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SCHENECTADY COUNT FEATURES -49° WINDCHILL

Robert P. Yunick

A ten-inch snowfall which began on December 15 caused rescheduling of the Schenectady Christmas Count from December 16 to 17, 1972. Somewhat expectedly there was clearing following the storm and much of the East was invaded with bone-chilling, dry Arctic air. However, there was also included a great deal of post-frontal turbulence that produced wind gusts to 40 m.p.h. at Albany Airport during the morning of the 17th. This wind, coupled with temperatures between zero and ten, produced a windchill of -49° F. at dawn. By noon there was little relief when the windchill stood at -33. Thus many a birder, and their quarry, suffered through a very uncomfortable day that taxed one's physical strength to endure hiking in the open.

Observer participation was reduced due to the unfavorable weather, and this was reflected in a count of only 41 species and 4264 individuals. No outstanding finds were recorded for the day. There was a modest showing of half-hardies headed by the fox sparrow at LaForce's feeder, and the kingfisher, winter wren, robin, meadowlark and grackle.

Winter finches were mixed with the best showing being made by the evening grosbeak and pine grosbeak. The pine siskin and purple finch were scarce, redpolls were absent, and goldfinches were generally distributed in modest numbers.

The report--

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. (42° 45' N, 73° 55' W) (15-mile circle centered at Lydius St. and Lone Pine Rd., Town of Guilderland) December 17, 6:45 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Bright and clear; temperature 2 to 12° F.; wind west to northwest, averaging 20 m.p.h. and gusting to 40 m.p.h. Ten inches of new snow atop 0-8 inches of old snow, ponds and small streams frozen with larger streams and rivers partially open. Seventeen observers in eight parties, plus LaForce's feeder reports. Thirty-nine party-hours afield (11 on foot, 28 by car); 265 party-miles (14 afoot, 251 by car). Seen in area during count period (Dec. 16 - Jan. 1) but not on count day.

KEY TO GROUPS

- Group A: Ronald LaForce, Robert Yunick. Rosendale and River Roads from KAPL to Mohawk View. 6:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. 4 hours afoot, 1 3/4 by car; 4 miles afoot, 20 by car. Ruffed grouse, Great horned owl.
- Group B: Robert McCullough, Edward Koch. North Shore of Mohawk River from Rexford to Vischer Ferry WMA. 7:45 a.m. to

1972 SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS COUNT - DECEMBER 17.

Species	Group									Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	X	
Black Duck				2	1					3
Red-tailed Hawk	2	(1)	1		1	4				9
Rough-legged Hawk			3			1	1			5
Sparrow Hawk					2	3				5
Ruffed Grouse	3									3
Herring Gull	51	13								64
Mourning Dove	28	4			7			8	131	178
Great Horned Owl	2									2
Belted Kingfisher			1							1
Yellow-shafted Flicker					1	5				6
Hairy Woodpecker	2	4	1		3	6	1	3	19	39
Downy Woodpecker	7	15	4	1	11	17	2	1	34	92
Blue Jay	13	25	12	10	20	24		3	66	173
Common Crow	162	16	400	13	13	262				866
Black-capped Chickadee	18	21	12	1	44	24	3	14	33	170
Tufted Titmouse	2		2		8	2	2		15	31
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	4	1		10	7	1	3	12	40
Red-breasted Nuthatch					4	1		1		6
Brown Creeper		1				2				3
Winter Wren					1					1
Mockingbird	1	2			1	1			1	6
Robin					1					1
Cedar Waxwing			14			4		32		50
Starling	325	15	100	150	133	56	20	17	115	931
House Sparrow	43	48	35	58	98	66	75	16	135	574
Eastern Meadowlark					1					1
Common grackle										1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1			7						9
Cardinal	16	17	5		15	6	2	3	40	104
Evening Grosbeak			20		24	60	46		42	192
Purple Finch	1						30		3	34
House Finch								4	5	9
Pine Grosbeak		16			29	32			10	87
Pine Siskin						3			4	7
American Goldfinch	3	40	10		30	11	10		78	182
Slate-colored Junco	11	3	2		10	3		2	21	52
Tree Sparrow	32	19	20		50	76		3	45	245
White-throated Sparrow	6				2				1	9
Fox Sparrow									1	1
Song Sparrow	7				4	2			4	17
Snow Bunting		(20)			35					55
Total Species	23	19	18	8	28	25	12	14		
Total Count	738	285	643	242	559	678	193	110	817	4264

11:20 a.m. $\frac{1}{2}$ hour afoot, 3 by car; 1 mile afoot, 21 by car. Numbers in parentheses for this group are sightings added by Benton Sequin as he travelled home through this area after having participated in the count in another sector.

Group C: Benton Sequin, Harry Guyon, Guy Bartlett. Watervliet Reservoir and environs, and Union College Campus.

- 8 a.m. to noon. No travel afoot, 4 hours by car; 25 miles by car. Belted kingfisher.
- Group D: Margaret Bubb, Betty Hicks. Six-mile Waterworks, Rt. 155, Albany Airport and Wade Rd., 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. $\frac{1}{2}$ hour afoot, $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours by car; $\frac{1}{4}$ mile afoot, $31\frac{3}{4}$ by car.
- Group E: Judith and Douglass Allen. Poentic Marsh, Poentickill, Mohawk River and Collins Lake. 7:40 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. 3 hours afoot, 6 by car; 4 miles afoot, 85 by car. Winter wren, robin, Eastern meadowlark.
- Group F: Samuel Madison, Douglas Merchant, Walton Sabin. Voorheesville, Black Creek, Krumkill and a small portion of Thatcher Park. 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 1 hour afoot, 7 by car; 1 mile afoot, 48 by car.
- Group G: Eleanor Byrne, Mear Healy. Scotia, Collins Lake, Schermerhorn Rd., Campbell Ave. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. No travel afoot, $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours by car; 20 miles by car.
- Group H: Elizabeth Ellis. Urban Schenectady in a.m. and Reist Sanctuary in p.m. 9 to 10 a.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. 2 hours afoot; $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles afoot.
- Group X: Feeders. Fide Douglass Allen, Laura Farrar, Dawn Force. Carolyn LaForce, Stephanie Podrazik, Anne Yunick, Carole Yunick, Suzanne Yunick; Common grackle, fox sparrow.

It is unfortunate that this report must be ended on a note of sadness. On the very day of the count, HMBC charter member and long-time Christmas Count participant Esly Hallenbeck died at his home in Scotia. He was 86. In recent years he contributed feeder reports, and prior to that was an active route observer for many years. Few people have showed as active an interest in HMBC meetings, field trips and record reporting at as advanced an age as did Esly.

Within the week we also noted the passing of charter member B.(Bud) D. Miller of Schenectady. He too was in his 80's. A one-time club stalwart who made frequent contributions to FEATHERS, his activities in recent years were somewhat limited by ill health. The support that people like Bud Miller and Esly Hallenbeck have given HMBC through the years will be missed.

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER RECORDS POOR COUNT

Monte D. Gruett

Most birders have been complaining of a lack of birds all season. Add to this a damp, foggy count day and one comes up with the poorest record for the Southern Rensselaer County Christmas Bird Count since 1967. The 1972 list numbered only 48 species, well down from the 54 species last year and the record of 63 in 1969.

1972 SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Species	Group								Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	X	
Red-tailed Hawk			1	3	3	6	1		14
Rough-legged Hawk			1		1	2			4
Sparrow Hawk	3			1	3	4			11
Ruffed Grouse		1	2	1	3	1	1	16	25
Ring-necked Pheasant	4			10	2	2		34	52
American Woodcock								4	4
Herring Gull		16		4		11			31
Ring-billed Gull						2			2
Mourning Dove	4	3	83	5	49	20	2	139	305
Barn Owl								1	1
Screech Owl						4			4
Great Horned Owl		1			2			1	4
Yellow-shafted Flicker				2				1	3
Pileated Woodpecker		1				1			2
Hairy Woodpecker	4	3	2	3	6	2	1	36	57
Downy Woodpecker	6	5	9	18	21	15	3	56	133
Horned Lark		15					30		45
Blue Jay	20	10	72	34	32	15	17	164	364
Common Crow	15	25	22	161	28	10	2	17	280
Black-capped chickdee	47	12	37	32	58	15	25	203	429
Tufted Titmouse				3	1	2	2	19	27
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	7	2	9	12	3	1	60	97
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6			2				9	17
Brown Creeper	2	1		2		2			7
Mockingbird		1						5	6
Robin								5	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2			2	1	2		2	9
Cedar Waxwings		8						2	10
Starling	82	350	182	690	284	*	100	412	12,100
House Sparrow	45	40	461	54	139	75	40	243	1,097
Eastern Meadowlark		9				2			11
Red-winged Blackbird				55				1	56
Brown-headed Cowbird		20		4		3	2	6	35
Cardinal	4	11	5	17	5	6	3	69	120
Evening Grosbeak	47		154	7	89	20	50	443	810
Purple Finch				1				12	13
House Finch								6	6
Pine Grosbeak	34		11		5		50	17	117
Common Redpoll					3	2		2	7
Pine Siskin	25						6	4	35
American Goldfinch	40	6	6	24	17	50	25	142	310
White-winged Crossbill					40				40
Slate-colored Junco	5	2	10	2	3	3	16	91	132
Tree Sparrow	20	5	1	70	12	12	40	144	304
White-throated Sparrow				1	1	1		18	21
Swamp Sparrow					3				3
Song Sparrow		1		14	5	3		26	49
Snow Bunting				1					1
Total Species	21	24	18	31	27	31	21	35	48
Total Individuals	418	553	1061	1235	825	10296	417	2410	

*Albany Roost Count of 10,000

Grand Tot. 17,215

The most significant decrease in a common bird population appears to have occurred with the tree sparrow. Only 304 were counted; many years have produced over one thousand. Significant low numbers were also detected in the cases of horned lark and black-capped chickadee.

But life also has its brighter moments, the cases in point being the brightly colored pine and evening grosbeaks. These two species and the white-throated sparrow nearly doubled all previous records. Evening grosbeaks numbered 810 and were more numerous than any other species except starling and house sparrow. A flock of 55 red-winged blackbirds were discovered near the Hudson River by Drs. Connor and Trever. Other interesting and unusual reports were Mrs. Gardner's four woodcock and the barn owl at Mrs. Middleton's.

We would like to sincerely thank all of the field participants listed on the tally sheet and the following feeder observers: Noel Albertson, Mrs. Addie Ashline, Joseph Baum, Fred Bordt, Walter Buble, Mrs. Clarissa Carabateas, John Carlson, Robert Christiansen, Mrs. Marguerite Clickner, Mrs. Muriel Danahy, Mrs. Robert Don, Mrs. Bette Gardner, Mrs. Edna Gorman, Mrs. Floyd Grandjean, Mrs. Donna Gruett, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hall, Mrs. Helene Hargrave, Mrs. Rolf Jensen, Robert Johnson, Herb Lange, Mrs. Louise Leshner, David Messer, Mrs. Harold Middleton, Miss Alice Mohl, Helmut Neumann, Mrs. Philip Sandberg, Mrs. Gladys Saupe, William Thielking, Mrs. Mary VanAuken, Oscar Widstrand and Mrs. and Mrs. David Wood.

The count area complies with a standard set by the Audubon Society and consists of a circle 15 miles in diameter, centered in Best at the intersection of Highway 152 and Best-Luther Road. Included are East Greenbush, North Greenbush, Sand Lake, Rensselaer and parts of Troy, Poestenkill, Nassau, Schodack and a narrow belt of Albany County west of the Hudson River.

The weather on count day (December 23) was foggy and overcast, temperature about 35-40°, wind calm. There was about 2 inches of old snow. Ponds were mostly frozen and streams mostly open.

KEY TO GROUPS

- Group A: Town of Sand Lake, northern Nassau. Richard Phillion, Tom Phillion and Greg Meisner. 2 miles afoot, 63 miles by car; 1 hour afoot, 7 hours by car.
- Group B: Glenmont. Robert Korns. 4 miles afoot, 20 miles by car; 2½ hours afoot, 1½ hours by car.
- Group C: Poestenkill area. James Covert, Robert Covert, Donald Bermas, Glenn Bermas and Mitchel Ten Eyck. 32 miles by car; 6 hours by car.
- Group D: Western East Greenbush, western Schodack. Paul Connor and Karl Trever. 3 miles afoot, 48 miles by car; 4 hours afoot, 6 hours by car.
- Group E: Eastern East Greenbush, southern North Greenbush, north-eastern Schodack. Samuel Madison and Monte Gruett. 5 miles afoot, 50 miles by car; 3½ hours afoot, 6½ hours by car.

- Group F: Northwest East Greenbush, Rensselaer. William Gorman and David Gorman. 6 miles afoot, 60 miles by car; 5 hours afoot, 6½ hours by car.
- Group G: Southeast Schodack, southern Nassau. Edgar Reilly, Jr. and Edward Cummings. 2 miles afoot, 55 miles by car; 1 hour afoot, 5½ hours by car.
- Group X: Feeder Reports. Total of 32 feeders.

TROY ADDS MONK PARAKEET AND SHRIKE

Samuel Madison and Douglas Norton

A comparatively mild day (16° to 34°), absence of wind and an overcast sky all contributed to a high species count of 56 (47 last year and 58 the year before). Two new species for the count were recorded, a Loggerhead Shrike (well observed by five individuals) and a Monk Parakeet with nest on Hakes Road near Eagle Mills.

Pine Grosbeaks were numerous, being seen by all field parties. Both red and white-winged crossbills were observed. Mockingbirds held their own (eight) and Cardinals continued to increase (177 from 116 last year). A total of 6,278 birds were seen of which 1,517 were recorded at feeders. A total of 14 field observers in 6 parties traveled 287 miles (22 by foot and 265 by car) and spent 49 party-hours (17 by foot and 32 by car).

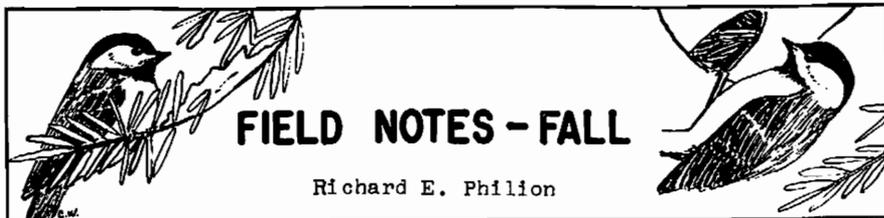
KEY TO GROUPS

- Group A: Tomhannock area. Monte Gruett, William Gorman, Richard Philion, Richard Goldman.
- Group B: Center Brunswick area. Paul F. Connor.
- Group C: Mohawk View, Colonie. Ronald LaForce.
- Group D: Lower Saratoga County. Walton B. Sabin.
- Group E: River Road, east and west side of Hudson; south and north of Hoosic from Hudson to Schaghticoke. Samuel R. Madison, Frances Adams, Elizabeth F. Washburn.
- Group F: Melrose area, Speigletown to Schaghticoke. William W. Shuster, William C. Shuster, Nancy D. Shuster, Douglas J. Norton.
- Group X: 26 feeders phoned in to Lois Norton.

