

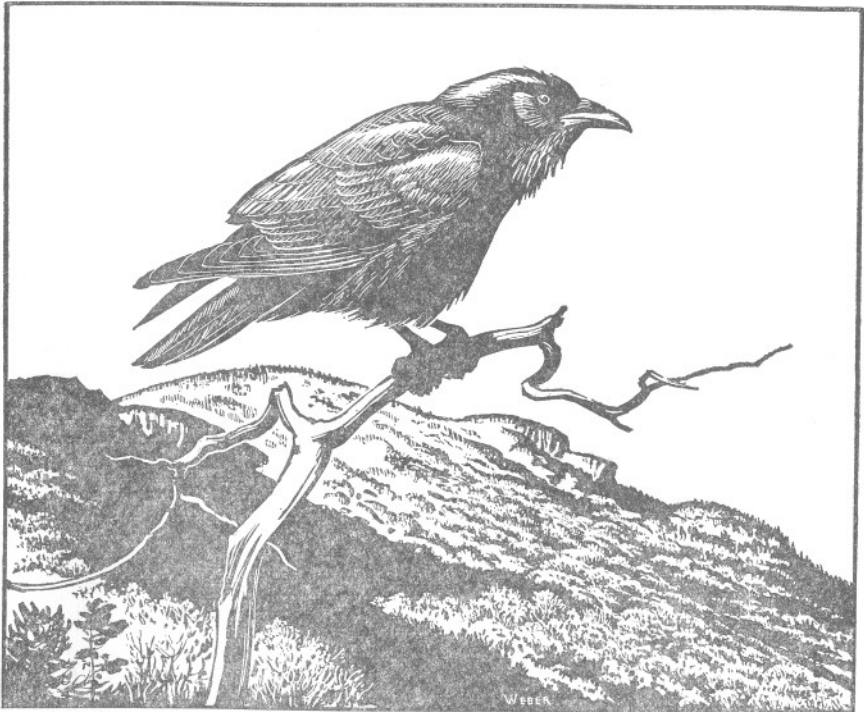
# The Raven

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

VOLUME 34

MARCH 1963

NUMBER 1



Courtesy of Walter Weber

## CONTENTS

Some Observations on Data Obtained through Birdbanding .....	3
By Mrs. Elizabeth D. Peacock	
Eared Grebe in Virginia .....	4
By Paul W. Sykes, Jr.	
Sage Thrasher Banded, near Leesburg, Virginia .....	4
By Mrs. Herbert M. Church, Jr.	
Varied Thrush at Blacksburg, Virginia .....	5
By R. V. Dietrich	
House Finch at Falls Church, Virginia .....	5
Clay-colored Sparrow on Assateague Island, Virginia .....	6
By Fritz G. Scheider	
Virginia Christmas Bird Counts—1962-63 Season .....	7
Compiled by F. R. Scott	
Spread of the Cattle Egret in Virginia .....	17
By J. J. Murray	
The Bald Eagle Survey in Virginia—Interim Status Report .....	18
By F. R. Scott	
Committees of the VSO .....	21
VSO Treasurer's Report .....	22
News and Notes .....	23

The Virginia Society of Ornithology exists to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, to stimulate interest in birds, and to assist the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. All persons interested in those objectives are welcome as members. Present membership includes every level of interest, from professional scientific ornithologists to enthusiastic amateurs.

Activities undertaken by the Society include the following:

1. An annual meeting (usually in the spring), held in a different part of the state each year, featuring talks on ornithological subjects and field trips to nearby areas.

2. Other forays or field trips, lasting a day or more and scheduled throughout the year so as to include all seasons and to cover the major physiographic regions of the state.

3. A journal, *The Raven*, published quarterly, containing articles about Virginia ornithology, as well as news of the activities of the Society and its chapters.

4. Study projects (nesting studies, winter bird population surveys, etc.) aimed at making genuine contributions to ornithological knowledge.

In addition, local chapters of the Society, located in some of the larger cities and towns of Virginia, conduct their own programs of meetings, field trips, and other projects.

Those wishing to participate in any of the above activities or to cooperate in advancing the objectives of the Society are cordially invited to join. Annual dues are \$1.00 for junior members (students), \$2.00 for active members, and \$4.00 for sustaining members.

---

#### OFFICERS OF THE VSO

*President:* PAUL S. DULANEY, Colonnade Club, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.

*Vice-President:* MRS. J. W. WILTSHIRE, 201 Woodland Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia.

*Secretary:* ROBERT J. WATSON, 2636 Marcey Road, Arlington 7, Virginia.

*Treasurer:* MISS HELEN L. GOLDSTICK, 4912 S 28th Street, Arlington 6, Virginia.

*Editor:* J. J. MURRAY, 6 Jordan Street, Lexington, Virginia.

*Associate Editor* (for club news, Christmas and other bird counts, field trips):  
F. R. SCOTT, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Virginia.

---

Published four times a year in March, June, September and December at Charlottesville, Virginia.

Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at Charlottesville, Virginia.

The business and mailing address for *The Raven* is Box 57, Charlottesville, Virginia.

## SOME OBSERVATIONS ON DATA OBTAINED THROUGH BIRDBANDING

BY MRS. ELIZABETH D. PEACOCK

Is the increase of such birds as the Cardinal and other permanent residents, which are most often seen as they come to feeders for suet and grain, as great as it appears to be? Are there more Cardinals or are there more observers of Cardinals? I present the following tabulation for your study. All birds were banded on my 1.3 acre suburban lot at Fairfax, Virginia. Station totals have been rounded off to the nearest twenty-five in order to facilitate comparison with species totals.

### YEARLY TOTALS OF SELECTED SPECIES

SPECIES	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	9 Yr. Av.
Cardinal	46	51	41	53	51	60	36	61	43	—49
C. Chickadee	26	11	10	8	28	24	19	23	26	—19
T. Titmouse	18	14	7	15	17	13	36	12	23	—17
Downy										
Woodpkr.	14	5	15	2	9	15	6	7	7	— 9
C. Wren	7	9	6	6	10	5	12	6	2	— 7
Station Tot.	1100	1600	2000	2200	1300	1975	1350	1000	1000	1500

SPECIES	1959	1960	1961*
Cardinal	94	127	125
C. Chickadee	42	39	18
T. Titmouse	15	19	9
Downy			
Woodpkr.	14	9	7
C. Wren	11	6	1
Station Tot.	1900	1900	1475

For the first four months of 1962 the number of Cardinals banded was two more than for the first four months of 1961. From the above analysis it would seem that the Cardinal has more than doubled its population and is still increasing. However in the other four species tabulated, there is much fluctuation. Whether there has been any increase other than in Chickadees seems to be doubtful.

A Cardinal No. 48-260396 banded as an adult female on 28 June 1950 was retrapped on 16 March 1960.

A Downy Woodpecker No. 20-117920 banded as an adult female on 26 December 1949 returned on 1 May 1959 at which time it was given a new band No. 24-135331. As can be seen from these two examples the longevity for these two species at my station is about the same.

Common Grackles began to nest in the Virginia pines in 1961. We have removed over half of these trees, leaving the largest stubs to decay and to furnish nesting trees. It will be interesting to see what beneficial effect this effort to change the habitat of a small area will have upon the bird population. At least the cutting down of the trees has opened up the garden area to such an extent that Purple Martins nested here for the first time. I was able to band two nestlings which reached maturity and were observed daily until the Martins left in August, which was most encouraging.

200 Highland Road, Fairfax, Virginia

\*In the year of 1961 no banding was done during June, July or August.

## EARED GREBE IN VIRGINIA

BY PAUL W. SYKES, JR.

The range of the Eared Grebe (*Podiceps caspicus*) in North America is from central British Columbia to southern Manitoba and from western Minnesota to New Mexico and Baja California (A. O. U. *Check-list of North American Birds*, 1957). There have been numerous records in recent years from widely scattered points east of this range.

On 10 March 1962, W. F. Rountrey, F. G. Scheider, and the writer carefully observed an Eared Grebe in winter plumage at approximately 30 yards with 7x35 and 10x50 binoculars and a 25x scope at the Craney Island Disposal Area, Norfolk County, Virginia. During the course of this observation, which lasted about 20 minutes, a Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) in winter plumage swam within 2 or 3 feet of *P. caspicus*. The Eared Grebe was smaller than the Horned Grebe. Forbush (1925) and Palmer (1962) give the average length for *P. auritus* as 12.50-15.25 inches, and Palmer (*ibid.*) lists 12.50-13.50 inches for the average length of *P. caspicus*. The bill of *P. caspicus* is slender and slightly upturned, whereas the bill of *P. auritus* is heavier and straight. The difference in the shapes of the heads is very evident in the field. The head of *P. caspicus* is helmet-like. The crown of *P. auritus* is flat, giving the head a flattened appearance. The neck of *P. caspicus* is noticeably slimmer than that of *P. auritus* upon direct comparison. The foreneck of *P. caspicus* is light blue-gray, whereas this same portion of the neck of *P. auritus* is white. The light dot on the head at the posterior portion of the auricular region was carefully noted on *P. caspicus*. The light and dark portions of the head plumage are sharply defined on *P. auritus*, but on *P. caspicus* the light and dark areas gradually blend together. The iris of both birds is red. The side and flanks of *P. caspicus* are grayish and on *P. auritus* are white. *Podiceps caspicus* appeared to ride lower on the water than *P. auritus*.

This sight record of *Podiceps caspicus* at the Craney Island Disposal Area constitutes the first record of this species in Virginia. In winter plumage, the Eared Grebe could be easily overlooked in the coastal areas where the Horned Grebe is so abundant. Perhaps in the future a more careful check of the wintering grebe population might reveal additional records of this western stray in the state.

1522 Lafayette Boulevard, Norfolk, Virginia

## SAGE THRASHER BANDED NEAR LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

BY MRS. HERBERT M. CHURCH, JR.

On 5 December 1962 a Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) was netted and banded by me at Ashburn, near Leesburg, Virginia, at coordinates 390-0772. It was released the following morning after it was positively identified by Dr. F. G. Scheider of Washington, D. C. It was also examined by Dr. Edwin Davis of Arlington, Virginia, and Miss Nancy Bradfield of Leesburg. Dr. J. J. Murray of Lexington and Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the National Museum checked the photographs. Dr. Wetmore says that there is no question as to its identity. The original identification was made by telephone by Mr. Chandler Robbins of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.

The thrasher, which was not seen prior to its capture and which has not been seen since its release, is gray-backed, has two distinct white wing bars, a

heavily-streaked buffy breast and a pale yellow eye. The outer four tail feathers have white spots at the tips. It measured: tail—087 mm; culmen—15.5 mm; wing—094 mm; length—192 mm.

This is the first record for this species in Virginia. It has been sighted east of the Mississippi on only five previous occasions.

Janelia Farms, Ashburn, Virginia

## VARIED THRUSH AT BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

BY R. V. DIETRICH

On 17 December 1962 at approximately 9:00 A. M., during the Blacksburg Christmas Count, I observed at about 50 feet with 7x35 binoculars a Varied Thrush. It was in the Stroubles Creek valley, about a quarter of a mile down stream from the V. P. I. sewage disposal plant. Rick, my son, copied the notes called to him while I was observing the bird through the glasses. These included the following: ". . . thrush family, possibly slightly smaller than a Robin, dark bill, orange eye stripe, orange breast, black band across breast, dark gray to bluish-black back and wings, orange wing bars. . ." When the bird flew away I made and labelled (according to color) a sketch of the bird. On the basis of the description in Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds*, section on Accidentals, p. 254, I thought perhaps the bird was a Varied Thrush. Subsequent viewing of the picture in the frontispiece of Peterson's *A Field Guide to Western Birds* was reassuring except for the fact that the breast color on the color plate was not nearly so orange as I had seen. I observed the color to be somewhat between that of the Robin's rust and the Oriole's orange, and told my fellow-counters of this difference. The following day a number of us went back to see if we could collect the bird but without success.

While on a visit to the University of Montana on 17 January I took the opportunity of inspecting a skin of a Varied Thrush, becoming convinced that the bird that I had seen was this species. The one discrepancy, the breast color, was not a misobservation of mine; rather it was due to the poor color reproduction on the plate.

Department of Geological Sciences, V. P. I., Blacksburg, Virginia

## HOUSE FINCH AT FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA

We have recently had a number of interesting additions to the Virginia avifauna from faraway places. In this issue of *The Raven* will be found notes on the Eared Grebe, Sage Thrasher, Varied Thrush, Clay-colored Sparrow, and House Finch. Burleigh's paper in the June issue added seven new subspecies. A second sight record for the Mississippi Kite has put that species on the regular list. An additional sight record is reported in this issue for the Avocet. Dr. Wetmore's paper on the ice age deposits at the Natural Chimneys in Augusta County gave us an extensive fossil list for the State, including some five birds not known from Virginia in historic times.

One of the latest additions to our list is the House Finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*, from the West. The following facts are compiled from several letters to the Editor. A female House Finch first appeared at the feeding tray of Dr. Daniel F. Keeney, 1413 Lexington Road, Falls Church, Virginia, on 2 December 1962. It stayed in the neighborhood for about a month before it was captured. The bird was first identified by James W. Eike on 23 December, was recorded on the Christmas count on 29 December, and was finally trapped

and banded by Arthur H. Fast on 5 January 1963. The live bird being taken to the Smithsonian Institution, the identification was confirmed by Dr. Alexander Wetmore. The bird was then released at the Keeney residence. This species has been increasingly seen in the New York City region in recent years and seems to be spreading down the eastern coast.

J. J. Murray, 6 Jordan Street, Lexington, Virginia

## CLAY-COLORED SPARROW ON ASSATEAGUE ISLAND, VIRGINIA

BY FRITZ G. SCHEIDER

While working at the former Popes Island Coast Guard Station near the Maryland-Virginia line on Assateague Island, I noted a very large sparrow and finch flight on 11 October 1961. As I was sitting on the porch there (2 p.m.) observing the numerous sparrows, my attention was attracted to a very pale, small spizelline sparrow feeding in seed-laden weeds in the front yard. A careful check of this bird revealed the typical field marks of an immature Clay-colored Sparrow, *Spizella pallida* (Swainson); particularly noted were the extreme sand-gray pallor of the underparts, the pale buff collar, and the brown, unmarked rump. The sparrow was feeding with a mixed flock of Chipping, Field, Song, White-throated, and Savannah Sparrows and Slate-colored Juncos in a patch of lambsquarter-like weeds, thereby allowing frequent opportunities for comparison with the adjacent immature Chipping Sparrows. The observation at 7 to 25 feet with 10x binoculars continued for 20 minutes. The bird was never heard to call and was last seen flying north over the sparsely grassed dunes towards Maryland.

