the birds alongside the road. We stopped for a good view, and they obligingly boomed for us.

We adopted several convenient shortcuts in nomenclature, in addition to that for the redhead already mentioned. We bunched caspian and royal terns into "caspoal" when we were too busy to distinguish while searching for more elusive species. Loggerhead shrikes and mockingbirds were so common on wires, trees and poles

that we often dismissed them with the term "shrocker." We also found it easier to refer to the pyrrhuloxia as the "pyrex" bird.

The roadrunner was found regularly but it was by no means abundant. I was surprised to learn that it can and does fly, and often perches in trees.

We logged several poor-wills one night at the town dump.

On one occasion we saw a scissor-tailed flycatcher and a Say's phoebe in the same tree. On another, we logged a scissor-tailed flycatcher and a pyrrhuloxia on the same fence, with a rough-legged hawk (unusual there) in the background.

Although Sprague's pipit winters in the territory, we searched vainly for it and had to content ourselves with water pipits.

We recorded a number of interesting "new" sparrows, including Cassin's sparrow, which flies aloft to sing like a skylark. Lark sparrows were common.

For a number of days we tried to identify a mysterious singer in roadside thickets, only to discover eventually it was a white-eyed vireo singing an abbreviated version of its familiar "chick-a-perweeoo-chick" song.

This account would be incomplete without a reference to one of the most unforgettable characters it was our privilege to meet: Connie Hagar. Connie and her husband established the Rockport Cottages, where we stayed, as a haven for bird watchers, and birders from far and near go there regularly, especially during the migration season. Since her husband's death, Connie sold the cottages, but she lives next door. She is recognized by most bird authorities not only as the doyenne of Texas ornithologists, but of such sophistication and reliability that one of the most cautious of scientists once wrote, "If Connie Hagar reported a great auk in her front yard, I'd believe her!" She is 82 and her activities are restricted, but she is as sharp as ever mentally - and the most engaging hostess.

The log of species for the 15 days of our trip follows:

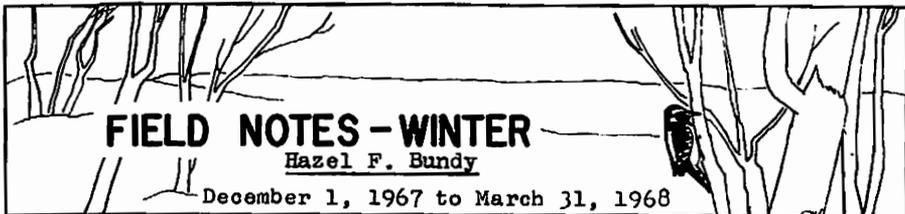
Common Loon	American Bittern	Shoveler
Horned Grebe		Redhead
Eared Grebe	White-faced Ibis	Ring-necked Duck
Least Grebe	Roseate Spoonbill	Canvasback
Pied-billed Grebe		Lesser Scaup
	Canada Goose	Common Goldeneye
White Pelican	White-fronted Goose	Bufflehead
Double-cr Cormorant	Snow Goose	Ruddy Duck
Anhinga	Blue Goose	Hooded Merganser
	Black-b Tree Duck	Red-br Merganser
Great Blue Heron	Fulvous Tree Duck	
Green Heron	Mallard	Turkey Vulture
Little Blue Heron	Black Duck	Black Vulture
Cattle Egret	Mottled Duck	White-tailed Kite
Reddish Egret	Gadwall	Mississippi Kite
Common Egret	Baldpate	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Snowy Egret	Pintail	Red-tailed Hawk
Louisiana Heron	Green-winged Teal	Red-shouldered Hawk
Black-cr Nightheron	Blue-winged Teal	White-tailed Hawk
Yell-cr Nightheron	Cinnamon Teal	Rough-legged Hawk

Harris' Hawk	Laughing Gull	Brown Thrasher
Marsh Hawk	Franklin Gull	Long-billed Thrasher
Osprey	Bonaparte's Gull	Curve-b Thrasher
Caracara	Gull-billed Tern	
Pigeon Hawk	Forster's Tern	Robin
Sparrow Hawk	Common Tern	Hermit Thrush
	Least Tern	Eastern Bluebird
Chachalaca	Royal Tern	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Bob-white	Cabot's Tern	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Gr Prairie Chicken	Caspian Tern	
Turkey		Water Pipit
	Rock Dove	Cedar Waxwing
Sandhill Crane	Mourning Dove	Loggerhead Shrike
Whooping Crane	Ground Dove	Starling
	Inca Dove	
Clapper Rail	Roadrunner	White-eyed Vireo
Virginia Rail		Red-eyed Vireo
Sora	Barred Owl	
Common Gallinule	Short-eared Owl	Orange-crowned Warbler
Coot		Myrtle Warbler
	Poor-will	Audubon's Warbler
American Oystercatcher	Chimney Swift	Yellow-thr Warbler
Sempalmated Plover	Belted Kingfisher	Northern Waterthrush
Piping Plover		La Waterthrush
Snowy Plover	Yellow-shafted Flicker	Yellowthroat
Wilson's Plover	Red-shafted Flicker	House Sparrow
Killdeer	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Meadowlark
American Golden Plover	Golden-fr Woodpecker	Western Meadowlark
Black-bellied Plover	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Red-w Blackbird
Ruddy Turnstone		Lichtenstein's Oriole
American Woodcock	Eastern Kingbird	Rusty Blackbird
Common Snipe	Tropical Kingbird	Brewer's Blackbird
Long-billed Curlew	Scissor-t Flycatcher	Boat-tailed Blackbird
Whimbrel	Kiskadee Flycatcher	Common Grackle
Spotted Sandpiper	Eastern Phoebe	Brown-h Cowbird
Solitary Sandpiper	Say's Phoebe	Bronzed Cowbird
Willet	Vermillion Flycatcher	Pyrrhuloxia
Greater Yellowlegs		Indigo Bunting
Lesser Yellowlegs	Horned Lark	American Goldfinch
Pectoral Sandpiper	Tree Swallow	Olive Sparrow
Baird's Sandpiper	Bank Swallow	Rufous-sided Towhee
Least Sandpiper	Rough-winged Swallow	Lark Bunting
Dunlin	Barn Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Short-billed Dowitcher		Leconte's Sparrow
Long-billed Dowitcher	Green Jay	Vesper Sparrow
Stilt Sandpiper	White-necked Raven	Lark Sparrow
Sempalmated Sandpiper		Cassin's Sparrow
Western Sandpiper	Black-or Titmouse	Black-throated Sparrow
Marbled Godwit	House Wren	Chipping Sparrow
Sanderling	Bewick's Wren	Field Sparrow
Avocet	Carolina Wren	White-crowned Sparrow
Black-necked Stilt	Cactus Wren	White-throated Sparrow
		Lincoln's Sparrow
Herring Gull	Mockingbird	Swamp Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Catbird	Song Sparrow

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Mr. and Mrs. William H. Norris

The board of directors recently learned of the death in the past year of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Norris of Waverly Place, Schenectady. Mr. and Mrs. Norris were charter members of SBC and during its early years, they were active supporters of SBC.



This past winter was erratic, and in general was very dry. We had about 50 percent of the snow we usually get in a season. Precipitation during December was 3.9 inches, 1.3 inches greater than average. There was a heavy rain of 1.48 inches on December 12, and a deep snow on the 28th and 29th resulting in 12 inches of snow on the ground. We had intensively cold weather in January, averaging eight degrees below normal, with precipitation about three-fifths of the normal 2.47 inches. The snow on the ground steadily diminished during the month, from nine inches on January 1 to one inch on January 31. February was cold, with average temperatures 2.6 degrees below normal. Ground cover during the entire month was of an amount too small to measure. March was rather sunny and dry, with a four-inch snow on th 11th and an heavy rain of about one inch on the 17th and 18th. An intense high-pressure system dominated the area for the first week of the month, delaying migration until about the 9th, when the temperature moderated.

Birds at feeders were more common in December and January than in the same period in 1966-67. However, the dry winter with the thaw of late January and generally open country caused a marked decrease of birds at feeders in February and March. Hawks appeared to be holding their own, with the now usual small numbers reported in this area. Owls were recorded in about the usual numbers, also. The following species of land birds wintered in unusually high numbers: robin, horned lark, slate-colored junco, tree sparrow, white-crowned sparrow and white-throated sparrow. On the other hand, winter finches were a disappointment after an encouraging fall. Crossbills were entirely absent.

Many interesting facts and some unusual species were turned up when the countryside was scoured for the Christmas Counts. Total numbers provided statistics for the noting of population changes, unwelcome though some of them might be - see the main body of the report for the vast number of starlings, and for other comparisons.

The highlight of the period was a kittiwake, the first ever reported in this area. Other unusual or out-of-season species included whistling swan, osprey, peregrin falcon, pigeon hawk, glaucous gull, Iceland gull, saw-whet owl, black-backed three-toed woodpecker, dickcissel and Oregon junco. A probable lark bunting was also described, the second for the area.

Abbreviations used: CM- Castleton Marshes, Emb- Embought, Gr Co Greene County, Gr- Greenville, NWW- Niskayuna Widewaters, SCR- Stony Sreek Reservior, SL- Saratoga Lake, SS- Stockport Station.

Observers: (ad)- Alan Devoe Bird Club record; (GA)- Gustave Angst; (GB)- Guy Bartlett; (HFB)- Hazel Bundy; Christmas Counts, (ADCC)- Alan Devoe (Ghatham), Dec. 30; (SCC)- Schenectady, Dec 23;

(SRCC)- Southern Rensselaer, Dec 31; (TCC)- Troy, Dec 30; (GCC)- Greene County; (PC)- Paul Connor; (gc)- Greene County Bird Club record; (MDG)- Monte D. Gruett; (EH)- Esly Hallenbeck; (RK,MK)- Ralph and Marcia Kent; (CK)- Clarissa Ketcham; (PMG)- Peggy McGuirk; (WBS)- Walton Sabin; (sbc)- Schenectady Bird Club record; (BRS)- Benton Seguin; (HHS)- Harvey Spivak; (PPW)- Peter Wickham; (RPY)- Robert Yunick; (bsh)- Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barry Havens.

LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon: no report for Dec, a surprising omission.
 Horned Grebe: to Dec 9 SL (bsh), many Mar reports beginning Mar 22 Gr (CK).
 Pied-billed Grebe: to Dec 9 SL (bsh,HFB,PMG), first spring Mar 23 (bsh).
 Great Blue Heron: arr Mar 30 (ad) and Mar 31 (mob).
 WHISTLING SWAN: a flock 20 on Watervliet Res Mar 25 (MK)- the largest flock ever reported in this area.
 Canada Goose: the only Dec reports were of small flocks Dec 12 (ad) and Dec 13, 14 (gc), earliest spring reports Mar 16 (MDG,PPW).
 Snow Goose: one reported Valatie Pond Dec 2, 27 (ad) and again in the same area Dec 30 (adcc).
 With the exception of a few wintering ducks, the ring-necked duck, bufflehead and hooded merganser were last recorded on Dec 9 SL (bsh,HFB,PMG).
 Green-winged teal, canvasback, scaup, common goldeneye, white-winged scoter and common merganser were last recorded Dec 17 (bsh). One old squaw was at SL Dec 8 (EH). Surf scoter and common scoter were reported Dec 8 SL (EH), evidently a remnant of the unusually good flight of these species in Oct and Nov.
 In regard to wintering ducks, mallards and black ducks were present in somewhat lower numbers, with maxima of 158 mallards and 427 black ducks (bsh). Two pintails were seen Dec 30 (tcc). One green-winged teal, a few common goldeneye, one hooded merganser and a few common mergansers were reported to be winter visitors (bsh,sc,tcc). One scaup was seen at Green Island on Feb 24 (PMG).
 Spring reports follow. On Mar 10 the following species were noted for the first time: pintail, wood duck, common goldeneye, hooded merganser and common merganser; while at the same time, mallards and blacks were reported in increasing numbers. Mar 15 an 16 brought first reports of the following: green-winged teal, American widgeon, ring-necked duck, bufflehead and red-breasted merganser. Six gadwall were seen Mar 17 (ad) and a total of ten from Mar 28 to Mar 31 (mob). Canvasback and scaup were reported beginning Mar 23-24. Two old squaws, singles at SL and SCR, arr Mar 24 (bsh) and one Mar 27-28 SCR (GA,HFB). Blue-winged teal first appeared Mar 26. Three male shovelers were noted Mar 27 CM (MDG).

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: one Feb 3 Spencertown (H. and M. Webb), one Mar 19 Kiskatom (gc), two Mar 27 Helderbergs (GA).
 Goshawk: one Jan 13 Meadowdale (GB,BRS), two Feb reports (bsh), one Mar 10 Schodack Center (PC) and one Mar 16 Hillsdale (ad).
 Sharp-shinned Hawk: five scattered reports Dec through Mar.
 Cooper's Hawk: eight reports Dec 21 to Mar 9.
 Red-tailed Hawk: seen in many areas, max 16 Dec 30 (tcc).
 Red-shouldered Hawk: three winter reports- one Dec 19 Chatham (ad)

(Continued on page 54)

THE ANNUAL FEDERATION MEETING

Lillian C. Stoner

About 275 people registered for the 21st annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, April 26-28, 1968 at Rochester. The two bird clubs in that city, namely the Genesee Ornithological Society and Burroughs Audubon Nature Club were the hosts with Dr. Gerhard W. Leubner and Frank A. Myers serving as general chairmen for the local committee.

We received the April-May, 1968 federation issue of THE GOSHAWK which is the publication of the above first named club. It not only gave the schedule of events and program for the meeting, it also contained much information on the two large Rochester bird clubs which have a combined membership of over 600. Officers, committees and field trips were all included in this issue, as well as records of birds observed in February and March of this year. Also listed were special exhibits in the Museum of Arts and Science. One of these was titled, "Bird Paintings," by Douglas Howland, artist-preparator of the Rochester Museum. I believe he is the artist who did the kingbird which is on our magazine THE KINGBIRD.

Different committees usually gather to plan their work on Friday evening. Anyone may attend the conservation meeting, but this year this was preceded by an hour-long regular meeting of the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club. "Woods in Spring" was the subject of their guest speaker Clair Smith of the N.Y.S. College of Forestry at Syracuse.

The conservation session was conducted by Chairman Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr. He first presented the Honorable Constance E. Cook, Assemblywoman from the Ithaca area, who had drafted the bill to remove the belted kingfisher from the list of unprotected species. Many have felt the need for this bill as kingfishers are not now seen so frequently. (This bill has since passed.) Mrs. Cook spoke of several different commissions, one of which, The Natural Beauty Commission, is quite new. She said that we do need to think of preserving areas for aesthetic values. Among many other subjects mentioned by Mrs. Cook, who is a lawyer, was road planning, agriculture and education. The last one she thought most important for conservation.

Dr. David Peakall who is now president of the federation spoke on "Pesticides." He said that small amounts of pesticides have been found in penguins in their natural habitat, and they have also been found in fish and this is fast approaching problem proportions. DDT has been detected in pelagic birds in the Pacific Ocean and also in seals and porpoises of the Atlantic Ocean. They now think that pesticides have affected the gulls in the Great Lakes area, as about two-thirds of them are gone. DDT not only effects the livers of birds, but also the calcium balance is disturbed and breeding is affected. There are other more expensive sprays on the market, but DDT is so commonly used as it is the cheapest. We realize the need for sprays and hope researchers may soon find a new one that will be less injurious to birds and other animals.

Delegates from 28 clubs attended the council meeting from 9 to 12:30 in the small auditorium of the Rochester Museum. Roll call was followed by a motion to dispense with minutes of the 1967 meeting since they were printed in THE KINGBIRD. The reports of Corresponding Secretary Harriet Marsi and Treasurer Dort Cameron were given and Editor Dorothy W. McIlroy reported that 633 copies of the January issue of THE KINGBIRD were mailed. Of this number, 608 were paid by members and clubs and the others were exchanges with other organizations.

Richard A. Sloss, chairman of the by-laws committee, explained the recent additions. He had the completed copies ready for distribution, one to go to each club.

There were several suggestions for new amendments. One of these pertained to second vice-president and a board of trustees. Another one asked that the report of the nominating committee go directly to the corresponding secretary instead of the recording secretary. Neither of these was favorably received.

Under new business, H. Everest Clement presented a new idea which resulted in the two following motions:

a) It was moved and seconded that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs affiliate with the National Audubon Society.

b) It was moved and seconded that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs affiliate with the Conservation Council of N.Y.

After considerable discussion, both against and for the motions, both passed.

The John Burroughs Natural History Society of Kingston and New Paltz sent a contribution, but no dues as they wish to resign.

A resolution pertaining to the sudden death a few weeks before the meeting of our President Watson B. Hastings was read by Richard Sloss. This expressed the great loss to the federation and extended sympathy to the family of Watson B. Hastings.

Due to a shortage of time the last committee report given by Maxwell Wheat on conservation had to be brief. The final announcement before the council meeting adjourned was made by President Peakall that the 1969 annual federation meeting would be held in Cortland. Following the council meeting a group picture was taken on the museum steps.

The following slate of officers was nominated and elected for the year 1969:

President	Dr. David Peakall Syracuse
Vice-president	Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr. Old Chatham
Corresponding Secretary	Miss Francis Rew Buffalo
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Frederick Knight Spencertown
Treasurer	Dort Cameron Pittsford

Dr. Neil S. Moon presided at the afternoon paper session at which the following program was presented:

1. Remarks on the Ecology of Fleas - Dr. Allen H. Benton
2. Wetland Valuation and Appraisal - Allan S. Klontck
3. Present Status of the State Bird Book - John Bull
4. Use of Birds in Poetry - Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.
5. Maintenance Behavior of the Black-crowned Nightheron -
Dr. George R. Maxwell II
6. The Nassau County Museum of Natural History - Robert G. Wolk
7. Vocalization and Life Histories of the Common Crow and the Northern Raven - Dwight R. Chamberlain

Judge John J. Conway, Jr. was the toastmaster at the banquet which was held Saturday night in the Starlight Roof banquet room of the Sheraton Hotel. Preceding dinner, the Virginia raven, owned and trained by Dwight R. Chamberlain attracted much attention. The program opened with greetings from the two presidents of the local clubs. Recording Secretary Mrs. Frederick Knight read the minutes of the council meeting. An illustrated talk on "Peregrins and Pesticides" was given by Dr. Tom J. Cade, Professor of Zoology and research director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. He had some excellent peregrin pictures and many tables of his work in Alaska. The many guests at the banquet were delighted with the souvenir they received at the dinner. It was a plastic cover suitable for either Peterson or Robbins' guide. In gold on the cover was the kingbird and the following wording:

FEDERATION OF N.Y.S. BIRD CLUBS, INC.
21ST ANNUAL MEETING
ROCHESTER, N.Y.

About 125 birders had 5 am. breakfast Sunday morning at Bausch and Lomb's cafeteria, then groups went out on different trips hoping that the wind would be right for a big hawk count. Although the wind was not too cooperative, some wavs of hawks were seen going over. There were about 30 hawks in the largest wave. Two of our SBC members, Mary Johnston and Mary Lynch, reported seeing mainly broad-winged and a few sharp-shinned hawks in these groups. One marsh hawk, an osprey and also crossbills and pine siskins were observed. Many observers were especially interested in see-the bald eagle and its nest, the Iceland gull, mockingbird and red-headed woodpecker. The palm, pine and myrtle were the only warblers on the list.