NOTICE: Membership cards for HMBC are no longer given out each year. Your cancelled check is your receipt. If you paid your membership in cash, a receipt can be requested.

1972 TROY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Species	Group							Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F	X	
Great Blue Heron					1			1
Mallard					90			90
Black Duck					214	2		216
Lesser Scaup					4			4
Common Goldeneye					2			2
Goshawk	1	1			1		1	4
Cooper's Hawk		1						1
Red-tailed Hawk	4	3	3	3	4	24	1	42
Rough-legged Hawk		1	1	3				5
Marsh Hawk						1	1	2
Sparrow Hawk	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	8
Ruffed Grouse	5							5
Ring-necked Pheasant							47	47
Herring Gull					6	1	2	9
Ring-billed Gull					132			132
Mourning Dove	4	101	3	11	22	19	76	236
Screech Owl						1		1
Great Horned Owl						2		2
Barred Owl						1		1
Long-eared Owl	2							2
Yellow-shafted Flicker		1			2	1		4
Pileated Woodpecker	1						1	2
Hairy Woodpecker	9	6	3	1	3	4	13	39
Downy Woodpecker	16	13	7	21	10	15	25	107
Horned Lark	3			38		30		71
Blue Jay	35	38	12	68	30	78	72	333
Common Crow	70	42	13	4	3	160	11	303
Black-capped Chickadee	75	41	26	45	17	37	106	347
Tufted Titmouse				4	3		13	20
White-breasted Nuthatch	17	6	2	3	7	15	25	75
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5			1			11	17
Brown Creeper	5				1	2		8
Winter Wren	1							1
Carolina Wren							1	1
Mockingbird	1		3			1	3	8
Robin					5			5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	21		5					26
Loggerhead Shrike						1		1
Starling	37	78	110	82	826	100	214	1447
House Sparrow	92	105	50	139	152	105	479	1122
Brown-headed Cowbird							3	3
Cardinal	12	20	8	21	29	20	67	177
Evening Grosbeak	84	104	4	3	151	43	161	550
Purple Finch		3			1	3	4	11
Pine Grosbeak	22	65	18	55	3	24		187
Common Redpoll							2	2
American Goldfinch	35	31	2	10	25	14	44	161
Red-Crossbill					10			10
White-winged crossbill					35			35
Slate-colored Junco	6	6	1	5	14	8	39	79
Tree Sparrow	27	35	6	29	12	54	70	233
White-crowned Sparrow	1							1
White-throated Sparrow	1	2	1		5	1	12	22
Song Sparrow	1				2		2	5
Snow Bunting	40			5			9	54
Monk Parakeet							1	1
Total Species	30	23	21	22	35	30	32	56
Total Count	633	704	279	552	1825	768	1517	6278



FIELD NOTES - FALL

Richard E. Philion

The latter half of August was characterized by alternating high and low pressure centers which resulted in predominately cloudy conditions over the region, but only a trace of rainfall. A low temperature record of 41 degrees was set on the 16th (Albany Airport weather station). The trend continued into September when a cold front swept the area from the 21st to the 25th. Coincident with the front was a noticeable wave of thrushes, vireos, and warblers cresting perhaps on the 23rd when a new low temperature record of 35 degrees was set. Precipitation for the month was 1.99 inches compared with a monthly normal of 3.58 inches.

Thoughts of an Indian summer dimmed in October as four new low temperature records were set and four more equalled previously low records. The mean temperature for the month was 45 degrees, 5 degrees below normal, while an early frost arrived on the 2nd and a hard freeze occurred on the 21st (17 degrees). Precipitation for the month was 3.60 inches, 0.83 inches above normal with a grand total of 2.61 inches falling on the 7th. Only a trace of rain fell over the next three weeks which may have accounted for the spate of shorebird activity noted at that time.

By November the trend was well established as colder than normal temperatures prevailed and the area was greeted with its first severe winter-like storm on the 15th when a total of 17 inches of snow accumulated at the Albany Airport. Along with the winter weather an unprecedented invasion of pine grosbeaks is possibly under way, but nearly absent from the landscape are the redpolls and pine siskins which inundated the region last year.

Less commonly reported species for the period include LITTLE BLUE HERON, BALD EAGLE, TURKEY, MONK PARAKEET, WHITE-EYED VIREO, and the first report in 13 years of a YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.

Observers cited are: DA-Doug Allen; WA-W. Applegate; JC-Juanita Cook; CMPY-refers to banders at VFWM:J. Covert, W. D. Merritt, R.J. Pantle, R.P. Yunick; MF-Mable French; B&HG-B&H Gardina; A&MG-A&M Giddings; WG-William Gorman; EH-Esley Hallenbeck; RM-R. McCullough; MM-M. Mickle; PM-P. Mickle, Jr.; RP-R. Philion; S&RS-S&R Silverman; H&BT- H&B Tullar; M&WU-M&W Ulmer.

Abbreviations: ADBC-Alan Devoe Bird Club; A&B Res- Alcove and Basic Reservoirs; AP-Averill Park; HGRS-Harold G. Reist Sanctuary; HMBC-Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club; T Res- Tomhannock Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common loon: 4 Nov 5 A&B Res (HMBC); 3 Nov 18 T.Res (HMBC). Red-throated loon: 13 Nov 5 A&B Res (HMBC); 1 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). Red-necked grebe: 1 Nov 5 T Res (RP);

1 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). Horned grebe: 12 Oct 29 T Res (RP); 6 Nov 5 A&B Res (HMBC). Pied-billed grebe: 4 Sept 30 Mariaville (HMBC); 2 Nov 5 Reichard's Lake (RP); 2 Nov 12 T Res (RP). Great blue heron: 1 Oct 21 HH (HMBC); 1 Oct 29 T Res (RP). Green heron: Sept (ADBC); 1 Oct 16 Chatam (A&MG). LITTLE BLUE HERON: 1 Oct 10 and 14 seen in immature plumage on Mitzeskill Creek (JC). Black-crowned night heron: 1 Sept 30 ADBC Sanctuary (WA). American bittern: 1 Oct 21 Stuyvesant (RP). Canada goose: flocks of up to 500 toward the end of Oct (ADBC). Snow goose: 1 Oct 25 Hillsdale (PM Jr). Pintail: 4 Nov 3 Mariaville (DA). Green-winged teal: 12 Oct 29 T Res (RP). American widgeon: 1 Oct 2, 5, 15, 21 Hudson R (JC). Wood duck: 3 Sept 30 Mariaville (HMBC); 1 Nov 5 A&B Res (HMBC). Redhead: 3 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). Ring-necked duck: 12 Nov A&B Res (HMBC). Canvasback: 1 Nov A&B Res (HMBC). Scaup: Oct 15, 18 Chatham (MM); 20 Nov 24 L George (RP). Common goldeneye: 8 Nov 5 T Res (RP); 1 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). Bufflehead: 3 Nov 5 T Res (RP); 1 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). Oldsquaw: 5 Nov 5 A&B Res (HMBC); 1 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). Common scoter: up to 80 Oct 15, 16, 19, Queechy Lake (MM); 3 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). Ruddy duck: 2 Nov 5 A&B Res (HMBC); 15 1st week of Nov Mariaville (DA); 1 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). Hooded merganser: 10 Oct 29 T Res (RP); 12 Nov 5 T Res (RP). Common merganser: Oct 5 Hudson R (JC); max 35 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). Red-breasted merganser: 12 Oct 29 T Res (RP); 4 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). HAWKS-OWLS: Turkey vulture: 1 Sept 5, 11, 22 Chatham and Ghent (H&BT, B&HG, Nov-ADBC). Sharp-shinned hawk: 1 Oct 21 HH (HMBC); Nov (ADBC). Red-shouldered hawk: 1 Sept 6 & 29 Chatham (H&BT). Broad-winged hawk: 1 Sept 24 Chatham (H&BT); 1 late report Nov 14 Chatham (H&BT). Rough-legged hawk: 1 Nov 23 Easton (RP). BALD EAGLE: 2 adult on HR above Warrensburg and an immature on Schroom River near Warrensburg (Browers and Camerons); 1 unidentified eagle flying over to the south on Oct 18 (MM). Marsh hawk: 1 Oct 9, 29 Chatham & Castleton (A&MG, JC, & M&WU). Osprey: 1 fm 1 Oct 23 Merwin Pond (M&WU). American coot: 1 Sept 22 Chatham (H&BT); 5 Nov 16 Ooms Pond (MM). TURKEY: 1 Nov 28 Ghent (B&HG). American woodcock: max 12 Oct 29 feeding on shores of Galway Lake (RM & EH). Common snipe: thru period. Spotted sandpiper: 1 fm 1 Oct 5 Castleton (JC). Greater yellow-legs: max 13 Oct 20 Rennselaer (RP); 1 fm 1 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). Lesser yellow-legs: 1 Oct 19 Mariaville (DA); 3 Oct 21 Stuy (RP). Pectoral sandpiper: 1 Nov 5 A&B Res (HMBC). White-rumped sandpiper: 1 Nov A&B Res (HMBC). Dunlin: 12 Oct 24, 29 T Res (RP); 1 fm 7 Nov 5 A&B Res (HMBC). Semi-palmated sandpiper: max 6 Oct 24 and 1 fm 1 Nov 5 T Res (RP). Black-billed cuckoo: 1 banded Sept 9 VFWM (CMPY); 1 Oct 6 Chatham (M&WU). Barred owl: 1 Nov (ADBC). Screech owl: 1 Oct 4 Chatham (M&WU); 1 Oct 22 AP (RP). Great horned owl: 1 lost from banding net on Sept 24 VFWM (CMPY); 1 Nov 12 E Greenbush (WG). Saw-whet owl: 1 banded Oct 22 VFWM (CMPY). GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: chimney swift: 2 Aug 26 HGRS (HMBC). Common nighthawk: 2 Sept 12 Mariaville (DA). Ruby-throated hummingbird: much soarer at VFWM this year with 32 banded vs 96 last year; 1 fm 9 Sept 23 banded at VFWM (CMPY). MONK PARAKEET: min 2 from late summer thru Nov Niskayuna; description of bird and nest given to RPY. Red-headed woodpecker: 1 Oct 10 Mariaville (DA). Black-backed three-toed woodpecker: 1 Nov 11 near Rock City Falls (Mildred Cray); 1 Nov 12 thru 26 Albany (LT). Eastern kingbird: 1 fm 1 Oct 10 E Greenbush (WG). Great crested flycatcher: 1 fm 1 banded Sept 15 VFWM (CMPY).

Eastern phoebe: 1fm 1 Sept 30 ADBC Sanc. (WA). Traill's flycatcher: 1fm 1 Sept 9 banded VFWM (CMPY). Least flycatcher: max 7 banded Sept 9 and 1fm 1 Sept 23 VFWM (CMPY). Eastern wood pewee: 1fm Sept 11 Chatham (B&HT). Olive-sided flycatcher: 1fm 1 Sept 15, 17 Mariaville & Thatcher Park (DA). Tree swallow: 1fm Oct 10 Ghent (B&HG). Rough-winged swallow: 1fm 1 Sept 11 Chatham (H&BT). Cliff swallow: 1fm 1 Sept 12 Ghent (B&HG). Tufted titmouse: reported thru period. House wren: 1fm 1 Oct 1 (H&BT). Winter wren: "increase noted at VFWM-30 banded vs 13 last year and max of 18 in 1969" (RPY). Brown creeper: thru period. Long-billed marsh wren: 6 Sept 17 BCM (DA). Mockingbird: scattered reports thru period. Catbird: max 49 banded Sept 23 VFWM; 1fm 1 banded Oct 15 (CMPY). Brown thrasher: 1fm 1 Oct 15 Chatham (A&MG). Robin: "increase over last year at VFWM" (RPY); 300 Nov 5 A&B Res (HMBC). Wood thrush: "New max of 52 banded at VFWM vs 38 last" (RPY); 1fm 1 Oct 15 Castleton (H&BT). Hermit thrush: "scarcer than last year at VFWM-35 vs 60" (RPY); 1fm 3 banded Oct 22 VFWM (CMPY). Swainson's thrush: "2nd highest at VFWM 109 vs 132 last year" (RPY); 1fm 6 banded Sept 30 (CMPY). Gray-cheeked thrush: "only 1 at VFWM vs 4 in 1971" (RPY); 1fm 1 banded Sept 30 (CMPY). Veery: much reduced-only 10 banded vs 23 last year; 1fm 1 Oct 9 Castleton (JC). Eastern bluebird: best reports in years; 10 Oct 22 Mariaville (DA); max 35 Sept 17 along roadside in Glenville (EM & EH); 1fm 1 Oct 30 Ghent (Stephen Scannell). Golden-crowned kinglet: 6 Nov 5 A&B Res (HMBC); 8 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). Ruby-crowned kinglet: "new max of 45 banded at VFWM" (RPY). Water pipit: 1 Oct 24 S Schodack (JC); 25 Nov 2 Castleton (JC). Cedar waxwing: "scarce at VFWM only 18 banded vs 149 in 1971" (RPY); max 50 Oct HH (HMBC). Northern shrike: 1 Nov 26 Ghent (B&HG). VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Vireos: WHITE-EYED: 1 Aug 16 Hillsdale (S&RS). Yellow-throated: 1fm 1 Sept 17 Altamont (DA). Solitary: 1fm 2 banded Oct 15 VFWM (CMPY). Red-eyed: "greatly reduced at VFWM-only 23 banded vs 90 in 1971" (RPY); 1fm 2 banded Sept 23 VFWM (CMPY) and 1 ADBC Sanc (WA). Philadelphia: "reduced from 15 in 1971 to 7 this year" (RPY); 1fm 1 banded Sept 30 VFWM (CMPY). Warbling: 2 banded at VFWM vs 9 last year; 1fm 1 Sept 16 banded at VFWM (CMPY). Warblers: black-and-white: 1fm 1 Oct 12 freshly killed West Sand Lake (RP). Tennessee: 1fm 1 banded Sept 23 VFWM (CMPY). Nashville: 1fm 1 banded Oct 14 VFWM (CMPY). Yellow: an unusually late date 1 Oct 13 Chatham (H&BT). Magnolia: "new max 64 vs 52 last year VFWM (RPY); 1fm 3 Oct 1 Mariaville (DA). Cape May: max 10 Sept 8 Mariaville (DA); 1fm 1 Oct 3 ibid. Black-throated blue: 1fm 1 banded Sept 29 VFWM (CMPY). Myrtle: "scarcer than previous years- 14 banded vs 35 in 1971" (RPY); max 50 Sept 30 Mariaville HMBC (DA); 1fm Oct 30 AP (RP). Black-throated green: max 15 Sept 8 Mariaville (DA); 1fm 1 Oct 4 Ghent (B&HG). Blackburnian: 5 Aug 26 HGRS (HMBC). Chestnut-sided: 1fm 1 Oct 9 Castleton (JC). Bay-breasted: 6 Sept 8 Mariaville (DA). Blackpoll: "reduced to normal levels at VFWM-banded 8 vs 208 last year" (RPY); 1fm 15 Sept 8 Mariaville (DA). Pine: 1fm 1 Nov 16 seen at suet feeder Castleton (JC). Prairie: reported Sept (M&WU). Palm: 1fm 1 Oct 5 Ghent (R&HG). Ovenbird: "new max of 19 vs 15 at VFWM banding" (RPY); 1fm 1 Oct 19 Castleton (JC). Northern waterthrush: "36 banded at VFWM lowest in 5 years" (RPY); 1fm 1 Sept 22 VFWM (CMPY). Mourning: 1fm 1 Sept 30 Mariaville (HMBC). Yellowthroat: 1fm 2 banded Oct 22 VFWM (CMPY). Wilson's: normal at VFWM. Canada: 1fm 2 Sept 23 VFWM (CMPY).