The details of the observational notes taken at the time were as follows: a sandy, buff-colored small sparrow with fine black streaks on a buffy-gray back, light brown rump with no contrast between either back or tail, and pale brown tail with paler but not whitish outer tail feathers; tail slim with very slight notch. The chest and underparts were a light gray with a pale unmarked buffy band across the upper chest extending into a pale buffy nape. A triangular pale brown cheek patch was outlined with dark brown lines and with a fine dark brown malar line. The crown was pale brown, finely streaked with black with center stripe of very pale buff; throat pale gray; wings dull, pale sandy brown with two whitish wing bars—rather obscure—and pale buff edgings to the folded secondaries. The bill was a dull pinkish horn with lighter pink to lower mandibles. The feet and legs were dull pinkish brown, lighter posteriorly on the tarsus. I believe the undertail coverts were light gray, but I do not have this written down in my notes taken at that time.

The 11 October 1961 coast flight was one of the most impressive coastal passerine flights I had ever noted at Assateague Island in my intermittent 3½-months experience there. A sparrow flight on the Maryland portion of Assateague Island on 14 October 1962 (estimated 5000 sparrows and finches) points to the potential flight material and timing on this particular coastal stretch. I would anticipate that extensive observations and mist netting on Assateague Island of these heavy fringillid flights would possibly show the Clay-colored Sparrow to be a rare but regular coastal migrational waif there. This observation, however, appears to be the first sight record for Virginia.

6748 Second Street, N. W., Washington 12, D. C.

## VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS—1962-63 SEASON

COMPILED BY F. R. SCOTT

Harrassed by heavy snow and the absence from the state of several important observers, Virginia's field workers produced only 16 Christmas bird counts this year, the lowest number since the 1951-52 season. In terms of quality, however, the counts maintained their usual high level, and the total of party-hours, perhaps the most important measure of quality, was 675, reasonably near the record 731 of the 1960-61 season.

There were 160 participants this year, but since some helped on two or more counts, there are 174 names listed in the supporting details of each count following this summary. There were 171 species reported in all, of which 27 were represented by only a single report. Only two species appear to be new for Virginia Christmas counts, the Varied Thrush at Blacksburg and the Lark Sparrow at Chincoteague. Species missing from the counts this season included Red-necked Grebe, Gannet, Louisiana Heron, Peregrine Falcon, and Least Sandpiper. A detailed tabulation of the counts is given in Table 1.

A few interesting observations can be made on these counts. The cormorants at Brooke were extremely unusual for an inland count. The counts of waterfowl, as well as those of some other birds, were cut because of the poor weather on many counts, but the good numbers of some species were heartening. Bufflehead were particularly common and widely reported; 153 at Blacksburg were an astounding number for the mountains. The Golden Eagle reported at Chincoteague was unfortunately over the Maryland line, but even so it has been recorded previously on a Virginia Christmas count—Mt. Rogers in 1953. Woodcock were reported on three counts as last year, but 5 at Chincoteague were an unusual number. Willets were found on the Christmas counts for the third consecutive year, and this time on two counts.

Red-headed Woodpeckers last year were at their lowest point in many years, with only four out of 19 land counts reporting them, all single birds. This year nine counts out of 16 reported them, and the memorable 116 at Brooke represent an actual count, not a typographical error. Concentrations of this sort usually indicate a good local acorn crop. The Western Kingbird at Back Bay was the second count record, a previous one having been seen at Back Bay in 1959. Among the so-called "northern birds," neither the Black-capped Chickadee nor the Red-breasted Nuthatch showed any movements to speak of. The latter was recorded on only two counts versus 14 last year, a tremendous let-down. The White-breasted Nuthatch, usually far more stable than the Red-breasted, showed virtually no movement into the state this year either. Eleven out of 16 counts reported a total of 90 birds this year; last year the total was 263 reported for 16 out of 19 land counts. House Wrens, in spite of their summer scarcity in many parts of Virginia, still appear to be increasing as winter residents. Eight counts reported them this year. Brown Thrashers surely must be at an all-time winter peak, with 10 out of 16 counts reporting them; the count of 40 at Chincoteague was outstanding.

Newspaper letters to editors notwithstanding, the Eastern Bluebird displayed a distinct 100% increase this year over last, whether measured by the actual number of birds reported or by the number seen per 100 party-hours of observation. Table 2 shows this comparison in some detail for the last eight Christmas count seasons. The decline of this bird in previous years is clearly indicated. In column 3 of this table the total number of counts means all the counts listed in *The Raven* except for those wholly over water (i.e., the Chesapeake Bay counts) and those not reporting total party-hours. Columns 2, 5, and 6 are based on column 3.

Table 1. The 1962-63 Christmas bird counts for Virginia. Notations in boldface type indicate an unusual species or an unusual number of individuals for that particular count. Items marked with an asterisk (\*) are commented on further under count headings in text.

	1. Chincoteague	2. Little Creek	3. Back Bay	4. Newport News	5. Hopewell	6. Brooke	7. Fort Belvoir	8. Greene County	9. Charlottesville	10. Sweet Briar	11. Rockingham County	12. Lexington	13. Western Alleghany County	14. Roanoke	15. Blacksburg	16. Glade Spring
Date	12-27	12-26	12-28	12-29	12-31	12-19	12-22	12-19	12-29	12-26	12-29	12-29	1-1	12-30	12-27	12-26
Common Loon	73	8	....	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Red-throated Loon	50	1	3	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Loon (sp.?)	....	....	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Horned Grebe	219	76	16	108	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....
Pied-billed Grebe	4	12	4	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	....
Double-crested Cormorant	....	....	1	10	....	2*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Great Blue Heron	69	13	11	8	6	21	7	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....
Little Blue Heron	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Egret	7	1	9	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Snowy Egret	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Black-crowned Night Heron	20	1	....	2*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	....	....	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
American Bittern	2	....	11	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Whistling Swan	27	....	513	....	....	160	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Canada Goose	1524	5	880	5	7000	....	13	....	70*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Brant	5123	5	20	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Snow Goose	3571	....	2375	....	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Blue Goose	....	....	5	....	62	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Mallard	552	19	214	21	2250	8	63	....	....	....	70	34	....	28	68	71
Black Duck	5162	97	562	8	2650	130	269	....	4	....	25	7	....	11	22	....
Gadwall	73	....	18	2	....	3	....	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	....
Pintail	199	....	125	75	600	....	10	....	....	....	5	....	....	....	....	....
Green-winged Teal	311	....	52	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
American Widgeon	87	16	60	1467	53	2	....	....	....	....	100	....	....	....	3	....
Shoveler	127	....	1	....	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Wood Duck	....	3	....	1	95	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Redhead	....	4	30	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Ring-necked Duck	16	79	....	....	....	8	....	....	....	....	21	....	....	12	1	1
Canvasback	102	16	45	215	1	135	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Greater Scaup	....	14	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Lesser Scaup	....	79	....	211	....	6	11	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	119	....
Scaup (sp.?)	2590	....	....	....	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Goldeneye	177	32	....	450	....	30	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	26	....
Bufflehead	758	63	1	235	6	17	19	....	....	....	3	....	....	25	153	....
Oldsquaw	126	1	2	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
White-winged Scoter	103	....	13	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Surf Scoter	4772	1	46	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Scoter	1954	2	15	27	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Ruddy Duck	4	326	1	373	70	240	138	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Hooded Merganser	42	160	12	9	3	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	3	....
Common Merganser	15	4	....	51	103	90	16	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	....	....
Red-breasted Merganser	276	109	10	26	....	70	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Turkey Vulture	113	2	43	1	23	8	....	85	....	3	2	....	....	....	2	30
Black Vulture	....	....	156	....	20	2	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	....	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
Cooper's Hawk	....	....	1	1	....	....	1	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	1	....
Red-tailed Hawk	6	5	1	....	2	3	....	5	1	2	....	....	....	....	....	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	5	2	....	....	1	7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1*
Golden Eagle	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Bald Eagle	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Marsh Hawk	29	1	18	....	5	8	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Osprey	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1*
Pigeon Hawk	2*	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Sparrow Hawk	32	32	78	9	1	5	7	3	2	....	3	....	....	3	1	2
Ruffed Grouse	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	....	....	....	....	....
Bobwhite	42	42	26	21	....	50	71	143	120	9	....	39	8	15	199	....
Turkey	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
King Rail	....	2	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Clapper Rail	29	15	....	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Virginia Rail	1	....	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Gallinule	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
American Coot	2	7	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	....	....	....	....	....
American Oystercatcher	50*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20	....	5
Piping Plover	3*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Semipalmated Plover	2*	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Killdeer	15	21	17	120	5	7	25	3	2	....	4	9	....	3	12	36
Black-bellied Plover	321	2	1	9	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Ruddy Turnstone	25	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
American Woodcock	5	....	....	2	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Snipe	4	....	57	3	5	1	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Willet	2*	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Greater Yellowlegs	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Lesser Yellowlegs	7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Purple Sandpiper	....	4	....	3*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Dunlin	1906	....	10	81	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Semipalmated Sandpiper	11	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Western Sandpiper	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
"Peep" Sandpipers (sp.?)	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Sanderling	466	93	1	155	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Great Black-backed Gull	104	66	60	39	....	23	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Herring Gull	2418	4190	1064	1829	80	160	1138	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Ring-billed Gull	1728	3445	809	1319	855	220	2675	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Laughing Gull	15	21	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Bonaparte's Gull	39	56	5	103	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Gull (sp.?)	....	....	....	....	....	500	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Forster's Tern	....	....	....	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Tern	....	....	....	....	....	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Mourning Dove	243	162	116	47	295	140	279	108	100	31	25	102	....	10	269	193
Screech Owl	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1

(Continued on following page)



	1. Chincoteague	2. Little Creek	3. Back Bay	4. Newport News	5. Hopewell	6. Brooke	7. Fort Belvoir	8. Greene County	9. Charlottesville	10. Sweet Briar	11. Rockingham County	12. Lexington	13. Western Allegheny County	14. Roanoke	15. Blacksburg	16. Glade Spring
Date	12-27	12-26	12-28	12-29	12-31	12-19	12-22	12-19	12-29	12-26	12-29	12-29	1-1	12-30	12-27	12-26
Great Horned Owl	2	....	2	....	....	....	6	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Barred Owl	....	....	3	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....
Short-eared Owl	2	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Belted Kingfisher	29	14	5	12	2	18	9	2	5	....	2	3	....	1	1	9
Yellow-shafted Flicker	120	87	79	66	33	70	52	12	21	6	....	4	1	....	23	4
Pileated Woodpecker	1	7	14	4	1	23	9	5	8	2	....	9	1	....	8	5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	18	28	47	23	13	150	74	17	35	6	....	14	....	....	11	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	....	2	1	1	....	116	9	1	1	1	....	....	....	....	2	....
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	3	5	....	1	24	3	2	7	3	....	1	....	....	1	....
Hairy Woodpecker	11	5	8	1	1	13	8	4	6	....	....	1	....	....	6	3
Downy Woodpecker	69	18	18	20	4	100	108	45	31	9	....	17	2	6	48	22
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Western Kingbird	....	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Eastern Phoebe	4	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	....	....	....	....
Horned Lark	114	3	....	202	26	....	18	....	....	....	....	152	....	5	776	3
Tree Swallow	....	....	2	15	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Blue Jay	16	43	4	71	21	420	409	50	92	22	22	25	18	5	148	88
Common Raven	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Crow	5000	253	263	93	135	350	267	2584	94	30	86	225	168	12	263	179
Fish Crow	700	25	44	41	....	....	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Black-capped Chickadee	....	....	....	....	....	....	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....
Carolina Chickadee	136	99	145	65	20	160	241	82	74	20	7	47	....	5	93	31
Tufted Titmouse	60	48	36	40	8	80	203	41	43	21	6	32	9	8	78	24
White-breasted Nuthatch	....	1	3	2	....	5	36	....	7	7	2	....	....	3	19	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Brown-headed Nuthatch	29	1	35	3	....	....	11	8	10	....	2	3	....	....	5	....
Brown Creeper	22	4	....	17	4	22	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
House Wren	10	1	3	1	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1
Winter Wren	22	1	3	....	2	6	....	1	3	....	....	....	....	1	....	5
Carolina Wren	74	51	56	65	11	42	53	3	12	6	....	4	....	3	10	25
Long-billed Marsh Wren	7	1	18	1	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Short-billed Marsh Wren	10	....	3	9	10	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Mockingbird	26	80	58	96	10	110	146	50	73	35	15	27	6	10	58	33
Catbird	23	....	7	3	....	6	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....
Brown Thrasher	40	11	17	15	1	6	1	....	....	....	1	....	2	....	....	....
Robin	839	32	152	6	6	530	59	245	11	....	1	61	....	7	8	4
Varied Thrush	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1*	....
Hermit Thrush	23	....	1	4	2	7	4	....	1	....	....	....	2	....	1	....
Gray-checked Thrush	....	....	....	....	7	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Eastern Bluebird	22	9	32	6	7	10	....	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	145	30	86	73	91	17	61	50	103	1	....	2	....	....	32	14
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12	21	21	4	6	7	....	3	14	....	....	2	....	3	2	....
Water Pipit	125	....	41	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Cedar Waxwing	21	94	7	198	4	900	49	26	8	....	13	16	....	44	56	31
Loggerhead Shrike	....	....	1	1	3	10	....	12	2	1	....	2	....	2	5	1
Starling	2439	4375	1156	11,463	70	3300	2081	1023	617	200	2029	1683	1089	300	1295	3000
Orange-crowned Warbler	....	1	2	....	....	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Myrtle Warbler	1613	357	1000	632	5	140	70	13	8	6	....	1	....	....	2	27
Pine Warbler	....	5	6	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Palm Warbler	1	5	14	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Yellowthroat	....	1	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Yellow-breasted Chat	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
House Sparrow	638	325	171	341	175	100	209	46	80	74	283	280	464	50	371	374
Eastern Meadowlark	829	328	292	167	151	190	26	112	90	7	38	76	....	13	118	169
Red-winged Blackbird	2448	1096	6355	441	700	600	4303	....	33	....	....	....	....	24	....	100
Baltimore Oriole	....	1*	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Rusty Blackbird	69	37	....	....	....	90	227	....	5	....	....	....	....	....	27	14
Boat-tailed Grackle	1808	....	4	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Grackle	5461	3264	23,675	3627	3100	160	2015	2	168	3	....	....	....	4	....	240
Brown-headed Cowbird	710	53	3	157	1550	....	88	....	46	2	....	....	....	11	....	90
Cardinal	195	253	112	205	84	280	414	315	241	112	24	152	96	19	212	168
Dickcissel	....	....	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Evening Grosbeak	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	....	....	....	....
Purple Finch	9	17	5	7	....	50	27	2	....	3	....	12	....	15	5	....
Pine Siskin	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
American Goldfinch	478	117	495	102	17	310	360	15	12	....	30	1	....	5	47	20
Rufous-sided Towhee	102	67	74	89	9	98	34	....	7	....	....	1	1	....	4	4
Ipswich Sparrow	2	....	....	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Savannah Sparrow	207	113	153	145	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Grasshopper Sparrow	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	30	40	....	7	13	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Seaside Sparrow	2	49	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Vesper Sparrow	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Lark Sparrow	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Slate-colored Junco	92	293	113	790	305	700	2129	519	236	64	161	309	110	26	360	142
Tree Sparrow	....	1	....	1*	2	50	39	35	67	1	64	203	....	....	38	....
Chipping Sparrow	....	....	2	111	....	....	4*	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	1*	....
Field Sparrow	28	256	119	....	....	120	104	51	138	....	10	8	....	3	84	66
White-crowned Sparrow	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	31	5	....	....	2	76	198
White-throated Sparrow	1977	438	551	545	140	800	465	106	176	47	2	105	20	18	24	54
Fox Sparrow	41	23	2	80	9	9	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Swamp Sparrow	494	61	136	96	....	30	....	....	15	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Song Sparrow	1095	209	209	229	16	250	304	63	193	11	6	20	....	29	106	167
Lapland Longspur	4*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Snow Bunting	1	....	2	49	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total Species	134	106	119	104	67	81	75	49	49	34	39	45	17	44	65	50
Total Individuals	64,288	22,076	43,429	27,544	20,962	12,543	19,439	5914	2730	778	3084	3741	1998	777	5334	5689
Total Party-hours	89	34	49	48	17	69	109	32	30	9	16	27	9	54	59	24
No. of Observers	26	10	16	14	6	16	30	3	7	3	5	8	2	8	16	4

Table 2. Variation in winter populations of Eastern Bluebirds in Virginia based on Christmas bird counts.