En route to and from Rochester on April 26 and 28, we stopped at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge and sighted the following water birds:

Mallard	Lesser Scaup	Whistling Swan
Black Duck	Common Goldeneye	Horned Grebe
American Widgeon	Bufflehead	Pied-billed Grebe
Shoveler	Ruddy Duck	Canada Goose
Blue-winged Teal	American Coot	
Green-winged Teal	Great Blue Heron	

I was glad to serve as the SBC delegate at this meeting and I hope that more of our members will attend the 1969 meeting in Cortland.

* * * * *

- one Feb 25 and two Feb 28 Gr Co (gc); probable spring migrants were singles Mar 24 (bsh) and Mar 28 near SCR (HFB).
- Broad-winged Hawk: one Mar 25 Catskill area (gc), two Mar 26 Meadowdale (R. and M. Shedd).
- Rough-legged Hawk: numerous reports, max 23 Dec 30 (adcc).
- Marsh Hawk: six scattered reports from Dec 10 to Feb 7.
- OSPREY: one seen sitting in a tree at a distance of 30-40 feet, and then flying along the Hudson R near Glenmont Dec 31, by six weeks the latest date ever recorded (srcc) and was seen in the same are for about three weeks.
- PEREGRIN FALCON: one Dec 31 (srcc).
- PIGEON HAWK: one Jan 14 near Saratoga Battlefield (GB,BRS).
- Sparrow Hawk: widely reported, max 11 Dec 31 (srcc).
- Bob-white: unreported in entire area since Jul 17, 1967.
- Ring-necked Pheasant: max 14 Dec 31 (srcc).
- Coot: to Dec 17 (bsh).
- Killdeer: Dec 2-18 Ghent (ad), first spring Feb 28 Alplaus (HFB) with many reports from Mar 9 on.
- American Woodcock: Mar 20, two locations in Gr Co (gc), four reports Mar 25-30.
- Common Snipe: one wintered at Tygert Marsh, first spring Mar 10 NWW (HHS).
- Greater Yellowlegs: one unusually early Mar 31 Hudson R (MDG,PPW).
- GLAUCOUS GULL: one Dec 9 (bsh).
- ICELAND GULL: one at sewer outlet on Hudson R just below Albany Dec 17 (PPW).
- Great Black-backed Gull: a total of only three on the five Christmas counts in the area, first spring Mar 11, max 60 Mar 16 near SS (PPW).
- Herring Gull: max 64 Dec 23 (SCC), first spring Mar 8 near SS (MDG,PPW).
- Ring-billed Gull: total of only four on three Christmas counts, first migrants Mar 9 NWW (HHS).
- Bonaparte's Gull: one Mar 24 unusually early Lock 7, Mohawk R (GA).
- KITTIWAKE: first report for area- one individual in imm plumage observed flying up the west side of the Hudson R north of Castleton, opposite Van Wies Point, at an elevation of forty feet Mar 15 (WBS,Hudson Winn). Black mark on back of head seen as well as black-tipped tail, wing pattern showed predominantly black angular pattern along wing with trailing edge white.
- Mourning Dove: reported widely, max 453 Dec 30 (adcc).
- Screech Owl: tallied on two Christmas counts- one Dec 30 (tcc) and two Dec 31 (srcc), one Jan 1 Ghent (ad) and Mar 2 Emb (gc).
- Great Horned Owl: reported from several localities, a total of nine on five Christmas counts.
- Snowy Owl: reported in Jan in Gr Co (gc), Loudon Heights (MK), Long Lake near Selkirk (fide Helen Budlong), and in Feb at Rensselaerville (MK).
- Barred Owl: only one report for second consecutive year- Feb 14 Catskill (gc).
- Short-eared Owl: four Jan 20 Selkirk (WBS), and three Jan 21 in the same location (Sam Madison, A. Kass).
- Saw-whet Owl: two reports- Jan 21 Gr (gc) and Feb 25 Ghent (ad).

GOATSUCKERS - STARLING

- Common Nighthawk: a record early date of Mar 27 Vly (gc).
- Belted Kingfisher: several scattered winter reports, spring arr Mar 20.
- Yellow-shafted Flicker: a few individuals wintered in several lo-

- calities, many reports from Mar 27.
- Pileated Woodpecker: reported regularly from several areas, apparently increasing as evidenced by Christmas counts: 1967 total for scc, tcc and srcc was 15 as compared to a total of two for 1966.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Dec 31 (srcc), one male wintered at a Niskayuna feeder for the fourth or fifth year.
- Hairy Woodpecker: Christmas count totals were down slightly this year.
- Downy Woodpecker: numbers almost constant.
- BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: one heard, then seen, debarking hemlocks in Thacher Park Feb 24 (bsh).
- Eastern Phoebe: an unusual report of two in Durham in Dec (gc), numerous spring reports beginning Mar 24.
- Horned Lark: unusually large total of 1843 on five Christmas counts.
- Tree Swallow: first Mar 23 SS (sbc) and Chatham (ad).
- Black-capped Chickadee: Christmas count totals in two areas about the same as those of
- Tufted Titmouse: increasing very slowly.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported from the usual areas, max 10 Thacher Park Feb 24 (bsh).
- Brown Creeper: max 15 Dec 23 (scc), several Mar reports.
- Winter Wren: one Dec 21 Chatham (ad), three Dec 30 (scc) and one Dec 30 (adcc).
- Carolina Wren: only one Dec 23 (scc).
- Mockingbird: continuing to appear in a few new areas.
- Robin: wintered in unusual numbers, part of the time in large flocks including a flock of more than 150 Dec 23 (scc) and one flock of more than 100 in Niskayuna Feb 22-23 (RPY).
- Hermit Thrush: one report- Dec 30 (tcc).
- Eastern Bluebird: few wintered in Gr Co and Columbia Co, first spring Mar 9 Catskill (Harry Miller).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet: Christmas count total of 24 in three areas rather high when contrasted with a total of 14 for the same counts for the previous year.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two Dec reports, one Feb 26 Gr (ad), first migrating by Mar 31 (RPY).
- Water Pipit: on an unusually early date, Mar 24, three flocks totaling 17 were seen in three locations- SCR, along the Hoosick R and near the Saratoga Battlefield (bsh).
- Cedar Waxwing: a few observers remarked on their scarcity, Christmas count totals, however, were higher than those of previous years, a few flocks were seen Jan through Mar, max 300 in Jan (bsh).
- Northern Shrike: only six reports- five in Dec, one in Jan.
- Migrant Shrike: singles Feb 3 French Hollow (bsh) and Mar 23 Colonie (HHS).
- Starling: included in the srcc is the startling count of 15750 at the roost at the Dunn Memorial Bridge and the Plaza area in Albany, the counts for scc and tcc each tripled in 1966 and tripled again in 1967 with the result that the totals on the 1967 scc and tcc were over ten times as large as those in 1965, a nesting pair with four young was reported in southern Albany Co in Dec.

VIREOS - SPARROWS

- Myrtle Warbler: one Dec 21 Ghent (ad).
- Eastern Meadowlark: several Dec reports, max 25 Dec 10 South Scho-dack (ad), two Jan reports: migrants beginning Mar 19 NWW(HHS).

- Red-winged Blackbird: large flocks, notably 200 Mar 8 CM (MDG,PPW), 120 Mar 9 Meadowdale (GA), 2300 Mar 10-17 NWW (HHS), large flocks Mar 9-10 and hundreds Mar 20 CM (PG), poured north with mild spells Mar 16, 20, 21 (RPY), thousands Mar 24 (MDG). The main movements were from Mar 8-17 and Mar 20-24.
- Baltimore Oriole: an uncommon winter record- one Dec 31 in srcc area (ad).
- Rusty Blackbird: three Dec reports, max four Dec 30 (tcc), first spring arr two Mar 10 East Greenbush (PPW).
- Common Grackle: several winter reports, main migration movements Mar 8-10 and Mar 20-21.
- Brown-headed Cowbird: about 800 were observed in one flock on some farm fields near Guilderland Dec 23 on the scc, an unprecedented number outside of a roost (WBS,PPW), migrants from Mar 8 on, with waves paralleling those for other icterids.
- Cardinal: total count generally holding steady with the exception of a notable decrease in the tcc area where 45 were reported in contrast to the previous year's 95.
- DICKCISSEL: after skipping the previous winter; two reports- two Dec 30 (adcc) and one Feb 17 Ghent (ad).
- Evening Grosbeak: small to moderate numbers reported in Dec and on the Christmas counts and thereafter with a general influx the first two weeks of Feb and a general decline by mid-Mar, present in small numbers through Mar.
- Purple Finch: several reports of small numbers during Dec and Jan, max 12-20 Jan 18-31 Chatham (ad), max for Mar 20 Mar 2 Glenville (EH) and 17 banded Mar 16 (RPY), virtually absent after Mar 16.
- Pine Grosbeak: two reports in Feb- seven Feb 21, 23 Berne (RK), and three Thacher Park Feb 24 (bsh).
- Common Redpoll: meager reports- 120 Dec 30 (adcc), 50 Jan 23 Mitzekill Rd (ad) and two Feb 16 (bsh).
- Pine Siskin: one lone individual in the entire area, Dec Emb(ad).
- Rufous-sided Towhee: total of three on Christmas counts, two feeder reports Jan through Mar- Berne (MK) and Earleton (L. Halloran)
- LARK BUNTING: a bird which was more than likely a female of this species was seen Mar 23 and briefly the following morning at Ghent. It was described as having a bunting bill, striped breast, white wing patches, head and back greenish-brown-striped, white edgings in sides of tail and tail not forked. It was feeding at a sunflower seed feeder which hangs under the porch roof, and stayed about an hour about a bush near the porch. The bird was observed at a distance of five to six feet between 3 and 4 pm. on a rainy day (ad).
- Sparrows, Savannah: one at a feeder Jan 18 Emb (gc), one Meadowdale Feb 25 (EH) and one Mar 31 NWW (HHS).
- Vesper: Mar 5 Emb (gc) and Mar 31 Gr (CK).
- Slate-colored Junco: noticeably more common this winter, as evidenced by larger total on Christmas counts, and by numerous feeder reports including feeders from which they have been absent the past few years.
- OREGON JUNCO: two reports- one male Dec 30 in the tcc area (John Fuller) and one Mar 24 Delmar (Owen Knorr).
- Tree: reported widely in large numbers, the srcc total of 1349 was twice as many as that of the previous year.
- Chipping: unusually early, Mar 23 Hillsdale (ad).
- Field: two Dec 30 (tcc), first migrants Mar 27 (gc).
- White-crowned: more wintered than in any previous years.
- White-throated: wintered in very high numbers, a flock of more than 50 was recorded near Lock 7 Dec 23 (scc) and the total of 59 on the scc was a big jump from the figure of two for the

previous year, there were numerous feeder reports from many localities.

Fox: reported from all sections of Gr Co Mar 16 (gc), in other areas Mar 20 on.

Swamp: five reports during period.

Lapland Longspur: unreported for first time in nine years!

Snow Bunting: only a few, medium-sized flocks, last Mar 14 (EH,GA).

* * * * *



KARNER PINE BARRENS

SEPTEMBER 9

Nine of us started out on a warm, muggy morning to try to identify some confounding fall warblers. For the most part we could say that we didn't have any trouble at all, but only because we didn't see any warblers, just our regular standbys. One of the best finds of the day was a red-breasted nuthatch. Of all the time I have spent in that part of the Pine Barrens, I have never seen one before.

We walked one of the trails where I used to ride horseback and I must admit it seemed much shoter when I rode. Later, on our way out we came upon a wave of warblers, including black-throated green, blackpoll, redstart and magnolia. They made the day worthwhile. All in all, we had a nice walk on a lovely fall day.

--Peggy McGuirk

ROUND AND SARATOGA LAKES

NOVEMBER 26

Five members of SBC appeared at Round Lake on the morning of November 26 in spite of the treacherous, icy roads leading thereto. There was a variety of weather conditions before the trip ended - from rain to sun, with the temperature ranging from 30 to 45 degrees. There was a thin skim of ice on Round Lake, and only a few gulls were found in that area, besides a few land birds. On Saratoga Lake 15 species of ducks were seen, including 50 canvasbacks, more than 100 goldeneyes, three oldsquaws, and, most notable, all three species of scoters: ten white-winged, one surf and two common. Other species seen brought the total for the trip up to 32 species.

--Hazel F. Bundy

CAPE ANN, MASS.

JANUARY 13-14

An even dozen enthusiastic winter birders drove to Cape Ann and Plum Island despite the coldest temperatures in years (-25 derees). Those of us who drove Friday night crossed Massachusetts with its white snow glistening in the moonlight. Saturday dawned clear and cold (-1 degree) and remained clear all day. The afternoon's high of 21 degrees with no wind made perfect birding weather.

One of the high points of the trip was a Barrow's goldeneye viewed from above and close to shore in clear sunlight. He remained close at hand for all to observe until it was time to move on. The two we added on Sunday were anticlimatic. A black guillemot and thick-billed murre were welcome additions to the list.

We spotted several glaucous and Iceland Gulls. A wintering Baltimore oriole and a western tanager at Beverly added variety to the list. So did an Ipswich sparrow and the 40 meadowlarks on Plum Island.

We birded until it grew dark at Salisbury Beach. It was thrilling to watch flight after flight of common goldeneyes pass overhead in the twilight, heading out to sea or some distant unknown isle to spend the night. Over two thousand passed and we watched them until they were too far distant to be seen in our telescopes.

We stopped at the One-Ten House on Route 110 just west of Route 495 for a hearty and delicious smorgasbord. There we compiled our list of 62 for the two days and as the clouds gathered outside we gathered nourishment for the drive back through sleet, ice and treacherous roads.
--Sam Madison

N.Y.S. MUSEUM AT ALBANYJANUARY 28

I think this was the first time that this type of trip had been held and it was a great success. Forty-seven people attended, which in itself is a record.

Ed Reilly, zoologist at the museum took us on a guided tour. He showed us the stuffed ducks, familiar land birds, animal scenes and then behind the scenes. He described how the animal scenes were created and how expensive they are. Ed was really great and he deserves our thanks for a most successful trip.--Peggy McGuirk

MEADOWDALEFEBRUARY 11

It was a cold and windy day, but several of us braved it to find only 12 species. We started at the railroad track crossing which in another six months will be buzzing with birds. What did we find? One hairy woodpecker and wind!

At Tygert swamp we flushed a common snipe and heard a few other species. We had very good looks at the few hawks we saw - and a fleeting glance at a pileated woodpecker. At our departure, we agreed - we hope spring will soon arrive.
--Peggy McGuirk

TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIRFEBRUARY 24

The surprise trip really was a surprise - the leader and company got lost, and wound up, well almost in, Massachusetts. We followed the wrong route number. Eventually we caught up with the rest of the party. We found them walking through rows of pines - owl hunting. What fun! We didn't find any owls, but we did find several rough-legged hawks, red-tailed hawks, a sparrow hawk, several horned larks, one red-breasted nuthatch and about 30 evening grosbeaks. The drive was worth it, for it was a nice sunny day for walking among the pines at Tomhannock.

--Peggy McGuirk

DELMAR GAME FARMMARCH 10

While this was not a lengthy trip, nor a chance for many exotic species, a visit to the Delmar Game Farm provides a chance to see some species which are seen sometimes only at telescopic range. Some of the captive species of ducks and geese seen included canvasback, redhead, ring-necked, gadwall, pintail, wood duck and Canada and snow geese.

--Steve Fordham

LOWER HUDSONMARCH 23

An intrepid group of 15 SBC members and friends gathered at Rensselaer early on March 23 to witness some of the early spring migration along the Hudson. Instead, for the better part of the morning, we witnessed some of the early spring rain. Probably most of the participants might not believe that the weather was "great for ducks!"

At the start, it was rather pleasant, the day was mild and windless, and many species of land birds were singing. But about the time we reached Castleton, the fog began to roll in, and shortly after that, the showers arrived. Soon, seeing birds was out of the question, and the trip became an exercise in survival under extremely trying conditions. It ended in steady fog and intermittent (but frequent) drizzle at Stockport.

Somehow, the group managed to find 31 species; notable among these was a pair of canvasbacks loitering in a corfield puddle near Castleton and three tree swallows defying the fog and rain at Stockport.

--Pete Wickham

NISKAYUNA WIDEWATERSMARCH 30

The day had a crisp quality to it, with a clear blue sky and a warm spring sun beaming down - the first pleasant weekend of the spring. Enthusiasm ran high as a large group of birders climbed the steps to Lock 7, where a brisk wind greeted them. From this vantage point the beautiful common merganser was sighted - quite a thrill, to be repeated throughout the day. Gulls circled overhead and someone pointed out a black-backed gull on a rock. With the talk of hooded merganser at the other end of the lock, we hurried there only to be too late. They swam out of sight across from Niska Isle. This was a good indication that Niska Isle was to be our next stop. On the way we couldn't miss the phoebe near the log box along the tracks near Lock 7 - an old friend to many.

Niska Isle at first looked disappointing, but a walk up the toward Lock 7 proved very rewarding, for more common mergansers were sighted, along with hooded mergansers. The red-breasted merganser also made its appearance, but whenever we looked he seemed to be down fishing. The caravan moved down River Road to be stopped again by eight green-winged teal in a flooded field. That was pleasant surprise! The teal didn't stay around long enough to please everyone, but on the other hand, the killdeer weren't making any moves - and not until their location was indicated did we see them. We marvelled at how well they blended with the surrounding field.

By the time we arrived at the intersection of River and Dyke Roads, the wind was whipping whitecaps on the river and we were happy to walk slowly down Dyke Road and see a pair of mallards

preening and posing. A pair of blacks, not to be outdone, swam up the creek. Throughout the morning sounds of robins, blue jays, crows, grackles, cowbirds, cardinals and song sparrows rang throughout our trip.

The pleasant morning was enjoyed with Mildred Crary, Gus Angst, Harvey Spivak, Hazel Bundy, Ruth Bates, Evelyn Green, Elizabeth Macauley, Fran Adams, Libby and Laurie Brown, Monte Gruett, Will Merritt, Sam Madison, Peggy McGuirk and Lois and Doug Norton.

--Ed and Emmy Koch

VISCHER FERRY GAME MANAGEMENT AREAMARCH 31

It was warm and sunny for the last day of March when ten of us assembled for the Vischer Ferry field trip.

The air was full of bird songs which indicated that spring was surely here. The first birds to be seen in numbers were the beautiful and graceful tree swallows. Besides a pair of nesting mallards, very few water birds were seen at this area.

We then left for Stony Creek Reservoir which was occupied by a nice variety of waterfowl. For many of us, this was the first sighting of Canada geese this spring.

We called it a day at 11:30 after making out the check-list, which added up to 43 varieties. --Bob McCullough

CHRISTMAN SANCTUARYAPRIL 28

The parking lot at the Duanesburg Post Office was a good meeting place in more ways than one, for in addition to ample parking space, there were many species of birds seen from this vantage point. Four great blue herons flapped slowly past during our brief gathering time, and some distant vesper and savannah sparrows, on the grounds of the airport, claimed careful attention.