American redstart: "scarcest in 4 years-9 banded vs 17 in 1971" (RPY); 1fm 1 banded Sept 23. BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Eastern meadowlark: 4 Nov 30 Mariaville (DA). YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 Nov 27 Loudonville a female seen feeding among a flock of brown-headed cowbirds (MF). Baltimore oriole: 1fm 1 Sept 17 Ghent (B&HG). Rusty blackbird: large flocks Oct 14 Chatham (H&BT). Scarlet tanager: 1fm 2 banded Sept 23 VFWM (CMPY). Rose-breasted grosbeak: 5 banded Sept 23 VFWM (CMPY); 1fm 1 Oct 18 Castleton (JC). Indigo bunting: 1fm 1 Sept 26 Ghent (B&HG). Evening grosbeak: reported from mid-Sept but heard continuously thru Oct; early Nov at many feeders. Purple finch: "late nesting produced abundant crop by late summer- total of 633 banded; migrants appeared in mid-Oct and then became scarce" (RPY). House finch: no longer considered a rarity in our region; several at feeder in Scotia Nov (DA); thru Nov Kinderhook (K.Endres). Common redpoll: very scarce 1 report of 30 Nov 14 Chatham (MM). Pine grosbeak: 1fm 3 Nov 12 AP (RP); small numbers at Jenny Lake Nov 18 becoming more abundant thereafter (RPY). Red crossbill: "summer's abundance dispersed by Aug heard in modest numbers thereafter; very common in flight overhead in Nov" (RPY); 1fm Sept 8 Ghent (B&HG). White-winged crossbill: 1 Nov 5 A&B Res (HMBC). Rufous-sided towhee: 1fm 1 Oct 7 E Greenbush (WG). Savannah sparrow: 1fm 1 Oct 3 Ghent (B&HG). Vesper sparrow: 1fm Nov 5 A&B Res (HMBC). Slate-colored junco: early movement noted. Chipping sparrow: 1fm 1 Nov 17 at feeder Albany (LT). Tree sparrow: 1fm 2 Oct 21 (HMBC). Field sparrow: 1 Oct 21 HH (HMBC). White-crowned sparrow: 1 Sept 23 ADBC Sanc (WA); 1 banded Oct 15 & 22 VFWM (CMPY). White-throated sparrow: "total of 520 this year vs 844 last year but new 1 day max of 221 on Oct 14 between 3 pm and dark" (RPY). Fox sparrow: 1 banded Oct 22 VFWM (CMPY); 1 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC). Lincoln's sparrow: 1fm 2 banded Sept 30 VFWM (CMPY). Swamp sparrow: "scarcest in 8 years at VFWM" (CMPY). Snow bunting: very scarce 1 Nov 18 T Res (HMBC).

A GATHERING OF RAPTORS

Robert P. Yunick

In the eight seasons previous to last winter, I had never had the occasion to catch a hawk in the banding operation I carried out in my yard. Last winter that situation changed quite interestingly with the capture of four hawks and the "gift" of a fifth from a neighbor. The gathering of raptors was the result of an enormous concentration of redpolls and siskins about the feeders. The raptors, in turn, were feeding on the flocks of these unsuspecting northern mites.

The first hawk was caught in very daring fashion on the morning of April 8. At dawn, it was too cold for me to operate mist nests, so I began banding using my traps. While I was processing a catch of birds on the porch, other birds were flocking to the traps. In glancing out at the traps occasionally, I caught a glimpse of an accipiter stooping on the captives of one of the traps. After two passes, the bird flew off. The redpolls and siskins in the trap were excited and were not settling down, indicating that the hawk must still be nearby.

I was very disappointed for not having had my nets out earlier, for with a bird or two in the net I probably could have attracted the accipiter. I grabbed a net and dashed out the door with the intent of putting it up and placing some of the birds in it. Interestingly enough, the captives in the trap were excited with good reason--in the maple tree in the next yard sat the hawk! Quickly I worked at putting up the net and as I did so, I sensed that the birds in the nearby trap were becoming excited all over again. As I glanced back, a kestrel dashed by after having made a pass at the trap. The accipiter still sat in the maple as the kestrel came to rest in a tree in the opposite neighboring yard. Before I could get the net in place, the kestrel attacked again. This time it was successful in grabbing a redpoll through the trap mesh and pinning it in the corner of the trap. It then adeptly reached under a gap in the corner of the trap with its other foot and began extracting the redpoll. I ran toward the bird and came almost in reach of it when it finally secured the redpoll and flew off with its prey.

Unpleased by this loss, I finished setting the net for the accipiter. I took four redpolls from the trap and began to place them in the net as bait. I fully expected to be able to return to the house and watch the hawk's attack. Little did I know that as I was placing the fourth bird in the net, the accipiter was already airborne pressing its attack, for as the fourth bird went in the net and I began to turn, I heard the unmistakable thrashing of feathers in the net. I turned back quickly and in the net was the hawk! In disbelief, I glanced back at the maple where it had been, and it was there no longer.

This bird had passed within two feet of me to attack the first redpoll I had put in the net. Pressed by hunger this bird had behaved very boldly indeed. The attack, of course, was foiled by the net and the redpolls went unharmed. I quickly secured the large female sharp-shinned hawk which was as defiant in the hand as she had been bold in her attack.

On the porch I put the hawk in a holding case, completed setting out the rest of the nets and returned to the processing of the redpolls and siskins at hand. In time there were redpolls and siskins in the nets, and shortly the kestrel returned for a second meal and it too was captured. It was a female also. I banded and released both hawks. Not long after release, the kestrel was in the net again. Figuring that this bird might become a persistent pest at the nets, she was packed into a bag and given to my wife who was just leaving on a trip with her girl scouts to be taken to Troy for release.

At lunch time the telephone rang and a woman a few blocks away told me that a pigeon hawk and starling had come down her chimney into the fireplace, and she wanted to know what to do. I packed our two-year-old into the car (I was babysitting) and dashed over to her house. Several months earlier her son had brought me a dead Cooper's hawk that had flown into their garage window. There in their livingroom fireplace, the hawk, a kestrel and not a merlin had just laid hold of the starling's head. Both were soot-darkened. Before the shocked and concerned audience, I reached in and secured both birds and freed the excited starling from the kestrel's powerful grip. Back at home both birds were banded and released. The starling, for which I had had little hope on release from the kestrel's grip was seemingly back to normal in short order.

On the next morning, I netted a male kestrel as it came after a redpoll in the net. On the eighteenth I caught another male, bringing the total to five hawks banded in a little over a week.

On April 15, I witnessed an attack that demonstrated what easy prey these birds at the feeder are for a kestrel. Early that morning there were 35 redpolls in the birches in the yard. I watched them waiting for them to descend to the trap to feed. Out of the corner of my eye I caught sight of an attacking kestrel gliding across the yard with nary a flap of the wing. Instantly the bird struck a redpoll and pinned it to the tree branch, firmed up its grip and flew off with it. A very few of the redpolls flew off in fright. The others sat calmly in place and paid little heed to the attacker.

This behavior was quite different from that which I had witnessed when I had occasion to release the previously banded hawks. Each time I released one in the yard, there were redpolls and siskins nearby. As the hawk flew to a nearby perch, the redpolls and siskins would flock toward it and scold it, as though there were some security to be gained by the confusion evoked by the flock. Admittedly the hawk's attack on the perched bird had been swiftly and expertly enacted, however, the birds seemed content to see the hawk fly off with its prey, and there was no excitement nor tendency to flock him. Perhaps the sight of the hapless victim in the clutch of the hawk evoked this uncaring attitude from its former flock mates. Perhaps these birds recognize a prey-satisfied hawk as no danger and do not bother it, whereas any other hawk is recognized as a hawk on the hunt and thus the defensive flocking action.

"FREEZING" FLORIDA

Douglas Merchant

In the last two weeks of February, my wife and I took a quick tour of some of Florida's fabulous birdlands. We arrived to find temperatures varying from 10° to 20° colder than usual even in the southern tip of the state. Also it seemed as though half of New York State was in Florida those two weeks, causing havoc with some of our plans for sleeping. Nonetheless it was a fine trip with a number of new species for us both.

Merritt Island was our first stop. Arriving late one afternoon we spent 2½ hours picking up 38 species, including an immature bald eagle, many white and glossy ibis, a number of brown and white pelicans, and a black rail. The rail flew from a patch of marsh practically to our feet while we were watching a Virginia rail in the fading sunlight. The black rail halted long enough for us to get a deciding look at his beak, size and coloring before he disappeared into the reeds with the Virginia rail.

The next day brought us to the first of several moving eagle sightings in Florida. Following the ranger's tip, we approached an eagle's nest. Two adults and an immature were in the vicinity. One flew from a tree in front of us. The magnificent white head and tail made him instantly identifiable. The huge nest was nearby and we could observe the eagles for some time. It made my wife happy. No need to look again for a "Mississippi eagle" or "bald kite" (see previous FEATHERS article, "South in the Summer?"). Following the tips of other birders we took in some ocean dune areas and got our first and only dusky seaside sparrow. (We were lucky with rare species for the most part this trip). We saw several

scrub jays here, the only ones we saw on the whole trip. Royal and Caspian terns, the black skimmer, marsh hawks, osprey, and a hawk that remarkably resembled an Everglade kite, and, of course, a 16 foot grinning alligator rounded out a trip nicely. The kite-like bird didn't hang around long enough to be identified for sure. No record of an Everglade kite have even been noted for Merritt and the case of this being one is highly unlikely. (Walt: it was not a marsh hawk!). We totaled 64 species for the refuge.

We really fell in love with the Everglades which netted us 8 new species, three possible rarities, 11 species of heron, beautiful glimpses of flocks of roseate spoonbills, and four more adult eagles and one immature bald. Even our only day and night of rain during the two weeks didn't dampen our feelings for this area.

In the midst of mudflats on Florida Bay we saw to good advantage four white herons among countless Wilson's and semi-palmated plovers. Again following tips of fellow birders we tracked down a painted bunting in the rain. In that same day we logged our first white-eyes vireos and ground doves. While viewing the great white herons with friends, a second stroke of luck brought a Cape Sable sparrow close to us for a nice view.

The flights of white ibis and roseates in the mornings and evenings over the sewage reservoir pool were magnificent. Framed against dark clouds with the setting sun painting their feathers an irridescent pink, the spoonbills just took your breath away.

Unverified species seen in the area were a Swainson's hawk, a short-tailed hawk, and near Homestead, a spotted-breasted oriole. A total of 66 species were recorded here.

In the interior glades we saw limpkin, another eagle, and a nesting barred owl. A wait in an area where the Everglade kites had been seen several days running produced nothing but the limpkins, some osprey, and the omnipresent grackles.

Sanibel Island was our next extended stopover, just getting into the island's only campsite. "Ding" Darling Refuge got us several new birds including the mottled duck, snowy plovers, sandwich terns, and a flamingo. Eighty-one species were seen here including 6 white-rumped sandpipers. If verified, this could mean a new species for the refuge, we believe.

A caracara and burrowing owls reported in the vicinity were unavailable, but yet another bald eagle was seen, bringing our total count to ten new species for the trip.

Myakka State Park brought us no new species but it was a delightful park. An hour's boat ride with a well-informed birder for a captain was informative and enjoyable. No turkeys were seen as we had hoped, but many wild pigs (and piglets), were seen. Four species of woodpeckers were seen here: downy, flicker, pileated, and the red-bellied.

Some comments on the overall trip are in order. Thousands of coots and hundreds of turkey and black vultures were seen on the trip. Boat-tailed and common grackles were also abundant. Warblers observed were abundant myrtle warblers, black-and-white, yellow, cerulean, prairie, palm, pine and many yellowthroats. Our favorite "voice" of the bird world was the fish crow which sounded like a crow with extreme laryngitis and whose "oh-oh" call reminded us of a child's exclamation after spilling the milk. Another nice part of the trip was to observe the various herons developing breeding plumage, particularly the pinfeathers of the white egrets. One remembers soberly that thousands of egrets were killed for these once, as was Audubon warden Guy Bradley while trying to arrest a poacher.

Finally, the species man, was observed in his glory and in his wickedness. Pollution--industrial, visual, automotive, personal,

corporate--was again everywhere. In many restaurants and public areas we heard debated again the battle between progress and environmental issues. Yet, there were the birders and just plain Americans we met who were kind, friendly, thoughtful and sharing. And to me there was hope shown in one incident in the Everglades one of the times we stopped to observe an eagle drying its wings not far off the roadway. A literal traffic jam occurred as people stopped to watch the eagle. The gist of conversations heard led me to believe that people are fearful of losing the eagle--not because it's a part of the ecological chain, not because it's the national symbol, though that may be part of it. It was the impending loss of a fellow creature who shares this beautiful globe with us. I began to hear the faint notes of realization that the creature has rights of survival restricted only by the nature of things. And perhaps somewhere deep within each person we respond with a Donne-like note: "Each man's (creature's) death diminishes me. . .do not ask for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee. . ."



EDITOR'S NOTES

CONDOR PROTECTION

The U.S. Forest Service has won the thanks of conservationists for forbidding anyone to carry firearms (much less use them) in the Sespe California Condor Sanctuary and a surrounding buffer zone. The lead article in the October issue of American Birds is a full-scale status report on the rare condors; the estimate is that between 50 and 60 are left.

DESTRUCTION BY SNOWMOBILES TO CONTINUE?