Season	Total Bluebirds	Total No. of Counts	No. Reporting Bluebirds	Total Party-hours	Bluebirds per 100 Party-hours
1955-56	682	20	18	515	132
1956-57	411	17	14	473	87
1957-58	844	19	18	634	133
1958-59	477	19	17	599	80
1959-60	554	22	19	682	81
1960-61	69	22	10	730	9
1961-62	51	18	9	624	8
1962-63	102	16	8	675	16

The increase in wintering blackbirds, especially Common Grackles, may not be immediately obvious from these counts, since none of the known roosts were included in count areas this year. There was no flight of northern finches, and Evening Grosbeaks were reported only at Lexington and the Pine Siskin on only three counts. There were, however, good numbers of Purple Finches. The count of 8 Ipswich Sparrows on the Newport News count was of interest. These birds seem to concentrate along the western shore of Chesapeake Bay much more than along the ocean front.

1. **Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge** (all points within a 15-mile-diameter circle, center 2 miles north of center of Chincoteague as in previous 8 years; open farmland 19%, insular pine woodland 13%, mainland pine and mixed woodland 22%, low pine and myrtle 3%, fresh-water marshes and impoundments 7%, salt marshes 20%, sheltered bays 12%, dunes 1%, mud and sand flats 1%, ocean beach 2%).—Dec. 27; 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 28° to 45°; wind N, 2-12 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Twenty-six observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 89 (65 on foot, 21 by car, 3 by boat); total party-miles, 314 (58 on foot, 251 by car, 5 by boat). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Dovekie (specimen obtained). Observers: W. M. Booth, L. L. Calvert, Gladys H. Cole, Mary-Rebecca Cregar, P. A. DuMont, P. G. DuMont, M. Garland, C. D. Hackman, L. R. Johnson, V. M. Kleen, G. M. Meade, J. B. Meade, Wilde R. Mellencamp, B. Newman, C. F. Noble, Mr. & Mrs. H. S. Peters, C. S. Robbins, Betsy Schaffer, F. G. Scheider, F. R. Scott (compiler), J. W. Terborgh, J. S. Weske, J. Williams, J. A. Willoughby, J. E. Willoughby. This year for the first time this count included parts of extreme southern Worcester Co., Md. A breakdown of the count by state is available from the compiler. The Snowy Egret was seen by the Willoughbys and Hackman, and the Golden Eagle was found by Terborgh and Weske, but in Maryland. One Pigeon Hawk was reported by Scheider, Johnson, and J. B. Meade and the other by the Peterses, Kleen, and Newman. Five different parties reported the Am. Oystercatchers, and allowances in the total were made for possible duplication. The Piping Plovers were seen by the DuMonts and Williams, and the Semipalmated Plovers by the Willoughby party; the Willets were found by the DuMonts. Scheider *et al.* found the Lark Sparrow, and the Grasshopper Sparrow and Lapland Longspurs were both reported by Robbins *et al.*

2. **Little Creek** (all points within a 15-mile-diameter circle, center 1.5 miles NE of Kempsville, including Lynnhaven Inlet, Little Creek, eastern portion of Norfolk City, and Stumpy Lake; open farmland 20%, pine woodland 10%, deciduous woodland 40%, salt marsh, sand beach, bay, and rivers 10%, suburbs 20%).—Dec. 26; 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 32° to 48°; wind NE, 5-15 m.p.h.; ground clear, water open. Ten observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 34 (20 on foot, 14 by car); total party-miles, 226 (25 on foot, 201 by car). Observers: C. Barefield, Mrs. F. Burford, W. Cooper, Mrs. C. W. Darden, C. W. Gibbins, Miss G. Grimm, F. Hesperheide, J. Parker, F. C. Richardson, W. F. Rountrey. The Willet was seen by Cooper, Hesperheide, and Parker and the Baltimore Oriole by Mrs. Burford *et al.*

3. **Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge** (all points within a 15-mile-diameter circle, center 1.5 miles east of Back Bay, including much of mainland of Princess Anne County; open farmland 20%, pine woodland 10%, deciduous woodland 20%, open beach 5%, marshes and bay 45%).—Dec. 28; 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Partly cloudy to fair; temp. 30° to 39°; wind N, 10-30 m.p.h.; ground clear, water open. Sixteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 49 (31 on foot, 18 by car); total party-miles, 263 (37 on foot, 226 by car). Observers: E. Breneiser, Mrs. F. Burford, S. Calver, W. Cooper, D. Drezina, D. D. Green, C. D. Hacker, C. W. Hacker, F. Hesperheide, H. Hesperheide (compiler), G. Lee, J. Parker, W. W. Pinkham, F. C. Richardson, W. F. Rountrey, W. P. Smith. A high wind and high water on the mud flats kept numbers and species down. The Western Kingbird was seen by Richardson and Rountrey.

4. **Newport News** (all points within a 15-mile-diameter circle, bounded by Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, James River, Grafton; woodland 30%, open fields 30%, fresh-water ponds 10%, waterfront 30%).—Dec. 29; 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cloudy, sleet in p.m.; temp. 30° to 34°; wind NE, 2-8 m.p.h.; ground bare, marshes partly frozen. Fourteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 48 (22 on foot, 26 by car); total party-miles, 332 (27 on foot, 305 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Redhead, Am. Coot, Am. Woodcock, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Observers: Martha Armstrong, Caroline Ayers, Frances Cumming, Georgianna Cumming, J. H. Grey, C. D. Hacker, C. W. Hacker, Norma Katz, Pat Miller, Dorothy Mitchell, Sydney Mitchell, W. F. Rountrey, Doris Smith, W. P. Smith (compiler). The Black-crowned Night Herons, Purple Sandpipers, and Dickcissel were seen by the Smiths, and the Tree Sparrow was reported by C. W. Hacker.

5. **Hopewell** (all points within a 15-mile-diameter circle, center in Curles Neck as in last 8 years; includes Presquile National Wildlife Refuge; open farmland 30%, brushy fields 10%, marshes and river shore 10%, deciduous wooded swamp 15%, woodland 35%).—Dec. 31; 6:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Clear; temp. 15° to 28°; wind NW, 5-21 m.p.h.; up to 2 in. snow and ice in sheltered areas, all still water frozen. Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 17 (10 on foot, 3 by car, 4 by boat); total party-miles, 108 (6 on foot, 97 by car, 5 by boat). Observers: J. H. Roberts, R. H. Rudd, F. R. Scott (compiler), Mary Tompkins, Henrietta Weidenfeld, Franklin Woodson. Frozen swamp waterways prohibited the observation of most of the Wood Ducks in the area.

6. **Brooke** (all points within a 15-mile-diameter circle, center on road 3 miles ESE of Brooke, including Potomac River from Widewater to Maryland Point Lighthouse and Virginia upland nearly to Fredericksburg; tidal water 13%, marsh 9%, deciduous wooded swamp 6%, fields 12%, hedgerows 6%, mixed forest edge 14%, deciduous woods 28%, pine woods 5%, slash 7%).—Dec. 19; 5:45 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. Clear before sunrise, then cloudy with haze over water; temp. 25° to 46°; wind W, 5 m.p.h.; ground bare, marshes frozen, tidal bays frozen in a.m., Potomac River clear except for a few ice floes. Sixteen observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours, 69 (64 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 109 (54 on foot, 55 by car). Observers: C. A. Anderson, R. A. Bailey,

A. A. Baker, Henry Bell, III, J. H. Eric, S. W. Hobbs, Luna B. Leopold, E. T. McKnight (compiler), T. B. Nolan, C. D. Rinehart, W. W. Rubey, B. J. Skinner, R. L. Smith, D. B. Stewart, D. R. Wiesnet, D. R. Wones. The Double-crested Cormorants were seen by Rinehart and the House Wren by Baker.

**7. Fort Belvoir** (all points within a 15-mile-diameter circle, center at Lebanon, Fairfax Co.; habitats same as last year).—Dec. 22; 5:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast; temp. 22° to 40°; wind SW, 0-8 m.p.h.; 5 in. ice-encrusted snow on ground, streams and inlets mostly frozen. Thirty observers in 14 parties. Total party-hours, 109 (74 on foot, 35 by car); total party-miles, 226 (54 on foot, 172 by car). Observers: J. M. Abbott (compiler), T. J. Banvard, Richard Banvard, E. G. Davis, P. A. DuMont, Helen Goldstick, Stephens Goodall, Ed Hayward, Mr. & Mrs. I. C. Hoover, Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Houston, Adolph Humphries, H. M. Johnson, D. F. Keeney, Edward Kunze, Mrs. Maria Maasland, Gale Monson, Daniel Peacock, Mrs. Mary Pulley, Judy Pulley, R. L. Pyle, Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Rothery, G. H. Sigel, T. M. Sigel, Steve Snyder, Harriet A. Sutton, Mr. & Mrs. R. P. Teele. The Laughing Gulls and Gray-checked Thrush were seen by Houston *et al.* and the Common Tern by the Rotherys. Abbott reported the Orange-crowned Warbler and DuMont the Chipping Sparrows.

**8. Greene County** (all points within a 15-mile-diameter circle, center about 1.5 miles west of Stanardsville at intersection of U. S. 33 and Va. 810, including portions of Shenandoah National Park; deciduous woods 50%, fields 40%, pine woods 7%, towns 2%, streams 1%).—Dec. 19; 2:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Overcast; temp. 27° to 58°; wind S, 5-10 m.p.h.; ground bare, streams partly frozen. Three observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 32 (20 on foot, 12 by car); total party-miles, 209 (24 on foot, 185 by car). Observers: Thomas A. Hansen (compiler), Albin M. Plant, Hadley S. Roe.

**9. Charlottesville** (same area and habitats as in previous few years).—Dec. 29; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast, with freezing rain, sleet, and snow; temp. 23° to 37°; wind negligible; up to 15 in. crusted snow, ponds frozen. Seven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 30 (26 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 87 (37 on foot, 50 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Turkey Vulture, Fish Crow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Thrasher, **Cape May Warbler**, Purple Finch. Observers: Steve Calver, Steve Fretwell, Mrs. C. O. Gregory, Henry Hesperheide, Kenneth Lawless, R. S. Merkel, C. E. Stevens (compiler). The Cape May Warbler above was seen by Calver on Dec. 25.

**10. Sweet Briar** (all points within a 3-mile-diameter circle, center at Sweet Briar College; open fields and pastures 30%, deciduous woodland 30%, hedgerows 20%, ponds and creek bottoms 10%, campus 10%).—Dec. 26; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 28° to 42°; wind 5-10 m.p.h.; some snow on ground, ponds partly frozen. Three observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 9 (8½ on foot, ½ by car); total party-miles, 9 (4 on foot, 5 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Eastern Bluebird, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow. Observers: Jeanette Boone, Katherine Macdonald, Gertrude Prior (compiler).

**11. Rockingham County** (all points within a 15-mile-diameter circle, center at Ottobine, including Silver Lake in Dayton; residential areas 5%, cottonwood-sycamore river bottoms 5%, farmland and woodlots 55%, mixed woodlands in mountains 35%; elevation, 1160 to 3200 feet).—Dec. 29; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Overcast, with snow, sleet, or rain all day; temp. 29° to 32°; wind SE, 3-5 m.p.h.; some snow on ground, some water open. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 16 (4 on foot, 12 by car); total party-miles, 80 (3½ on foot, 76½ by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Great Heron, Bobwhite, Horned Lark, Loggerhead Shrike. Observers: Max Carpen-

ter (compiler), Joseph Dietz, Hollen Helbert, Elmer Richards, R. H. Smith, Jr.

**12. Lexington** (same area as in former years; open farmland 38%, deciduous woodlands 20%, cedar and pine woodlands 25%, scrub 17%).—Dec. 29; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast, dark, and foggy with very poor visibility, 4 in. new snow and sleet falling; temp. 30° to 32°; no wind; 10 in. old snow on ground, ponds mostly frozen, river partly frozen. Eight observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 27 (24 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 78 (20 on foot, 58 by car). Observers: R. P. Carroll, R. P. Carroll, Jr., Royster Lyle, J. J. Murray (compiler), J. J. Murray, Jr., R. O. Paxton, Robert Stewart, Cabell Tutwiler.

**13. Western Alleghany County** (all points within a 15-mile-diameter circle, center in Altamont, including Pitzer's Ridge, Falling Springs Valley, Morris Hill, Indian Draft, Dunlap Creek; open woodland 55%, fields and pasture 45%).—Jan. 1; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cloudy a.m., sunny p.m.; temp. 20° to 32°; wind negligible; 3 in. snow on ground. Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 9 (2½ on foot, 6½ by car); total party-miles, 91 (3 on foot, 88 by car). Observers: Lucy Y. Wilson (compiler), Robert C. Wilson.