Eighteen adults and six children eventually gathered at the beautiful sanctuary, and could happily have spent the entire morning on the grounds surrounding the house, for there was a continuous procession of bird appearing in the tree and at the feeder - including bluebirds and purple finches.

A walk north on the nearby railroad tracks included glimpses of an American bittern, wood ducks, a sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk and long looks at an osprey. A walk in the woods south of the house, along a rushing, tumbling brook, was highlighted by the songs of a ruby-crowned kinglet and Louisiana waterthrush. The lovely wild flowers that were in bloom added to the delight of the observers.

We are very grateful to Mr. Lansing Christman for his hospitality, and for his generosity in sharing with us his sanctuary. --Hazel Bundy

GREENE COUNTYMAY 4

The engines started, and a car containing Jim and Barbara Bush and their two daughters traveled away from the house surrounded by bird houses. Two other cars followed - one with Sam Madison, Audrey Kass and Ruth Bates, and the other with Monte Gruett,

Pete Wickham, Jean Shenette and myself. Almost immediately we found hawks, finches and warblers. The day, so bleak with rain in the early morning, looked so promising now.

Near the beginning of the trip, we were preparing to use a boardwalk that would take us to a blind in a marsh. Jim pointed out a snipe performing an aerial dance far out over the marsh, but few people heard his exclamation. The snipe soon disappeared. The wooden walk to the blind, so well made years before, is beginning to fall into disrepair. Several boards were loose or missing, particularly near shore. Also, the high water level resulting from recent rains made it a small adventure to walk the first few yards over narrow boards without getting wet. Swallows were most obvious over the water. Tree, bank and barn were constantly overhead and it was here that we saw the first of several dozen migrating chimney swifts to be recorded for the day. Pete Wickham spotted a far away cliff swallow for an instant, but the swallow did not appear again. A large swallow was fluttering peculiarly a long distance off in another direction. I wondered what kind it was and turned binoculars on him. "Snipe!" He was dancing again and thrashing the air like a non-swimmer in deep water. He performed for a long time. Soon after, Pete pointed out a pair of pied-billed grebes only yards from the blind. They remained in sight only long enough to permit recognition. They then sank below the water's surface.

Few ducks were seen there. Occasionally a mallard or two passed by and about a half dozen blue-winged teal were identified.

Suddenly, a Cooper's hawk appeared overhead. He might have been part of a wide-spread hawk migration taking place this day. In total, we counted 14 hawks, including six red-tailed, four osprey, two broad-winged, a sparrow hawk and the Cooper's.

Last year, when this trip was held only a few days earlier, not a single warbler was seen. Today, however, seven species and about 50 individuals were counted. Myrtle warblers appeared again and again throughout the day and comprised the majority of the individuals. One of the most exciting moments of the day was provided by a pair of parula warblers. Stopping by a wooded road for a moment, we listened and heard a soft buzzing ascending the scale and 'snapping over the top!' "Zeeeeeeeeee-up!" Climbing out of the car, we peered into the tree-tops for the source of the sound. Again we heard the buzz. Ignoring our aching necks, we continued the search of the top-most branches. All of a sudden, there he was! The yellow throat of a parula warbler was easily visible from below, but the head and back were grey. Then he moved into a spot of sunlight and the coloring of his head was transformed into a shining blue. "Zeeeeeeeeee-up!"

We heard many interesting sounds during the day: the beautiful flute-like song of the invisible wood thrushes, the grunt of the Virginia rail at the marsh, the versatile voice of the mockingbird, the varied and confusing songs of the warblers. Also, there were attractive sights: that mockingbird in miniature, the blue-gray gnatcatcher; the osprey that spent such a long time devouring a gigantic fish; the brilliant flash of color from an oriole overhead. Birdwatching is such a remarkably fascinating way to spend time.

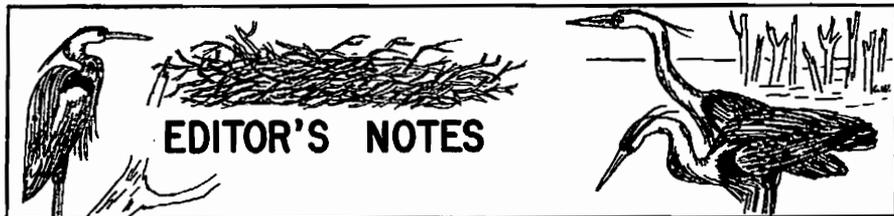
--Harvey Spivak

Seven members of SBC gathered at Lock 7 on the sunny, weekday morning of May 15. Four members of a natural history class made a welcome addition to the group until they departed after an hour to join their scheduled class.

All had hoped for a wave of warblers, and were disappointed by the poor tally of only three such species - all nesting species - the yellow, yellowthroat and American redstart, the last-named seen only at Niskayuna Widewaters.

The only shore birds were one killdeer, one spotted sandpiper and one peep, all at the widewaters. The yellow-throated and warbling vireos sang continuously at Lock 7, and were a delight to hear and see. As always in that location, rough-winged swallows were the old reliables. And of course, the songs of the wood thrush and veery were lovely. There were, after all, many compensations for the lack of that hoped-for warbler wave, among them the pleasure of hearing over and over the Baltimore oriole, rose-breasted grosbeak, field sparrow and other summer residents after their long winter absence.

--Hazel Bundy



STATE BIRD BOOK PHOTOGRAPHS

John Bull, editor of the coming state bird book, is interested in locating photographs (slides or prints) for use in the book. He is especially interested in photographs of typical habitat, bird colonies, and flyways and concentration points of special note. Anyone possessing material that might be worthy of consideration and who is interested in contributing it for use in the book should contact the editor at 377-0146.

HALFWAY ROUND THE WORLD IN 180 DAYS

One of the features of BIRD-BANDING, published quarterly by the Northeastern Bird Banding Association, is its section on recent literature. In this section of the publication, various literature related to all phases of bird biology is reviewed. Among the banding literature cited in the April 1968 issue was the "Report of Bird-ringing in 1966" for Great Britain originally published in BRITISH BIRDS. Beside noting that during 1966 the five millionth bird had been banded since the inception of the program in Great Britain in 1909, and six North American species had been banded, there was mention of a most interesting Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) recovery.

The bird, banded as a chick, in Angelsey on June 28, 1966 was found dead in New South Wales, Australia on December 31, 1966! This amazing recovery spans almost half the globe. The shortest possible distance between the two points is about 11,000 miles, and one can only wonder at the actual number of miles flown. It represents the most distant recovery of any bird banded in Britain.

CORNELL GETS FUERTES COLLECTION

Cornell University became the benefactor of a most generous gift of some of the early paintings of the grand master of bird art, Louis Agassiz Fuertes. The story of this acquisition, as it appeared in *THE CONSERVATIONIST* published by the New York State Conservation Department in the April-May issue is as follows.

"One of the largest private collections of bird paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes - 24 to be exact - has come back full circle, returning to their point of origin at Ithaca, New York, from New Haven, Connecticut where they have been since 1910. These paintings are from Fuertes' early period.

It happened this way: Frederick F. Brewster, a multimillionaire, built a modest 66-room house named 'Edgerton' on a 25-acre lot in New Haven. In this house was a room called 'The Edgerton Study,' some 30 feet x 48 feet. Brewster contracted with Fuertes to provide the artistic inspiration for the quiet room. Much later, Brewster directed in his will that the paintings be turned over to Cornell University, with the stipulation that the Edgerton Study be dismantled and reconstructed at Cornell. For this, he left \$80,000 to cover the costs.

It all came to pass; and, now the Edgerton Study is in a wing called the Brewster Wing in the Lyman K. Stuart Observatory. The paintings are fine, ranging from 19 inches x 28 inches to 27 inches x 108 inches. Most of them have never been seen by the general public nor have they been reproduced for publication. The Brewster Wing is a proud addition to the Laboratory of Ornithology (as it is commonly known). Formal dedication took place this May, 1968."

HOUSE SPARROW HISTORY

Gladys Zimmer of Gallupville whose husband is interested in the local history of Schoharie County has called attention to one of her husband's recent finds in some old newspapers. From the *SCHOHARIE REPUBLICAN* of August 31, 1871 comes the news item: "The little English sparrows have found their way out here in the Schoharie Valley. We saw a number of them last week. Albany has been well supplied with them for some time."

The *SCHOHARIE REPUBLICAN* was a weekly newspaper published in Schoharie County.

IROQUOIS RESEARCH PUBLICATION

The New York State Museum and Science Service is proud to announce the publication of *IROQUOIS CULTURE, HISTORY AND PREHISTORY* edited by Elisabeth Tooker. This is a 120-page collection of papers given at the 1965 Conference on Iroquois research at Glens Falls. Begun in 1945, the conference has brought together the leading authorities on the Iroquois Indians for somewhat formal meetings where ideas are exchanged and papers read. Unfortunately, much of the important material from these earlier meetings did not reach print. This, happily, is not the case of the 1965 meeting. This book may be purchased for \$2 from the New York State Museum and Science Service, Albany 12224. Checks should be made payable to the N.Y.S. Education Department.

THRUSH MIGRATION

Also reviewed in BIRD-BANDING was a paper appearing in THE LIVING BIRD on the migration of *Hylocichla* thrushes. Part of this work involving the spectacular airplane tracking of a radio-carrying Swainson's thrush previously reported in AUDUBON MAGAZINE is the work of Cochran, Montgomery and Graber in Illinois. This report, dealing with their results with veeries, Swainson's and gray-cheeked thrushes, described the migration as beginning 45 minutes to two hours after sunset and ceasing at dawn. The birds flew at 2000-6000 feet at air speeds of 25-35 mph.

NEXT ISSUE

The due date for material for the next issue is July 15. Please try to have material in for that issue as far ahead of that date as possible.

(Issue assembled June 15, 1968)

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AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS 1968-1969

Hazel F. Bundy
Program Co-chairman

Once again it's time to consider the Audubon Wildlife Film series for this coming season. First of all, we want to express our appreciation, on behalf of SBC, to Eleanor Byrne, retiring co-chairman, who for the past five years spent countless hours of work on ticket sales and publicity. Many other club members have assisted with these chores and with other necessary details. We appreciate very much the help given by each one.

Since a big majority of our subscribers have been from the Niskayuna area, we consider ourselves fortunate to secure the Niskayuna High School auditorium for all of the films again this year. The schedule follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Thurs., Oct. 24	William Ferguson	Once Around the Sun
Thurs., Dec. 5	Walter H. Berlet	Hawaii, Paradise of the Pacific
Thurs., Jan. 9	Charles T. Hotchkiss	Queen of the Cascades
Wed., Mar. 19	Albert J. Wool	Ranch and Range
Thurs., Apr. 10	Robert C. Hermes	Animals at Home and Afield

Each member of SBC will receive publicity and an order form at least one month before the first film. You are urged to place your orders as soon as possible after receiving this material; promptness will be a big help to our new co-chairman, Ruth Bates, who is in charge of ticket sales.

This coming season we hope to substantially increase the number of subscribers. Anne Yunick is going to be our "publicity agent" in this big effort. Anne would appreciate any suggestions in regard to the publicity campaign, and any help from volunteers. Please tell your friends and neighbors about these beautiful films. Our goal is a capacity audience. As heretofore, admission is by season ticket only. The following members will be glad to have phone calls in regard to tickets: Ruth Bates, 439-4695 (after school hours); Esly Hallenbeck, 346-8579; Mary Healy, 346-2757; and Anne Yunick, 377-0146.

* * * * *

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Lois A. Norton
Chairman

My first task since being appointed youth activities chairman

of SBC was to help conduct the Annual Spring Bird Count taken by children of Rensselaer County. While distributing over 2000 bird check-lists to these children, I realized their great need for help in bird identification. These scouts, 4-H'ers and school groups were constantly requesting someone qualified in bird watching to speak to them and, with visual aids (pictures, slides), help them to recognize even the most common local species. Some had excellent teachers for this, but most did not.

When I presented this problem to the SBC board of directors at the May meeting, the general advice was, "Forge ahead," so forge ahead I did!

We now have price lists of slides from David Allen of Sapsucker Woods and an offer of slides from Bob Brown of SBC and are giving due consideration to both.

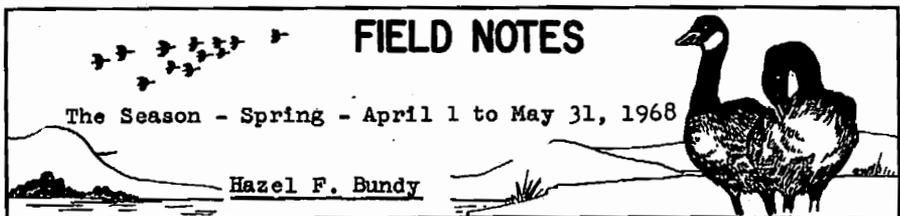
Following the purchase of these slides, SBC wants to provide several persons who can travel with the slides to the school or group who requests them and show a good program on bird identification giving the accompanying narration. This is called a mobile exhibit.

The Rensselaer County Junior Museum sends mobile exhibits to schools over a fifty-mile radius. They have been very successfully received on the subjects of snakes, stars, rocks and water pollution. The museum found many schools requesting a bird mobile exhibit.

I sincerely hope that with the help of several volunteers this fall, we can show thousands of children the art and pleasure of bird watching. Then next spring's children's count will be the best ever.

If you wish to help, please call me at 235-0978.

* * * * *



The first three weeks of April were warm and dry, with the temperature soaring to 83 degrees on to consecutive days, April 13 and 14 (weather data taken at Albany Airport). A rainfall of 2.01 inches on April 24 ushered in a week of cooler, wetter, cloudier weather. More than half of the 30 days saw the thermometer climb to 65 degrees or above. The average temperature was 48.4 degrees, 2.1 degrees above normal. May was cooler and wetter than normal, with the average temperature about three degrees less than the May norm, and rainfall about one inch over normal. Almost two inches of rain fell on a single day, May 29.

The long, unusually warm period the first three weeks of April

appeared to speed the migration of waterfowl, for these were conspicuously absent in any large numbers for any appreciable length of time. Horned grebes were not seen after April 27; pied-billed grebes were unreported in May in the northern areas, although a few were reported from the southern areas. There were no goldeneyes after April 13; with the exception of a few isolated individuals, the following were not seen after April 20: American widgeon, ring-necked duck, canvasback, hooded merganser and common merganser.

The early warmth produced foliage at an unusually early period, perhaps two weeks earlier than normal. With this condition existing, many observers were expecting an early migration of all passerines. However, this was a spring of paradox; some species that were scheduled to arrive early came earlier than usual, while those scheduled to come late, came later than usual. Phoebes and tree swallows were notably early and nested early; purple finches and slate-colored juncos passed through in large numbers about ten to 15 days sooner than usual; white-throated sparrows were early, also. The lingerers included Swainson's thrush, ruby-crowned kinglet and myrtle warbler. Most warblers arrived about the usual dates - in greatly reduced numbers. Many other species arrived about on schedule, although there were a few conspicuously early individual birds, including a solitary sandpiper, a ruby-throated hummingbird, a brown thrasher and a myrtle warbler.

There were three important May waves evident. From May 3-5, after a heavy rain on May 3, the following appeared in large numbers: Eastern kingbird, catbird, wood thrush, two species of vireos, ten species of warblers and Baltimore oriole. A second wave, May 10-12, brought in the great crested flycatcher, veery, more warblers, bobolink and many additional reports of Eastern kingbirds. On May 21 and 22 a large flight appeared to be underway.

Rare or unusual species included: cattle egret, glossy ibis, black-bellied plover, orange-crowned warbler, Connecticut warbler and Harris' sparrow. The location of a great blue heron rookery was of special interest, as was an extremely late appearance of a snowy owl.

Location abbreviations used: BCM- Black Creek Marsh, BR- Basic Reservoir, Col Co- Columbia County, Emb- Embought, EG- East Greenbush, Gr- Greenville, Gr Co- Greene County, IL- Indian Ladder, LK- Lisha Kill, Nisk- Niskayuna, NWW- Niskayuna Widewaters, RL- Round Lake, SCR- Stony Creek Reservoir, SL- Saratoga Lake, SS- Stockport Station, TR- Tomharnock Reservoir, VFG- Vischer Ferry Game Management Area.

Observers cited more than once: (ad)- Alan Devoe Bird Club record, (GA)- Gustave Angst, (GB)- Guy Bartlett, (HPB)- Hazel Bundy, (JC)- Juanita Cook, (PC)- Paul Connor, (go)- Greene County Bird Club record, (MDG)- Monte Gruett, (WG)- William Gorman, (EH)- Esly Hallenbeck, (MK)- Marcia Kent, (PMcG)- Peggy McGuirk, (RMcG)- Robert McCullough, (SM)- Sam Madison, (WBS)- Walton Sabin, (BRS)- Benton Seguin, (sbc)- Schenectady Bird Club record, (R&MS)- Robert and Mary Lou Shedd, (HHS)- Harvey Spivak, (PPW)- Peter Wickham, (RPY)- Robert Yunick, (bsh)- Guy Bartlet, Benton Seguin and Barriington Havens.

LOONS - DUCKS

- Common Loon: arr Apr 7 (sbc).
 Red-throated Loon: early reports - one Apr 13 SL (EH) and two Apr 21 SL (GB,BRS); last seen, two May 18 SL (HFB,PMcG).
 Red-necked Grebe: single individuals Apr 7 SL (sbc) and Apr 13 SL (HFB,PMcG,EH).
 Horned Grebe: reported to Apr 27 (gc), an early departure date.
 Pied-billed Grebe: seemed scarce; last report May 24 (gc), with all May reports from the southern areas.
 Double-crested Cormorant: one Apr 28 SL (BRS); one May 15 Hudson R near Germantown (JC).
 Great Blue Heron: a rookery was found Apr 14 (Warren White) and observed Apr 20 (WBS,RPY) north of Galway in a beech-hemlock forest, with at least 19 nests and 18 individuals noted.
 Common Egret: three Apr 30 NWW (GA,mob), and three, probably the same birds, May 5,6,7 at VFG (mob).
 GATTLE EGRET: three reports of single individuals - Apr 26 Col Co (ad), May 5 VFG (C.W. Huntley et al.), May 17 Col Co (ad).
 Eastern Green Heron: early report Apr 2 near Castleton (JC); second report Apr 28 NWW (HHS).
 American Bittern: arr Apr 6 BCM (R&MS).
 Least Bittern: heard at VFG - two May 18 and one May 25 (RPY).
 GLOSSY IBIS: two May 11 near West Ghent (ad) - third record for the area.
 Mute Swan: one May 18 SL (bsh).
 Canada Goose: max 500 Apr 18 (gc); few May 18, the last.
 Snow Goose: three Apr reports - max 15 Apr 18 Emb (gc); also, 53 May 12 Feura Bush area (MK).
 American Widgeon: last report, four Apr 20 NWW (HHS), with the exception of singles - May 12 Lock 6 (BRS) and May 15 SS (PPW).
 Pintail: only three reports - Five Apr 1 Meadowdale (GA), two NWW Apr 7 (HHS), and one very late - May 18 (John Fuller).
 Green-winged Teal: late report, two May 18 EG (MDG,WG,PPW).
 Shoveler: three Apr reports, max five Apr 7 SL (sbc); two May 4 reports - four NWW (PPW), two SCR (BRS).
 Redhead: five Apr 7 SL (sbc); one May 6 RL (GA).
 Ring-necked Duck: last Apr 20, with exception of two May reports May 4 (CK) and May 5 (HFB,PMcG).
 Canvasback: last, three Apr 20 NWW (HHS).
 Scaup: last May 18 (sbc).
 Common Goldeneye: through Apr 13, when there were three reports; none thereafter.
 Bufflehead: last report - two May 18 SL (HFB,PMcG).
 Oldsquaw: very scarce; only one report - ten May 6 RL (GA).
 White-winged Scoter: one male Apr 12 SL (PPW).
 Surf Scoter: one female Apr 20 (sbc).
 Common Scoter: one Apr 28 SL (BRS).
 Hooded Merganser: a few seen to Apr 20 (sbc); one female May 5 VFG and one male Scr May 18, probably nesting (HFB,PMcG).
 Common Merganser: several reports through Apr 20; one May 15 Castleton (JC).
 Red-breasted Merganser: four Apr reports; last, 16 on Apr 21 (EH).