On Feb. 8th, 1972, the President issued an Executive Order directing Federal agencies to develop and issue within 6 months administrative regulations to control the use of off-road vehicles (including snowmobiles, motor bikes, all-terrain vehicles, dune buggies, etc.). In late May the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation issued a wishy-washy draft environmental impact statement for the Dept. of the Interior. Since then, the statement has disappeared from public view and is reported to be still sitting in the Office of Management and Budget. So once again the snowmobiles, etc., will have virtually free access to our national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, and Bureau of Land Management lands. There is only a patchwork of mostly spineless regulations to control them. Meanwhile, motorcyclists and other abusers of the public lands have been flooding the White House with letters opposing controls of off-road vehicle use, apparently with some success. Conservationists should remind the President that his deadline is long passed. It should be made known to him that the public does not want its land abused and its wildlife harrassed by thoughtless recreationists. Recreation needs and regulation are not mutually exclusive.

SOME ECO-TACTICS

Ways to aid recycling: use recycled products. Write governments, industry, schools, urging them to use secondary materials. Consume less and don't buy products excessively packaged. Take your own grocery bags to the store with you when you shop.

AUDUBON MOVES TO REDUCE RAPTOR ELECTROCUTION

More and more eagles, hawks, and owls are being found electrocuted by power lines, largely in the west--300 eagles were found to have died this way in the last 3 years--and this pattern can only intensify with the population's as yet undiminished power demands unless precautions are taken. However, the utilities have joined with the National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Federation to do just that, partly because the birds can cause power disruptions for an entire community. Over past months, thanks to citizens and Audubon members, reports of dead raptors found near power lines or poles, some utility companies have been able to take corrective measures, and guidelines for new line construction are now being circulated to the private and public utility companies. Large land-holding Federal agencies are also establishing criteria for power lines built across their lands.

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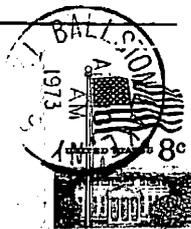
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CENTURY RUN FEATURES KING RAIL

Robert P. Yunick
Compiler

The highlight of HMBC's 28th consecutive Century Run on May 19, 1973 was undoubtedly the occurrence of a king rail at Black Creek Marsh, and the ease with which people located and observed the bird. This is only the third Century Run record for the species. Previous sightings had occurred in 1951 and 1948.

Otherwise it was a count featured more by its lack of birds than by its discovery of rarities. Only 148 species were recorded on the composite list by 18 observers in six groups. With no new species added, the composite list still stands at 232 species plus two hybrids. Both the species count and the number of observers were reduced over similar counts of recent years.

The weather no doubt had an adverse affect on the occurrence of migrants. Two days before, record late snowfalls began to blanket central New York. The Schenectady area escaped the snow by only a few degrees because frontal advance stalled before getting here, however, the abundant rain caused some localized flooding. Our banding operation was flooded out of the Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area the night before the count due to rapidly rising water that created flood conditions resembling those which sometime occur in March.

Some observers complained about having to work extra hard to collect their species lists. Nonetheless, three groups exceeded a count of 100, and 116 was the top count. Among some of the rarer finds were the fifth reports for brant, short-billed marsh wren, and orchard oriole; the seventh report of Bonaparte's gull and the eighth report for lesser yellowlegs. Missing was Traill's flycatcher and reported in low numbers were reports by only one group for ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, upland plover and yellow-billed cuckoo. Only six species of waterfowl were reported.

PARTICIPANTS AND AREAS - the following is a list of the participants, the areas that they covered, and the species seen by that group only.

Group A - Gus Angst, Bill Lee and Bob McCullough. 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. 87 species. Short-billed marsh wren and ruby-crowned kinglet.

Group B - David Liebers and Andrew Wilson. Near Avon Rd. and Steinmetz Memorial Park in Schenectady. 5:30 to 11 a.m.
48 species.

Group C - Guy Bartlett. Jenny Lake and Corinth. 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. 57 species. Ruffed grouse and yellow-sapsucker.

Group D - Bill Gorman, Paul Connor and Monte Gruett. Vosburgh Marsh, Basic Reservoir, Meadowdale, Indian Ladder, Schodach, Niskayuna Widewaters and Saratoga Lake. 115 species. Marsh hawk, Bonaparte's gull, whip-poor-will, Eastern wood pewee, blue-gray gnatcatcher and vesper sparrow.

Group E - Judy and Douglass Allen. Lower Hudson, Vosburgh Marsh, Stockport Station, Castleton Marsh, SUNY Campus, Vischer Ferry, Stony Creek, Mariaville, Indian Ladder, Altamont and Black Creek Marsh. 113 species. Semipalmated sandpiper, barred owl and water pipit.

Group F - Walton B. Sabin, Samuel R. Madison, Hollis Ingraham, Robert Korns, Carl Parker, Benton Seguin and William Huntley. 116 species. Ring-necked pheasant, upland plover, lesser yellowlegs, common tern and yellow-billed cuckoo.

Thanks are again due Guy Bartlett for the loan of summary material on past Century Runs.

CENTURY RUN -- MAY 19, 1973 -- 148 SPECIES

Common Loon		def	Greater Yellowlegs	a	f
Great Blue Heron		def	Lesser Yellowlegs		f
Green Heron	a	def	Least Sandpiper		def
Least Bittern		def	Semipalmated Sandpiper		e
American Bittern	a	d f	Herring Gull	a	def
Canada Goose	a	def	Ring-billed Gull		def
Brant		d f	Bonaparte's Gull		d
Mallard	a	def	Common Tern		f
Black Duck	a	def	Black Tern	a	d f
Blue-winged Teal	a	def	Rock Dove		b def
Wood Duck		def	Mourning Dove		abdef
Turkey Vulture	a	f	Yellow-billed Cuckoo		f
Red-tailed Hawk	a	def	Screech Owl		de
Broad-winged Hawk		c e	Great Horned Owl		c e
Marsh Hawk		d	Barred Owl		e
Osprey		de	Whip-poor-will		d
Sparrow Hawk	a	def	Common Nighthawk		ef
Ruffed Grouse		c	Chimney Swift		cdef
Ring-necked Pheasant		f	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	abc	f
King Rail	a	def	Belted Kingfisher	a	cdef
Virginia Rail	a	def	Yellow-shafted Flicker		abcdef
Sora	a	def	Pileated Woodpecker	a	cde
Common Gallinule	a	def	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	c	f
Killdeer	a	def	Hairy Woodpecker		abdef
American Woodcock	a	def	Downy Woodpecker		abcdef
Common Snipe		de	Eastern Kingbird	a	def
Upland Plover		f	Gr. Crested Flycatcher		abdef
Spotted Sandpiper	a	def	Eastern Phoebe		abcdef
Solitary Sandpiper		def	Least Flycatcher		abcdef

Eastern Wood Pewee	d	Cape May Warbler	a d f
Horned Lark	ef	Black-thr. Blue Warbler	b ef
Tree Swallow	a cdef	Myrtle Warbler	a cdef
Bank Swallow	a def	Black-thr. Green Warbler	a cdef
Rough-winged Swallow	a def	Blackburnian Warbler	bcd f
Barn Swallow	a cdef	Chestnut-sided Warbler	ab def
Cliff Swallow	def	Bay-breasted Warbler	a ef
Purple Martin	def	Blackpoll Warbler	def
Blue Jay	abcdef	Prairie Warbler	ef
Common Crow	abcdef	Ovenbird	abcdef
Black-capped Chickadee	abcdef	Northern Waterthrush	def
Tufted Titmouse	ab ef	Louisiana Waterthrush	def
White-breasted Nuthatch	abcdef	Yellowthroat	abcdef
Red-breasted Nuthatch	abcd	Wilson's Warbler	e
Brown Creeper	c f	Canada Warbler	abcdef
House Wren	ab def	American Redstart	abcdef
Long-billed Marsh Wren	a def	House Sparrow	abcdef
Short-billed Marsh Wren	a	Bobolink	a def
Mockingbird	a def	Eastern Meadowlark	a def
Catbird	abcdef	Red-winged Blackbird	a cdef
Brown Thrasher	a def	Orchard Oriole	e
Robin	abcdef	Baltimore Oriole	abcdef
Wood Thrush	abcdef	Common Grackle	abcdef
Hermit Thrush	cde	Brown-headed Cowbird	abcdef
Swainson's Thrush	b d f	Scarlet Tanager	ab def
Veery	abcdef	Cardinal	ab def
Eastern Bluebird	def	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	abcdef
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	d	Indigo Bunting	ab def
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	a	Evening Grosbeak	a cd f
Water Pipit	e	Purple Finch	a c e f
Cedar Waxwing	a c e	House Finch	b e
Starling	abcdef	Pine Siskin	c e
Yellow-throated Vireo	d f	American Goldfinch	abcdef
Solitary Vireo	bc f	Red Crossbill	c.
Red-eyed Vireo	abcdef	Rufous-sided Towhee	a def
Philadelphia Vireo	a f	Savannah Sparrow	def
Warbling Vireo	a def	Grasshopper Sparrow	de
Black-and-white Warbler	abcdef	Vesper Sparrow	d
Worm-eating Warbler	a de	Slate-colored Junco	odef
Golden-winged Warbler	e	Chipping Sparrow	abcdef
Blue-winged Warbler	de	Field Sparrow	a def
Tennessee Warbler	d f	White-crowned Sparrow	d
Nashville Warbler	b d f	White-throated Sparrow	abcdef
Parula Warbler	de	Swamp Sparrow	a cdef
Yellow Warbler	abcdef	Song Sparrow	abcdef
Magnolia Warbler	b d f		

LAND FOR POSTERITY

A comprehensive guide on how to donate land to public or private organizations for preservation and outdoor recreation is now available for interested persons. Though written for the Connecticut resident, it can serve as a useful guide to anyone considering a donation of this kind. Write Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection, 539 State Office Bldg., Hartford, Conn. 06115. It's free!



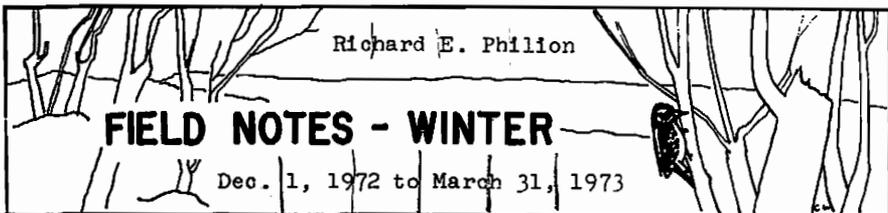
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Libby Ellis

Fifty-nine attended the annual meeting of HMBC, held on February 26th, and 26 new members were voted into the club. Highlights of the meeting included the naming of Guy Bartlett as an honorary life member, and a display of bird prints donated to the club by Lillian Stoner, a long-time member who is moving to Florida. Two of the prints are by Audubon; an elephant folio of the wild turkey and a black-and-white print of the Canada goose. Mrs. Stoner also gave three prints by Rex Brasher to the club.

New officers elected, besides myself, included Robert L. Marx, Vice-President; Ruth Saulsbury, Secretary, and Ronald LaForce, Treasurer. Following the business meeting, Bob Marx presented a delightful and challenging slide and sound show entitled "Field Trip".

I am most happy to report that Marion Ford has volunteered to serve as chairman of the Sanctuary Committee. She has presented the Board with a well-conceived outline for gradual development of the Reist tract, and she and her committee have already begun work on the existing trails; she is also constructing three wooden signs to place at the Sanctuary entrances. Marion would be glad to have volunteers to help with the tasks of trash removal and trail improvement.



In retrospect the winter of '73 was about as moderate and open as one can hope in this section of the northeast. The mean temperature for the month of December was 28.9° or 2.4° above normal while the high and low temperatures were 52° (6th) and 1° (17th) respectively. Snowfall was above normal for the month ($22.5''$) yet by the end of the month, during the Christmas count period only 2 - 5 inches of snow remained. Larger streams and the Hudson river remained open through most of the winter but waterfowl were not present in unusual numbers.

January was 4.3° above normal and set two record highs for a change, 53° on the 16th and 59° on the 18th. Snowfall was 11.2 inches or 5.9 inches below normal and about the same as February.

A low temperature of -21° was recorded February 18th but again record highs were set in March on the 8th (64°) and 17th (69°). Only a trace of snow was measured at the Albany airport for the month and most lakes were open by the 15th.

Half-hearted species such as Carolina wren, robin, red-winged blackbird, common grackle, white-throated and field sparrows to mention a few wintered in the region. On the other hand the winter finch population was a mixed bag. Pine grosbeaks appeared everywhere but at the backyard feeder, but redpolls and pine siskins were dramatically reduced from last year while other boreal species went unreported.

Notables for the period include a late **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**, **PEREGRINE FALCON**, **MONK PARAKEET** and a **RED-HEADED WOODPECKER**.

Observers cited are: A&TB-A. & T. Brown; JC-J. Cook; MF-Mabel French; B&HG-B. & H. Gardina; M&AG-M. & A. Giddings; WGG-W. G. Gorman; MM-M. Mickle; RP-R. Phillion; EP-E. Powell; BW-B. Waite; WBS-W. B. Sabin; RPY-R. P. Yunick.

Abbreviations: ADBC-Alan Devoe Bird Club; CC-Christmas Count including ADBC, Schenectady, Southern Rensselaer and Troy; HR-Hudson River; TR-Tomhannock Reservoir; WSL-West Sand Lake.

LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon: 3 Mar 25 TR (RP).
 Horned Grebe: 1 Mar 25 TR (RP).
 Pied-billed Grebe: 3 Mar 15 HR (JC).
 Great Blue Heron: 1 Dec 30 TCC; 1 Feb 21 Schodack Ctr. (JC);
 3 Mar 15 HR (JC).
 Canada Goose: 11 Dec 7 Queechy Lake (ADBC); 16 Mar 4 HR (B&HG);
 max 150 Mar 24 HMBC.
 Mallard: total of 112 from regional CC reports.
 Black Duck: total of 226 from regional CC reports.
 Pintail: fsm 2 Mar 4 HR (A&TB); 5 Mar 24 (HMBC).
 Green-winged Teal: fsm 2 Mar 4 HR (A&TB); 12 Mar 24 (HMBC).
 Blue-winged Teal: fsm 10 Mar 25 HR (JC).
 American Widgeon: 1 Mar 4 HR (A&TB); 5 Mar 24 (HMBC).
 Wood Duck: 3 Mar 24 (HMBC).
 Redhead: fsm 55 Mar 24 seldom seen in such number on HR (HMBC
 & MM).
 Ring-necked Duck: fsm 10 Mar 18 Castleton (RP); max 45 Mar 24
 (HMBC).
 Canvasback: 1 Feb 1 HR (A&TB); max 60 Mar 24 (HMBC).
 Scaup: 4 Dec 30 (TCC); max 200 Mar 24 HR (MM).
 Common Goldeneye: total of 4 on CC's; max 40 Mar 25 HR (JC).
 Bufflehead: 5 Mar 25 TR (RP).
 Common Merganser: 1 Feb 1 HR (A&TB); 4 Mar 25 TR (RP).
 Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Mar 24 (HMBC).