**14. Roanoke** (same territory as in previous years; Murray's Pond, Woodrum Field Airport, Peters Creek Road, Carvin's Cove Dam; creek bottom and pond 20%, open fields 30%, woodland 20%, farmland 30%).—Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fair; temp. 17° to 35°; wind NW, 12-29 m.p.h.; ground covered with snow. Eight observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 11 (10 on foot, 1 by car); total party-miles, 40 (8 on foot, 32 by car). Observers: Gary Davis, A. O. English (compiler), Mrs. A. O. English, P. F. Kendig, Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. Chauncey Wood.

**15. Blacksburg** (all points within a 15-mile-diameter circle, center near Linkous's store; pasture and plowed land 20%, town and suburbs 10%, mature oak wood lots 20%, mixed pine and oak woods 20%, river and creek bottom 30%).—Dec. 27; 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy with fog in a.m.; temp. 33° to 45°; wind W, 0-5 m.p.h.; 3 to 8 in. snow on ground, ponds frozen, streams open. Sixteen observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 59 (50 on foot, 9 by car); total party-miles, 216 (55 on foot, 161 by car). Observers: J. L. Bishop, D. G. Cochran, A. L. Dean, R. V. Dietrich, M. G. Hale, R. B. Holliman, J. S. Larson, H. S. Mosby, J. W. Murray (compiler), R. T. Murray, C. W. Roane, D. Shear, G. M. Shear, R. Shear, E. A. Smyth, M. L. Smyth. Tracks of Ruffed Grouse and Turkey were also seen. The Rough-legged Hawk, Osprey, and Chipping Sparrow were reported by Bishop and Cochran, and the Varied Thrush was seen by Dietrich. Details of the latter observation will be published.

**16. Glade Spring** (all points within a 15-mile-diameter circle, center at junction of secondary roads 609 and 750; open fields 25%, deciduous woods 25%, mixed pine and deciduous woods 10%, hedgerows 25%, riverbottoms 12%, marsh and ponds 3%).—Dec. 26; 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Overcast with fog and intermittent light rain; temp. 34° to 38°; wind SW, 0-5 m.p.h.; up to 3 in. snow on ground, ponds mostly frozen. Four observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 24 (11 on foot, 13 by car); total party-miles, 122 (12 on foot, 110 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Black Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren. Observers: P. S. Dulaney (compiler), H. W. Nunley, S. M. Russell, Jane D. White.

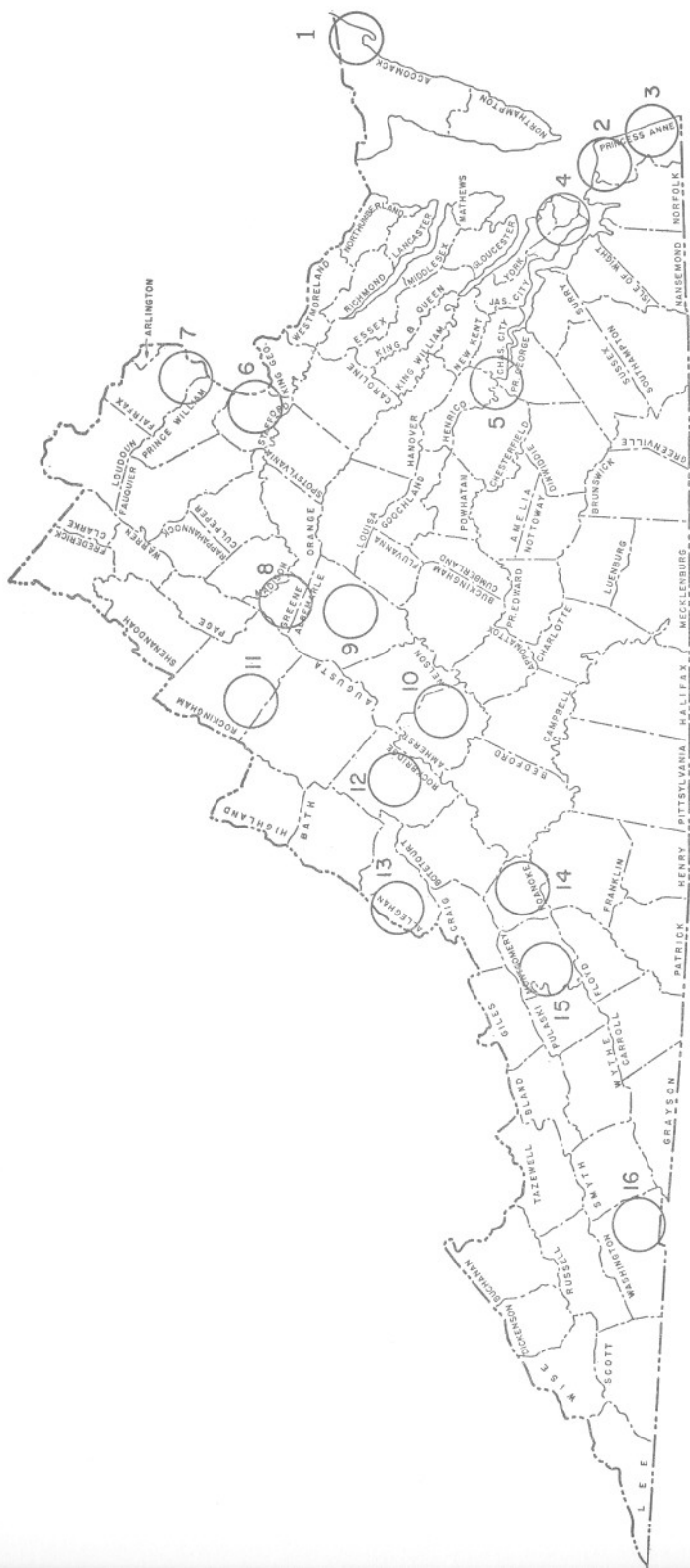


Figure 1. Locations of the 1962-63 Christmas bird counts in Virginia. The count numbers coincide with those used in the text and in Table 1.

## SPREAD OF THE CATTLE EGRET IN VIRGINIA

By J. J. MURRAY

There has been a noteworthy spread of the Cattle Egret in Virginia in recent years. In particular, the scattering of the birds in the spring and summer of 1962 was almost explosive. The species has been seen in many localities east of the Blue Ridge, as far west as Loudoun County on the north and lower Charlotte County on the south. It has also crossed the mountains and appeared at two Valley of Virginia localities.

In a lengthy paper, "The Cattle Egret at Chincoteague, Virginia" (*The Raven*, 29, 67-96), Jacob M. Valentine, Jr., former Refuge Manager at Chincoteague, traced the history of the Cattle Egret at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge from the first record of two birds on 13 May 1953 to the time when it became a regular breeder on the Eastern Shore, north of the Virginia line. In this paper, one of the most important contributions to the history of the species in the United States, he also discussed in general the life history of the bird.

The bird is now fairly common throughout the coastal edge of the Eastern Shore, with dates from 26 March to 20 November and with a number of breeding colonies. There have been counts up to 100. It also occurs inland on the Eastern Shore, with scattered records of small groups in 1962 and a high count of 34 at New Church on 10 May.

At Back Bay the first Cattle Egret seen was on 29 April 1956; and at Hampton on 14 April 1957. One was killed on 13 May 1959 at the north end of Knotts Island, probably on the North Carolina side of the line (*Raven*, 31, 114). On the 1960 Back Bay Christmas count on 31 December the first winter record for Virginia was made by R. H. Peake, Jr., and R. L. Buck. In 1962 the birds were seen in various places in the Norfolk area, with a high count of 29 at Hickory, Norfolk County, on 14 April, by Miss G. Grimm and P. W. Sykes, Jr.

In the past few years and particularly in 1962 the Cattle Egret has been moving inland. It first spread up James River, through the Tidewater area. At Barrett's Ferry, near the Route 5 bridge on the Chickahominy, in James City County, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Hoffmeyer saw a single bird in 1959, 1960, and 1961, also 3 on 11 April and 30 on 12 April 1962. Scattered records were made on the Lower Peninsula in 1962, including 6 in the Poquoson area on 12 May by C. W. Hacker. Dr. John H. Grey and the writer saw an adult at Hog Island, James River, on 10 April 1961. On 29 April 1961 C. C. Steirly found one near Waverly. In 1962 at Hog Island Steirly found one on 3 April and 4 on 13 April, and on 1 May 19 at Wakefield, Sussex County.

Near Hopewell Dr. and Mrs. H. L. Heckel saw up to 10 at a time in bright plumage, 10-26 April 1962, and R. J. Pantle saw 15 on 14 April. At Curles Neck on the river above Hopewell a number of records were made by F. R. Scott, J. S. Lovering, and R. J. Pantle from 8 April to 1 July 1962, with a high count of 45 by Scott on 27 May.

In northern Virginia there have been the following 1962 records: two in southern Fairfax County near the Gunston Hall road on Route 1 on 15 April, W. Borda and D. Decourcey; one at Oakton, Fairfax County, 8 May, C. Ogburn; and two at Gilbert's Corner, Routes 15 and 50, Loudoun County, 27 May, Mrs. H. M. Church, Jr., and separately by R. L. Pyle.

C. E. Stevens and Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Whiteside saw one on 13 May 1962 at Langhorne's Pond near Warren, Albemarle County, three miles west of Scottsville. At Barnesville, southern Charlotte County, Mrs. Florence H. Robinson saw a very late bird with her cattle on 10 October 1962. She thinks she had seen one there in July 1961.

Finally, the Cattle Egret crossed the Blue Ridge in 1962. Mrs. John Kline reported 21 at Cross Keys, Rockingham County, on 1 May to Max Carpenter, and he and Dr. H. G. M. Jopson saw 11 there on 2 May. One was found about 10 miles south of Cross Keys by Mrs. Mark D. Snyder of Waynesboro on 13 May 1962. This was in Augusta County just north of Mt. Horeb Church and east of the Staunton Airport.

It is too early to know whether this spread of the Cattle Egret is of any more significance than the customary wanderings characteristic of herons. That will only be known if and when breeding records begin to occur inland. F. R. Scott, who provided much of the 1962 information makes the following observations:

(a) The Cattle Egret nested only along the coast. (b) Birds at Curles Neck as late as 1 July were obviously nonbreeding birds or more likely prebreeding birds. (c) During the spring the birds appeared to follow the main rivers into the interior. (Most records were obviously connected with the James and the Potomac. J. J. M.) (d) After the end of May there were no interior records except those at Curles Neck. (Another exception was the Charlotte County record, sent direct to the writer.)

6 Jordan Street, Lexington, Virginia

## THE BALD EAGLE SURVEY IN VIRGINIA—INTERIM STATUS REPORT

By F. R. Scott

In early 1956 the Executive Committee of the Virginia Society of Ornithology authorized the Research Committee, with the writer as chairman, to initiate a study of the Bald Eagle in Virginia, since there were disturbing indications that the population of this bird was declining both in the state and in the country as a whole. Just prior to this the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia (now the Audubon Naturalists Society) set up a Bald Eagle Survey Committee, with Jackson M. Abbott as chairman, to make a similar study for the Chesapeake Bay area as a whole. From the beginning these two groups have cooperated fully and have, in fact, acted as a single committee.

The early years of the survey were spent in rather unproductive trial-and-error experiments during which various methods of approach to the problem were attempted and discarded. As the study has now evolved, the principal immediate objectives are to locate actual eagle nests, determine their histories over a number of years, and attempt to determine the reasons for any nesting failures. With the entry of the National Audubon Society into the study in 1960 with their Continental Bald Eagle Project, a mid January census of Bald Eagles was initiated. Both of the local committees have now integrated their studies with those of the National Audubon Society.

Attempts to locate and map eagle nests in Virginia were only partially successful until the 1962 nesting season. Late in 1961 the National Audubon Society assigned Harold S. Peters, a well-known biologist formerly with the Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with the various groups associated in this project. Principally because of his efforts, and those of Jackson Abbott, the study produced its first important results in 1962.

Many people have contributed substantially to the project in Virginia, and it is impossible to acknowledge everyone. However, the results obtained so far would have been far less valuable without the aid of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior, and particularly Robert H. Bain, of the Richmond, Virginia, office, and Hugh V. Hines, of the Cambridge, Maryland, office. Both of these men supplied valuable observations ob-



tained during air patrols of central Virginia and the Eastern Shore. The Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries went so far as to encourage all of their field men to send in reports on eagle nests, and especial thanks are due to Chester F. Phelps, Executive Director, Harry L. Gillam, Information Officer, and Rupert Cutler, formerly Chief of the Education Division. The U. S. Army has cooperated to the extent of allowing an observer to fly in helicopters during training exercises along the Potomac River, thus giving almost complete coverage of this part of the state.

Harold S. Peters, by letters, personal visits, and actual field work, has supplied the encouragement and coordination necessary to keep the project running smoothly. His coordination with the various governmental agencies has been particularly effective. Jackson M. Abbott, as regional coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay region, developed the reporting, mapping, and filing systems that are so necessary to a project of this type. He has also personally done the major part of the field work along the Potomac River. Many individual VSO members have contributed information and field work, but the efforts of Paul W. Sykes, Jr., in the Norfolk area, C. C. Steirly in Surry and Prince George Counties, and Mrs. Edward Katz at Jamestown have been outstanding.

Table 1 presents in outline form the results of the eagle nest survey in Virginia during 1962. These data are unfortunately still preliminary, since not all of these nests were checked by a field observer of known competence, and data on some nests are still incomplete. This table indicates that out of 30 nests which were believed active at the beginning of the season, for many reasons only 19 could be rechecked later, and of these apparently only three produced young.

The principal reasons for the apparent high rate of nest abandonment are not known for sure, but a few ideas are discussed briefly here.

*Observational Difficulties.*— It was not realized until late in the nesting season that incubating eagles will often (always?) bury their eggs in the nest lining when they leave the nest to feed. Hence some of the apparently abandoned nests observed from the air may have still been active. No attempts were made to climb the nests to ascertain the presence of eggs.

*Human Activity.*— In spite of the fact that some eagles have been known to build their nests near well-traveled roads or residential areas, it is apparent that too much human activity (including airplanes, motorboats, and illegal hunters) will cause them to abandon a nesting area entirely. This seems to be increasingly true of the Norfolk and Newport News areas. Eagles are still apparently indiscriminately shot in the rural areas of Virginia.

*Natural Predators.* — Neither Ospreys nor Great Horned Owls, which are known to utilize eagle nests occasionally, are believed to be much of a problem. The former begins nesting well after the eagle does, and the latter usually begins well before the eagle. Raccoons have been spotted in eagle nests three times in January by Harold Peters from an airplane. Their effect on nesting birds is unknown but may be significant.