HAWKS - OWLS

- Turkey Vulture: several reports in areas farther north than usual, including six May 25 Thacher Park (sbc).
 Goshawk: one in a wood two miles northwest of Jenny Lake, actions indicating probable nesting, May 18 (bsh).
 Sharp-shinned Hawk: two Apr reports and two in May.

Cooper's Hawk: six reports from Apr 21 to May 18.
 Red-shouldered Hawk: one pair nested in Apr in Gr (gc); one May 5 (EH, RMcC) and one May 18 (bsh).
 Broad-winged Hawk: last report, two May 26 (sbc).
 Rough-legged Hawk: one Apr 2 NWW (GA); one Apr 16 Spencertown (ad) one near SCR May 7 (EH).
 Bald Eagle: one Catskill area May 10 and 14 (gc).
 Marsh Hawk: several reports, all except one from southern parts.
 Osprey: from Apr 13 (EH et al.) to May 11 (gc).
 Peregrin Falcon: three reports - Apr 3 W. Glenville (EH), Apr 20 AR (sbc) and May 10 AR (WBS).
 Bobwhite: reported from two areas in May.
 Virginia Rail: early report, two Apr 9 EG (PC); others from Apr 23.
 Sora: three May 5 EG (PC); May 11 and 18 BCM (sbc).
 Common Gallinule: arr Apr 28 Col Co (ad).
 American Coot: few reports - from one Apr 7 NWW (HHS) to May 18.
 Semipalmated Plover: two May 12 EG (PC) and four May 14 EG (PPW).
 BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: a rare spring appearance - one May 18 EG (MDG, WG, PPW).
 Upland Plover: arr Apr 13 (RPY) - reports during period from six different areas.
 Spotted Sandpiper: first Apr 27 NWW (HHS).
 Solitary Sandpiper: a very early report, Mar 28 Chatham (ad); others Apr 28 to May 25.
 Greater Yellowlegs: second spring report (first Mar 31) - six Apr 27 NWW (HHS); last May 26 EG (PPW).
 Lesser Yellowlegs: six reports - from one Apr 30 NWW (GA) to May 18 (ad).
 Pectoral Sandpiper: three reports - seven Apr 23 EG (PC), one May 4 NWW (PPW) and five May 26 EG (PPW).
 White-rumped Sandpiper: one May 18 NWW (HFB, PMcG).
 Least Sandpiper: five May 12 NWW (BRS) to May 18 when there were several reports.
 Dunlin: an unusually large flock of 40 May 12 SS (SM, WBS); three May 18 (MDG, WG, PPW); and two May 25 Castleton (JC).
 Semipalmated Sandpiper: only one, May 18 (ad).
 Great Black-backed Gull: last May 5 (EH).
 Bonaparte's Gull: 11 reports - from six Apr 6 (PPW) to one May 26 NWW (BRS), max 13 May 6 Lock 7 (GA).
 Common Tern: four reports from May 4 to May 23, with max five May 17 Lock 7 (GA).
 Black Tern: few reports - from May 6 to May 19, with numbers varying from one to three.
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo: four reports May 18 (sbc) and one May 19 (Eleanor Byrne).
 Black-billed Cuckoo: arr May 8 EG (PPW).
 Screech Owl: reported from EG several times (MDG); one found dead May 11 Meadowdale (MDG).
 Great Horned Owl: reported from five areas; onr adult and two young observed May 2 LK (GA).
 SNOWY OWL: an extremely late date - probably the latest record for New York State - May 5 and 6 Valatie (ad).
 Barred Owl: two heard at Jenny Lake May 18 (BSH) and one seen May 18 IL (WBS et al.).

GOATSUCKERS - STARLING

Whip-poor-will: first heard May 3 Gr Co (gc).
 Common Nighthawk: first reports May 13 (fide Lillian Stoner), and Gr Co (gc).
 Chimney Swift: one very early report - Apr 9 (ad); second report

- Apr 18 (ad); many from Apr 27 on.
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird: two very early reports in Gr Apr 17 and 20 (gc); many from May 18 on.
 Belted Kingfisher: seems scarce.
 Red-headed Woodpecker: one female May 17 near New Salem (WBS).
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only nine reports - from Apr 13 (EH) to May 19 (gc).
 Eastern Bluebird: appeared in two pronounced waves - May 4,5 and May 10-12.
 Great Crested Flycatcher: general influx May 10-12; early report May 2 Castleton (JC).
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only one - May 18 SL (HFB,PMcG).
 Traill's Flycatcher: several reports May 18 and thereafter.
 Least Flycatcher: first Apr 29 Gr (gc); several reports within the next few days.
 Eastern Wood Pewee: early report May 5 (HHS); many beginning on May 17.
 Olive-sided Flycatcher: only two reports - one May 18 (WBS et al.) and May 23 Gr (gc).
 Tree Swallow: arrived early (last week in Mar), and nested early between two to three weeks ahead of last year, with the yield of eggs per nest up to 5.5 - the highest in three years, and with some clutches not yet complete VFG (RPY).
 Bank Swallow: a colony active Apr 21 near Alplaus (HPB); a colony of 120 reported active in May (HHS); a large colony at Glenville Landfill apparently doomed as landfill changes shape, and will yield little this year (RPY).
 Rough-winged Swallow: first Apr 21 (sbc).
 Barn Swallow: early reports Apr 14 Col Co (ad) and Apr 15 (gc); many from Apr 27.
 Cliff Swallow: first Apr 27 BR (gc).
 Purple Martin: observed Apr 22 (gc); colony of 12 returned Apr 24 to W. Glenville (RMcC).
 Blue Jay: large migrating flocks noted by several observers during entire month of May.
 Brown Creeper: appeared in about the usual numbers.
 House Wren: first Apr 25 (gc); many from Apr 28.
 Winter Wren: six reports; first Apr 6 SL (PPW).
 Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr May 5 NW (HHS), and Meadowdale (GA).
 Catbird: waves apparent May 4-5 and May 8-11.
 Brown Thrasher: one very early Apr 3 Spencertown (ad); next reports Apr 13, 20 and thereafter.
 Wood Thrush: early report Apr 16 Ghent (ad); general influx May 3-5.
 Hermit Thrush: first migrant Apr 7 (EH); several reports to Apr 28 Nisk (RPY); May reports of nesting birds in local areas.
 Swainson's Thrush: seven reports May 18; several seen in yard Nisk May 22 (RPY); banded to May 29 Nisk (RPY); ten (approx.) heard flying over at night May 30 (PPW).
 Gray-checked Thrush: one May 8 West Mountain near Berne (MK).
 Veery: two May 8 Berne (MK); many reports May 10-11.
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: only four reports - from May 1 Catskill (gc).
 Golden-crowned Kinglet: two late reports May 18 (sbc).
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: continued to migrate during Apr and May; influx Apr 14, yet greater Apr 27, common to Apr 30 (RPY); last May 24 EG (MDG).
 Water Pipit: only one report - six May 12 Ghent (PPW).
 Cedar Waxwing: several reports in Apr, with max 20 (RPY); numerous reports in May, usually in small flocks up to ten; one flock of 30 May 2 (EH).

(Continued on page 73)

TWO EXTINCT BIRDS

Lillian C. Stoner

What bird did you see on your last field trip? How many birds can you identify by sight or song? These and many other questions many of us are eager to answer, but seldom do we think about the species we now see only as preserved specimens in our museums.

Observers years ago were interested in the great auk, a maritime bird, and the passenger pigeon, a land bird, which were here in great numbers. In this article, I refer to these two species which I saw in the Toronto Museum when I attended the August 1967 meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union.

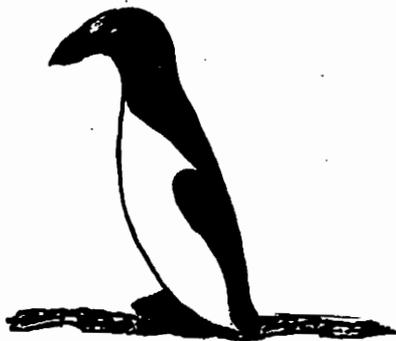
A specimen of the great auk which was once owned by Audubon is encased in a glass case as a separate exhibit in the Bird Room of the Royal Ontario Museum at Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Also in this museum, there are 15 specimens of another extinct bird, namely, the passenger pigeon, in a large habitat exhibit. Both of these species were here years ago.

The great auk, an heavy flightless bird bred on reef islands not far from Newfoundland, otherwise it seldom left the sea, feeding on fish. It was known to be expert at swimming and diving. This bird which was about as heavy as a goose stood erect when on shore. The small feet which supported it were placed quite far back on the body and this made its gait, when on shore, slow and clumsy, something like that of the penguins.

So that we SBC members can better picture this big bird that lived long before our time, I give Chapman's measurements from BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA: length, 28-30 in.; bill, 3.50 in. long and 1.50 in. at the greatest depth of bill; wing, 5.75 in. There was no measurement for the tail which is so short. It is surprising that a big bird with such short wings could be such a good swimmer. Yet records exist of its migrating as far south as the Carolinas and even further south. This we can understand when we realize that some of our fishes which have no wings and comparatively small fins also migrate great distances.

Today there are only about 90 known specimens preserved in collections, so we well understand why this great auk, which was once owned by Audubon, is especially valuable. After John James Audubon died in 1851, this bird was kept for some time by his sister, then it was in a nearby college museum for a short period and rather recently, it was presented to the Toronto Museum. Since the great auk has been extinct since 1842, this specimen must be over 126 years old, and it is in good condition. Early settlers and fishermen killed great numbers of young and adults for their flesh, feathers and oil. This kill caused its extinction.

The extinct passenger pigeon was a beautifully plumaged, long-tailed pigeon six inches longer than our mourning dove. It was an excellent flier. Years ago when the passenger pigeon was here in such great numbers, it was seen in huge flocks and hunters could always be sure of killing more than one bird when the flock rose in unison in the air. Some birds in low flight were even knocked down by oars or other weapons. Quoting from Forbush and



GREAT AUK



PASSENGER PIGEON

I am indebted to Mr. Guy H. Goodman, a former president of the Sarasota Audubon Society of Florida, for the above sketches of the two extinct birds.

May's BIRDS OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL NORTH AMERICA, "...vast multitudes, rising strata upon strata, covered the darkened sky and hid the sun, while the roar of their myriad wings might be likened to that of a hurricane, and thus they passed for hours or days together." Other authors tell us that they were killed in such numbers that wagons were filled with the dead birds.

It is difficult for us to realize that at one time one species of bird existed in the billions in the United States. In 1892 Alexander Wilson published a paper in which he estimated that the number of passenger pigeons in 1808 was 2,239,272,000. As Chapman says, "Man, and man alone, is responsible for the extermination of the passenger pigeon." The bird was last seen in the wild on September 4, 1892.

I was fortunate to see the last passenger pigeon which was kept in the Zoological Park in Cincinnati, Ohio shortly before it died in 1914. This bird must have been at least 18 years old when it died.

Not only is the beautiful habitat display in the Royal Ontario Museum of interest, but I believe the museum has one of the largest collections of passenger pigeon skins (as the prepared specimens are called) totalling some 130 skins. Many of these were gifts from people who acquired them from old private or discarded collections.

Another extinct bird, the Labrador duck, as well as excellent exhibits, could be seen in this Canadian museum either before or between the presentation of the 40 some papers. These papers were presented by members who came from western, southern and eastern United States and Canada for the three-day scientific meeting.

We are still learning more about the red-wing in new studies. Two Ohio men in their paper entitled, "Growth and Calculation of

Nesting Age for Red-winged Blackbirds," told of weights and feather growth of birds in two different habitats. One was a marsh and the other a land habitat. Instead of marking the birds with bands, they used colored nail polish. It had to be put on every other day, so, their expense account included the queer item of many bottles of colored nail polish.

Another paper, given by a Canadian, entitled, "Distribution and Dispersal of the Cardinal in Relation to Habitat," is of interest to us because of the cardinal extending its range in our state. We now consider it a fairly common bird in our area.

"Swallow Banding Bangkok, Thailand" by Ben King was especially interesting to me since I worked for years with my late husband, Dr. Dayton Stoner, on banding and measuring bank, barn and cliff swallows. Mr. King banded over 73,000 barn swallows. Some of the birds were recovered in Siberia, some in North and South Korea, several in Malaya and many returned to the place where they had been banded.

Other papers were presented by members who had spent years of work on their chosen research subject. Some of the papers are published in the quarterly magazine called THE AUK.

Roger Tory Peterson was the speaker at the American Ornithologists' Union dinner with the subject, "Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Expedition to the Galapagos, 1965." The 400 people at the banquet enjoyed these new pictures and his lecture. We hope that eventually we may again see the Galapagos film as one of the Audubon Wildlife Films.

About one-half of the dinner menu cover was devoted to a good picture of the recently acquired extinct bird in the glass case. The case has the following title beneath it:

---Audubon's Great Auk,
now in Toronto

SBC members, if you have an opportunity to see these two extinct birds in a museum, you will notice the beautiful plumage of the passenger pigeon and the large head and bill, as well as the small feet and very short wings, of the great auk.

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(Continued from page 70)

Shrike: one Apr 7 (sbc), species undetermined.

VIREOS - WARBLERS

Yellow-throated: first two reports May 4 - Emb (gc) and Lock 7(sbc). Solitary: one TR Apr 21 (sbc); five May reports, including two May 18, last date seen.

Red-eyed: first May 7 Schodaak Center (PG); observed by ten groups out of a possible 13 on May 18.

Warbling: early report Apr 25 Gr (gc); many from May 5 on.

Warblers: Black-and-White: six May 4 Gr Co (ad,sbc); throughout May.

Worm-eating: located May 18 in usual nesting area IL (sbc), one bird observed putting leaves singly into a hole in the ground under the roots of a tree.

- Golden-winged: first May 12 Canaan (ad).
 Blue-winged: first May 10 Canaan (ad).
 Brewster's: one May 26 W Glenville (sbc).
 Tennessee: first reports - by six groups May 18; one in complete fall plumage VFG May 18 (RPY); two reports May 22 the last ones.
 ORANGE-CROWNED: one observed at close range May 11 (sbc).
 Nashville: several appeared May 3-5; last May 25.
 Parula: three reported May Gr Co (gc,sbc); one May 13 Central Park (HFB); three reports May 18, the last.
 Yellow: seen frequently from arr date May 3.
 Magnolia: first observed May 18, by six groups; last May 28 (PPW).
 Cape May: ten reports - from May 5 Schodack (ad) to one May 25 IL (sbc).
 Black-throated Blue: appeared May 11 (late) Gr (gc); last May 25 VFG (RPY); scarce.
 Myrtle: one very early report Apr 5 EG (PPW); second, Apr 21 TR (sbc); many thereafter, with max 30 May 4 Gr Co (sbc); last May 22 Nisk (RPY).
 Black-throated Green: first Apr 14 Emb (gc); several May 4-5, throughout month.
 Blackburnian: first May 10 (PPW).
 Cerulean: one in usual nesting area on Schodack Island May 22(PPW).
 Chestnut-sided: first May 5 Col Co (ad); one bird in full fall plumage banded VFG May 18 (RPY).
 Bay-breasted: reported by five groups May 18; only one other report - one May 25 IL (sbc).
 Blackpoll: first May 13 Chatham (ad); several remainder of May, with max numbers May 30-31.
 Pine: two Jenny L and Black Pond Rd May 18 (bsh).
 Prairie: only five reports beginning May 11 Gr (gc).
 Palm: only four reports - from Apr 14 Gr (gc) to May 4 when three were seen.
 Ovenbird: first May 5 Chatham (ad).
 Northern Waterthrush: first May 3 VFG (RPY).
 Louisiana Waterthrush: one very early heard near Duanesburg Apr 28 (sbc); eight additional reports scattered from May 16 to 27.
 CONNECTICUT: one observed at very close range May 18 W Ghent(ad).
 Mourning: missed entirely in May; one imm male singing Jun 1 Wolf Hollow (WBS).
 Yellowthroat: early report Apr 18 Catskill (gc); common from May 5.
 Yellow-breasted Chat: four groups reporting this species May - only date.
 Wilson's: six reports May 18 (sbc); last, May 25 VFG (RPY).
 Canada: first two May 16 with especially numerous reports May 25-6.
 American Redstart: first May 5 Vischer Ferry (HFB,PMG); most from May 11.

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

- Bobolink: first May 5 Gr (CK); general influx May 9-11.
 Orchard Oriole: three reports - May 11 Castleton (JC), one immature May 14 Slingerlands (WBS), and May 31 Schodack (ad).
 Baltimore Oriole: one Apr 14 Westmere (MK); second Apr 25 Castleton (JC).
 Rusty Blackbird: several reports, with the last May 18 Chatham .
 Scarlet Tanager: early report - Apr 25-26 Ghent (ad); numerous after May 8.
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak: first May 2 (GA) with many from May 6.
 Indigo Bunting: commonly reported from May 11 on.
 Evening Grosbeak: most had disappeared by the end of April; max 34 Apr 22 Berne (MK).
 Purple Finch: many migrants at mid-month, passing rapidly in mod-

- erate numbers and then becoming much reduced, migration peaking Apr 19-20 (RPY).
- House Finch: slight increase in numbers over previous spring, but lingering for only one to four days; five reports - one female at feeder Apr 12 Alplaus (HFB); on male Apr 13 Chatham (ad); Apr 30 - May 3, two males and three females in yard, singing Catskill (go); one pair at feeder Nisk May 1 (RPY); one pair at feeder May 28-29 Nisk (GA).
- Pine Siskin: only two reports - six Apr 20 near Galway (WBS, RPY); three seen and one heard May 18 (bah).
- Red Crossbill: one flock of 14 Apr 9 TR (PC).
- Rufous-sided Towhee: arr Apr 2 Schodack(ad).
- Sparrows: Savannah: first Apr 3 Gr (go); widely reported Apr 12 on.
- Grasshopper: found in at least three areas - Emb (gc), BCM (sbc) and Chatham (ad).
- Henslow's: reported in only one area - BCM May 18.
- Slate-colored Junco: according to banding data, migration peaked Mar 30 - Apr 10, about two weeks earlier than usual (RPY).
- Tree: last Apr 25 (EH).
- Chipping: one unusually early, Apr 7, at feeder Jenny Lake (Bar-ringto Havens).
- HARRIS': one adult male appeared in the company of two white-crowns May 7 one mile south of Catskill, and was seen again on May 8; also, one imm May 28 (gc).
- White-crowned: very early appearance Apr 4 Hillsdale (ad); many from Apr 20; last May 24 Gr (gc).
- White-throated: Apr 27 a most unusual flight observed in a yard in Nisk (RPY) - about 25 of this species were seen early in the morning, and also about 85 passing north through the same yard within ten to 15 minutes in the evening; May reports were fewer than those of Apr.
- Fox: reported three times during Apr, last Apr 22 (EH).
- Lincoln's: three banded May 17 and three May 18 VFG (RPY), and one seen May 18 Ghent (ad).