HAWKS - OWLS

Goshawk: 1 Dec 16 WSL (RP); 4 Dec 30 TCC; 1 Feb 8 Altamont (BW).
 Cooper's Hawk: 2 from regional CC reports.
 Red-tailed Hawk: total of 79 from CC reports.
 Rough-legged Hawk: total of 17 from CC reports; 1 Mar 16 Rensselaer (RP).
 Marsh Hawk: total of 3 from CC reports; 1 Mar 24 (WGG).
PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 Mar 16 Altamont (BW).

Sparrow Hawk: total of 33 from regional CC reports.
 Ruffed Grouse: total of 38 from CC reports.
 Ring-necked Pheasant: total of 99 from CC's alone - double last years total.
 Killdeer: absent Jan and Feb.
 American Woodcock: 1 Feb 27 Colonie (WBS).
 Great Black-backed Gull: 3 ADBC CC; fsm 6 Mar 24 HMBC.
 Herring Gull: total of 117 from CC reports.
 Ring-billed Gull: total of 136 from CC reports.
 Mourning Dove: impressive total of 823 from CC's alone.
 Screech Owl: total of 5 from CC reports.
 Great Horned Owl: total of 9 from CC reports.
 Snowy Owl: only 1 report this year 28 Dec Valatie (M&AG & MM).
 Barred Owl: 1 Dec 30 TCC; 1 Feb 23 Altamont (BW).
 Long-eared Owl: 2 Dec 30 TCC.
MONK PARAKEET: a single bird with nest near Eagle Mills seen by several people on TCC.

GOATSUCKERS - STARLINGS

Belted Kingfisher: total of 6 during CC period.
 Yellow-shafted Flicker: total of 26 from CC reports.
 Pileated Woodpecker: total of 6 from CC's.
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: 1 immature at feeder thru Jan Ghent (B&HG) (MM).
 Eastern Phoebe: fsm 1 Feb 20 Delmar fide (WBS); several reports late March.
 Horned Lark: max 465 ADBC CC.
 Blue Jay: total of 1030 from CC reports.
 Black-capped Chickadee: less abundant than last year.
 Tufted Titmouse: total of 94 from CC reports.
 Red-breasted Nuthatch: more abundant than last year, total of 34 from CC reports.
 Winter Wren: 2 from CC reports; 1 Mar 28 Altamont (BW).
 Brown Creeper: total of 18 from CC reports.
 Carolina Wren: 1 caught in squirrel trap at time of TCC; 1 Mar 24 (HMBC).
 Mockingbird: present in good numbers, total of 20 from CC reports; 3 Jan 8 Indian Ladder (BW).
 Catbird: 1 Dec 28 Chatham (B&HT).
 Brown Thrasher: 1 ADBC CC.
 Robin: total of 22 from CC reports; fsm starting around March 11.
 Hermit Thrush: 2 Feb 18 E. Greenbush (WGG); 2 reports Mar 11 1 banded Schenectady (RPY).
 Eastern Bluebird: 4 Jan 1 Altamont (BW); fsm 1 Feb 28 Albany fide (WBS).
 Golden-crowned Kinglet: total of 41 from CC reports, up from last year.
 Cedar Waxwing: total of 105 from CC reports yet appeared to be scarce by mid-winter.
 Northern Shrike: 1 ADBC CC; 1 Mar 9 Ghent (ADBC).
MIGRANT SHRIKE: 1 seen by many on TCC.
 Starling: abundant.

VIREOS - SPARROWS

Myrtle Warbler: 1 Mar 24 (HMBC).
 Eastern Meadowlark: total of 46 from CC's.
 Red-winged Blackbird: total of 64 from CC reports.
 Rusty Blackbird: 1 ADBC CC.
 Common Grackle: several reports thru winter.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 127 from CC reports down from last years total.

Cardinal: total of 427 from CC reports.

Evening Grosbeak: surpassed last years total - 1670 from CC reports.

Purple Finch: reported in good numbers - total of 74 from CC reports.

House Finch: 26 banded Schenectady during period - much more numerous this winter (RPY); CC totals 15; 2 Dec 3 Loudonville (MF).

Pine Grosbeak: total of 431 from CC reports - fed largely on sumac panicles thru winter becoming scarce in March.

Common Redpoll: total of 10 from CC reports - a striking contrast to last years abundance.

Pine Siskin: 42 from CC reports; max 100 Feb 26 Queechey (MM).

American Goldfinch: 724 from CC's; abundant thru period especially at feeders.

Red Crossbill: 10 Dec 30 TCC; returning flocks seen in early Mar (RPY).

Slate-colored Junco: 379 from CC totals.

Tree Sparrow: numbers down from previous years - total of 985 from CC's.

Field Sparrow: scattered reports of wintering birds.

White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Dec 30 TCC; 1 Mar 17 Hudson (J. Silvermail).

White-throated Sparrow: many wintered; total of 72 from CC.

Fox Sparrow: 1 Dec 17 SCC; 1 Mar 17 Chatham (EP).

Swamp Sparrow: 3 Dec 23 SRCC.

Song Sparrow: total of 84 from CC's.

Snow Bunting: total of 113 from CC reports; 13 Feb 19 (BW).



ROUND LAKE AND SARATOGA LAKE

DECEMBER 2, 1972

A small group of birders left frozen Round Lake behind them, to see what awaited them at Saratoga Lake. Saratoga Lake was not frozen over, and our first stop was a prelude as to what we would see throughout the day. Goldeneyes, common loons, common mergansers, and mallard ducks were all prevalent. At stops made around the lake, bufflehead, coot, and ring-billed gulls were added to our list. On the far shore, we spotted Canada geese, which we wanted to check out, but the bridge at the north end of the lake was not open to traffic, so we took a very profitable detour, which yielded pine grosbeaks.

Then the biggest find of the day, a northern shrike, was seen by Ron LaForce and Bill Shuster, while I puzzled over a non-descript large hawk in a far tree. A great day of birding was had by all.

--Ed Koch

ANNUAL STATE WATERFOWL COUNTJANUARY 14, 1973

The 1973 Federation Waterfowl Count was held on Sunday, January 14th. The weather was sunny and pleasantly mild for mid-January. The Hudson was surveyed from Corinth to the Troy-Green Island area and from Stockport to Germantown; the Mohawk from Fonda to Cohoes. The section from Schenectady to Fonda was done by aerial survey on January 13th by Doug Allen. Fish Creek was surveyed from Saratoga Lake to the Hudson. The Kinderhook was surveyed from Malden Bridge to Kinderhook Village.

As usual there were flocks of several hundred black duck and mallard near the Green Island Dam. Other species reported from various locations in small numbers were Canada goose 8, common goldeneye 16, bufflehead 3, common merganser 8, red-breasted merganser 12. There was one female ring-necked duck in the Hudson at Lock 2 (just south of Mechanicville). Ring-necked duck is not listed on the official tally sheet sent from the Federation. So I assume this was an unusual sighting.

--Paul Grattan

CAPE ANN-PLUM ISLANDJANUARY 20-21, 1973

On Saturday, January 20, 1973, a group of 19 HMBC birders left Gloucester to cover the coast of Cape Ann. It was raining lightly early in the morning but stopped shortly before 8 a.m. We went north to Plum Cove. It became quite windy and somewhat difficult watching the common eider, common goldeneye, and buffleheads off shore. We stopped at the cemetery near Folly Cove and watched our annual screech owl sitting in a hollow in a tree. At Halibut Point we moved behind a cottage to get out of the wind. We found a red-necked grebe, Iceland gull, and purple sandpiper. At Andrew's Point we watched the purple sandpipers at close range and found a black guillemot. Near Rockport a Harbor Seal added variety to our observations.

The weather started to turn bad and it was snowing by the time we got to Good Harbor. We stopped for lunch and then covered Boss Rocks. At Brace Cove we found three Iceland gulls, a killdeer, and a sanderling. By the time we got to Eastern Point, a gale warning was flying and it was difficult even leaving the cars. We made a quick stop at Stage Fort Park, but visibility was so poor we decided to call it a day.

On Sunday it was clear and cold. We went first to Hammond's Castle and found a few land birds in addition to some of the more common water birds. We ran up to Anisquam looking for a western tanager which was reported seen there a few days earlier. We did not find it so we made a quick trip to Andrew's Point, but found only the more common birds. We then went directly to Plum Island where we found a snowy owl, rough-legged hawk, and some horned lark. We went north to the river inlet where two black-headed gulls and several Iceland gulls were found in a flock of Bonaparte's gulls. A thick-billed murre was also found in the inlet and common and red-throated loons were seen near the jetty.

After a quick lunch we drove up the river where we found oldsquaw and ring-billed gulls. At the coal yard we looked for Bar-

row's goldeneye. Suddenly across the river about 2000 starling and a large group of gulls took off all at once. One of the "gulls" left the flock and with a slow flapping and soaring flight flew to a tall tower where it landed. When viewed with a scope it was observed to have a light colored head with no whisker or face markings. Just then a Barrow's goldeneye was spotted and attention was directed toward it. Only one of the group watched the hawk as it took off making a diving swoop over a wooded swamp area. The hawk was observed to be a light colored falcon larger than a crow that flew rapidly with a slow strong wing beat. Identification was regarded as a very probable gyrfalcon. We crossed the river and checked the area, but only found a red-tailed hawk. We moved on to Salisbury but added no new birds to our list. We called the weekend over and headed home after a successful trip that netted 46 species and at least one life bird to most of the group.

--William Gorman

LOWER HUDSON

MARCH 24, 1973

The lower Hudson had special charm this year. We had been following it since mid-winter, watching the gulls ride the ice cakes in February and the Canada geese rest on the sandbars in mid-March. Red-tailed hawks and crows which dominated the marshes in the winter gave right of way to the redwings later, so it was no surprise to see many of the latter on our field trip to Stockport.

On that golden morning it was heartening to have the canvas-back the duck of the day. A Carolina wren, seen only by the elite, and the brown creeper with its warbler-like spring song ranked with the myrtle warbler for interesting land birds. Since it was really a threshold spring day there were not many other small birds to account for. Probably the greatest pleasure from them came from the songs of the several cardinals and song sparrows.

Included in the count of 41 species were pintail, green-winged teal (emerald flashing), American widgeon, wood duck, redhead, ring-necked duck, scaup, common goldeneye, red-breasted merganser, red-tailed hawk and killdeer.

It might be interesting another year to follow up the duck trip with a second check in early June. I'd like to drive straight down to Stockport to arrive at the marshes beyond the trestle at about 8 o'clock (making a breakfast break instead of a lunch snack), perhaps to find warblers, wrens, herons, and small water birds. Any takers?

--Beverly Waite

UPPER HUDSON

MARCH 31, 1973

Eight persons showed up for the Upper Hudson Field Trip, three of whom were new members. The day was hazy at first but by noon there was sunshine, and with the sun came a "plethora" of hawks. We saw 4 red-tailed hawks at one time soaring over Pinewoods Road

and also a red-shouldered and 2 sparrow hawks were seen. We had a total of 30 species which included a long-billed marsh wren, 3 eastern phoebes and our first hermit thrush, but not many water birds, just a few mallards, herring gulls and many ring-billed gulls. At 1 p.m. we called it a day and some of the members went over to help out at our Sanctuary. Have you been there yet?

--Lois Norton

MONTEZUMA WILDLIFE REFUGEAPRIL 7, 1973

Eleven of us enjoyed the trip to upper Lake Cayuga and Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. The weather varied from clear to cloudy. The wind was only 5-10 mph and the temperature remained in the forties. Due to the recent heavy rains the water was high and several area roads were inundated and impassible.

Most of the geese had left for their Canadian nesting grounds. We estimated only 32,000 Canadas, 400 snows and 600 blues. The ducks were few in numbers but twenty species were seen. Perhaps the best sighting of the day was 16 great blue heron seen flying northward from the hill on the northwest side of the Refuge. The species total was 54.

--Samuel R. Madison

WILSON M. POWELL WILDLIFE SANCTUARYAPRIL 15, 1973

Fifteen people and one baby on her father's back found this a perfect spring day for a birdwalk. The sun shone warmly on us as we peered through the blind at the pond in the sanctuary and caught glimpses of ring-necked ducks and scaup, and better views of mallards flying. A walk through the wooded part of the sanctuary yielded chickadees, brown creepers, and woodpeckers (flicker, sapsucker, downy and hairy); and after a fair wait on Dawson's Rocks overlooking the Hudson Valley to the misty Catskills, a turkey vulture and 2 red-tailed hawks were seen. The feeder at the sanctuary entrance provided us with evening grosbeaks, nuthatches and juncos, and the ever-present chickadees. A few tree swallows swooping over the fields reinforced the feeling of spring.

MEADOWDALE PANCAKE BREAKFASTMAY 12, 1973

More than forty people participated in one or more of the Club's planned activities on the morning of May 12th. At 6 a.m. eighteen people started on the Meadowdale field trip. The virtue of early rising was not their only reward, they were treated to a spectacular view of a sora and a yellow-breasted chat. And once a king rail and a least bittern were seen in the field of the telescope at the same time. At 8 a.m. still another group left for their walk down the tracks. The chat showed off well for these birders, too. In addition they added a blue-winged warbler to the list having heard his call.

At 10:30 a.m. thirty-eight hungry members and their families (which included two of the high chair set) gathered for the annual HMBC Pancake Breakfast held this year at the Tom Sawyer

Motor Inn. Good birding continued even on the grounds of the Inn. There all could see a pair of house finches though these latter were not included on the official list. The complete list for the morning totaled 65 species.

--Audrey Madison



AUDUBON FILMS ANNOUNCED

The dates and titles for the Audubon Film Series has been announced. All films will be shown at Niskayuna High School.

October 3, 1973	Tom Sterling Twentieth Century Wilderness
December 4, 1973	John D. Bulger Wild Tennessee
January 22, 1974	Jim Hammond Malheur: Marsh, Meadow and Mountain
February 27, 1974	Robert E. Fultz Acadian Reflections
March 26, 1974	Walter H. Berlet West Side Story

Allan Cruickshank Retires: An author, photographer, lecturer, and teacher who boundless enthusiasm has awakened countless numbers of his fellow countrymen to an interest in birds and the outdoors has retired after thirty-seven years on the staff of the National Audubon Society. Allan D. Cruickshank taught ornithology for twenty-two summers at the Audubon Camp of Maine; his wildlife photographs, have appeared in hundreds of newspapers, magazines and books, including his own books and those co-authored with his wife, Helen, and his movies have long been among the most popular on the Audubon Wildlife Film circuit (he'll finish out this season's film-lecture commitments). For his "outstanding service to ornithology" he was awarded at Ithaca, N.Y., The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Arthur A. Allen Medal.