*Infertile Eggs or Physiological Disturbances of the Nesting Cycle.*— At least six of the active Virginia nests were known to have been abandoned because of infertile eggs. Others may have been abandoned for this reason also. Chlorinated hydrocarbons used in pesticides, such as DDT, are known to impair reproduction in some birds long before they receive a lethal dose, and fish, the main food staple of Bald Eagles, are known to concentrate these poisons in their systems. Studies underway at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland by Drs. James B. DeWitt and John L. Buckley are expected to define this relationship between pesticides and eagles more clearly. In an interim report presented at the November 1962 annual meeting of the National Audubon Society Dr. DeWitt gave facts and figures which seemed to indi-

Table 1. The 1962 status of known Bald Eagle nests in Virginia.

Locality	Total Nests Examined	Nests Reported Active	Number Rechecked	Contents of These		
				Apparently Empty	Infertile Eggs	Young
<i>Potomac River</i>						
Loudoun Co.	1	1	0	....	....	....
Fairfax Co.	7	0	....	....	....	....
Prince William Co.	11	2	2	....	2	....
Stafford Co.	26	5	4	2	1	1 <sup>a</sup>
King George Co.	13	6	4	2	1	1 <sup>b</sup>
Westmoreland Co.	6	1	1	1	....	....
<i>Eastern Shore</i>						
Accomack Co.	4	....	....	....	....	....
Northampton Co.	1	....	....	....	....	....
<i>Cape Henry Region</i>						
Norfolk	2	0	....	....	....	....
Virginia Beach	5	1	1	....	....	1 <sup>c</sup>
Chesapeake	1	....	....	....	....	....
<i>York River</i>						
York Co.	2	1	1	1 <sup>d</sup>	....	....
<i>James River</i>						
Isle of Wight Co.	4	3	0	....	....	....
Surry Co.	10	2	2	2	....	....
Prince George Co.	9	3	0	....	....	....
James City Co.	12	3	3	2	1	....
Charles City Co.	4	2	1	....	1	....
<i>Totals</i>	118	30	19	10	6	3

<sup>a</sup> 1 young bird.

<sup>b</sup> 3 young birds produced.

<sup>c</sup> 1 or 2 young left nest.

<sup>d</sup> Nest destroyed.

cate that pesticides were probably a major factor in the decrease of this bird. The finding of substantial quantities of DDT in eagle eggs from unsuccessful nests in New Jersey was an unwelcomed but highly significant bit of information. This research program will be followed with a great deal of interest.

It is obvious that much more work needs to be done on this project, and anyone who can offer aid, especially on the locations of nest sites, is urged to contact the writer or, for northern Virginia, J. M. Abbott, 1100 Doter Drive, Waynewood, Alexandria, Virginia. It is highly important that active nests be rechecked later in the season to ascertain whether or not there are young in the nest. In Virginia Bald Eagle eggs are usually laid between February 15 and March 1, and incubation is said to take 35 days. Young may remain in the nest from 10 to 12 weeks. Hence a successful nest may be occupied for three and a half to four months.

The Bald Eagle survey is turning up a great deal of fascinating information on this bird in Virginia, and in a later paper I hope to outline in more detail its nesting distribution in Virginia and some of the nesting and other life-history data that are being accumulated.

#### Selected Recently Published Reports

Abbott, Jackson M.

1962. Status Report on the Bald Eagle. Virginia Wildlife, Vol. 23, No. 7, July, pp. 4-6.

1963. Bald Eagle Survey for Chesapeake Bay, 1962. Atlantic Naturalist, 18: 22-27.

DeWitt, James B.

1963. Studies on Pesticide-Eagle Relationships. Audubon Magazine, Vol. 65, No. 1, January-February, pp. 30-31.

Larson, Joseph S., and Jackson M. Abbott

1962. A Mid-Winter Census of American Bald Eagles in the Chesapeake Bay Region, 1962. Chesapeake Science, 3: 211-213.

Sprunt, Alexander, IV

1963. Bald Eagles Aren't Producing Enough Young. Audubon Magazine, Vol. 65, No. 1, January-February, pp. 32-35.

115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Virginia

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE VSO

The Executive Committee, in addition to the officers listed on the inside of the front cover, includes the following:

Immediate Past President: W. F. Rountrey, 904 St. Lawrence Ave., Norfolk 6.

Elected Members: Terms expire 1965: Harry Frazier III, 1912 Hanover Ave., Richmond 20; C. W. Hacker, 218 Chesterfield Road, Hampton; Miss Gertrude Prior, Sweet Briar.

Terms expire 1964: Jackson M. Abbott, 1100 Doter Drive, New Alexandria; Eliot Breneiser, 5102 Studeley Ave., Norfolk 8; Walter P. Smith, 11 Orchard Ave., Hampton.

Terms expire 1963: C. H. Lewis, Box 229, Salem; W. O. Lewis, Box 22, Ivy; Dr. Alexander Wetmore; U. S. National Museum, Washington 25, D. C.

Local chapter members. Any local chapter which is not otherwise represented on the Executive Committee is authorized by the constitution of the VSO to elect one of its members to serve on the Executive Committee.

Northern Virginia: J. W. Eike, chairman, 3307 N. Tuckahoe St., Falls Church.

Lynchburg Bird Club: Miss Gertrude Prior, Sweet Briar.

Roanoke Valley Bird Club: C. H. Lewis, Box 229, Salem.

Cape Henry Bird Club: Eliot Breneiser, 5102 Studeley Ave., Norfolk 8.

Hampton Bird Club: C. W. Hacker, 218 Chesterfield Rd., Hampton.

Richmond Natural History Society: Harry Frazier III, 1912 Hanover Ave., Richmond 20.

Turkey Sag Bird Club: W. O. Lewis, Box 22, Ivy.

Damascus Bird Club: (To be selected)

John S. Battle Bird Club: (To be selected)

Rockbridge Bird Club: J. J. Murray, 6 Jordan St., Lexington.

Other committees:

Membership: Eliot Breneiser, Chairman, 5102 Studeley Ave., Norfolk 8.

Publicity: Ben B. Dulaney, Chairman, 2407 Stanley Ave., SE, Roanoke.

Education: D. H. Messersmith, Chairman, 100 Monroe Terrace, Radford.

Research: F. R. Scott, Chairman, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26.

Trip: C. W. Hacker, Chairman, 218 Chesterfield Rd., Hampton.

Records: Dr. J. J. Murray, Chairman; 6 Jordan St., Lexington; Dr. John H. Grey, Box 445, Williamsburg; F. R. Scott, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26.

Conservation: W. F. Rountrey, Chairman, 904 St. Lawrence Ave., Norfolk 6; R. J. Watson, 2636 Marcey Rd., Arlington 7; Mrs. J. W. Wiltshire, Jr., 201 Woodland Ave., Lynchburg.

Representatives to Potomac River Committee: J. W. Eike, R. J. Watson.

Representatives to Virginia Wildlife Federation: Edward A. Marks, Jr., Walter P. Smith, W. F. Rountrey (Director, VWF), F. R. Scott (Director, VWF).

## VSO TREASURER'S REPORT

12-31-61	Publication fund balance .....	\$ 782.75
12-31-61	Checking account balance .....	\$ 912.40
	DEPOSITS—1962	
	Publication fund .....	\$ 13.10
	Accumulated dividends .....	33.43
	Checking account	
	Memberships .....	\$ 936.60
	EXPENDITURES—1962	
	Raven, envelopes, newsletter, mimeographing, & forms	\$ 899.10
	Postage .....	66.38
	Virginia Wildlife Federation dues (1961 & 1962) .....	150.00
	National Audubon Society dues .....	15.00
	Miscellaneous expenses .....	33.46
	Total .....	\$1,163.94
12-31-62	Publication fund balance .....	\$ 829.28
12-31-62	Checking account balance .....	\$ 685.06

Note: The checking account balance was larger on 12-31-61 than on 12-31-62 because membership renewal notices were sent out in October 1961 instead of January 1962.

Helen L. Goldstick, 4912 S. 28th Street, Arlington 6, Virginia

## HAROLD H. BAILEY, 1878-1962

Members of the Virginia Society of Ornithology will regret to learn of the death of Harold H. Bailey on July 23, 1962.

His father, H. B. Bailey, who was a well-known ornithologist and one of the founders of the American Ornithologists' Union, moved to Virginia when Harold Bailey was a small boy. Much of Bailey's early life was spent at Newport News. During these years, assisted by his father, he began to build up an extensive collection of bird and mammal skins. This was his passion throughout his life. He probably spent more time in the field in Virginia than any man of his day. After moving to the Miami area in Florida to conduct a business as a yacht broker, he also worked widely in that state.

Mr. Bailey wrote two books on birds. *The Birds of Virginia* (published in 1913 by J. P. Bell Company of Lynchburg, 362 pages, 14 color plates, many illustrations), treats only of the breeding birds of the State. This book deals primarily with the Eastern Shore, Tidewater, and certain mountain regions, particularly Giles County. It provides a great deal of information about nesting habits, egg dates, and conditions in Virginia in the early part of the century. *The Birds of Florida* (privately printed in Baltimore in 1925) is a large volume with 76 color plates by George M. Sutton.

Before his death his collection of bird and mammal skins had developed into one of the best private collections in the country. It includes numbers of Carolina Parakeets, Passenger Pigeons, and other rarities. The collections are now housed at the Rockbridge Alum Springs Biological Laboratory near Goshen, in Rockbridge County. Mr. Bailey bought this famous old watering resort just in time to rescue it from destruction. He and Mrs. Bailey, who carries on his work there, have developed it again into a beautiful place.

## NEWS AND NOTES

VSO ANNUAL MEETING — LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA—10-11 MAY 1963. The 1963 Annual Meeting of the VSO will be held at Lexington on May 10 and 11. All sessions will be at the Virginia Military Institute, the Friday afternoon and evening sessions in Scott Shipp Hall, and the dinner in the small dining room in the Mess Hall. The evening speaker will be John Henry Dick of South Carolina, bird painter and illustrator of ornithological books. He will give a lecture on the Galapagos Islands, illustrated with color slides. Note that it has been necessary to change the time from the dates first announced. Lists of hotels and motels, with rates, will be sent out in the *Newsletter*.

PROFESSIONAL BIOLOGISTS MOVE. Several well-known professional wildlife men have recently moved into or out of Virginia. M. Rupert Cutler, former Chief of the Educational Division of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries and Editor of *Virginia Wildlife*, left Virginia early last year to take a position with the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, D. C. He has been replaced with James F. McInteer, Jr. Two Virginia refuges have recently obtained new managers. James H. Roberts, formerly assistant refuge manager of St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, has become manager of Presquile National Wildlife Refuge near Hopewell, replacing William C. Good, who had been manager there for four years. Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge also has a new manager, Charles F. Noble, formerly manager of Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina. The former Chincoteague manager, Thomas W. Martin, has been promoted to a position in South Carolina. The higher status of Chincoteague Refuge is evidenced by the appointment last June of an assistant manager for the first time, Larry L. Calvert.

ROCKBRIDGE BIRD CLUB. On 11 February the Rockbridge Bird Club was launched, with 35 members signing up at the opening meeting. The charter membership will probably reach 45-50 by the first regular meeting. Ten meetings per year are planned, indoor meetings alternating with field trips. Officers will be elected at the next meeting.

DISTRIBUTION OF VSO MEMBERS. An analysis of the membership list published in the December 1962 issue indicates that we have members in 18 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and England.

BOOK PRICE DISCOUNTS FOR VSO MEMBERS. Mrs. N. M. Baker, Audubon Naturalists Society, 1621 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W., Washington 7, D. C., generously offers to VSO members the 10% discount enjoyed by members of the Audubon Naturalists Society on books purchased from the Bookshop at the address above.

DEADLINES FOR MATERIAL. In order to keep on a publication schedule it is necessary to set a deadline for the reception of copy. It will be the 15th of the month preceding publication: 15 February, May, August, and November.

BANDING RECORD. Arthur H. Fast has the enviable record of having banded more than 1000 Evening Grosbeaks in Virginia. This is probably the highest record attained by any individual in the East south of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

CORRECTION. In the account in the June 1962 issue of the Lawrence's Warbler at Lorton the date, 12 May 1962, was unfortunately left off.

**ANOTHER FULVOUS TREE DUCK RECORD.** F. M. Jones (Box 1864, Williamsburg) writes that in December 1961 a Fulvous Tree Duck was killed on Gordon's Creek, James City County, by a member of the Powhatan Hunt Club. The specimen has been mounted and preserved.

**BLACK DUCK AND YOUNG AT ROANOKE.** On 29 May 1962 A. O. English flushed a Black Duck with 13 young at Murray's Pond near Roanoke. This is the third breeding record for the Black Duck at this pond.

**YOUNG BLUE-WINGED TEAL.** A group led by John A. Pond found a brood at Grandview, Hampton, on 28 April 1962.

**YOUNG WOOD DUCK.** On 29 May 1962 A. O. English flushed a Wood Duck with four young at Murray's Pond near Roanoke.

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER AT DAYTON.** Dr. Harry G. M. Jopson, of Bridgewater College, reports one at Silver Lake, Dayton, on 14 January 1963, a second record for this lake.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE IN NORFOLK.** Mrs. Floy C. Burford (6049 Lake Terrace Circle, Norfolk) writes as follows: "On 28 August 1962 (the day tropical storm Alma bypassed Norfolk), the writer and her sister, Mrs. Cleo Yancey, were in the yard watching gulls and terns over a nearby lake when a sharp cry or call overhead attracted our attention. We noticed a bird dive toward the circling gulls and then level off across the lake. It was an adult Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis* (Wilson). The bird put on quite a show over the lake. Then another similar call, but more "throaty or squeaky" was heard; we found it to be another Mississippi Kite. This second bird was too high for any color to be seen, but it appeared dark all over, and from the shape and actions we knew it to be a Mississippi Kite. Evidently this was a young bird, as its voice was much lower pitched than the adult. I have seen many Mississippi Kites in Memphis, Tennessee, where they breed, but this was my first record for Tidewater Virginia."

**LATE ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.** One was seen on 12 May 1962 in Shenandoah National Park by Mr. and Mrs. R. Teel (*vide* F. R. Scott).

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW AT SANDBRIDGE.** On 24 August 1962 Richard H. Peake, Jr., observed a Long-billed Curlew at close range at Sandbridge, Princess Anne County. He gave a clear and satisfactory description of the bird.

**AVOCET IN NORFOLK.** On Friday, 21 September 1962 Mrs. Floy C. Burford and Mrs. Cleo Yancey observed at close range the American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana* Gmelin) at the lower end of Stumpy Lake in Norfolk County. The bird was in fall plumage (very little cinnamon was showing on the head and neck). They watched the bird feeding along the shore line and walk into deeper water. The characteristic spinning about in the water and feeding with a sidewise movement of the head was observed for 15 minutes or more. The next day, 22 September, the bird put on quite a show for about 18 members of the Cape Henry Bird Club. The bird was last seen by W. F. Rountrey on 6 October.