The report of the common nighthawk of Mar 27 in the previous report should be deleted.

Thanks are due two area compilers: Rena Dodd and Clarissa Ketcham who compiled the Alan Devoe and Greene County reports, respectively.

* * * * *

EDWIN W. SCOTT

A recent note from Mrs. Edwin W. Scott of Wells told regretfully of the passing of her husband earlier in the year. The Scotts joined SBC in 1941. Mr. Scott was bird counselor for the Schenectady Council of Boy Scouts, and tested boys for the eagle award.

In addition, he and his wife, before moving from Scotia, were SBC junior activity chairmen and presented programs to many youngsters. One of their more hectic times in junior activities involved slide presentations and talks to 93 second graders, 101 kindergarteners, a garden club and a girl scout troop all in one week.

To Mrs. Scott go our sympathies and the acknowledgement that her husband left a rich legacy - an enlightened youth.

LOVER'S LANE, WEST GLENNVILLE

MAY 26

This was a lovely May Sunday morning. A rather cool 15-mph wind hampered our observing little, once we were in the woods. Our group of 16, including two from Tioga Bird Club, proceeded to the area in seven cars after meeting in the village at 8:30.

No pileated woodpecker or beaver were seen, but how about a Brewster's warbler. It seems that the pileated has made himself scarce and the beavers have taken up summer quarters in an inaccessible slough.

This new birding area seemed to be greeted with much enthusiasm. The view of the pond from the house is panoramic. The abandoned road starts at this point and winds up over a gradual rise. This walk of about a mile each way was not without activity from our feathered friends. In some cases they were exceptionally cooperative in sitting still for us. The Brewster's sat posed for at least ten minutes. A total of 56 species was recorded.

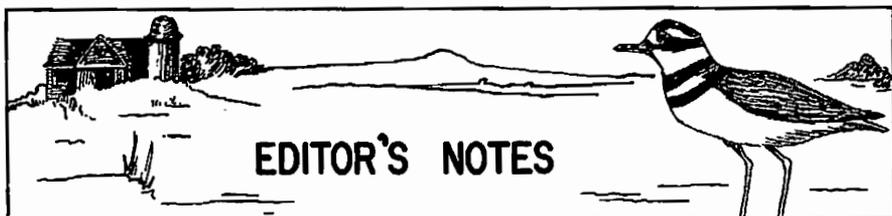
--Bob McCullough

ALCOVE RESERVOIR

APRIL 20

Eighteen birders enjoyed a sunny day in the 60's at Alcove Reservoir on April 20. Ten species of ducks were seen including one female surf scoter. The five hawks stole the show led by a broad-wing which sailed directly over the moat, and a peregrin which passed overhead silhouetted against the blue sky at our meeting place. The day's total was 41.

--S.R. Madison

CHECK-LISTS AVAILABLE

The stocks of SBC check-lists has been replenished with new printings, so that we can offer these for sale once again. There are four types available. Three of these are 8½ X 11 in size, and cover 1) birds of New York State, 2) birds of upstate

New York and 3) a 12-column birds of upstate New York. The fourth is a pocket-sized daily check-list.

All are available from the editor at home, through the mail or at the Audubon Wildlife Films. The cost is 75¢ per 25, \$2 per hundred. Through the mail add 50¢ to cover the cost of postage for quantities up to 200.

NAME CHANGE

A penny for your thoughts - about our Club name change, that is. The Club has long considered the advisability of a name change. Most everyone says that it's to our advantage, but so far no one has come forth with a name that sparks the imagination.

In brief, the Schenectady in our name does not reflect our wide geographic coverage in the 11-county area of eastern New York. In addition, it proves to be a drawback when we approach Troy and Albany newspapers regarding publicity. Because of a broader outlook on nature, the Bird in our name does not seem to suffice. There is a desire for some more inclusive connotation. Thus, we come to Club, and some people aren't so sure we need it in our name. However, we're all for being incorporated. So with Inc., let us begin to reconstruct.

Some say we need a name that suggests our eastern New York geography and should include the entire Albany-Schenectady-Troy area. Thus we hear Mohawk-Hudson, Huson-Mohawk, Capital District, etc. Others are willing to let the geography pass and select a non-geographic name. One can always honor a prominent ornithologist. Some say we should be natural history oriented in order to attract a wider membership. Thus the catchall naturalists label.

From all this pondering and wondering comes the following list:

Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club	Feathers
Capital District Bird Club	Mohawk-Hudson Naturalists
Hudson Valley Naturalists	Robert Murphy Naturalists
Peterson Bird Club	Eastern New York Naturalists
Capital District Bird Club	Tri-city Bird Club

Now Mohawk-Hudson Naturalists may be a satisfactory, utilitarian name, but for some reason, it simply does not excite anyone, or has not so far at least. In order to resolve this dilemma of a new name, the board is throwing the question out to you. The board intends to act at its September meeting on a new name. Therefore, voice your pleasure or displeasure with the above before then to the president (477-6345).

Better yet, come up with a neuron-tingling moniker yourself.

MARTINS VS. MOSQUITOS

To anyone who has read the popular ornithological press, much has appeared lately on the subject of purple martins eating 2000 mosquitos per day. This recently, oft-quoted figure has entered martin house advertizing and undoubtedly sold martin houses.

However, there rages a controversy about this statement. The following two excerpts present both sides of the controversy.

From the June-July 1968 issue of THE CONSERVATIONIST, published

by the New York State Conservation Department, comes the following on "Purple Mosquito Eaters" by David Sargent.

"How are the mosquitos out your way? Is the evening patio unbearable for human flesh? Then listen to the tale of Griggsville, Illinois, a town of 1274 souls laid out on a marshy plain between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

"Surrounding swamps incubated bugs by the millions, literally by the ton. Neither man nor beast was free of torment from frost to frost. Despite every conceivable spray and insecticide, the rising tide of man's insect enemies threatened the very existence of Griggsville's Western Illinois Fair, an annual joy since 1887.

'Every year we tried the latest thing in insecticides. We ruined food by spraying, and horsemen complained that their animals became sick grazing in sprayed fields. The best result we got with insect sprays was a four-day kill - provided it didn't rain.' The mosquito was king. That was 1962.

"Now Griggsville is free of torment - porch, patio and park alike are fit for mini skirt or bikini. All because of man's greatest feathered friend, the purple martin, which can swallow 2000 mosquitos on a routine day and nearly twice that if pressed by hungry young.

"Purple martins are gregarious apartment dwellers. Desperate Griggsville 'Jaycees' learned of this remarkable bird in 1962 and put a martin house on every telephone pole in town. In came the martins and down went the hatch of bug. Fairgrounds and stockyards, farms and town were cleaned of insects and kept clean without an ounce of insecticides or a pound of spray.

"The Griggsville secret is out now. Martin houses (made in Griggsville) dot the Mid-west, while their feathered tenants clean the air of bugs over motel pools, sprawling shopping centers and noisy city streets. So if the mosquitos are getting to you, give your sprays the heave-ho and write to Griggsville for a purple martin house. Your pests will be gone in no time."

Refuting this idea of martin mosquito control is a paper by Herbert W. Kale II given at the 85th stated meeting of the AOU at Toronto in August, 1967. Dr. Kale is associated with the Entomological Research Center, Florida State Board of Health at Vero Beach, Florida. The following is the abstract of his paper from the "Abstracts of Papers" published by the AOU.

"In recent years considerable confusion has attended the role of the purple martin, *Progne subis* in the biological control of mosquito populations. One claim in particular, that a martin can eat 2000 mosquitos per day, is being used by manufacturers of martin houses and by organizations urging erection of martin houses. A review of the pertinent scientific and popular ornithological literature leads to the following conclusions:

- 1) Mosquitos are a negligible item in the diet of the purple martin.
- 2) Behavior patterns of mosquitos and martins are such that mosquitos are not flying in martin feeding areas when martins are active; contact between the two is minimal during daylight hours.

- 3) None of the published statements appearing in the popular ornithological literature which attribute a mosquito-feeding habit to the purple martin is based on a factual study; the often-quoted statement the 'Martins eat 2000 mosquitos per day' has no evident means of support.
- 4) There is no evidence that any avian species can effectively control a species of insect pest upon which it feeds when that pest is at or near peak abundance.
- 5) The purple martin is one of our most beautiful and friendly birds. It daily consumes a large number of insects, many of them harmful species. Its aesthetic qualities alone recommend it highly to man. There is no need to ascribe to the martin abilities or qualities greater than those it already possesses in order to encourage its protection and propagation."

In examining these reports and in consulting some additional literature, there are several things apparent. Sargent falls into the popular trap of referring to mosquitos as bugs which they are not. The term bug is one of the most misused in the English language. The true bugs belong to the Heteroptera and are characterized by such creatures as the bed bug, stink bug, giant water beetle, water striders, etc.

The phenomenon that Sargent reports regarding the ridding of the area of its bothersome insect life is mentioned by Forbush in his BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES on the diet and economic status of the purple martin. He states, "In some instances a great decrease of mosquitos is said to have followed the establishment of martin colonies, but I have had no opportunity to investigate these reports." It is unfortunate that Forbush never applied his great talent to this problem, for undoubtedly an accurate assay of the situation would have resulted. With numerous people's suspicions aroused about the role of the martin in mosquito control, perhaps it is high time for an accurate, factual study to settle the matter.

One word of caution, Sargent makes attracting martins sound so simple that one might be tempted to dash out and buy a martin house. It's not that easy. In the Schenectady area the martin is a marginal species and nowhere as common as in the Mid-west. Martin attracting in this area is an art and requires certain topographical features (water nearby, open terrain), the right kind of house and a bit of luck. Those people with open ponds or a lake on their property are best suited to give martin raising a try. However, be prepared for disappointment, for even if a colony does get established, spring freezes and abberrent weather will cause considerable variations in martin populations and these cause many a martin house proprietor a good deal of grief worrying about his birds.

But to he who is patient and fortunate comes a rare reward, for as Forbush says, "A flock of these birds, all gathering material for their nests, is a pretty sight."

SISKIN PLUMAGE

The following note was received From Barry Havens. "Judging by the pair of siskins that frequented my Jenny Lake feeder briefly early this summer, the yellow coloration of the plumage, as indicated by both Peterson and the Golden Field Guide as a field

mark, is decidedly inconspicuous and inconclusive. A pair of this species came regularly to my feeder for about a week, and the opportunity to study the birds at close range was splendid.

"In the case of the female, it was almost impossible to see any yellow whatsoever; the male plumage did show yellowish patches, but it needed a hard close look."

Judging from birds I have handled, the amount and intensity of the yellow in a pine siskin's plumage is a highly variable thing. I have searched some of the literature and can find no satisfactory explanation for this. To my knowledge there is no known age or sex separation indicated by the variation in yellow of the plumage. Someone with access to these birds on their breeding grounds could make a significant contribution to ornithology by studying this variation in the hand on birds of known sex. I have examined museum skin with this variation in mind and found this to be a most challenging problem.

NEXT ISSUE

Due date for material for the next issue is September 15. Please have material submitted as much ahead of that date as possible.

(Issue assembled July 24, 1968)

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NORWAY — WHERE MOUNTAINS MEET THE SEA

Donald J. Tucker

The deep blue waters of the Norwegian Sea stretched away to the west where they became grey before merging with the sky along the distant horizon. It was late morning and I stood above the cliffs at Branden on the island of Runde. Before me the expanse of blue was broken only by the white foam of the surf over the rocky shoals off Runde Fyr. After slipping off my pack I sat down and leaned back against a large granite rock. At my side the cliff dropped straight away, 700 feet to the sea. Far below, swells broke in silvery foam, revealing the pulse of the sea in the rhythmic appearance of the splash and spray upon the rocks. One after another the waves rolled in, raised up and dashed on the rocks, only to fall back sending counterwaves backward into the oncoming swells, creating a continuous undulating and tossing of the sea at the threshold of the cliff. The struggle between land and sea was there. Over the eons rocks had crumbled and fallen and in some places the cliff was undermined with caves which extended as much as 50 yards from their opening to the sea. Above, the massive precipitous face of Branden rose nearly a thousand feet.

Runde is at latitude $62\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N and the next land west is Iceland and then Greenland. On the other side of the world the 62nd parallel passes just south of Mt. McKinley in Alaska. Yet, despite this northerly latitude, coastal Norway has moderate temperatures year round. This is due to the Gulf Stream which sweeps north along the coast before disappearing into arctic seas. But the conditions which cause this moderation also lead to a breeding zone for fog and rain. Prolonged periods of rainy weather are common, and even on otherwise sunny days fog may lie like a white blanket over the water. As the relatively warm moist air moves inland, it is confronted immediately by the massive rocky backbone of the Norwegian mainland. When the air rises in an attempt to breach this wall, the moisture condenses to fall on the western slopes and, during the winter, it buries the high peaks under great quantities of snow.

In June, though it was warm and summery along the coast, snow covered peaks began not thirty miles from Runde and only a short distance further Lake Djupvatn on the Grotli-Geiranger road lay solidly frozen and snow covered. Along the road, snow was piled to twenty feet or more. Yet only a few miles away along the Geiranger fjord, it was warm and the slopes were covered with lush green vegetation. But from the cliffs at Runde the mountains were only craggy peaks against the horizon. It was the sea which beckoned and I turned my eyes once again to Runde, outpost of the mountains, and home of over a million and one-half birds.

Runde is a small triangularly shaped island about 120 miles north of Bergen. There are estimated to be about 150,000 islands

along the coast, and indeed in many areas it is difficult to tell exactly where the mainland is. The arms of the sea reach inland a hundred miles or more, and there are countless inlets, small fjords, and large and small islands, many with mountains a thousand feet or more high. Some channels are so narrow that in crossing, one leaves the mainland without even realizing it. This enormous number of islands forms an effective barrier against the severity of weather in the North Atlantic. Behind this protection the coastal steamers ply back and forth from village to village in relative security.

We approached Runde from the north aboard the small steamer "Sigurd," which made one daily run between the island and the port of Aalesund. When we arrived at the quay in Aalesund, the boat was taking on the last of its cargo. It had left Runde that morning, bringing a few islanders as always into Aalesund to shop. When it returned to the island that evening it would carry them home where they would be cut off from the mainland until the next morning. At the quay, we passed the time until departure watching the kittiwakes which nested on window ledges of buildings only a few feet from passing shoppers. At 3 o'clock our steamer chugged out of the harbor, followed by the ever present herring gulls. Though it was a sunny day, we had not gone far when the ship became enveloped in fog, strangely bright from the sun shining through the thin layer. But about us there was only a narrow zone of cold grey water and the white foam of our wake disappeared into the fog behind us. Shortly after five o'clock Runde appeared out of the grey mist. Soon we were ashore, amid the cries of gulls and loud resounding whistles of oystercatchers feeding on the rocks at low tide. They called frequently as they searched for small snails among the mass of brown algae, which is the common coastal seaweed. Wavy fronds of *Laminaria saccharina* and the dark green-brown *Fucus vesiculosus* with its numerous cyst-like blebs covered the rocks.

Along the eastern edge of the island, Runde varde towered to 1100 feet. To the north and south it rose almost directly out of the sea, and even at the village there was barely a hundred yards between the cliff base and the sea. High on the cliffs common and herring gulls nested and their noisy cries filled the air almost continuously. Though they were far above us the rock wall seemed to act as a reflecting board directing their cries down on us. On the nearby rocks sat lesser and greater black-backed gulls. When the two birds were together, the lesser was noticeably smaller than the greater, but even apart they were easily distinguished by leg coloring, those of the lesser black-backed gull a bright yellow in comparison to the pale flesh-colored legs of the greater.

Not far off shore there was a constant traffic back and forth. Occasionally there would be the small form of a black guillemot or a group of kittiwakes, but most numerous were the shags and cormorants flying low over the water with a long snakey silhouette. Shags were the most common and appeared slightly smaller than the cormorants. The shags were entirely dark, but the cormorants showed a white throat patch and since it was the breeding season there was also an oval white thigh patch. Often they gathered in large flotillas, following schools of fish. Then they were constantly diving in a large arch only long enough for a quick breath. They kept the water continually churned as they dived and flapped along following the schools. Closer into shore among the rocks were several pairs of eider ducks. They were quite tame and paid little attention to people. On a rocky jetty we discovered,

with the aid of two young children, a downy nest with five eggs. Other nesters were present too, and in a rocky cove a pair of shelduck paddled away followed by nine little puffy balls. The adults were handsome birds, large with a dark green head and a bright red bill. The presence of a basal knob on the bill of the male was the only distinguishing characteristic. Their foreparts were snowy white to the shoulder where a rich fox-red band encircled the body. Except for the blackish lateral portions of the back and in the wing primaries the rest of the body was snowy white. In addition to another pair there were many non-breeding males.

In antiquity the islands were mostly forested, but by the middle ages the forest seems to have been completely cut. Perhaps it was in the Viking era, when the coastal tribes were building ships and clearing land for their villages, that the felling of trees exceeded the regenerative power. Now, the islands are almost without exception treeless. Here and there a few plantations have been started, but they are exposed to the severities of weather and progress is slow. The presence of sheep is an additional hindrance. They effectively keep the level of vegetation low. In upland areas there are grasses and sedges, low creeping mats of bearberry, heathers and the evergreen Juniper communis. The soil is generally acid and thin and in large areas it is mostly rock. This soil cover is fragile and is easily eroded by the hoofs of sheep, and wind. Undoubtedly, this in conjunction with the short growing season is the reason for the failure of the forest to reappear. In northern latitudes the regenerative ability of the soil is poor even under the best of conditions.

Except for a few small lowland meadows showing large numbers of buttercups, there is no mass effect of wildflowers. Colors tend to be subdued and range from the browns of the previous year's grass to shades of yellow-brown and green. In wet places sphagnum moss may show a variety of shades, sometimes even a rich red-brown or orange. There are stands of cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*) whose single puffs of white cotton wave in the almost continuous breeze. Where the ground is somewhat wetter there is another species whose heads show four or five cottony wisps. Flowers are few in early June and are limited to a few dwarf buttercups and the small white egg-shaped bells of black bearberry. There is, however, one tiny gem which sprinkles the uplands, though often it is almost obscured by the surrounding grass. It is a small delicate seven-pointed white star. The Norwegians call it "skogstjerne" or woodstar. It is *Trientalis europaea* and it is very similar to our own maystar (*T. borealis*). The tiny flowers are borne on a threadlike stem arising out of a whorl of five to nine pointed leaves. The entire plant is only a few inches high. There is another small flower which is reminiscent of many a hike along Adirondack trails. It is the dwarf cornel, a relative of our bunchberry. Instead of a basal rosette of leaves, the white flower is borne on a short upright stem with alternating pairs of leaves. The white flower is not a true flower at all, but is derived from the leaves of bracts. The true flower is the tiny inflorescence of brownish-black petals and stamens in the center.