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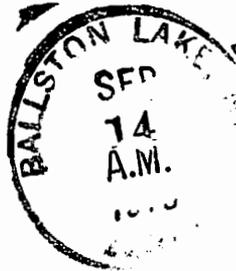
Art Editor: Carol Wernick

MEMBERSHIP: Sustaining \$10; Active \$5; Student \$2: \$1 per additional family member. Membership chairman: Mrs. E.L. Thomas, 37-B Fuller Road, Albany, New York 12205.

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THERE'VE BEEN SOME CHANGES MADE

Barry Havens*

How's your life list? Chances are it's suddenly become somewhat smaller, for some recent changes made by the American Ornithologists' Union include several cases where two or more species have been combined into a single species. However, the shrinkage is just a little bit offset by a couple of expansions: a single species has become two. In addition, there have been many name changes; either the common name of the species has been changed or the Latin designation altered. How much all this affects you will depend on the extent of your experience; the bigger your life list and the greater area your birding has covered, the more you will be affected. Here are the details.

FULMAR: Now NORTHERN FULMAR.

PALE-FOOTED SHEARWATER: Now FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER.

SLENDER-BILLED SHEARWATER: Now SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER.

PETRELS: With two exceptions, these are now called STORM PETRELS. The exceptions are the BLACK-CAPPED and BERMUDA PETREL. The genus of the BLACK STORM PETREL has been changed from Loomelania to Oceanodroma.

HERONS: The GREAT WHITE HERON and GREAT BLUE HERON are now conspecific; that is, instead of two separate species, they are now the same species - and the Latin species name has been changed to Ardea Herodias for both birds.

EGRETS: The COMMON EGRET is now the GREAT EGRET, and the Latin name of the SNOWY EGRET is now Egretta Thula.

WOOD IBIS: It's now officially the WOOD STORK.

GEESE: The SNOW and BLUE GOOSE are now conspecific, with the Latin designation Chen Caerulescens.

TEAL: The COMMON TEAL has been made conspecific with the GREEN-WINGED TEAL, bearing the name of the latter. The Latin designation is Anas Crecca.

WIDGEON: It's now spelled WIGEON (like Pigeon), and the Latin genus designation has been changed from Mareca to Anas.

* With the help of Guy Bartlett's Auk and AOU Checklist.

- SHOVELER: It's now the NORTHERN SHOVELER, and the genus is now *Anas*.
- SPECTACLED EIDER: The genus has been changed from *Lampronetta* to *Somateria*.
- COMMON SCOTER: It's now BLACK SCOTER, and the genus has been changed from *Oidemia* to *Melanitta*.
- HARLAN'S HAWK: It's now conspecific with the RED-TAILED HAWK.
- FALCONS: The PIGEON HAWK is now officially the MERLIN, and the SPARROW HAWK becomes AMERICAN KESTREL.
- HARLEQUIN QUAIL: It's now MONTEZUMA QUAIL.
- CHUKAR: The Latin designation is now *Alectoris Chukar*, not *Alectoris Graeca*.
- MOUNTAIN PLOVER: The genus is changed from *Eupoda* to *Charadrius*.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: The genus is changed from *Squatarola* to *Pluvialis* (to my sorrow).
- UPLAND PLOVER: Now it's UPLAND SANDPIPER.
- YELLOWLEGS: The genus is now *Tringa* for both greater and lesser.
- KNOT: Now it's RED KNOT.
- EROLIA SANDPIPERS: The PURPLE, ROCK, SHARP-TAILED, PECTORAL, WHITE-RUMPED, BAIRD'S, LEAST, CURLEW SANDPIPERS and the DUNLIN have all been switched from genus *Erolia* to genus *Calidris*.
- EREUNETES SANDPIPERS: The SEMIPALMATED and WESTERN SANDPIPERS have also been switched to genus *Calidris*, from genus *Ereunetes*.
- SANDERLING: This also has been moved to the genus *Calidris*, from genus *Crocethia*.
- THAYER'S GULL: This is a new species, *Larus Thayeri*, to be inserted between HERRING and CALIFORNIA gulls.
- GROUND DOVE: The genus has been simplified from *Columbigallina* to *Columbina*.
- FLICKERS: The YELLOW-SHAFTED, RED-SHAFTED, and GILDED FLICKERS have been made conspecific, *Colaptes Auratus*, bearing the name COMMON FLICKER.
- TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER: The A.O.U. now recognizes two separate species, based on the notes they make. The WILLOW FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax Traillii*, says: "Fitz-bew!" The ALDER FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax Alnorum*, says: "Fee-bee-o!"
- BUSHTITS: The COMMON BUSHTIT and the BLACK-EARED BUSHTIT have been merged into a single species bearing the name BUSHTIT and the species designation *Psaltriparus Minimus*.
- CATBIRD: It's now GRAY CATBIRD.

THRUSHERS: The HERMIT, SWAINSON'S, and GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSHERS plus the VEERY have been taken out of the *Hylocichla* genus and put into the *Catharus* genus, with the Latin specific names unchanged.

PARULA WARBLERS: The PARULA and OLIVE-BACKED WARBLERS have had their common names changed to NORTHERN PARULA and TROPICAL PARULA, respectively.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: This is the new common name for both the MYRTLE and the AUDUBON'S WARBLER, and they are both now members of the same species, bearing the Latin designation *Dendroica Coronata*.

YELLOWTHROAT: Now it's the COMMON YELLOWTHROAT.

GROUND-CHAT: The genus has been changed from *Chamaethlypis* to *Geothlypis*.

ORIOLES: The BALTIMORE and BULLOCK'S ORIOLES have been combined into a single species: NORTHERN ORIOLE, *Icterus Galbula*.

GRACKLES: THE BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE'S Latin designation is now *Cassidix Major*. A new species, GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, follows it in the A.O.U. order, bearing the Latin name: *Cassidix Mexicanus*.

PASSERCULUS SPARROWS: The IPSWICH and SAVANNAH SPARROWS are now a single species, *Passerculus Sandwichensis*.

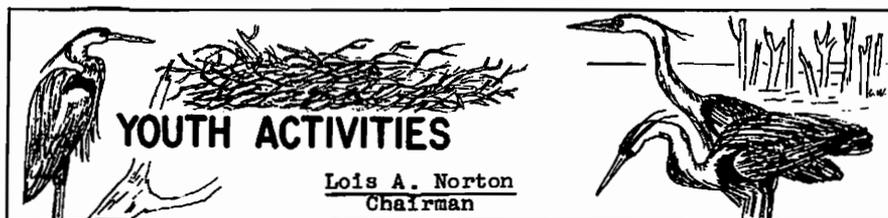
LE CONTE'S SPARROW: This species now bears the designation *Amospiza Leconteii*.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Its Latin designation is now *Ammodramus Henslowii*.

SEASIDE SPARROWS: The SEASIDE, DUSKY SEASIDE, and CAPE SABLE SPARROWS have been combined into a single species, *Amospiza Maritima*.

JUNCOS: The WHITE-WINGED, SLATE-COLORED and OREGON JUNCOS have been combined into a single species, *Junco Hyemalis*.

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR: This has been shifted from genus *Rhynchophanes* to *Calcarius* with the other LONGSPURS.



The first week in August I attended the Ecology Workshop at the Greenwich Audubon Camp in Connecticut. This camp is very properly called a workshop. The seven day course can be taken for

college credit and is an exhausting but stimulating program. When I got home and had time to think, I decided I had enjoyed every minute of it.

Nancy Brown and I arrived on Sunday morning to find that the gates did not open until 2:30 p.m. so we took a short drive in the neighborhood. The homes with formal gardens and riding stables were in sharp contrast to the camp's rustic acreage. The camp's gardens were meadows of flocks, brown-eyed susans and horsetail, with bayberry and sweet pepper bushes that scented the air. For one week we did not see one beer or soda can, or any other litter. Nor did we see a tv or newspaper. What did we do? Plenty!

Each day there were three planned programs. For example, morning might bring a lesson on identifying ferns, afternoon a walk to the pond, and evening a lecture on adaptation in the animal world. Thursday's feature was a trip to the seashore where we studied hermit and horseshoe crabs, starfish, sea squirts and many seaside plants. We also saw gulls, terns, a green heron and the showy egret which is the symbol of the Audubon society.

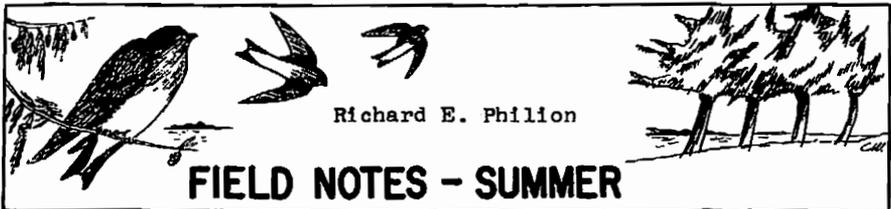
That evening Dr. Ken Hunt, biologist from Antioch College, gave a slide show on pollution which dampened our spirits for a while, but the next morning we were up at dawn bird watching and absorbing once more all we could of nature's wondrous beauty.

The last day I attended a workshop on Environmental Education for Kindergarten to 6th grades. The group asked staff member Caroline Kennedy lots of questions, and I came away with my head and my notebook full of ideas.

To put these plans into effect this coming year will require the help of volunteers from HMBC ranks. Please don't feel shy. If you can spare some wildlife slides, I need them. If you can spare a few hours a month during the day in the Schenectady-Colonie area, the school children need you.

More and more the schools are calling upon "outer factions" to bring to children something that is not in their daily curriculum. In this case that something is learning about nature and how we can coexist with what's around us.

Let's get the message to our youth - or else what is a bird club for?



The summer has been a long one this year with hot humid weather arriving in early June and sending temperatures to a high of 92° on the 11th. Precipitation for the month was 7.4 inches

or 4 inches above normal. July and August were also warm but a dry trend developed in early August.

Heavy infestation of cherry trees with tent caterpillars may have been responsible for the numerous reports of yellow-billed and black-billed cuckoos in our region.

The only unusual species for the period was the HOODED WARBLER seen at close range in Mariaville.

Observers: PC-Paul Connor; B&HG-B&H Gardina; WG-William Gorman; RP-Richard Philion; BW-Beverly Waite; RPY-Robert P. Yunick.

Abbreviations; ADBC-Alan Devoe Bird Club; BBC-Breeding Bird Census; JL-Jenny Lake; VFWM-Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management.

LOONS - DUCKS

Cattle Egret: 7 Jun 7 Altamont (BW) mob.
 American Bittern: 1 Aug 4 Meadowdale (WG).
 Least Bittern: 1 Jul 4 Rensselaer (PC).
 Canada Goose: reported in Columbia county (ADBC).
 Green-winged Teal: 10 (9 immature) Jul 8 Rensselaer (PC).
 Blue-winged Teal: reported Jun and Jul Columbia county (ADBC).

HAWKS - OWLS

Turkey Vulture: Jun and Jul Columbia Co. (ADBC).
 Red-tailed Hawk: several reports thru period.
 Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Jun 6 & Jul 16 Cherry Plain (PC); 1 Aug 5 Rensselaer (PC).
 Broad-winged Hawk: several reports.
 Bobwhite: 1 Jun 2 Altamont (BW); 1st report in several years.
 Virginia Rail: max 8 including young Jul 4 Rensselaer (PC); 1 Aug 4 Meadowdale (WG).
 Common Gallinule: 20 Jul 4 Rensselaer max 30 Jul 8 & 7 Aug 12 including immature Rensselaer (PC).
 Common Snipe: 1 Jul 8 Rensselaer (PC).
 Upland Plover: 1 Aug 12 Schodack Center (PC).
 Spotted Sandpiper: 2 Jun 3 No. Easton BBC.
 Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Aug 4 & 12 Stony Pt. (PC).
 Lesser Yellowlegs: 5 Aug 12 Stony Pt. (PC).
 Greater Yellowlegs: 1 Jun 3 No. Easton BBC.
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Jun 3 & 7 Schodack Center (PC); Jul 3-23 intermittent N.W. Columbia Co. (R. Drowne); 1 Aug 12 Rensselaer (PC).
 Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Jun 3 No. Easton BBC; 1 Jun 7 & 28 Schodack Center (PC); 1 Jun 19 Ghent (B & HG); several Jul reports 1 Aug 14 VFWM (RPY).
 Screech Owl: 1 Aug 2 E. Greenbush (WG).
 Barred Owl: 2 Jun 11 Cherry Plain (PC); 1 Jun 20 Altamont (BW).

GOATSUCKERS - STARLINGS

Common Nighthawk: 5 mic Jul Troy (RP).
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird: present at feeders in normal number Jenny Lake (RPY).
 Traill's Flycatcher: 1 Jun 25 Altamont (BW) 2 Jul 8 & 1 Aug 5 & 12 Rensselaer (PC).

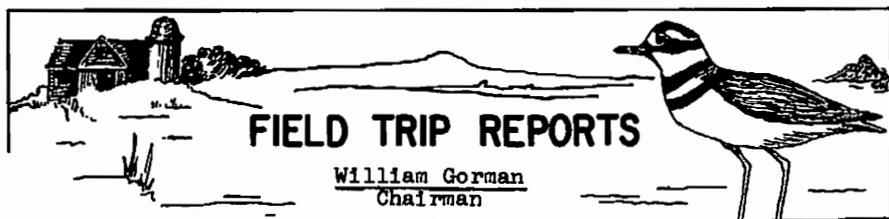
Winter Wren: 4 Jul 7 Black Mtn (HMBC); 1 Jul 28 Cherry Plain (PC).
 Long-billed Marsh Wren: 5 Jul 4 & 20 Jul 8 Rensselaer (PC).
 Mockingbird: scattered reports.
 Eastern Bluebird: 2 Jun 8 & 4 Jul 6 Pine Bush (PC); 2 Jul 10
 Spencertown (E. Mansell).
 Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 Jul 16 Cherry Plain (PC).

VIREOS - WARBLERS

Solitary Vireo: 2 Jul 28 Cherry Plain (PC).
 Warbling Vireo: 4 Jun 26 Salem BBC.
 Golden-winged Warbler: 1 Jun 26 Salem BBC.
 Nashville Warbler: 1 Jul 16 Cherry Plain (PC).
 Black-throated Blue Warbler: 3 banded Aug 10 JL (RPY).
 Blackpoll Warbler: 1 Jun 3 Schodack Center (PC).
 Prairie Warbler: several Jun 1 & 14 Pine Bush (PC).
 Northern Waterthrush: 1 banded Jul 29 JL (RPY); 1 Jul 23 Schodack
 Center (PC).
 Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 Jun & Jul 30 Barberville (PC).
 Mourning Warbler: 1 Jun 26 Salem BBC.
 HOODED WARBLER: 1 male seen and heard singing mid-June Maria-
 ville (Bob Marx); last reported in region 8 in 1957.