**GLAUCOUS GULL.** One was seen on 6 January 1962 at Craney Island near Portsmouth by J. E. Ames and others and again on 3 March by several observers.

**ICELAND GULL.** Two different immature birds were seen at Alexandria between 20 January and 17 March by J. M. Abbott and others.

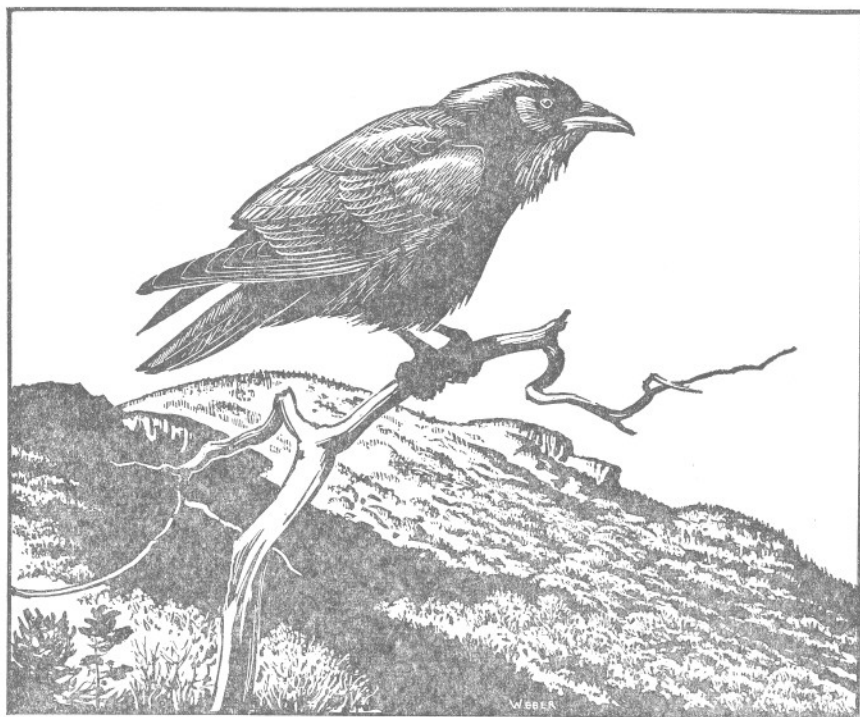
# The Raven

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

VOLUME 34

JUNE 1963

NUMBER 2



Courtesy of Walter Weber

## CONTENTS

Fourth Revision of the Virginia 1952 "Check-List" .....	27
By J. J. Murray	
Significance of Wing Lengths in Evening Grosbeaks .....	28
By Mrs. Elizabeth D. Peacock	
Birds of Virginia on Stamps .....	29
By Charles E. Nimmo, Jr.	
The 1963 VSO Annual Meeting .....	32
By Robert J. Watson, Secretary	
The 1963 VSO Field Trip .....	33
By J. J. Murray	
Brewster's Warbler at Blacksburg, Virginia .....	33
By John W. Murray	
Meeting of VSO Executive Committee .....	34
News of the Local Chapters .....	34
Review .....	35
News and Notes .....	36

The Virginia Society of Ornithology exists to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, to stimulate interest in birds, and to assist the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. All persons interested in those objectives are welcome as members. Present membership includes every level of interest, from professional scientific ornithologists to enthusiastic amateurs.

Activities undertaken by the Society include the following:

1. An annual meeting (usually in the spring), held in a different part of the state each year, featuring talks on ornithological subjects and field trips to nearby areas.

2. Other forays or field trips, lasting a day or more and scheduled throughout the year so as to include all seasons and to cover the major physiographic regions of the state.

3. A journal, *The Raven*, published quarterly, containing articles about Virginia ornithology, as well as news of the activities of the Society and its chapters.

4. Study projects (nesting studies, winter bird population surveys, etc.) aimed at making genuine contributions to ornithological knowledge.

In addition, local chapters of the Society, located in some of the larger cities and towns of Virginia, conduct their own programs of meetings, field trips, and other projects.

Those wishing to participate in any of the above activities or to cooperate in advancing the objectives of the Society are cordially invited to join. Annual dues are \$1.00 for junior members (students), \$2.00 for active members, and \$4.00 for sustaining members.

---

### OFFICERS OF THE VSO

*President:* MRS. JAMES W. WILTSHIRE, 201 Woodland Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia.

*Vice-President:* CHARLES W. HACKER, Hampton, Virginia.

*Secretary:* ROBERT J. WATSON, 2636 Marcey Road, Arlington 7, Virginia.

*Treasurer:* MISS HELEN L. GOLDSTICK, 4912 S 28th Street, Arlington 6, Virginia.

*Editor:* J. J. MURRAY, 6 Jordan Street, Lexington, Virginia.

*Associate Editor* (for club news, Christmas and other bird counts, field trips):  
F. R. SCOTT, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Virginia.

---

Published four times a year in March, June, September and December at Charlottesville, Virginia. Membership includes subscription to *The Raven*. Annual subscription price to non-members is \$3.00. Individual issues are priced at 75¢.

Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at Charlottesville, Virginia.

The business and mailing address for *The Raven* is Box 57, Charlottesville, Virginia.



## FOURTH REVISION OF THE VIRGINIA 1952 'CHECK-LIST'

J. J. MURRAY

Since "A Check-List of the Birds of Virginia" was published in 1952 three papers have attempted to keep that list reasonably up to date (*Raven*, 1953, 24, 34-45; 1955, 26, 75-97; 1957, 28, 48-52.) The first two not only reported on changes in the list but also extensively on additional records for many of the uncommon species. The 1957 paper, "Major Recent Changes in the Virginia Avifauna," dealt only with additions to the list, repeating the additions from the two preceding papers, with the elimination of certain species, and with changes from the hypothetical to the regular list.

The "Check-List" of 1952 reported on 398 birds for Virginia, in addition to hypothetical forms and hybrids. The 1957 paper, by the elimination of three forms and the addition of 22, reported a total list for Virginia of 417 birds, with a hypothetical list of 16, and two hybrids.

The purpose of the present paper is to present the additions to and other changes in the list since 1957. Our State list now has a total of 438 species and subspecies. (It should be mentioned that a forthcoming paper in *The Virginia Journal of Science* will credit Virginia with 440 forms, the difference in the totals being due to the inclusion in the figure of 440 of two good species from our hypothetical list.)

The following 22 birds have been added to our list since 1957:

1. Fulmar. *Fulmarus g. glacialis*. First put on the hypothetical list because of a mounted bird, which had probably been taken at Cobb Island, it can now go on the regular list since Paul W. Sykes, Jr., on 3 March 1962 picked up a live bird in the light phase just south of Sandbridge, Princess Anne County.

2. Reddish Egret. *Dichromanassa r. rufescens*. It was moved to the regular list when one was seen near Norfolk on 27 April 1957 by Dr. Arnold Ransom (*vide* W. F. Rountrey).

3. Mute Swan. *Cygnus olor*. One was seen near Fort Belvoir by Jackson M. Abbott on 25 November 1957, and what was probably the same bird on 16 November at Roaches Run by members of the D. C. Audubon Society (*Raven*, 29, 34-35). Two were reported on 30 December 1958 and four on 29 December 1959 on the Chincoteague Christmas Counts.

4. Fulvous Tree Duck. *Dendrocygnus bicolor helva*. It was first reported by John H. Grey from Williamsburg, a pair in late March and mid-April 1960 (*Raven*, 31, 104-105). Sykes summarized later reports, listing 7 birds shot in Virginia (*Raven*, 32, 60-63). C. C. Steirly saw a flock of 40 in Surry County on 4 November 1961 (*Raven*, 32, 174). There are later records.

5. Cinnamon Teal. *Anas cyanoptera septentrionalium*. Federal Warden Walter E. Price, while taking a census of ducks for the Fish and Wildlife Service, watched a pair for 30 minutes on 14 January 1959 at Lake Prince in Nansemond County (letter from Thomas C. Crebbs, Jr.). Price is familiar with the species in the West.

6. Harlequin Duck. *Histrionicus histrionicus*. J. E. Ames, Jr., and C. C. Garvin watched one on 13 December 1958 at the Craney Island Disposal Area, Norfolk, and on 5 April 1959 Ames and his son saw what was probably the same bird at this place (*Raven*, 30, 65-66).

7. Mississipp Kite. *Ictinia mississippiensis*. It should be moved from the hypothetical to the regular list on the basis of two additional sight records, one at Charlottesville on 20 May 1962 by Robert S. Merkel (*Raven*, 33, 2, 14), the other of two birds at Norfolk on 28 August 1962 by Mrs. Floy Burford (*Raven*, 34, 24).

8. Sooty Tern. *Sterna fuscata*. A dead Sooty Tern was found by State Game Warden Mitchell on 12 September 1960 at Hampton and brought to Mrs. L. W. Machen (*Raven*, 31, 114, and 32, 2).

9. Sage Thrasher. *Oreoscoptes montanus*. Mrs. Herbert M. Church, Jr., banded one near Leesburg on 5 December 1962. The live bird was identified by Dr. F. G. Scheider. Dr. Alexander Wetmore made a positive identification from photographs. (*Raven*, 34, 1, 4-5).

10. Black-headed Grosbeak. *Pheucticus m. melanocephalus*. One seen at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth D. Peacock in Fairfax County from 24 December 1960 well into 1961 was trapped on 28 December, and the identification confirmed by Wetmore. (*Raven*, 34, 4).

11. Newfoundland Purple Finch. *Carpodacus purpureus nesophilus*. Three were collected by F. R. Scott in Richmond in 1958, on 8 February, 5 and 19 April (*Raven*, 31, 18).

12. House Finch. *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*. One which appeared at the feeding tray of Dr. Daniel F. Keeney in Falls Church on 2 December 1962 was identified by James W. Eike. It was trapped and banded by Arthur H. Fast on 5 January 1963. The identification was confirmed by Wetmore (*Raven*, 34, 5).

13. Oregon Junco. *Junco oreganus*. One frequenting the feeding tray of Mrs. Lucille N. Still in Falls Church during the winter of 1954-55 was identified by Dr. E. G. Davis and others (*Raven*, 28, 51). First put on the hypothetical list, it should be moved to the regular list.

14. Clay-colored Sparrow. *Spizella pallida*. Already on the hypothetical list (*Raven*, 28, 55), we have a second sight record. Dr. Fritz G. Scheider saw one on 11 October 1961 on Assateague Island, near the Maryland line (*Raven*, 34, 6).

The following races, one northern and six western, were reported by Thomas D. Burleigh (*Raven*, 33, 2, 3-6):

15. Brown Creeper. *Certhia familiaris montana*.
16. Swainson's Thrush. *Hylocichla ustulata incana*.
17. Myrtle Warbler. *Dendroica coronata hooveri*.
18. Ovenbird. *Seiurus aurocapillus cinereus*.
19. Rusty Blackbird. *Euphagus carolinus nigrans*.
20. Evening Grosbeak. *Hesperiphona vespertina brooksi*.
21. Fox Sparrow. *Passerella iliaca zaboria*.

The hypothetical list now has the following 17 birds: Eared Grebe, Labrador Duck, Swainson's Hawk, Greater Prairie Chicken, Eskimo Curlew, Curlew Sandpiper, Black-headed Gull (European), Black Guillemot, Common Puffin, Rufous Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Eastern Bewick's Wren, Varied Thrush, Sutton's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Bullock's Oriole, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF WING LENGTHS IN EVENING GROSBEAKS

MRS. ELIZABETH D. PEACOCK

It may be of some interest to present an analysis of wing lengths for Evening Grosbeaks banded at Fairfax, Virginia. All of the wing measurements used in this study were made by my banding sub-permittee, Mrs. Mary Pulley, of Burke, Virginia. Her faithfulness in carefully measuring such a large sequence of these squawking, biting birds has led me to prepare these computations for *THE RAVEN* in the hope that they may fit into the greater jigsaw puzzle of our knowledge concerning this species.

WING CHORD MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETERS FOR 176  
EVENING GROSBEAKS

By Month and Sex—Winter 1961-1962

Males				
Month—Year	No.	Range	Av.	Average Deviation
Dec. 1961	24	109-116	111.5	1.46
Jan. 1962	37	106-114	111.1	1.55
Feb. 1962	22	106-115	110.9	1.56
TOTAL	83	106-116	111.2	1.53
Females				
Month—Year	No.	Range	Av.	Average Deviation
Dec. 1961	22	105-113	108.5	1.77
Jan. 1962	40	104-114	108.1	1.86
Feb. 1962	31	104-112	107.8	1.99
TOTAL	93	104-114	108.1	1.85

How much correlation is there between age and wing length? From measurements I have made, at least in some species, it seems to be very significant. For example: a Robin (No. 532-46485), banded on 21 April 1959 as an adult male, had a wing chord of 123 mm.

It returned on 3 May 1960 but was not measured as its feathers were wet; returned on 25 April 1961, when its wing chord measured 128 mm; and returned on 28 March 1962, when its wing chord measured 132 mm!

My experience with this Robin caused me to ask whether the female Evening Grosbeaks with very long wings were old birds. In the sequence of female birds there was one with a chord of 114 mm., one with a chord of 113 mm., and six with chords of 112 mm. Further investigation revealed that the bird with 113 mm. wing and one of the birds with 112 mm. wing were foreign retraps banded in December 1959; and so had to be at least three years old. One of the first things which puzzled me was why the average deviation was so much greater in the females, though the range (spread) for both sexes was the same. A glance at the tables will show that it is 11 mm. for both with the females ranging 2 mm. shorter. One of the most interesting things about the table is that the average wing chord for both sexes became shorter from December to February, whereas the average deviation became larger. Is it possible that the life expectancy of females is greater due to the dull plumage? Do the older birds arrive first, or, being more aggressive, do they push into the traps first?

200 Highland Road, Fairfax, Virginia

## BIRDS OF VIRGINIA ON STAMPS

CHARLES E. NIMMO, JR.

The Virginia ornithologist and the Virginia philatelist may find their paths crossing frequently on the postage stamps of the world. Birds of the Old Dominion appear on stamps of at least thirty different countries, territories and islands that have postal systems. A rather comprehensive search through stamp catalogues and current philatelic journals and papers reveals that by

the end of December 1962 there were forty-eight (48) different species of birds known in the state represented. This number will undoubtedly grow larger in the future as new bird stamps are issued, as new species may appear in Virginia, or as additional species are discovered on stamps already printed.

The forty-eight species mentioned above include the more common and well-known Virginia birds, such as the Mallard, Herring Gull, Turkey Vulture and Raven as well as various accidentals and rarities, like the White and Brown Pelicans, European Woodcock and Skua. The Reeves Pheasant and the Chinese Ring-necked Pheasant which have been introduced as game birds in recent years are also counted. Thanks to Wetmore's investigation of bird bones from the Ice Age in Virginia deposits, the Whooping Crane can likewise be added to our list.