The most direct route from Runde village to the bird cliffs was along the northern side of the island to the small village of Goksor and then along the paths up over the high meadows. From Runde to Goksor the road ran in the narrow zone between the steep cliffs and the low rocky headlands. There were many gulls nesting on these cliffs and it was here that my wife, Lois and I

glimpsed our first fulmars. At first we did not even realize that they were not gulls. It was not until the second day on the island that we finally noticed that many of the birds on the cliffs were not gulls at all, but fulmars. It was only then that we looked closely and it became quite obvious what they were. Though there was a strong resemblance to gulls they had a more stubby profile with slender wings which in flight were held stiffly. They flew with shallow wingbeats and frequent sailing, and as they wheeled and banked before the face of the cliff we could see the translucent wing patch. The flight was characteristic.... few rapid wingbeats, then a sail, wheeling on stiff wings. While we stood with our necks bent backward peering upward along the cliff, there came a long bubbling song, a cascade of trills on various pitches. After considerable effort we located the singer, a winter wren. Later we saw it to much greater advantage sitting on a power line. But the rocks and moist crevices seemed much more appropriate.

On the cliffs which were relatively inaccessible to sheep, vegetation was much more abundant. Here was the *Sedum rosea*, not yet showing the yellow flower heads, and the strands of pinkish red *Melandrum rubrum*, scattered woodferns and in moist places violets and forget-me-nots. Along the roadside there was the prostrate silverweed cinquefoil, buttercups, bladder campion, ragged robin and tiny mats of yellow lousewort. But we were always drawn back to our main purpose for being on the island, to see the birds. Out on the rocks hooded crows scavenged in the tidal flotsam and the oystercatchers whistled and chased one another showing their large red bills and handsome black and white plumage. Wagtails were common and small brownish non-descript rock pipits flew up to sit on the rocks for a moment and then dropped down out of sight. Only in the narrow life zone along the rocky shore were they found. As soon as the upland meadows began they were replaced by another species, the meadow pipit. In some places the two species existed not 25 yards from one another, but their requirements were distinct and separate so they did not intermingle. The meadow pipits were in active courtship and they frequently flew high over the meadows to descend with fluttering wings and twittering notes. Though neither of the pipits was striking in appearance, it was interesting to observe this example of special requirements existing side by side.

Barn swallows, which made their homes in the outbuildings of Goksor, coursed the low meadows, and there were a number of flocks of starlings and the two thrushes, the blackbird and fieldfare. Now and again small flocks of greenfinch flew over uttering their twittering notes, and another finch, the twite, which is a close relative of the linnet or house finch, hopped about at the edge of a muddy upland pond.

The way across the uplands looked deceptively short since there were no trees or other objects by which to judge distance. We had to gain 800 feet in altitude and under a warm sun our goal did not come as quickly as anticipated. When we at last peered down over the cliffs at Branden we were quite warm and a bit breathless. Even when my breathing came more easily I continued to sit quietly, just gazing outward at the vast expanse of blue. A few puffy white clouds drifted slowly overhead and a warm midday sun bathed the south facing cliff. The air was clear and invigorating and the mere act of breathing was a pleasure. Throwing back my shoulders I took a long draught of that very

special elixir -- clean, fresh air. I could not help but think that to breathe clean fresh air should be the most inalienable right of all.

(To be continued)

Editor's note: Don Tucker is presently serving in the U.S. Army in Germany. This article is based on a vacation trip to Norway. In the next issue, the article concludes with a very fascinating description of the excitement at the cliffs.

* * * * *



Peter P. Wickham

Among the goals established by the planning committee and approved four years ago by the general membership of SBC was that of obtaining a center and of establishing a sanctuary. As a first step, a site selection subcommittee (a subcommittee of the planning committee) was appointed.

Since then, the site selection subcommittee has met many times. At the outset, members of the subcommittee decided to focus on the possibility of obtaining a suitable site for a club sanctuary. Such land, we agreed, should if possible possess these attributes:

- 1) It should be readily accessible to club members. We roughly interpreted this to be land lying within a rectangle bounded on the north by Route 146, on the east by the Hudson River, on the south by Route 85, and on the west by a line drawn between Scotia and New Salem.
- 2) It should offer a plausible site for a nature center and/or clubhouse should we desire to build one.
- 3) It should comprise a large enough area so that it would not be subject to widespread invasion by automobile noise, dogs, trash, etc.; or should adjoin such an area.
- 4) It should be ecologically interesting and hopefully varied.

Acting with these features in mind, we have investigated many leads; we have examined properties in Colonie, Karner, Guilderland, Niskayuna, Clifton Park and other areas; we have considered rental of land and a possible donation of land and have encountered some very attractive situations; but we have not as yet been able to select a site which was attainable and which met our requirements. It is apparent, of course, that land costs are rapidly rising in the Tri-city area, so that a real sense of urgency accompanies our efforts. Nevertheless, we maintain hope that we

will locate and obtain a suitable tract of land for a club sanctuary.

A number of SBC members have labored long, conscientiously and anonymously on this cause in the Club's service. Some of the most energetic of these have been Gus Angst, the late Hazel Eddy, Steve Fordham, Paul Grattan, Don Tucker, Walt Sabin, Sam Madison and Bob Yunick. We owe them a considerable vote of thanks.

Meanwhile we can use new insight, vision and imagination (as well as work!) on this subcommittee. If this project appeals to you, volunteer! We need your help. Call Walt Sabin (439-1144) and help us make today's dream tomorrow's reality.

* * * * *

MORICHES OR BUST

Harvey Spivak

I thought we were very lucky to be getting away from the fog. Even at four am. on August 17, 1968, I could see that the fog was heavy enough to spoil the morning's bird watching. Lucky us, we were running away from the fog and going to Long Island, specifically Moriches Inlet. The gang - Walt, Ginny and Ken Sabin, Bill Gorman, Pete Wickham and I spent the next four hours running away from that jinxing fog. It hovered over us all the way south.

By the time we had figured how to attach a motor boat and a borrowed motor to the car and hauled them to the beach of Moriches Inlet, the day was developing into hot and sticky brightness - at least the fog was burning off.

Even the most optimistic of us dared not hope the aluminum motor boat was large enough to carry all 800+ pounds of us across the inlet to Fire Island. We went in two shifts, with Walt manning the engine, and by the time we were all assembled together the sun was approaching its zenith.

The tide was beginning to rise, but enough of the flats remained exposed to display a very impressive array of shore birds. Pete "conservatively" estimated 90 black-bellied plovers and twice as many semipalmated plovers in sight at once. Several dozen least and semipalmated sandpipers filled out the crowd. We scanned these flats with glasses and 'scopes that were already presenting blurred images through salted lenses.

Snowy egrets were about, as were dowitchers, sanderlings, knots, greater yellowlegs, one lesser yellowlegs and a brant. We saw many turnstones and terns, terns, terns.....! The least and black terns were not so hard to identify, but we had one great heck of a time separating the Forster's from the roseate from the common terns. (I'm not going to describe the differences now. I would have to open the crinkled pages of my field guide to be sure I was correct, just as you would probably have to do.)

The flats at the island were so level, the tide could be seen creeping up at a rate measurable in feet per minute. It chased us over the mud until the flats were completely covered and most of the birds were gone. There was no worry - the inlet was so

shallow that at high tide Ginny and Ken waded well over 200 yards away from the shore. The water reached only up to their waists.

Sloshing through water and marsh grasses (in sneakers that will never be the same) we discovered both marbled and Hudsonian godwit. Black skimmers were all about us at that time. They always remind me of injured, blindfolded birds. One can never see their eyes, because the top half of their heads are black and they wander about continually barking "Ow! Ow! Ow!"

We dragged the boat through the shallow water to the next island where we left Ginny and Ken to swim and catch fish with their hands.

The next stop was across the channel to a third island, the name of which escapes me. Walt produced 80 feet of thin rope which we planned to drag over the short marsh grass in an attempt to flush the ever elusive black rail.

Meanwhile.... all this time the fog and clouds had been growing thicker and darker. The wind grew stronger and we tried to convince ourselves it was simply imagination that produced a low rumbling sound. After vainly searching for the rail for only a few minutes, the rain, softly at first, began to fall. We made tracks to the boat and set a course for the island to rescue Ginny and Ken from a lonely fight with the elements. The rain came hard, lightning brighter, and thunder louder and more often.

Before we had traveled half the distance, we nervously beached the boat on the nearest island. (At least I was nervous with lightning flashing over open water.) Chased by pelting wind and rain, we hid in the marsh grasses. Hiding offered us no respite from wetness, only from the chilling wind. While wondering what Ginny and Ken were doing, we crouched in the grasses like bitterns for 15 minutes.

With the thunderstorm over, four thoroughly soaked people emerged from the marsh. I regretted not having finished my last sandwich - what a sloppy mess! - and we surveyed our optical equipment with apprehension. Water managed to invade the interiors of most of the glasses and 'scopes and only a mostly damp handkerchief was available for drying the outer lenses.

While Walt put-putted the boat to the other isle to carry the rest of his family to the car and dry clothes, Bill, Pete and I made the best find of the day - three oystercatchers.

Walt returned and nabbed himself another life bird - the oystercatchers. We searched the beach to discover another Hudsonian godwit, and to add dunlin, willet and ruff to the day's list.

Shivering and wringing out my still soggy shirt, I followed the other three to the boat. Once in the boat, I anxiously watched the distant dock grow larger and thought Pete's remark - "This is certainly one of SBC's most unusual trips" - to be totally unnecessary.

During the long drive home, in sleepy voices, we called off the names of 68 species.

So my sneakers will never be the same, and neither will Pete's

tripod nor my binoculars (alas!) ever fully recover. In spite of everything, however, I am sure you will never hear any of us say we didn't thoroughly enjoy the most unusual of SBC's trips.

* * * * *

CALIFORNIA CONDOR

James K. Meritt

Like the whooping crane, the California condor is a rare and spectacular species. Like the whooping crane also, it can usually be seen if one visits the proper area at the proper time of year.

In August 1968, my wife, two youngest children, and I were fortunate enough to be able to spend about a week in the Los Angeles area. While most of this time we were enjoying the sights of Disneyland or the tours of the Hollywood studios, my wife did give me license to go on a couple of early morning birding expeditions and one almost full-day trip to Mount Pinos, about 60 miles north of Los Angeles. On this latter trip I was accompanied by Mr. Paul Steineck, a transplanted Linnaean Society member, whose name I had come across in my modest pre-trip research. Paul's knowledge of the local birdlife and topography was most welcome.

Mount Pinos is 8831 feet above sea level and is, I believe, the highest mountain in the southern California transverse, i.e., east-west, ranges. There is a fine paved road that leads to a small parking lot about two miles from the summit, and from there a dirt road, easily negotiable by car, leads on up the summit. A large sign at the summit proclaims the area "Mount Pinos Condor Observation Site."

During the course of our three-hour stay on the mountain Paul and I saw two condors, both gliding high overhead to the southeast. Both were apparently adults. Seeing these two birds was obviously the ornithological highlight of my brief California trip.

A number of other hawks that we saw from the summit made us realize how large the condors were. The condors' breeding area and main center of abundance (if one can use that word) is the Sespe Creek Condor Refuge just north of Fillmore. This area, however, is wisely closed to all travel. During the summer months, however, condors wander into other parts of the Los Padres National Forest and can be seen from such vantage points as Mount Pinos.

Paul Steineck and I made a number of roadside stops on our way down. Among the mountain birds that we saw were white-headed woodpecker, mountain chickadee, pygmy nuthatch (very common), Stellar's jay, mountain quail, rufous and Allen's hummingbirds and Oregon junco. In the sage country at the base of the mountain we found California thrasher, Western bluebird and California quail to be quite common.

An invaluable guide to me on my trip was a 95-page publication entitled, "A Birdwatcher's Guide to Southern California," by James A. Lane. This is a 1968 publication and so is quite up-to-date. This can be purchased from L & P Photography, 2010 Hickory Street, Santa Ana, California 92707 for \$1.95, plus 25¢ postage. For anyone planning a birding trip to southern California, this is a must.

TO TELL A SHRIKE . . .

Pete Wickham

If you are like me, any day you see a shrike (at least in the SBC area) is a red-letter day. I can count on the fingers of one hand the total number of them that I have seen around here in the past six years. When I have seen one, the view was apt to be fleeting, and my inexperience has helped confuse the issue of identification.

Nevertheless, people do see shrikes in this area, and it is well to be prepared for identification before the occasion arises. Recently, I looked at the series of shrike specimens in the collections of the University of Connecticut and the State Museum at Albany, and came to some interesting conclusions, as follows:

- 1) Most field guides emphasize the black mask extending over the bill as a useful field mark in differentiating the loggerhead shrike from the Northern shrike. To judge whether or not the black mask passes over the bill or not is difficult under the best of conditions, and impossible under most. This is partly because the shrike must be viewed head-on (a rare enough situation) to see this at all; but it is also difficult because the maxilla in both cases are black and it is difficult to distinguish where the bill stops and the mask begins. Furthermore, several Northern shrike specimens which I have examined possess black-tipped feathers over the bill.
- 2) The mandible of the Northern shrike is often light in color near the base, but it certainly need not be. There are specimens of Northern shrikes which I have examined which possess apparently black mandibles - to the feathering on the bill, at least.
- 3) However, every Northern shrike specimen - adult or immature - at which I have looked possessed barring or "vermiculations", faint dark wavy lines crossing the breast - whereas none of the loggerhead shrike specimens did. These vermiculations were apparent to the unaided eye at a distance of at least thirty feet, and therefore should be a useful field mark. It seems to me that this ought to be the first field mark to look for, once you have decided the bird is a shrike. The other field marks may be helpful, but obviously cannot be critical, if the foregoing is true. Of course, the sizes of the two are somewhat different, but generally shrikes sit alone, and comparative size is often deceptive in such situations

Other valuable clues can be the time of year and the habits of the shrike in question. Northern shrikes are exclusively cold-weather visitors, arriving from mid-November on and leaving by mid-April. They are subject to marked fluctuations in population, as are most of our northern winter visitors, being much more common (or, preferably, less rare) in some years than in others.

The loggerhead shrike, on the other hand, is a southern species with very erratic distribution in this area. It is most commonly seen here during a short spring flight - a good half of our rec-

ordsare from the last week in March and the first week or ten days of April. There are records of the species, however, during every season, although it is a rare bird at all times, and is much rarer than the Northern shrike in winter.

On the basis of my own records and some of the loggerhead shrike reports we have received over the past year or two, it seems to me that this species frequently prefers a low perch - in a bush or small tree or on a low wire where it is often inconspicuous. The Northern shrike, on the other hand, usually sits high up in a tree or on a pole with a commanding view, much like a sparrow hawk.

Armed with this glut of shrike information, I plan some shrike-watching "sprees" for later this year and next - maybe I'll see one or two!

* * * * *



The temperature during both June and July was fairly close to normal. The average temperature during June was 66.7 degrees, only 0.6 degree below normal, and the average temperature during July was 72.4 degrees, 0.6 degree above normal. On the other hand, precipitation differed widely from normal during both months, making June a wet month and July an extremely dry month. June had a total rainfall of 4.38 inches, 1.38 inches above normal. July's total rainfall was only 0.49 inch, 3.00 inches below the norm. Only four days during July had a total rainfall large enough to measure! The first half of August continued to be unusually dry with temperatures about normal. All data taken at Albany airport.

The number of breeding bird counts conducted in the area for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service increased to 15 this year, three more than in 1967, and seven more than in 1966. A total of 107 species was recorded. The following is a list of the 25 most abundant species: red-winged blackbird, 2422; starling, 2008; robin, 966; house sparrow, 781; common grackle, 695; song sparrow, 683; American goldfinch, 527; common crow, 458; barn swallow, 424; chipping sparrow, 334; Eastern meadowlark, 289; wood thrush, 284; blue jay, 241; yellowthroat, 222; veery, 220; red-eyed vireo, 205; yellow warbler, 202; brown-headed cowbird, 201; catbird, 192; Baltimore oriole, 190; tree swallow, 177; house wren, 171; bobolink, 172; rufous-sided towhee, 169; yellow-shafted flicker, 147. New to the "top 25" are tree swallow and yellow-shafted flicker. Dropped from the list are mourning dove and ovenbird. Twenty-one species were recorded on all 15 surveys, but not all of these species have abundant populations. For instance, the scarlet tanager, which was recorded on all surveys, had a total count less than one-half the number of rufous-sided towhees, the least populous species of the "top 25." Once again, red-winged blackbirds

and starling dominated the list. Their combined populations were 28.3 percent of all birds counted on all surveys.

The only real highlight of the period was the Western meadow-lark; the first ever recorded for the area. Of unusual interest were: an increase in the number of common egrets, one black-crowned night heron (after an absence of two years on the list), and a Carolina wren. Also of special interest were some nesting reports made by several observers, including the first substantiated record of the house finch nesting in this area.

Observers cited more than once: (GA)- Gustave Angst; (HFB)- Hazel Bundy; (MDG)- Monte Gruett; (EH)- Esly Hallenbeck; (MK)- Marcia Kent; (CK)- Clarissa Ketcham; (RMcC)- Robert McCullough; (PMcG)- Peggy McGuirk; (WBS)- Walton Sabin; (BRS)- Benton Seguin; (HHS)- Harvey Spivak; (PPW)- Peter Wickham; (RPY)- Robert Yurick.

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

Abbreviations: (ad)- Alan Devoe bird club record; AR- Alcove Reservoir; EG- East Greenbush; (gc)- Green County bird club record; Gr- Greenville; Nisk- Niskayuna; NWW- Niskayuna Widewaters; SCR- Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG- Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; (sbc)- Schenectady bird club record; BBC- breeding bird count.

LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon: three adult pairs and three young Jun 25, L George (fide MK).
 Pied-billed Grebe: one report - Jul 25, 29 Gr (gc).
 Great Blue Heron: frequent reports of one to three; max ten Aug 12 VFG (RPY).
 COMMON EGRET: reported during Jul and Aug on ten different dates ranging from Jul 16 through period from four different areas.
 BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: one imm seen at Bashford Rd by Giddings Pond Aug 18 after having been heard for several weeks (ad).
 Canada Goose: an unusual report of a flock of ten led by one duck flying north in Nisk Jun 23 (RPY).
 Brant: five Jun 2 Mohawk R near NWW (WBS); and two Jun 11 near Gr (gc).

HAWKS - OWLS

Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Jun 28 Schodack (ad).
 Cooper's Hawk: three reports - scattered dates in widely separated localities.
 Red-tailed Hawk: only a total of three on the 15 BBC's; several additional reports.
 Red-shouldered Hawk: one Jul in Ghent (ad).
 Broad-winged Hawk: four scattered reports.
 Marsh Hawk: one Aug 11 VFG (HFB), and one Jul 14 Glenville (EH, RMcC).
 Osprey: reappeared Aug 3 SCR (HFB, PMcG).
 Bob-white: reported from eight areas, an apparent increase over the last two years.
 Virginia Rail: no reports.
 Sora: a pair with at least two young observed Jun 12-25, Chatham.
 Common Gallinule: reported several dates Gr (gc).
 Semipalmated Plover: one Aug 3 NWW (HHS) and one Aug 10 Round L (PPW).
 Upland Plover: reported from three areas - max eight Nisk (RPY).
 Solitary Sandpiper: one Jul Ghent (ad); one Aug 10 near Nassau (ad).