BLACKBIRDS - SPARROWS

Orchard Oriole: 1 Jul 1 & 3 Chatham (H & B Tullar).
 Evening Grosbeak: 'none heard or seen thru period' JL (RPY).
 Purple Finch: 'more numerous than ever at feeder' total of 490
 banded thru period JL (RPY).
 Pine Siskin: 'none seen or heard thru period' JL (RPY).
 Red Crossbill: 'totally absent at JL' (RPY); 2 Jun 3 Schodack
 Center (PC); 3 Jun 5 Duaneburg BBC.
 Savannah Sparrow: 7 Jun 26 Salem BBC.
 Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 Jun 26 Salem BBC.
 Vesper Sparrow: 3 Jun 26 Salem BBC.
 Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 Jun 2 Cobleskill BBC, and unusually late
 date.

INDIAN LADDER

JUNE 9, 1973

On June 9, 1973, a small group of Hudson-Mohawk birders started up the Indian Ladder Trail. It was a warm (85°) sunny day with little wind. The birds seemed almost as quiet as the wind. We saw a few veerys, red-eyed vireos, ovenbirds, and goldfinchs along the bottom section.

Nearing the top we managed to get a quick look at a worm-eating warbler and we listened for several minutes to a nearby pileated

woodpecker. A pair of red-tailed hawks circled overhead giving a long series of their eery call.

At the top of the trail we found great crested flycatchers, wood pewees, cedar waxwings and a lone slate-colored junco. The return trip was also kind of quiet and the leaf cover made sightings difficult. Despite the somewhat quiet day, we ended up with a total list of 42 species.

--William Gorman

JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

AUGUST 11, 1973

At 10:15 Saturday morning, eight HMBC'ers started out from the parking lot at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. There were so many birds to look at that we didn't get more than one-fourth the way around when, by majority vote, we made an about face at about 12:15 and headed back to the cars for lunch.

As it turned out it was a good move since a fast moving thunderstorm moved through at one o'clock. If we had been out on the path we all would have been caught and thoroughly soaked. After spending about 40 minutes as prisoners in our cars, during the rainstorm, we once again proceeded to walk around the west pool area. This time we made it all the way and had a very enjoyable time doing it.

Some of the unusual species we logged were white-rumped sandpiper, stilt sandpiper and Wilson's phalarope, as well as many other common shorebirds and waterbirds not frequently seen in the HMBC region. In all, we recorded 65 species.

--Walt Sabin

HENRY G. REIST WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

SEPTEMBER 22, 1973

The weather was gloomy as eight of us started through the sanctuary, although rain was not forecast until afternoon. Almost immediately we were greeted by a flock of confusing fall warblers, which were even more confusing in the dim light.

It began to drizzle and fogging binoculars made identification nearly impossible. A driving rain forced us back to the cars after an hour, but later three die-hards ventured out again only to experience the same frustrations: dozens of warblers, steamy eyeglasses, rain-spotted binoculars and poor lighting.

Nonetheless we managed to log a Wilson's, redstart, parula, Cape Mays, bay-breasteds and blackpolls. A yellowthroat with mask, 3 black-and-white warblers and several black-throated greens provided some easy identifications. Eleven warbler species were recorded, plus flickers, towhees, brown thrashers, scarlet tanagers, in all a total of 34 species. All of us agreed that if the weather had only smiled the sanctuary might have yielded as many as 50.

--Libby Ellis

Editor's Notes

NOMENCLATURE

It is our intentions to conform fully to the A.O.U. Checklist, but we realize that there will be an awkward period in the transition (see article this issue). To help out, in addition to the mentioned article, American Birds (Vol.27,#3) has an article on page 576 with a detailed summary of the changes in the thirty-second supplement. In addition, Auk has the whole supplement in Vol. 90, pp. 411-419. We beg your indulgence for a time until all these changes become familiar.

NEW YORK CITY BIRDS

A comprehensive article on birding in and about New York City was published in the New York Times Travel Section on Sunday, September 30, 1973. The article itself was quite sympathetic, and included a handy guide to birding spots. A final reminder: the Rare Bird Alert number is (212)-832-6523.

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MAIL EARLY IN THE DAY

PUBLISHED BY HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

TAPE RECORDER SUPPLEMENTS BINOCULAR

Bob Marx

Birders depend on binoculars as the tool to optically make birds appear closer. Now, it seems that the tape recorder is becoming a supplemental tool which literally brings them closer.

This article relates some experiences in the use of a tape recorder to attract birds. A follow-up article is planned on "Selecting a Recorder and Preparing Tapes for Birding".

My interest in birds started only 5 years ago as a result of efforts at wildlife photography. Lacking the ability and necessary time to locate such creatures as deer, bear, moose, beaver, etc., I turned to birds because of their abundance. After one year, resulting in only fair bird photos; an analysis showed that camera-to-subject distance was too great (telephoto lenses notwithstanding). Practically all attempts to move closer to the birds proved futile. They're just too wary. About that time, my oldest brother, Ken, told me he had recorded a cardinal. Wanting his neighbor to hear the tape, he left his backyard, crossed the street to the neighbor several houses away. When the tape was played the cardinal came flying over to join them and was obviously trying to find that other "bird". Knowing that recording bird songs in the field would be difficult and time consuming, I purchased some records of bird songs and started duplicating some on cassettes. This was a winter occupation so I had to wait 'till Spring to try them out.

Spring came and so did the birds. I found that each species could be attracted by playing a tape of their particular song. I shall never forget my first experience in photographing a rose-breasted grosbeak. I heard one singing in the woods at some distance. When I played his song, he arrived within 15 seconds and was in perfect position only 10' away. Now I had a different problem, he was too close for my 300 mm. lens. I had to back away 3' to get the picture.

I was still very much a novice with birds and realized that to progress in bird photography I should learn where, when, and how to find birds. To accomplish this, I started to go on field trips of the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club. This not only proved helpful to my photography but now I also enjoy just birding.

I have great admiration for experienced birders who have developed skills in finding, seeing, and identifying elusive and wary birds. Many use "spishing", some have learned to imitate owls, and even the songs of some birds. Perhaps the use of a

recorder reduces the challenge and thus the rewards. I do know that if you want to see, identify, and closely observe many birds, that tape is the answer. I even admit that halfway through one trip, while showing various species to my wife, when the recorder batteries went dead I was helpless to find birds.

Now for some things I've learned in 4 years experience attracting birds with a tape recorder.

Most all species will come closer when their song is played. May, June, and July are the best months to attract individual birds. April, September and October are best to attract many birds at one time. In our own Reist Sanctuary, when it was seemingly devoid of any birds, the tape brought 40 or 50 birds which literally surrounded me within a 30' radius, and many as close as 3' to 8'. I've not tried the recorder in winter but have no reason to doubt it will work even then. My log of number of different species attracted now stands at 69. I'm sure this would be even higher but keep in mind I spend many hours trying to photograph the birds after attracting them.

The closeness varies with the species and also with different birds of the same species. The closest was a white-throated sparrow at 2'. A yellowthroat came within 10" of the recorder while I was but 5' away. One goal I have is to photograph a bird perched on the recorder. I may also experiment with a mirror as did Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg of Cornell.

Some only approach to 50' to 100'. These seem to be the tree-top species such as Baltimore oriole, scarlet tanager, great crested and olive-sided flycatchers, etc. With patience though, by remaining motionless and continuing to play the tape, even some of these will gradually come down to a lower level in search of that "invader".

With respect to from how great a distance a bird will respond, I have no actual measurements. Some factors effecting this are maximum volume of recorder, quality of recording, wind conditions, habitat, and I suppose even the hearing sense of the bird. The size of the bird's territory, his position within his territory, and the location of the recorder are also factors. In more dense woods you must rely on listening to judge distance. I'm convinced that if you're within, or at least near the edge of the territory and the bird can hear the tape of his song that he usually will be attracted.

Three summers ago at Meacham Lake in the Adirondacks, I heard an olive-sided flycatcher obviously far away. It was an extensive swampy area with low brush and scattered tall, mostly dead trees. With binoculars I scanned the tree tops at the far edge and finally spotted the source of "quick three beers". My guess is it was 1/4 mile away. I started my tape and through binoculars observed his gradual approach from tree to tree. My tapes of each species are about 2 1/2 minutes duration and I was near the end of the third playing before the olive-sided arrived in a nearby tree. Unfortunately the tree was quite tall and he would only descend part way. Using a 300 mm. lens with 2X extender produced a fair photo.

Sometimes a bird will come closer and closer without singing and will remain silent. They move about, looking everywhere.

Some will then start to sing, but very subdued, barely audible.

I have on occasions, returned to an area where I previously observed a particular species. Even during the "silent" part of the day, playing the tape induces a bird to start singing, and of course he will usually come to me. If I stop the recorder, the bird will continue to sing, even for 1/2 hour and longer. Singing has also been induced in the Fall but it is not usual and does not persist.

Species different than the song being played sometimes will appear. This is especially true of birds with similar songs such as solitary and red-eyed vireos. One spring morning I heard a trilling sound out in our yard. Could it be a worm-eating warbler in migration? I quickly got my recorder and played it out on my back porch. A chipping sparrow came. Although disappointed, in a way I was encouraged that even the birds can't always tell the difference.

In most instances, it's a male that's attracted. Occasionally, if a female comes, a chase ensues in which the male drives her away. He will usually return. Tape playing also causes fights between two males when territories are adjacent.

I should mention that with a few species, results have been limited. Goldfinches, purple finches, evening grosbeaks and cedar waxwings are in this category and the reason is still not clear.

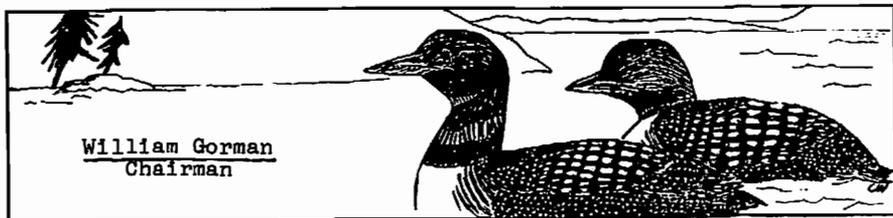
In a few instances playing a tape has actually driven a bird away. My most unfortunate case like this happened in June of '73 in the Mariaville area. I was making a routine check of a robin's nest when I heard a bird singing a moderate distance away. My guess was warbler family and a new one to me. I moved in its direction toward the edge of a woods but the bird was obscured by leaves. Still unable to recognize the song I decided to use my screech owl tape which is my "any and all species" attractor. This immediately brought into plain view a hooded warbler, a life bird for me. Continuing to play the screech owl, I had several minutes of unobstructed observation with binoculars at 20'. I then got the camera from my car. Standard procedure after initial use of owl is to change to the tape of the particular species that I wish to photograph. This time it backfired. The hooded warbler song caused the bird to take on a petrified look for about 5 seconds, after which he flew away. I still have the impression he returned to Central America.

The occasions of no response and scaring away are rare. Attraction to the playing of their song or call or the screech owl call will result in most instances.

So far, no bird has attacked me, although I've been "buzzed" a number of times. A pileated woodpecker flew right down at me clearing my head by just a few feet. Needless to say, I ducked.

My plans for further use of tape recorder include in-depth study of songs and calls and their effect on behavior.

I could go on almost endlessly relating experiences but this article must be brought to an end. I suggest you consider a tape recorder as a supplement to your binoculars.



William Gorman
Chairman

MARIAVILLE

SEPTEMBER 8, 1973

Fourteen members and friends of HMBC met at Mariaville Lake to find the temperature some 30° cooler than it had been for most of the previous week. Wearing sweaters and coats we drove and hiked for the next three hours finding 40 species, but no concentration of migrants with one notable exception: hawks.

For about one-half hour we saw hawks circling overhead, at least two red-tails, three red-shouldered, and six broad-winged hawks, sometimes only 200 feet above our heads. At another location we found an osprey and a turkey vulture overhead and a semipalmated plover mixed in with some killdeer on the mudflats.

The migrating hawks and the cool, northwesterly winds were chilling reminders that summer would not last forever.

--Douglass Allen

SHARON AUDUBON CENTER

SEPTEMBER 29, 1973

Our first field trip to Sharon (Connecticut) Audubon Center on Saturday, September 29 was just great. Beautiful sunny weather accented the colorful foliage both on the drive and the walk. A total of 46 species were observed.

We started on the Fern Trail which follows the western shoreline of Ford Pond. 161 Canada geese were resting on the pond. (Count by Walt Sabin). Changing to the Bog Meadow Trail lead us through a wooded area along a stream valley. It was quiet, with few birds in evidence. However, playing a tape recording of a screech owl brought many birds in a variety of species.

Tapes of specific bird songs generally did not attract as in spring and summer. One exception was the really close approach of a black-throated green warbler when his song was played. Seven other species of warbler were identified including the bay-breasted and blackpoll.

I suspect when Doug Allen called out "yellow-rumped warbler" that he was hoping for someone to be excited about a new life bird. (Yellow-rumped is the new A.O.U. name for the familiar myrtle warbler). Other species observed which now have new names were: common flicker, common yellowthroat, American robin, dark-eyed junco, gray catbird, and northern parula.

HMBC members on the trip were Helen and Bob McCullough, Gladys

Snell, Kay Townsend, Walt Sabin, Judy and Doug Allen, and Bob Marx. Also with us were friends of the Allens; Ellen and Dave Doubleday, their son Stephen who at age 3 is an experienced birder, and Ken Marx (Bob's brother from Pittsfield).

--Bob Marx

MOUNT PETEROCTOBER 6, 1973

On October 6, 1973, a small group of Hudson-Mohawk birders drove to Mt. Peter in the lower Catskills. It was a clear sunny day with little wind. As we walked to the lookout at the summit, we met several birders from other areas and they reported the previous day had been good for birds. Our day, however, was not very exciting.

We had nice views of many turkey vultures which were probably local residents. We saw a number of buteos which were mostly red-tailed hawks. Several were probably local residents and not migrating. It was interesting watching some of the red-tails going through their HOOKING routine in which they spread their wings and tail, drop their heads and hang motionless in the wind, as if tied on a string. About a dozen sparrow hawks were seen apparently migrating. A single sharp-shinned was the only accipiter seen.

We watched several lines of Canada geese apparently following the river south. A single blue goose was seen in one of the lines of Canadas. Several land birds, including goldfinch, purple finch, cedar waxwing, towhee, and a catbird were also seen.

In general it was not an exciting day, but the nice weather and scenery combined to give a pleasant trip.

--Bill Gorman

SARATOGA AND ROUND LAKESNOVEMBER 4, 1973

For the four birders who met at Round Lake the sun was a pleasant surprise after the showers of the previous day, but the wind was its usual challenge. The waterfowl sought the protection of the lee sides of both Round and Saratoga Lakes as the wind seemed to shift to face us constantly. They could not escape the keen eyes of Walt Sabin and the list reached 30 species for the final count.