About one-third of the total number are shown on stamps of three countries—Canada, Cuba and the United States. Slightly more than one-third are from European countries, while the remainder come from widely scattered areas of the world.

Listed below are the various Virginia species appearing on stamps. Identifying information is also given about the stamps on which they are found. This includes the name of the country or territory, the date of issue and the face value. To conserve space only one stamp is listed for each bird but it must be remembered that in some cases a particular species may appear on several or even on many different stamps. On most stamps listed the bird is the major part of the design. In some instances, however, the bird is only a very minor portion of the total design and must be sought out quite carefully.

#### CHECK-LIST

- Common Loon. Canada, 10 April 1957, 5¢ value.
- White Pelican. Cuba, 26 June 1956, airmail, 24¢ value.
- Brown Pelican. Virgin Islands, 1 November 1956, \$2.40 value.
- Gannet. Canada, 1 April 1954, 15¢ value.
- Great Cormorant. Poland, 1961, 30 gr. value.
- Snowy Egret. Venezuela, 1961, 40¢ value.
- Cattle Egret. Southern Rhodesia, 15 April 1953, 1p. value.
- Black-crowned Night Heron. Lebanon, 11 September 1946, airmail, a set of 4 stamps.
- Glossy Ibis. Hungary, 16 March 1952, airmail, triangle shaped, 1.60 ft. value.
- Mute Swan. Denmark, 4 October 1934, 5¢ value.
- Canada Goose. Canada, 16 September 1946, airmail, 7¢ value.
- Mallard. Yugoslavia, 25 May 1958, 10d. value.
- European Teal. France, 1961, 45¢ value.
- Wood Duck. Cuba, 26 June 1956, airmail, 8¢ value.
- Common Eider. Iceland, 25 November 1959, 90a and 2k. value. (2 stamps)
- Common Merganser. Cuba, 26 June 1956, airmail, 29¢ value.
- Turkey Vulture. Falkland Islands, 10 December 1946, 1s3p value.
- Golden Eagle. Poland, 1961, 75gr. value.
- Bald Eagle. United States, 3 September 1954, airmail, 4¢ value.
- Osprey. Liechtenstein, 10 April 1936, airmail, 30r. value.
- Peregrine Falcon. Qatar, 1961, 40np and 50np value. (2 stamps)
- Sparrow Hawk. Netherlands-Antilles, 15 April 1958, 2½¢ plus 1¢ value.
- Greater Prairie Chicken. United States, 22 September 1948, 3¢ value.
- Bob White. Cuba, 29 August 1956, airmail, 30¢ value.
- Chinese Ring-necked Pheasant. Japan, 10 January 1950, airmail. (5 stamps)
- Reeves Pheasant. China. (Local issue of Ichang)
- Ring-necked Pheasant. Yugoslavia, 25 May 1958, 20d. value.
- Wild Turkey. United States, 5 May 1956, 3¢ value.
- Whooping Crane, United States, 22 November 1957, 3¢ value.

- European Woodcock. Yugoslavia, 25 May 1958, 70d. value.  
 Skua. French Southern and Antarctic Territories, 14 September 1959, 40¢ value.  
 Iceland Gull. Iceland, 1934.  
 Great Black-backed Gull. Lundy Island, 1951. (Local stamp)  
 Herring Gull. Cuba, 26 June 1956, airmail, 19¢ value.  
 Laughing Gull. Austria, 17 October 1950, airmail, 2s. value. (Scott's stamp catalogue lists this bird as a Laughing Gull, but it is almost certainly the similar Black-headed Gull of Europe, which is on our Virginia hypothetical list. J. J. M.)  
 Black-legged Kittiwake. Lundy Island, 1951. (Local stamp)  
 Sooty Tern. Ascension Island, 2 July 1934, 1s. value.  
 Royal Tern. Cuba, 1953, special delivery, 10¢ value.  
 Caspian Tern. Finland, 26 October 1951, 20m plus 5m value.  
 Razor-billed Auk. Lundy Island, 1951. (Local stamp)  
 Rock Dove. France, 12 January 1957, 15f. value.  
 Ground Dove. Netherlands-Antilles, 15 April 1958, 15¢ plus 2½¢ value.  
 Barn Owl. Monaco, 1962, 0,45 value. (Very recent issue)  
 Great Horned Owl, United States, 24 August 1953, 3¢ value.  
 Raven. Hungary, 2 September 1948, 8f. value. (To honor Edgar Allan Poe)  
 Bluebird. United States, 13 October 1953, 3¢ value. (Small bird on fence)  
 Starling. Monaco, 1962, 50f. value. (Very recent issue)  
 Baltimore Oriole. United States, 8 April 1940, 1¢ value. (To honor Audubon)

#### References

- Esten, Sidney R.  
 1954. Birds of the World on Stamps. American Topical Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 35pp. (Handbook No. 10)
- Murray, J. J.  
 1952. A Check-list of the Birds of Virginia. Virginia Society of Ornithology. 113pp.
- Ridgely, Beverly S.  
 1962. Ornithological Notes. Bio-Philately. Biology Unit of the American Topical Association. Vol. 12:69-70; 72-74.
- Scott's Stamp Catalogue.  
 1958. Combined Edition.
- Stanley, Willard F.  
 1962. Liechtenstein Birds. Bio-Philately. Biology Unit of the American Topical Association. Vol. 11: 169-170, 172.
- Tlamsa, George. Editor.  
 1961. World Wide Stamp Catalogue. Minkus Publications, Inc. New York. Vol. 1 (1223pp.): Vol. 2 (1273pp.)
- Topical Issues of 1960.  
 1961. American Topical Association, Milwaukee. (Handbook No. 31A)
- Topical Issues of 1961.  
 1962. American Topical Association, Milwaukee. (Handbook No. 32A)

P. O. Box 2442, Williamsburg, Virginia

## THE 1963 VSO ANNUAL MEETING

ROBERT J. WATSON, *Secretary*

The Virginia Military Institute and the Rockbridge Bird Club served as joint hosts for the 1963 meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, which was held in Lexington, on the VMI campus, on May 10-11. At the beginning of the afternoon session, greetings from the two host organizations were conveyed by two members of the VMI faculty, Col. J. Carter Hanes and Col. Robert P. Carroll, the latter a member of the VSO.

The first half of the program was enlivened by the appearance of two "guest stars" presented by one of the speakers, R. Bruce McCartney. They were a pair of Fulvous Tree Ducks, a species new to many members of the VSO. Mr. McCartney had made a special study of this species, which recently appeared in Virginia for the first time. This was followed by a talk by Carl S. Hacker, "The Salt Marsh Ecosystem and Its Utilization."

Following a refreshment break, President Dulaney yielded the chair to Mrs. J. W. Wiltshire, who presided over the second half. Part of the program was the showing of colored motion pictures of birds by Herbert W. Nunley, principal of the John S. Battle High School in Bristol, the feature of which was the Bobolink nesting in Shady Valley, Tennessee. In introducing Mr. Nunley, Mrs. Wiltshire paid tribute to his work in organizing two VSO chapters in Southwest Virginia (the Damascus Bird Club and the John S. Battle Bird Club) and asked the members of those chapters who were present to stand and introduce themselves.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore discussed "Another Fossil Bird for the Virginia List," and Dr. D. H. Messersmith showed slides of "The Bird Life of Northern Michigan."

At the business meeting, held in connection with the evening banquet, the principal item of business was the election of officers. James W. Eike, chairman of the Nominating Committee, submitted the following list of nominees:

President: Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, Lynchburg  
Vice-President: Charles W. Hacker, Hampton  
Secretary: Dr. Robert J. Watson, Arlington  
Treasurer: Miss Helen L. Goldstick, Arlington

*Executive Committee:*

For a three-year term:

Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Washington, D. C.  
Royster Lyle, Lexington  
Dr. D. H. Messersmith, Radford

For a two-year term (to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Hacker): Mrs. L. E. Burford, Norfolk

All the nominees were elected. The terms of the new officers will begin on July 1.

After the banquet, members reconvened in Scott-Shipp Hall to be entertained by John Henry Dick, well-known bird painter of Charleston, S. C. Mr. Dick described a recent trip to the Galapagos Islands, illustrating his talk with his own excellent color slides of the terrain, flora, and fauna of the region.

## THE 1963 VSO FIELD TRIP

J. J. MURRAY

This year the field trip of the annual meeting must be spoken of as "trips." On 11 May 1963 the membership divided into four groups in order to cover the various types of territory around Rockbridge County.

Trip 1, led by J. J. Murray, Jr., appealed to the hardier souls. This group went northwest for an exploration of the slopes of White Rock Mountain, an outpost of the Alleghanias, where the sight of Ravens was the chief objective. Trip 2, under the guidance of Royster Lyle, Jr., turned northward to the famous Goshen Pass, where Washington and Lee students and V. M. I. cadets have gone swimming for more than a century, and through which, according to his dying request, the body of Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury was carried on the way to the Richmond train at Goshen village. Here, because of the dense shade and the currents of cool air through the pass, Alleghanian Zone birds are found nesting at Carolinian elevations.

Trip 3, with J. J. Murray, Sr., led over Brushy Hill to the Big Spring, where many interesting records have been made and where once a European Teal was collected. Trip 4, directed by John H. Grey, went east to the Womeldorf Pond, another source of unusual records, where once on the same day a Lesser Snow Goose and a Blue Goose were collected, and on down the Maury River.

All four groups united at 'If,' the Murray's cabin at the Lime Kiln Bridge on Maury River, for a field lunch and a round-up of observations. Here the hosts were betrayed by the unwillingness of their Cerulean Warbler to appear.

The bird list for the day came to an even 100 species. Nothing very remarkable had turned up. Winter birds had all left. Breeding birds had all arrived, although many were not yet on location. Late migrants were in full swing.

The mountain group heard a Wild Turkey calling and of course found their Ravens. It is a poor field day in Rockbridge when Ravens are not seen. Another group flushed a Woodcock. The shorebird count was extremely poor for this date. All of the thrushes except the Gray-cheeked were listed. Most of the hikers saw and heard Warbling Vireos. Golden-winged Warblers, a very uncommon bird in Rockbridge County, were fairly common on the mountain trip. Cerulean Warblers were seen. Strange to say, no Bobolinks were found. One of the interesting features of the trip for members from Tidewater was the constant singing of Baltimore Orioles. Both tanagers were seen and heard. One of the pleasant parts of the trips was that spring singing was at its height.

An odd conclusion to the field trips was the discovery by some of the last to leave the cabin of a sample of tenement nesting. Just inside the gate, under a low tangle of honeysuckle a communal nest was found, containing four bantam eggs and four Bobwhite eggs. On top of the tangle, just over the other nest, was a Field Sparrow's nest, also containing four eggs. Unfortunately, a few days later, but after the Bobwhite had laid a fifth egg, some predator cleaned out all the nests.

## BREWSTER'S WARBLER AT BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

JOHN W. MURRAY

Early on 11 May 1963 my wife and I went out to look for warblers and because of the high winds selected the Stroubles Creek valley just below the V.P.I. sewage treatment plant as a comparatively sheltered site. One of the

first songs heard sounded like that of the Golden-winged Warbler: Bzzzz-bz-bz-bz-bz. When I located the singer, feeding high in a sycamore tree, the black line through the eye as in the Blue-winged Warbler was noticed. The underparts were white, however, with a diffuse yellowish patch on the breast, and the wing patches were yellow. Reference to Peterson showed that it was a Brewster's Warbler. After studying the bird for half an hour, we went home for breakfast and then returned with a camera fitted with a 24" Aero-Ektar lens and secured several photographs on Anscochrome which, though not excellent, show the characteristic features of the bird.

The bird stayed in the same area at least until 14 May during which period it was seen by several others including R. V. Dietrich, Mrs. E. A. Smyth, and Donald H. Messersmith who took his class to see it. All of these concurred in the identification. This appears to be the first record of the Brewster's Warbler in Montgomery County. The only record for Virginia listed by J. J. Murray in his Check List of the Birds of Virginia is a specimen from Fort Myer taken 15 May 1885. The bird sang vociferously and frequently. It showed a preference for sycamores and apple trees.

101 York Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia

[Since the "Check-List" appeared (1952) two additional sight records have been published: Pine Ridge, Fairfax County, 9 May 1953 (*Atlantic Naturalist*, 1953, 9, 33); and Big Flat Mountain, Shenandoah National Park, 14 May 1961 (*The Raven*, 1961, 32, 91). Editor]

### MEETING OF VSO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On 2 March 1963, at a meeting held at the Richmond home of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Scott, the Executive Committee of the VSO authorized Dr. Murray to proceed at his discretion with the preparation of a revised Check-List of Virginia Birds, in a format similar to the original edition. Dr. Murray urged all members to submit up-to-date information for inclusion in the new Check-List.

In other actions at this meeting, the Committee:

1. Heard a report by Mr. W. O. Lewis, publisher of *The Raven*, that the costs of publication in the new printed format, as far as can be told at this time, appear to be well within the expected limits.
2. Approved the application of the Rockbridge Bird Club, recently organized with headquarters in Lexington, for affiliation as a chapter of the Society.
3. Selected the weekends of 21-23 June and 16-17 August for forays to Skyland and Wachapreague respectively.

R. J. Watson, Secretary

### NEWS OF THE LOCAL CHAPTERS

#### Richmond Natural History Society

The Richmond Natural History Society continues to hold regular monthly meetings having speakers on conservation and wildlife along with films and slides on nature subjects. As usual the meetings were held in the board room of the West Broad Street branch of Central National Bank in Richmond.

The group has sponsored a number of field trips, both locally and far afield. Some of the more interesting and lengthy ones have been week ends spent at Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, Reddish Knob near Harrisonburg, and the Williamsburg-Jamestown area.

The current officers, elected 15 May 1963, are Warren Smith, President; Miss



Henrietta Weidenfeld, Vice President; Miss Winifred Barksdale, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Hugh Rudd, Recording Secretary; and Mrs. Richard K. Williams, Treasurer. The current paid-up membership numbers 51.

Mrs. Hugh Rudd, 4315 Fauquier Avenue,  
Richmond, Virginia

## REVIEW

The Migration of Birds, by Jean Dorst, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1962, six and 476 pages, 131 maps and diagrams, foreword by Roger Tory Peterson, \$6.75.

At last we have an up-to-date and authoritative book on bird migration. In our country Wetmore's *The Migration of Birds* furnished an excellent summary of our knowledge as of 35 years ago. Europe has been better supplied than America with books in this field, but there has been no adequate recent work. Of late a mass of facts and many conjectures have appeared in scattered publications. Dorst's book is the first to gather this material in one place.