Greater Yellowlegs: one migrant Aug 5 Gr (gc).
 Semipalmated Sandpiper: four Aug 10 Round L (PPW).
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo: scarce, with a total of only three on the BBC reports, four additional reports.
 Black-billed Cuckoo: also scarce - a total of seven on BBC reports two additional reports.
 Barn Owl: one Jun 30 near Gr (gc).
 Screech Owl: on in Jul at Ghent (ad).
 Great Horned Owl: reported from four areas.

GOATSUCKERS - STARLING

Red-headed Woodpecker: a family in the same area as in the three previous summers near Gansevoort (F.W. Gubitz).
 Eastern Kingbird: migrating in moderate numbers the first half of Aug (RPY).
 Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Jun 5 Gr (gc); three Jun 9 South Horicon BBC (BRS); and one throughout Jul near Jenny L (R.Stone).
 Tree Swallow: nest Boxes at VFG showed large clutches, but fledging success was down (RPY); one albino was seen Aug 13, Ghent.
 Bank Swallow: banding carried out at four sites - Glenville Landfill, Hetcheltown Rd sandpit, Clifton Park Landfill and Lasher's gravel pit near Halfmoon yielded over 1100 birds, the birds at the last three sites named fledged on about the dates expected; Glenville began fledging Jul 2-4 and peaked a few days later, the later dates the result of digging disturbances (RPY); there was also a colony of 120 holes on Colonie (HHS).
 Barn Swallow: migrants or wanderers seen Jul 2 on in EG (PPW); one albino at Castleton (ad).
 Cliff Swallow: a colony of 15 pair first appeared at Gr, an area in which they had not nested previously, on Jul 27, an unusually late date, and had 14 nests built by Jul 30; nesting was successful, with 12 of the nests occupied and adults feeding young on Aug 15 (ad); two pairs attempted nesting at Hillsdale Jun 1 and 8, but were not successful (ad).
 Purple Martin: colony of 12 in W. Glenville increased to 30, and departed Aug 15 (RMCC).
 Winter Wren: one pair nested on a porch at Jenny L and fledged four young (C.W.Huntley).
 CAROLINA WREN: one heard singing Jul 3 EG (PPW).
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two reports - one Jun 17 Durham BBC (ad); one Aug 5 Gr (ad).
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: an unusual summer report - one heard and seen Jul 5-9 at Hillsdale (ad).

VIREOS - WARBLERS

Solitary Vireo: three reports - two Jun 9 S. Horicon BBC (BRS), a single Jun 16 Medusa BBC (gc), and a single Jul 7 Warren Co (EH).
 Warblers: Blue-winged: appears to be extending its nesting range northward - recorded for the first time near Petersburg Jun 15 (PPW).
 Parula: one Jul 7 near Pottersville (PPW).
 Yellow: migration apparent Aug 1-3 Nisk (RPY); banded 15 on Aug 4, seven on Aug 9 and 23 Aug 10 VFG (RPY).
 Myrtle: apparently increasing - on three identical BBC's, a total of eight in 1968, as contrasted to a total of two in 1967.
 Bay-breasted: two late migrants Jun 9 S. Horicon BBC (BRS).
 Blackpoll: last migrant Jun 4 Gr (gc).
 Prairie: reported from several areas including Gr Jun 5 and 8 (gc) Ghent in Jul (ad), AR Jun 20 (PPW) and a first record for an

area near Petersburg Jun 15 Petersburg BBC (PPW).
American Redstart: apparently increasing - a comparison of ten
identical BBC's showed a total of 20 in 1967, 50 in 1968.

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

Bobolink: flocks of 12 Jul 6, and 18 Jul 14 Colonie (HHS).
WESTERN MEADOWLARK: recorded for the first time in the area on
Jun 8 Ghent BBC (MDG, PPW), in a field at the junction of Co High-
way Rts. 28 and 28B Columbia County, near Kinderhook L; both
song and distinctive call notes heard numerous times; subsequen-
tly seen and heard by mob; remained until at least Jun 30 (gc).
Orchard Oriole: more reports than usual - one male, one female and
one imm seen in Late Jun Castleton (ad): one adult Glenmont
(Robert Korn); one female and one imm Westmere (Sam Madison).
Brown-headed Cowbird: a flock of 45 Aug 4 Colonie, only one indi-
vidual subsequently at Colonie for remainder of period (HHS).
Evening Grosbeak: apparently nested at Galway L - family of at
least five at feeder Aug 25 (Mildred Cray).
HOUSE FINCH: a pair appeared at the same feeder from which this
species fed during the summer of 1967, from late May on; an imm
was fed by the male on Jun 19, and on Jun 21, 22 and 23 two imm
were fed by the parents at the feeder; the family disappeared
the first part of July; a pair of purple finches raised at
least two young in this same area, and appeared at the same
feeder in Nisk, giving ample opportunity for careful comparison
(GA); also, one seen Bashford Rd, Chatham Center Jul 6 (ad);
and a female was seen with a singing male River Rd, Nisk
Jul 6 (HHS).
Pine Siskin: two individuals - a pair, or adult and imm - at Jenny
L in Jun (Barry S. Havens).
American Goldfinch: more than 100 in flock Aug 14 Gr (gc).
Grasshopper Sparrow: common in several areas of Columbia Co, at
least ten in one area (PPW): one in Castleton to end of period.
Henslow's Sparrow: one report - max three, from Jul 15-25 (gc).

* * * * *

FALL REPORTS DUE DECEMBER 5 - All members are urged to send sum-
maries of birds seen on their field trips to Mrs. F.P. Bundy,
R.D. 1, Box 55, Scotia, N.Y. 12302. The next report will cover
the period from August 16 through November 30. Reports are care-
fully reviewed by the records committee before being summarized
for FEATHERS and for the N.Y. State publication, THE KINGBIRD.
The committee does very much appreciate all material submitted.

* * * * *



NAME CHANGE

At the September board meeting two alternatives were chosen

for consideration of a new club name to be submitted for vote at the next annual meeting. One involves the choice between the wording Mohawk-Hudson or Hudson-Mohawk. The second involves the choice between Bird Club or Naturalists. These, therefore, give rise to the choice of four possible names:

Mohawk-Hudson Bird Club
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

Mohawk-Hudson Naturalists
Hudson-Mohawk Naturalists

The board was quite evenly split between proponents of "naturalists" and "bird club", the "naturalists" feeling that that name would attract a wider variety of members and encourage activities in other areas of natural history, and the "bird clubbers" holding that the name "naturalists" would be misleading for a group whose main activity is bird watching.

CONSERVATION CAMP

Thirteen-year old David Battaglia of 1121 Trinity Avenue, Schenectady was sponsored by the Club to attend the New York State Conservation Camp at Lake Colby. Pete Wickham had contacted the Schenectady Boys' Club for a candidate and found that David would be glad to go if a friend of his could also be sponsored. The Schenectady Garden Club sponsored David's friend, and Pete Wickham delivered both boys to the camp the first week in August.

DUCK DECLINE

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reports in its August-September Newsletter that North American ducks have had a "catastrophic" summer with the total breeding population down 16 percent due to a drought last winter in the nesting grounds on the Canadian prairies, which left water levels in May as low as they usually are in September. The worst affected species was the blue-winged teal whose breeding numbers were down 30 percent since 1967. Mallards, pintails and redheads were also down in numbers but there was an increase of gadwalls, widgeons and canvasbacks.

Due partly to the decline in numbers and partly to the difficulty many hunters have in distinguishing between blue-wings and other species, the special early season on blue-winged teal has been cancelled.

AUDUBON CAMP EXPERIENCE

Intrigued by an ad in AUDUBON MAGAZINE last winter, I signed up for two weeks of "vacation" at the society's camp near Dubois, Wyoming. Fifty campers, most of them teachers, varying in age from their early twenties to late sixties, engaged in an intensive outdoor program in zoology, botany, geology and ecology, with emphasis on the ecology of the area and surrounding regions. Although bird watching made up only a small part of the program, none of the instructors was averse to interrupting a class to observe such interesting species (to an easterner) as rock wren, green-tailed towhee, golden eagle, mountain bluebird and western tanager.

The camp was located at the head of a valley at 7500 feet near the continental divide, and perhaps the most unexpected sight in the sagebrush landscape were the Barrow's goldeneyes flying up and down the stream which meandered through the valley. They were

nesting in holes in the sandstone rocks on the hillsides. The only time I had seen Barrow's goldeneyes before on winter weekends off Cape Ann.

Robins, chipping sparrows and red-winged blackbirds added familiar notes to an otherwise exotic environment. In fact, it was the combination of familiar with new species that made the birding so interesting.

The National Audubon Society runs four summer camps, the others being in Maine, Wisconsin and Connecticut (Connecticut's sessions are one-week long). On the basis of my visit to Wyoming, I would highly recommend them for a stimulating and inexpensive two-week vacation.

* * * * *



DDT

DDT, now widespread in the oceans of the world, is capable of crippling the tiniest sea organisms. Scientists from the State University of New York, at Stony Brook, report experiments show that tiny amounts of DDT can disable phytoplankton, the microscopic plant of the sea.

DDT gets into the ocean by way of rivers entering the sea and from fallout from the tradewinds. It is a persistent chemical with a half-life of 10 to 15 years and it does not disintegrate but remains in the environment to be taken up by animals of the sea and concentrated by their systems into damaging amounts. The open ocean is of concern but coasts and estuaries are in the greatest danger because coastal waters are subject to the heaviest contamination.

Nine Michigan municipalities, including Lansing, East Lansing and Muskegon, have agreed to settle the lawsuit brought by the Environmental Defense Fund of New York against them in the U.S. District Court by consenting to discontinue the use of DDT for Dutch elm disease control immediately.

Meanwhile, the U.S. District Court judge in Grand Rapids filed an order adding 47 cities in eastern Michigan, including Detroit, to the EDF action. Control measures, which scientists report to be more effective than DDT are being recommended in its place.

The problem with DDT has been its tendency to accumulate over a period of time and through the process of biomagnification to bring about the loss of important segments of the living environment. --THE CONSERVATIONIST (N.Y.S.Cons. Dept.), Aug.-Sept., 1968

BENT LIFE HISTORY SERIES COMPLETE

The last of the series of life histories of North American birds has been announced by the United States National Museum. LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS, TOWHEES, FINCHES, SPARROWS, AND ALLIES is compiled and edited by Oliver L. Austin, Jr. It is in three volumes, with a color plate in the front of each.

The series is available from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. #237/Pt.1-3 1889 pages; paper, \$8.25.

Started in 1910 by Arthur Cleveland Bent, there are now 21 bulletins in the series (counting these three as one). Nineteen of the bulletins were published before Bent's death in 1954 at the age of 89. He had completed the manuscript for the 20th in 1949, and it was published posthumously in 1958.

One of the most authoritative and detailed works in ornithological literature, Bent's "Life Histories" belong in every good collection of books on the subject. Only a few of the complete original sets are available locally and no longer available at Washington, but Dover has reprinted the series.

(Issue assembled October 12, 1968)

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NORWAY-WHERE MOUNTAINS MEET THE SEA- PART II

Donald J. Tucker

The bird cliffs were an exciting place. It was never quiet, rather to the contrary, it was a noisy place of constant, sometimes almost frenzied, activity. Birds were constantly coming and going, jockeying for air and landing space. A continuous din, a cacophonous chorus, emanating from the cliff base where hundreds of thousands of kittiwakes uttered their strident cries, which welled up out of the steep canyons toward our perch at the top, as if we sat at the edge of a great amphitheatre. The players were all there: gannets, guillemots, auks, puffins and kittiwakes. The play was continuous and the entertainment was varied. The comical puffins were the clowns, the dainty kittiwakes the ballerinas, the gannets bold high divers, and the auks and guillemots platoons of soldiers in emaculate black and white dress.

The community living at the cliff was stratified. The kittiwakes began to occupy the cliffs practically within the wash of the waves and they colored the lower cliffs white from their guano, and from the sheer mass of their numbers. Every conceivable niche and ledge was taken and it seemed as if there was a great cloud of fluttering white moths hovering before the face of the cliff, simply because there was not room for all to land at the same time. Back and forth they flew, wheeling and turning, bobbing and then flying in to the ledges where they fluttered for a moment until they dropped into a narrow space often to dislodge another. The gannets also made their nests on the lower cliffs, though on broader ledges and on the flatter domes of the rocks. Their coarse croaking notes were barely audible in the discordant kittiwake chorus. One by one they would leave the cliff and fly out to sea, where they fed over a vast area. The local fishermen said that they rarely saw them feeding within ten to twenty miles of the island. Living was exceedingly hazardous for the kittiwakes and other birds which nested within the spray of the breaking waves. A storm or high seas during the nesting season could be disastrous. When that happened the lower cliffs would be swept clean and the bodies of dead birds would cover the sea. Yet the pressure to find space and to nest was so great that birds returned again and again.

The lower cliffs were also the home of the guillemots (Atlantic murre) and the razor-billed auks, though both were often seen sitting on rocky ledges near the top, whereas the kittiwakes never left the lower zone. Sitting like thousands of little soldiers, file on file, rank on rank, the guillemots and auks jammed the cliffs adjacent to the kittiwakes and crammed into niches in the walls of the caves. Many of the guillemots were the brindled form with a white slash line through the eye. Higher up were most of the puffins. They preferred the soft banks and scattered

rocks and crevices where they could dig their burrows. They too sat in rank and file by the thousands, comical orange-footed little sodiers with a huge triangular orange bill. Sometimes they stood in small groups looking out to sea. Others walked along the rocks occasionally cocking their head to one side. Perhaps after a brief caucus the group would, one by one, plummet off the cliff toward the sea below.

One evening we went with one of the local fishermen in a small boat to see the cliff from below. Up at the top we had been only a spectator, but down in the water at the threshold of the cliff we felt a part of the life, a part of the tremendous activity. The little boat bobbed and tossed in the chop. We were surrounded by birds. Guillemots and auks paddled along beside us, spattering along the surface to avoid the boat, diving and then diving again. They poured off the cliffs at our approach and the air became filled with the whirrs of wings and cries of gulls. Overhead the puffins filled the air like a huge swarm of bees, spiralling round and round, a cloud of thousands of tiny whirling missiles. A continuous stream of small groups approached from the sea appearing out of the evening haze. There were small alcids and the huge gannets returning at the end of the day. Little bands of long snakey forms flying low over the water and barely visible in the waning light headed toward the northwest side of the island where the enormous number of shags nested on a boulder strewn slope. Rounding the point of Runde Fyr, the entire slope between Kvalnes and Tendenes headlands was a sea of seething black serpents.

There were other birds at the cliff. Fulmars and an occasional arctic skua (parasitic jaeger) coursed the edge sweeping rapidly along the brink riding the updrafts. Up at the top, wheatears sang from the rocks and often flew fluttering a moment before plunging into the recesses of some precipitous canyon far below. On occasion, ravens were seen gliding on the updrafts, though we looked in vain for the white-tailed eagle which sometimes makes its home on one of the inaccessible cliffs. A few black guillemots were present too, and their small dark forms showing white wing patches were seen darting away from rocky coves. They were far less colonial in habit and nested instead in coves all along the coast.

Another day a strong southwest wind blew in off the sea. Though it was bright and sunny there was almost a gale. The wind came straight across hundreds of miles of open sea and then rammed headlong into the jutting cliffs of Branden. It funneled upward through the crevices and canyons, tremendous updraft which blasted over the brink. We could barely stand against its force and took shelter behind any rock we could find. We were fearful of approaching the edge too closely as eddies and currents pushed one way and then another, threatening to suck us off into the void. But on this day the puffins were playing. There was no other word to use. They were freefall parachutists riding the wind and updrafts, wings bent and pulled into their sides, head into the wind and their big orange webbed feet extended to the rear as rudders. They wheeled and banked, rocketing and plummeting in tremendous dives. They were undoubtedly in flight for the pure exhilaration. The whole colony was active. Little troops sat face into the wind, then suddenly spread their wings and plummeted off the cliff, caught an updraft and shot off like a missile. The auks, too, joined in, although the guillemots did not appear to be so adventurous. Often the birds sailed up near the top where the wind

blasted over the brink. Then they would hang there, head into the wind, wings pulled practically into their body, the wind buffeting them, just hanging there making only the slightest movement of a foot or wing to hold themselves suspended. We watched for a long time until we could no longer stay in the windy blast, and then we headed back toward the village. When we looked back the puffins were still playing.

On the following morning we left Runde. We had enjoyed our stay, though perhaps we were a little jealous that we could not sail in the wind like the comical puffins. As the "Sigurd" left the quay we looked back for a moment prompted by the whistle of an oystercatcher, then turned our gaze inland toward the mountains.

* * * * *

FALL BIRDING DE LUXE

Barry Havens

Accustomed as I am, over a period of nearly 40 years, to doing my birding the hard way, my experience this fall at my Jenny Lake feeding station - I like to call it my foolish little sanctuary - has made a softy out of me.

I have had much to say in the past about birding at Jenny Lake, especially since I added a pool to the "sanctuary," but my experiences this fall were a very pleasant revelation. To use a relatively recent cliché, I believe the pool added a new dimension to the environment.

During the summer the feeders (I have about a half dozen strung on a wire, including a batch of suet, to form a sort of bird cafeteria) attracted the usual avian patrons, including chickadees, both nuthatches, chipping sparrows, and purple finches as regular customers, plus erratic but heavy concentrations of evening grosbeaks, an overwhelming influx of cowbirds early in the season, and the less-frequent regulars: downy and hairy woodpeckers, jays, juncos and, briefly, pine siskins. The pool was used regularly but unspectacularly.

Come fall, however, the situation changed dramatically. I am convinced that the pool was a very important factor. It was about the middle of September when I noticed I was seeing new visitors, most of which were either drinking or bathing in the pool - or both. So, rather belatedly, I began to record their visits.

What particularly pleased me was an unusual number of warblers as transient visitors. Many of these I have long known to breed in the area, and it may well be my visitors included local breeders. But this is a matter entirely of conjecture. The records included a number of other species, subject to the same comment.

In the list that follows, I have used arbitrary number symbols to indicate the relative quantities or frequency of visit for each species. The numbers run from one to four, with one indicating a single bird making a single visit, two indicating but two or three birds total, three signifying occasional visits and four denoting more or less regular visits by several birds. In addition to the

numerals I have used three letters: "F" for visits to the feeding trays and/or suet only; "P" for visits to the pool, usually to drink but sometimes just to investigate; and "B" meaning the species bathed in the pool. The absence of a letter indicates that the bird was seen in the sanctuary area but did not visit the feeders or the pool. My personal opinion is that such visits may well have been influenced by the presence of other species that did take advantage of the "facilities."

Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	9/25
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2B	9/25. 10/8
Hairy Woodpecker	4F	
Downy Woodpecker	4F	
Blue Jay	3F	and grounds
Black-capped Chickadee	4FB	
White-breasted Nuthatch	4FB	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4FB	
Brown Creeper	2	(1B)
Robin	4B	10/17 end date
Wood Thrush	1B	9/25
Hermit Thrush	2B	10/22 end date
Swainson's Thrush	2B	10/16 end date
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2P	10/1-2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	10/26
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3F	and grounds 10/20
Solitary Vireo	3P	9/20
Red-eyed Vireo	1	9/24
Black-and-white Warbler	1	9/20
Tennessee Warbler	3P	9/25 - 10/2
Nashville Warbler	2	9/24
Magnolia Warbler	2	9/20
Black-throated Blue Warbler	3B	9/29 - 10/5
Myrtle Warbler	4FB	10/16 end date
Black-throated Green Warbler	4FB	10/9 end date
Blackburnian Warbler	2	9/20 - 10/1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	9/20
Bay-breasted Warbler	2P	9/24, 10/1
Pine Warbler	3FB	10/4 end date
Palm Warbler	1P	9/20
Ovenbird	2P	9/24
Scarlet Tanager	3B	9/29 - 10/1 mixed plumage
Evening Grosbeak	1F	10/6
Purple Finch	4FB	10/29 end date
American Goldfinch	2	9/20
Slate-colored Junco	4FB	
Chipping Sparrow	4FB	10/23 end date
White-crowned Sparrow	1F	10/25 imm. plumage
White-throated Sparrow	2	10/29

There are a number of interesting things about these records, and the highlights follow:

All the records were sight records. My hearing, once my principal means of observation, is no longer of any value.

It must be borne in mind that these are simply fall records, within the dates given, which run up to the time of leaving on October 30.

I am sure that I missed as many birds as I saw, for two reasons:

1) I could not spend all my time watching, and 2) many birds in the area did not give me an opportunity to identify them.

There were some odd misses, including veery, American redstart, brown-headed cowbird, rose-breasted grosbeak and song sparrow, all of which breed in the area. Guy Bartlett had the song sparrow as a regular visitor to his feeder throughout the summer and fall, but I never recorded it. He also had white-throats as regular customers, whereas I had but the one record.

The yellow-bellied sapsucker was the first woodpecker I have ever seen bathing in my pool - and it came to bathe only.

The gray-checked thrush and golden-crowned kinglet were exciting discoveries. They were seen under optimum conditions for observation and identification.

The white-crowned sparrow was overlooked at first, as it was in immature plumage, but it quickly became obvious that it was worthy of study. It was particularly interesting to find it feeding on the ground within a few feet of a few white-throated sparrows - a situation which I have never found before, because the birds seem normally to be found in different habitats.

Conditions of observation were almost ideal, especially for the warblers, most of which were in fall dress - although there were some resembling spring plumage. I was able to sit at the kitchen table by a window, with several field guides on the table in front of me, and study, if necessary, any doubtful species with binoculars. What a wonderful contrast to the usual warbler-neck-stretching for glimpses of the moving birds high in the trees under poor viewing conditions!

I still have no explanation for the popularity of my feeder in the fall, as contrasted to the situation in the spring, except for the theory that by the end of the summer the "sanctuary" has become well established with the regulars, and the presence of the regulars attracts migrants in the fall. Yet Carl Runge tells me that he has as many visitors to his pool in spring as in fall. Conceivably this could be explained by the fact that he maintains his sanctuary throughout the year, while mine is confined to the period from April 1 to November 1.

* * * * *

LATE NESTING OF CLIFF SWALLOWS IN GREENVILLE

Clarissa E. Ketcham

In early August 1968, while checking 4-H bird project records, a report of cliff swallows was found. A few questions and a check on the location verified the report.

A colony of at least 15 pairs of cliff swallows appeared at Birch Hollow farm, one mile south of the light in Greenville on July 27. By the 30th there were $14\frac{1}{2}$ nests. These were built on the south side of the house, under the eaves. The trim and architectural design was most suitable for the cliff swallow nests. The house is situated on a side hill above a lake, whose shores

provided the mud.

This is the largest known colony in the Greenville area. Smaller groups of three to six nests have been noted within the limits of the township, but no accurate records have been kept.

Normally these birds nest much earlier. Frank M. Chapman, in his HANDBOOK OF BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA (1940), writes: "During the nesting season these swallows are very local in distribution. They will return year after year to their rows of mud tenements beneath the eaves of some barn or outbuilding, and, although familiar birds to residents of the immediate vicinity, they may be entire strangers to those who have never had a colony of these birds settled near them."

In BIRDS OF THE NEW YORK AREA by John Bull (1964), this report is found: cliff swallow - "Rare and local breeder, formerly more numerous and widespread. Scarce where it does not breed. Flocks from a few individuals to about ten are the rule, but on rare occasions big flights take place, all in inland localities.

"Rare before April and after early September.

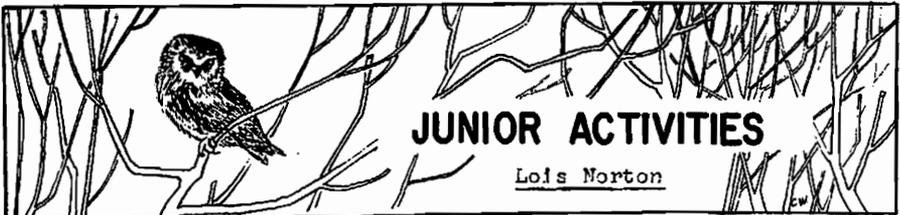
"Egg dates, May 16 to June 29.

"Nests under eaves on outside of barns or farm houses. Smooth painted surfaces make nesting difficult and discourage the swallows."

The owner of the farm noted a great deal of activity for the four days of nest building. A constant stream of birds was bringing mud to the nests all day long. After the nests were built there was noticeably less activity, except at night when there seemed to be arguments as to which bird had roosting priority within the nest. The majority of the cliff swallows left about Labor Day with only two or three individuals seen after that.

Observations were made by the author on August 3, 4, 15, 16, 23 and September 3. On August 23, with a Bausch and Lomb Balscope Zoom 60, adult cliff swallows were seen feeding others inside nests. Those inside were not observed leaving so were presumed to be young birds. On September 3 only a few (six) individuals were seen. These were perched on a wire with about 15 barn swallows.

* * * * *



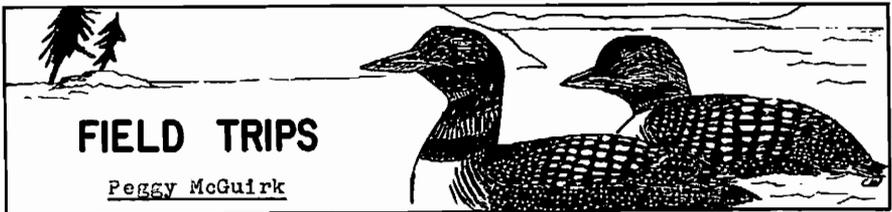
On October 10, 1968 the Rensselaer County Junior Museum report on the spring bird count was mailed to schools and groups which had taken part in the spring count. Compilers were SBC members Katherine Bordt, Mary Kilcawley and myself.

Also on October 10, the Rensselaer County 4-H office held a conservation field day at the Treczynski farm, Carroll Grove Road. About 300 sixth graders from public and private schools attended outdoor programs about water pollution, courtesy in the woods, wildlife and bird-watching (that's where SBC came in).

Youth activities committee member Jean Chenette showed bird houses, models and feeders. With these visual aids she did an excellent job of acquainting the children with the world around them. Jean was "On duty" in the field from 9 am to 1 pm. She delivered her spiel ten times to groups of about thirty children each time. 4-H director Wesley Rouse reported that this was a very successful method of teaching children about conservation of our natural resources, and thanked SBC for its participation.

SBC has purchased a series of bird slides for the purpose of aiding groups in identification. These will be available starting in January. Currently involved in writing a narration to accompany the slides are Nancy Brown, Jean Chenette, Carol Wernick and Katherine Bordt. Any other SBC members willing to show the slides in their area may contact the president or me. We are very pleased with the number of people who have already volunteered to help.

* * * * *



HUDSON HIGHLANDS

OCTOBER 12

The Hudson Highlands trip veered off course when only one person showed up. Katherine Bordt rode with us as we checked the Pleasantdale - River Road area for migrating birds. After two hours and 22 species we went to Melrose on a special excursion.

Sally and John Murphy had called me three days earlier to say there was a "nutty" nuthatch at their farm. This bird kept batting his beak against the kitchen windows about every three minutes. My son Doug had suggested that the Murphys cover the windows on the outside. They did, but it didn't help much.

When we arrived there on Saturday, "Nutty" was still at it. He would cling to the blanket John used as a cover for the windows and still kept pounding on a small patch of glass exposed in one corner. The constant banging was torture and when I saw John with his rifle, I wondered who he intended to shoot! We left the farm around noon with no solution to the problem.

The Murphys went out to dinner, which offered them only temporary respite from the bird. On Sunday "Nutty" was tapping at their window again. On Monday, John put out some suet and the nuthatch attacked it eagerly. By Tuesday "Nutty" the white-breasted nuthatch was acting normally. Do you suppose he was asking for suet all the time?
--Lois Norton

ROUND AND SARATOGA LAKES

OCTOBER 13

Both birders and birds must have taken advantage of the Columbus Day weekend as a holiday, for only four people and 29 species showed up for the Round - Saratoga Lakes trip. Activities at Saratoga Lake might have indicated August rather than October with most of the cabins occupied, an host of fishermen crowding each other and the entire sailing fleet afloat.

Saturday, when Round Lake was scouted, a group of blacks and mallards was evident, but they were absent Sunday and only a flock of pintails flew over without settling. Myrtles and a lone Canada warbler darted among the pines and the brushy areas which produced sparrows, red-wings, rusties, grackles and catbirds. The whole countryside seemed to be less hospitable than usual for "No Trespassing" signs were more plentiful everywhere, and the little house where the trip usually begins was marked by a "Beware-of-the-Dog" sign. He is probably a summer resident, for he did not make himself known.

A walk to Sandy Point was very quiet except for red-wings sounding like spring, and a pair of purple finches. The cove was bare until four pied-billed grebes were spotted sleeping and only when they roused could we be sure of their identity. The trip was abandoned at this point for it seemed useless to continue. The previous day all the likely spots for parking had been occupied by cottagers' cars and the loop at the end of the lake is now marked "No Parking!" Another year it may seem wiser to choose a later date to give the people time to leave and the waterfowl to arrive

--Betty Hicks

* * * * *

SAW-WHET NESTING

There was a saw-whet owl nesting at Tobay Sanctuary, Long Island, this past summer. Five young were reared.

RAVEN NESTING REPORTED

There was a nesting of the raven in the Adirodacks this past summer, THE KINGBIRD reports. It is the first such record in the state for many years.

NATURE CONSERVANCY ACTIVITIES

The Greenfield Center Wild Area, a 20-acre Adirondack-type swamp has been brought by Dr. Howard Skidmore College to the Eastern New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The cost of \$1510 needs to be raised for the project. The chapter also re-

ports progress toward acquisition of additional land for its Barberville Falls and Hannacroix Ravine projects.

FROM CHATHAM

Alan Devoe Bird Club, Chatham, will have three Audubon Wildlife films this season; last season there were five.

The Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary at Old Chatham had 1604 visitors from June 1, 1967 to June 1, 1968. Included were people from 16 states and six foreign countries.

WILDLIFE WATCHING

"Wildlife watching" was the most popular single recreation activity among some 15.6 million visits to national wildlife refuges last year. Use of the refuges is up 50 percent since 1962. A study a year ago reported 11 million bird watchers in the U.S. Figures like these are one answer to the kind of person who believes that nature nuts are a small bunch of freaks. The truth is there are many millions who simply enjoy the outdoors, and the number seems to be growing faster and faster. Such a large body of citizenry never needs to be apologetic about expressing its views.

-- AUDUBON OUTLOOK, July, 1968

NORTHERN BIRD RECORDS

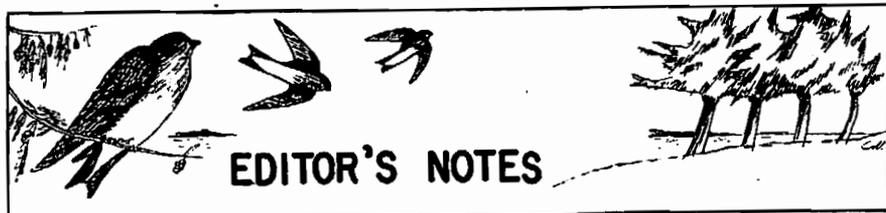
On July 5 a male cardinal was a one-day-only, but all-day, visitor at my Jenny Lake feeders. It was my first, but there have been previous occasional summer records for the species.

Breeding bird surveys June 8 and 9 in the Adirondacks indicated several locations where olive-sided flycatchers might be breeders, west of Bolton Landing and north of Northville. On the other hand, perhaps some if not all of the singers were transients.

Several species were late nesters at Jenny Lake this summer. After all the others of this year's crop of evening grosbeaks had pretty well attained their blotchy head plumage (having been around since late June and early July), a female showed up with a stubby-tailed, young male still being fed on September 3, 4 and 5.

Other September "babes" included a robin, chipping sparrow and junco.

* * * * *



GUIDE FOR MEXICAN BIRDING

Those of you who might be Mexico-bound for some birding would be interested to know about the 1968 revised edition of Ernest P.

Edwards' FINDING BIRDS IN MEXICO. The book is advertized as three times as large as the first edition and contains illustrations of 212 species with 74 exotic species in full color.

The guide covers birds by Mexican and English common names as well as scientific name, size and distribution. It is available about October 15, 1968 from the author at Sweet Briar, Va. 24595 for \$4.95 in paperback or \$6.95 in hard cover.

MOHONK PUBLISHES EDUCATIONAL RELEASE

The Mohonk Trust of Mohonk Lake at New Paltz has announced publication of Educational Release No. 1, "The Natural History of Undercliff Road." It is available at \$1 per copy from the Trust Office at Mohonk Lake, New Paltz 12561. The publication is authored by Daniel Smiley and Frank E. Egler.

The 47-page publication attractively serves as a guide to Undercliff Road, a unique nature trail. While of restricted geographical interest, the ecosystem concept of self-guiding nature walks is universally applicable, and of growing importance. Thus, the booklet's innovative features can have far-reaching usefulness.

It has been said of Undercliff Road, that probably nowhere else in America is there a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile level path across a variety of talus slopes. Here "ecosystem experiences" are available to anyone who can walk, not just to those who are physically able to scramble over jumbled rocks. Nature's adjustment to this 65-year old carriage road is part of the story. The walk is readily available from a public road.

BIRD BANDER'S DILEMMA

Possibly one of a bird bander's chief problems is obtaining a sufficient supply of birds to band. Recent advances in trap design and the advent of mist nets greatly help to provide an abundant supply of birds. Nonetheless, problems still exist. Take for instance the plight of the bander in Southeast Asia.

In Southeast Asia, as in numerous other parts of the world, migratory bird laws do not exist and birds of all kinds are regarded as food. Just as mist nets have been a boon to the bander, they have been of even greater importance to one putting food on one's table. Educating a populace to the value of their environment when the populace scrapes a bare living off that environment is an understandably difficult job. North American standards of value do not apply, and therefore North American banding aims are not well understood.

Consider a specific situation in Taiwan. In a nearly 300-page Annual Progress Report of 1966 of the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey by Dr. H. Elliott McClure of the Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand sponsored by the U.S. Army Research and Development Group for the Far East, Dr. McClure describes banding programs of various cooperators. The report of a group at Tunghai University, Taichung, Taiwan and its problem banding shrikes follows.

"The fall migration of the red-tailed shrike (Lanius cristatus lucionensis) turned out to be one of the team's major projects of the year. During the month of September, 8784 shrikes were banded in the Heng Chun area (southern tip of the island). While

banding the birds, the team was also sizing up the dimensions and importance of this mass migration in the lives of the native people. Indeed, the problem is sociological as well as scientific. Shrikes mean money to the local people. In one season, perhaps 100,000 shrikes were taken, sold by the farmer to professional bird dealers for US $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{4}$ each, then sold by the dealers at US 6¢ each (roughly US \$9000 in transactions).

"The bird team over bids the professional bird dealers and buys birds at US $3\frac{1}{2}$ each from the farmers. The price is attractive enough to the farmers to compensate for the extra trouble the team requires of them before accepting their birds. Customarily, the farmers break the jaws of the shrikes in order not to get pinched. Furthermore, the usual fashion of carrying the shrikes about is to tie them up by their feet in large, dangling masses of struggling birds, all with broken jaws. Often their legs are broken too or their muscles are so damaged that they cannot perch any more. To avoid this the team requires all birds to be brought in bags or baskets, jaws unbroken and legs in good shape.

"Shortly after the beginning of the migration the team learned that some of the farmers would take the bands off recaptured birds and present the birds to the team a second time. Or, the farmers would sell the recaptured banded birds to the professional bird dealers. Or, most simply of all, the farmers would eat the recaptured birds. Apparently shrike are very tasty to the native people. They are best when deep fried so that skull, bones, legs, feet and all can be eaten. To retrieve the recaptured shrikes from a culinary fate, the team began to buy all birds, new and recaptured, for the same price of US $3\frac{3}{4}$ each. In 1965, it may have been that 20 percent of the banded shrikes were recaptured and sold again to the professional bird dealers, eventually ending up in someone's stomach. Indeed, controlling recaptures is one of the team's biggest sociological and scientific problems to be tackled during the next fall season.

"Advertising for the shrike project and gaining cooperation is extremely difficult. First, many of the country folk can't read Chinese. Second, their mud-brick homes are oftenguarded by some of the world's most ferocious dogs who are not at all eager to read about the bird project. Third, the cooperation that is received is pecuniarily motivated rather than motivated through an understanding of the aims of the project. Regardless, the team gathered excellent preliminary data. From these data, the team will plan a definitive attack on the problem next fall. Part of the approach will be sociological: securing honest cooperation and trying to educate the people. Part of the approach will be scientific: controlling as many variables as possible, studying the relation between plumage, sex and age, and studying wave movements and length of overstay in the area."

THANKS AGAIN

As the year draws to a close, it is a pleasure to once again acknowledge with thanks the efforts of the people who are responsible for preparing these issues for delivery. They are Mildred Crary who takes care of folding and addressing the issues, and Emmy Koch who cares for the collating, stamping and sorting for mailing. She was assisted by her family, Ed and the boys, and neighbors Charlie and Bev Lamond, Ruth Schottman and Bob McCullough.

It is also time to wish our readers season's greetings and best wishes for interesting birding in 1969. To aid members in enjoying next year's birding, the field trip committee has drawn up an interesting field trip schedule for 1969. A copy of that schedule is enclosed with this issue. Put it in a handy place and refer to it often.

DUES, MEETING AND CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Dues are due! Enclosed with this issue is a notice from the treasurer for 1969 dues. Please be prompt in remitting your dues and save the treasurer the bother of reminding you by mail or telephone.

Also enclosed is a notice about the Christmas meeting on December 9th at the First Methodist Church. Plan on attending and seeing some interesting art work carved by Ed Koch.

Make an effort, too, to participate in at least one of the Christmas Counts. They are:

Schenectady, Saturday - December 21
 Southern Rensselaer, Sunday - December 22
 Troy, Saturday - December 28

(Issue assembled November 16, 1968)

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