The loons were in their element and the common was easy to spot with its flashing white front but the red-throated was most elusive as it dipped among the waves and white caps. As we tried vainly to pick out the red-throated the manager of Brown's chatted with us. Birding is partly a matter of luck for had we been there Friday the lake was covered with Canadas and the first evening grosbeaks had come to his feeder. A group of 40 Canadas had been on Saratoga Saturday when the area was scouted, but none for the trip. So it goes...

Finding five canvasbacks in the cove beyond Snake Hill encouraged us and at the curve of the end of the lake a large group of greater and lesser scaup accompanied by a female hooded merganser rode the surf. At Kayaderosseras Park the grounds were so well groomed plus a new pavilion and many large buildings that birds were scarce. Even so, two robins and a purple finch made a cheerful note to conclude the trip.

--Betty Hicks

NISKAYUNA WIDEWATERS

NOVEMBER 17, 1973

Eight hardy avifinders joined this odyssey to the Mohawk River area of Niskayuna. Our main objective was waterfowl, and we were fleeced! One black and two mallards! No blackbirds or hawks that we could identify with certainty. And a pileated woodpecker that only three of us saw. But who can forget what we did see?

After scanning the numerous ring-billed and herring gulls at Lock 7 we travelled a mile to the home of Joseph Pollock, the Johnny Appleseed of local birding. Mr. Pollock, retired from G.E., has been observing, feeding, and taming wild birds since the 1920's when his excellent photographs were published in Bird Lore, predecessor to Audubon magazine.

His bird interest and kindness is rewarded by chickadees that follow him everywhere, begging for food. They'll eat out of his or anyone's hand. Even the wry and wary blue jays are fairly tame. Most memorable, however, were the acrobatics of his white-breasted nuthatches, which would catch peanuts in midair that Mr. Pollock threw to them. Like a flycatcher they would zero in on the winged peanut and, wow, there it was safe in their tiny bill.

Mr. Pollock joined us as we drove the few miles to Niskayuna Widewaters where saber-eyed Sabin found a red-throated loon, uncommon in our area, and a late myrtle warbler. There were a few sparrows, several songs and at least one swamp in some cattails.

Later, most of us walked through the beautiful Lishakill woods where red-breasted nuthatches, brown creepers, and golden-crowned kinglets entertained us and added to our list.

--Douglass Allen

FOR A WINTER'S AFTERNOON - FRANKLIN PEMBER MUSEUM

Lois Norton

Granville is a small town in northeastern New York. Its main attraction has always been the slate quarries. It's the only town in the state which mines red slate. But Granville has another

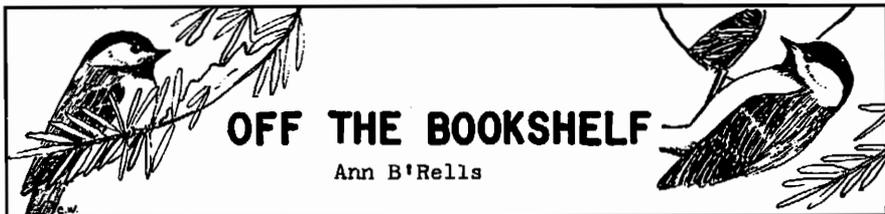
attraction that has lain dormant for 50 years and is now springing to life. That attraction is the Franklin Pember Museum.

Franklin Pember was born in 1841 and by 1863 he was intensely interested in taxidermy and had started a mammal collection. Things went well for Mr. Pember financially so he later devoted a great deal of his time and money to traveling around the world and collecting mounted specimens of birds, animals, butterflies, and moths.

In his collection are two beautiful whooping cranes, passenger pigeons, bustards, a black bear, leopards, ocelots, ermine, various hummingbirds, falcons, and owls, as well as nests and eggs. All specimens are in perfect condition in well-lit cases. In just a five minute tour through the museum I noticed five endangered species.

Mr. Pember obtained his last specimen in 1904 and died in 1924 leaving the entire estate and the building to the town.

With the encouragement and urging of Miss Miriam Everts, Trustee of Friends of the Museum, the Museum is being opened more often to the public and is well worth the trip of about 60 miles. You can go up the Northway to the Glens Falls or Greenwich exit, or you can take the scenic route through Eagle Bridge, Cambridge, up Route 22 to Granville. The Museum is now open on Saturday and Wednesday afternoons and will be open more later. For more information or exact times call 518-642-2525. Try it - you'll like it!



For the backyard

NATIONAL WILDLIFE, April-May 1973 (Vol.11, No.3).

This issue of National Wildlife has a twelve page article on the practical development of a backyard to attract wildlife. It treats the yard in stages. Stage I, starting with only a sodded backyard, suggests plantings, and feeders and bird-baths, among other artificial aids. In about 5-10 years, stage II includes mature shrubs and young trees, and a small pond to replace the birdbath. Stage III, maturity, is only accomplished from scratch after 30-40 years but more speed is possible if you start with some mature trees. At this stage, a maximum number of wildlife species may be found. This article also gives hints on the four wildlife needs - food, water, cover and reproductive areas. This would also be a big help to someone who was house-hunting and wanted to know what stage of backyard he was looking at.

--A. B'R.

Barrington, Rupert. THE JOYS OF A GARDEN FOR YOUR BIRDS. Grosset, 1972, \$4.95.

"A practical British guide explains how to encourage birds to flourish and survive in the home garden as a means of assuring conservation of the species. Basic requirements for bird preservation covered in the book are provision of suitable nesting sites, regular supplying of food and water, how to create natural and artificial roosting places preferred by different species and ways to give birds protection from man, animals, and enemy birds. The clear diagrams show instructions in making bird houses and related data. Published in England under title: A bird gardener's book." --Booklist

The reference shelf

Peterson, R.T. and E.L. Chalif. A FIELD GUIDE TO MEXICAN BIRDS. Houghton, 1973, \$8.95.

This new Peterson Field Guide is indeed welcome. It includes 1038 species and has 48 color plates illustrating those species which are not illustrated in other Field Guide volumes. There is no way to praise this volume too highly. Ole'.

--A. B'R.

Forbush, E.H. and J.B. May. A NATURAL HISTORY OF AMERICAN BIRDS OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL NORTH AMERICA. Bramhall House, 1955, \$12.50.

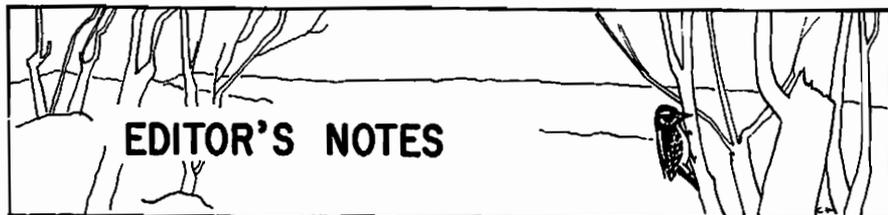
This is a historical volume, still of birding interest. It is a revision and condensation of Forbush's "Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States", published from 1925 onwards by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The lovely plates are by Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Allen Brooks. Roger Tory Peterson added several plates. About a hundred species were added by John B. May. The long descriptions of each bird, vivid with detail of habits and habitats, are beautifully written and very engaging, making this a book which you can't put down. This book is apparently being remaindered, in any case it is generally available at about 50-60% of list price.

--A. B'R.

Gruson, E.S. WORDS FOR BIRDS: A LEXICON OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS WITH BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES. Quadrangle Books, 1972, \$8.95.

This is a basically fun-loving book covering derivations of the common and scientific names of 800 North American birds. Good black and white margin drawings by Alexander Wilson add to the reader's enjoyment.

--A. B'R.



EDITOR'S NOTES

THOUGHTS ON THE

SEVENTY-THIRD CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT AMERICAN BIRDS APRIL 1973, VOLUME 27, #2

What a tome this is - 20,373 people (not always different!) saw 581 species (north of Mexico) on 1013 counts taking up 386 double-columned pages. It's a natural first impression that this book will be dull reading, cold, impersonal, even overwhelming. But don't trust that first impression, it's simply not so.

What is here is hours of vicarious pleasure as you travel the continent, sharing in the Christmas birding excitement.

At Sanibel and Captiva Island, Florida, (#404 p311) it was raining and warmish, and 15,000 tree swallows were seen. Meanwhile, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (#81 p178) it was clear and calm, 5-8^o, and thirty-three intrepid birders saw only 36 species including a Clark's nutcracker.

Contrasts in habitats are not the only surprises in store for the browser. Everyone knows blackbirds are numerous, but at Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee (#492 p343) they listed 1 million starling, 1.25 million red-winged blackbird, and .45 million common grackle. No wonder bird count by radar is under investigation.

A wonderful trip of the imagination can also occur when someone reads parts of a list and you attempt to identify the habitat. Pine trees in the snow, steamy bogs, damp deserts, all may be evoked by these not-so-dry statistics.

Pick a favorite spot, or a place you always wanted to visit but missed somehow, and you'll find it in the hints of the list. I, for example, chose a long-lost home, San Bernadino Valley, California (#988 p526) where they got 112 species, not bad, including a convenient white pelican (flying over?) and an enormous lot (111) of California quail. I wonder where in the semi-desert to mountainous country they found that double-breasted cormorant!

As for a place to visit, who wouldn't envy the mob (183 people) who braved the hard rain, mostly on foot (210 hrs on foot, 136 by car, 7 by boat) to see a collective 194 species at Point Reyes

Peninsula, Calif (#982 p522)? They saw three species of loon, three species of cormorant, and both pelicans. Remember that, the next time you see a copy of American Birds.

(For information, contact National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave New York, New York 10022)

NOTES FROM THE AUDUBON LEADER

House Subcommittee Reports Unacceptable Bill To Reform Predator Control Which Could Over-ride EPA Authority and Continue Predator Overkill:

- a barely acceptable bill to reform government predator control programs has become intolerable -- unless the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, the full House, or the Senate cleans it up. As amended and prepared for reporting by the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, H.R. 11266 (a new number) is unacceptable to National Audubon because:
1. it would allow predator killing programs to be run by state agriculture agencies instead of by the game and fish departments whose personnel are trained in wildlife ecology,
 2. it would remove virtually all control from the use of the M-44 set gun -- the so-called "coyote-getter," whose scented bait and cyanide cartridges are deadly not only to coyotes but to domestic dogs, foxes (including some rare and endangered species), bears, and some other forms of wildlife. Widely used, the cyanide gun becomes a bio-cide, killing coyotes that are doing no damage to livestock as well as the individual animals that learn to prey on sheep.
 3. It establishes a dangerous legislative precedent by over-riding the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency to define and regulate chemical toxicants. Cyanide, Compound 1080, strychnine, and thallium are now banned (deregistered) for predator control by EPA.
 4. It would increase funds, not reduce them, for federal and state killing programs.

H.R. 11266 has yet to clear the full House Committee..., the House itself, and then the Senate where similar bills are pending before the Commerce Committee. November 16, 1973

Mason's Neck Refuge Safe: The Army has halted plans of Virginia airport officials to build a much-debated airport for private planes at Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, which would have skirted the refuge, an important bald eagle nesting site, and disturbed the solitude of a public park. Although the Army's decision was not based primarily on environmental considerations, it was nonetheless welcome. November 16, 1973

Phosphate Ban Shows Results: Onondaga Lake (Syracuse, N.Y.), often called the most polluted in the country, may be coming back to life since a local ban on phosphate detergents in July 1971, according to a five-year study by an environmental consulting firm. Scum-forming algae are being replaced by a more desirable kind as the phosphate level decreases... Note: New York State implemented Phase II of its phosphate detergent legislation on June 1, becoming the second state, after Indiana, to ban the sale of virtually all phosphate detergents. November 16, 1973

Kirtland's Warbler Census Shows Small Increase Over 1971: The 1973 census of the Kirtland's warbler, an extremely endangered species on which National Audubon has funded research, shows a gain over 1972's precarious low count. The increase, while not substantial, does not reflect the fact that a good many first-year warblers do not breed and therefore don't get counted. There were 201 singing males recorded in 1971, 200 in 1972, and 216 in 1973. The warblers, also known as jack-pine warblers, nest only in a small part of northern lower Michigan and winter in the Bahamas, where National Audubon conducts a seasonal study on the birds. Michigan Audubon has been working for 25 years to save the species.

October 12, 1973

Alaskan Jailed for Eagle Killing: a belated report from Alaska informs us that Lloyd Thynes of St. Petersburg was fined \$1000 and sentenced to 30 days in jail for killing two bald eagles last spring; that's tough action for a state that not long ago was paying bounties to eagle killers.

October 12, 1973

Sea Law Parley Opens at U.N.; The Whale Problem: The Third Conference on the Law of the Sea, where as many as 150 nations' representatives will join to try and work out common policy for management of the world's oceans as their common heritage, will open at the United Nations in New York with an organizational session December 4-14. The second session of the Conference will take place in Caracas, Venezuela, June 28-mid-August. It is hoped that this conference will lay the groundwork for law to forestall imperialism on the seas, with every nation scrambling for the biggest share of the vast economic resources of the world's oceans. National Audubon has been working with other private organizations to frame a set of recommendations in support of such measures as international environmental standards, agreement on a general obligation not to pollute the oceans, equitable sharing of ocean resources, freedom for scientific research, and the setting up of international structures for oceans management. The United States supports these principles, but great difficulty is expected in reaching a consensus among nations even on overall guidelines.

November 30, 1973

Action Needed To Save The Whales: Both Japan and the U.S.S.R., the only remaining large-scale whaling nations, have refused to comply with majority decisions made at the June 1973 meeting of the International Whaling Commission. The IWC had agreed on more restrictive quotas on the killing of sperm and minke whales, and had voted to ban the taking of Antarctic fin whales by 1976. (The 10-year total moratorium on all whaling urged by the U.S. and others was rejected at the IWC meeting, the second year this proposal had failed). The United States has objected to the position of Russia and Japan, and Dr. Stahr has written to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger stating National Audubon's strong support of the U.S. position...

November 30, 1973

Eagle Artifacts Seized. An intensified Federal Program to eliminate the growing illicit traffic in eagle feathers has led to

the indictment Nov. 16 of Lou D. Lovekin, a Riegelsville, Pa., antique dealer, and the confiscation of \$25,000 worth of American Indian items made from dozens of bald and golden eagles. Lovekin, who sold two war bonnets to Fish and Wildlife undercover agents, faces up to a year in prison and a \$5,000 fine. (Indians, with special Fish and Wildlife permission, may own bald eagle feathers acquired since 1940, golden eagle feathers since 1962. Others may hold earlier acquisitions. No one can sell any eagle feathers legally.)

November 30, 1973

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