The author is curator of birds and mammals in the Paris Museum of Natural History. His work has been carefully and conservatively done. Its thoroughness is indicated by the bibliography of 53 pages and the three indexes of 34 pages. The original 1956 edition was in French. The present publication is not just a translation but a revised and enlarged edition. It is, as the author states, "the American adaptation," with the addition of much new material from both North and South America.

It is a pleasure to review a book by a master in his field, a book about which nearly every comment can be favorable. It should be pointed out that this is not a 'popular' book, in the sense that it can be read hastily and easily. It is meant for readers who have a real interest in the subject. However, with the possible exception of the chapter on the orientation of birds, there is nothing beyond the reach of any intelligent reader.

There are certain minor criticisms. In one or two places the author is a bit careless in his language in linking migration from the far North too immediately with cold weather, when for the majority of birds the immediate cause is the coming scarcity of insect food, cold being thus a secondary cause. Birds seem to be able to stand a lot of cold, if there is plenty of food. There is also an insufficiently guarded reference (page 232) to the arrival of the swallows at San Juan Capistrano, even though he puts an exclamation point at its end.

The opening chapter on "Old Explanations of Bird Migration" is one of the most interesting. Dorst mentions the fact that some of the earliest references to migration are to be found in the Bible, in Job and Jeremiah. He also points out the fact that there is only one authentic case of hibernation among birds, in the Poor-will of our West.

Five chapters deal in considerable detail with migration routes all over the world. It is one of the virtues of the book that full consideration is given to migration in South America and in tropical regions. It is in the tropics, by the way, that we do have cases of migration that seem directly linked to changes of temperature, and rather minor changes at that. Summarizing the immense amount of work done in banding, he shows that in North America some 11,000,000 birds of 600 species have been banded, with nearly a million recoveries, and in the rest of the world about 9,000,000 birds.

Some observers have maintained that on migration birds travel at a rate much faster than their normal speed of flight. Dorst indicates that while they do possibly travel about one-third faster at times, their journeys are broken by long stops for rest and food. Small birds can make non-stop flights up to 600 miles, but in travelling over land they generally take it easy, many of them averaging as little as 65 miles in 24 hours.

Possibly the most important chapters, since they contain the greatest amount of new material, and certainly the most difficult, are the last three which treat of the physiological stimulus to migration, the orientation of bird flight, and the origin and evolution of migration routes. In dealing with the inner stimuli to migration the author discusses and criticises all the theories that have been advanced in this century, especially those dealing with changes in the gonads, the thyroid, and the pituitary glands, coming to the conclusion that the physiological study of migration, while fruitful, is still far from complete. Again, in the treatment of orientation he feels that while we have been making advances our knowledge is still quite inadequate.

This book is a 'must' for all thoughtful workers in ornithology.

J. J. Murray

### NEWS AND NOTES

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER AT RADFORD.** Dr. D. H. Messersmith and his biology class from the college at Radford saw a female White-winged Scoter on the New River near Radford on 1 March 1963.

**HERRING GULL FROM QUEBEC IN VIRGINIA.** On 5 May 1962 Paul W. Sykes, Jr., and Walter S. Cooper found a dead immature Herring Gull in first year plumage with a band on its leg on the beach south of Sandbridge. It was in good flesh. The Fish and Wildlife Service reports that the gull had been banded by L. G. Lambert on 28 June 1961 on Strawberry Island, Quebec. Strawberry Island is on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River.

**BONAPARTE'S GULL IN PULASKI COUNTY.** Dr. Messersmith and Miss Ruth Ann Androvich saw one in winter or immature plumage with a flock of 31 Ring-billed Gulls beside a farm pond near Fairlawn, Pulaski County, 8 April 1962.

**NESTING WOODCOCK IN SUSSEX COUNTY.** C. C. Steirly writes as follows: "On 20 March 1963 William Roller, Forester with the Virginia Division of Forestry, found a Woodcock nest while marking seed trees near Mason in the southern portion of Sussex County. At the time the bird flushed and four eggs were found. The writer was shown the nest on 25 March, at which time the brooding bird was reluctant to leave the nest when approached to within three feet. The nest was a simple arrangement of pine needles and grasses in a small hummock in a stand of mature loblolly pine with scattered bottomland hardwoods and with a light understory of reeds or switch cane (*Arundinaria tecta*). Since the timber tract was being cut and regenerated the lumberman was persuaded to leave the cutting of this rather wet area until last in the hopes that a successful brood would be brought off."

**RAVENS ON THE POTOMAC.** On 19 January 1963 James W. Eike saw two Ravens on the Short Hills Range, near the Potomac and close to Harper's Ferry.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER IN ROANOKE COUNTY.** Chauncey Wood, member of the faculty of Roanoke College, Salem, reports a Prothonotary Warbler at Carvin's Cove, Roanoke County, on 6 May 1962. This is the first record anywhere in this part of the State.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER NEAR RADFORD.** Another report of this low country bird west of the Blue Ridge came in from Dr. Messersmith. He and three of his students got a clear and extended view of one at a slough on New River at Ingles Ferry on 26 April 1963.

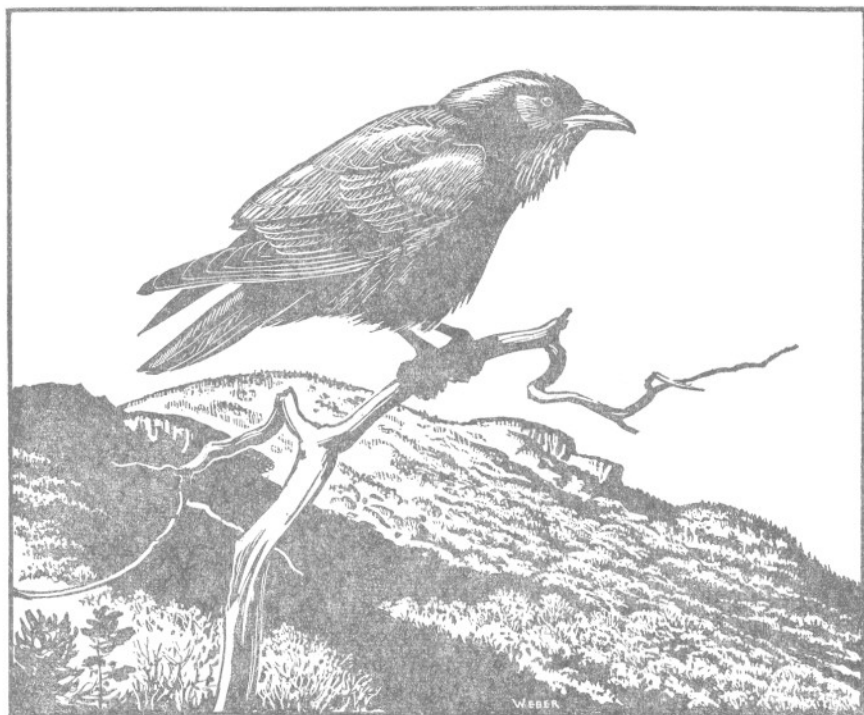
# The Raven

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

VOLUME 34

SEPTEMBER 1963

NUMBER 3



Courtesy of Walter Weber

## CONTENTS

A Strip Census—Hampton Roads—1958 to 1962 .....	39
By Walter Post Smith & Charles W. Hacker	
Drama in Bird Life .....	41
By Mrs. Ruth Smiley Venn	
Birdlife of a Five Year Old Pine Plantation .....	43
By C. C. Steirly	
Glossy Ibis in the Potomac Valley .....	44
By Robert W. Warfield	
Clay-Colored Sparrow at Back Bay, Virginia .....	44
By Paul W. Sykes, Jr.	
The Local Clubs, July 1963 .....	45
Review, by J. J. Murray .....	45
News and Notes .....	45

The Virginia Society of Ornithology exists to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, to stimulate interest in birds, and to assist the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. All persons interested in those objectives are welcome as members. Present membership includes every level of interest, from professional scientific ornithologists to enthusiastic amateurs.

Activities undertaken by the Society include the following:

1. An annual meeting (usually in the spring), held in a different part of the state each year, featuring talks on ornithological subjects and field trips to nearby areas.

2. Other forays or field trips, lasting a day or more and scheduled throughout the year so as to include all seasons and to cover the major physiographic regions of the state.

3. A journal, *The Raven*, published quarterly, containing articles about Virginia ornithology, as well as news of the activities of the Society and its chapters.

4. Study projects (nesting studies, winter bird population surveys, etc.) aimed at making genuine contributions to ornithological knowledge.

In addition, local chapters of the Society, located in some of the larger cities and towns of Virginia, conduct their own programs of meetings, field trips, and other projects.

Those wishing to participate in any of the above activities or to cooperate in advancing the objectives of the Society are cordially invited to join. Annual dues are \$1.00 for junior members (students), \$2.00 for active members, and \$4.00 for sustaining members.

---

#### OFFICERS OF THE VSO

*President:* MRS. JAMES W. WILTSHIRE, 201 Woodland Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia.

*Vice-President:* CHARLES W. HACKER, 218 Chesterfield Road, Hampton, Virginia.

*Secretary:* ROBERT J. WATSON, 2636 Marcey Road, Arlington 7, Virginia.

*Treasurer:* MISS HELEN L. GOLDSTICK, 4912 S 28th Street, Arlington 6, Virginia.

*Editor:* J. J. MURRAY, 6 Jordan Street, Lexington, Virginia.

*Associate Editor* (for club news, Christmas and other bird counts, field trips):  
F. R. SCOTT, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Virginia.

---

Published four times a year in March, June, September and December at Charlottesville, Virginia. Membership includes subscription to *The Raven*. Annual subscription price to non-members is \$3.00. Individual issues are priced at 75¢.

Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at Charlottesville, Virginia.

The business and mailing address for *The Raven* is Box 57, Charlottesville, Virginia.

## A STRIP CENSUS—HAMPTON ROADS—1958 TO 1962

WALTER POST SMITH and CHARLES W. HOCKER

At the 1958 V.S.O. Annual Meeting, we read a paper on "A Strip Census of the Birds Along Hampton Roads for the year 1957-1958". At that time we had only planned to conduct this study for a period of one year. However, it became such a habit with us, and we found we had enjoyed it so much, that we are still doing it today. This paper is a continuation of the previous study, having been broadened to include over four years of recordings.

Our census is based on a weekly coverage of the same area, taken each Sunday morning between 7:00 and 8:30 A.M. The habitat is, I think, quite unique for a study of this nature, for you must bear in mind that the area is entirely residential. We find it amazing to be able to say that in a period of four years we have identified 155 different species of birds!

Specifically, the habitat we cover on our census is comprised of a strip of the western shore of Hampton Roads, running approximately east and west, extending for a length of 3 miles and a depth of  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile back from the waterfront. At the western end lies Peterson's Yacht Basin, an area of sheltered water surrounded by open, grassy meadow with a salt marsh at the rear of it. In the central portion is located Robinson's Creek, with its salt marsh and mud flats, and Indian River Creek, with its mud flats. At the eastern end lies Church Creek, with its salt marsh and small wooded area of mixed pines and hardwoods. Along the entire length of waterfront is a narrow strip of sand beach, perhaps ten feet wide at mean tide. The Bay bottom shelves off very gradually in this area to a water depth of about 8 feet at mean tide at one half mile off shore, and there are extensive sand bars and beds of exposed sea weed extending several hundred feet out from the shore at low tide. Chesapeake Avenue extends the full length of our strip along the waterfront, so we are able to do much of our birdwatching from our automobiles, which is extremely convenient on rainy or snowy mornings.

As a starting point, we may run down our observations on those species for which we have definite records:

Prior to and during the first year of our survey, the Common Loon was a regular winter visitor in our area. Since that time it has established a pattern of appearing only during November and December, and sometimes again in April and May. It is interesting to note that out in Chesapeake Bay, which is adjacent to our area, these birds are seen through the winter.

Murray's "Check-List" notes the Double-crested Cormorant as uncommon in winter. In our area we found it to be regular from the fourth week in September to late April, with a noticeable increase in numbers during spring migration.

The Green Heron is one of our regular summer residents, always arriving the second or third week in April, and leaving at the end of September. We have one breeding record.

The Black-crowned Night Herons herald the return of our nesting Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Each spring a flock of 10-15 Black-crowns will arrive either immediately prior to or with the Yellow-crowns. These birds are only passing through, a few seen for as much as three weeks. We have noted that, whereas the Yellow-crowns seldom fly off when we walk under them, the Black-crowns will always fly at our approach.

The Yellow-crowns are, without doubt, the mainstay of our enthusiasm. It is a very easy bird to observe, nesting in only five or six trees, in good view and not easily frightened. We now know that either the third or fourth week in March will bring them back. Mrs. Darden's notes on display and nesting

habits have served to fire our interest. We have nests numbering between 3 and 7, usually 5 or 6. The nestlings run from 11 to 22, with an average of 18. An unusual note is that, during the first year of our survey, immature birds remained throughout the winter.

The American Widgeon is the most numerous of our ducks, arriving in November and staying until early April. Their numbers over four years have varied from 350 to a high of 925. Being dabblers, their range is limited to the shoreline, making it simple for us to get a total count.

The Canvasback merits special attention. In our three miles of waterfront this duck has always been seen at exactly the same spot for four years. About 20 birds are seen from the third week in December through March.

The Scaup is very regular from mid-December to mid-March. In years prior to our count, these birds numbered up to 500 in large rafts. In the first year of our count the peak number was down to 75, but each year since has seen a steady increase, with a peak of 220 in 1962. Evidently their food supply is following a similar cycle.

The Clapper Rail is another one of our favorite species. With only a comparatively small area of marsh, and that surrounded by residential areas, these birds are in evidence throughout the year. In spring we are always rewarded with glimpses of the downy chicks.

The Killdeer is another of our permanent residents, usually in small numbers of 4-5. A baffling observation is that the numbers will reach a peak into the twenties in winter, but these peaks show no pattern. They can occur in any month from October through March, but with no regularity from year to year.

Our shorebirds are present in small numbers in both spring and fall migrations. Generally the dates of the spring migration are very well defined and of short duration, while the fall dates are spread over a much longer period, with unpredictable beginning or end.

We found the Sanderling to be regular transients in the spring and in the fall, from the last of January to the first of May, and from the middle of August to the first of October. They are much more abundant in the spring than in the fall.

Our Ring-billed Gulls are winter visitors, regular from the last of November to the first of May. It is interesting to note that in our area the Ring-bills return in numbers about three months later than the Herring Gulls.

In common with other coastal areas, we now see Great Black-backed Gulls every week in the year, and have been doing so for four years. Ten years ago this bird was seen only occasionally, and only in winter.

We found the Forster's Terns to be regular from mid-June to the first of February in 1958 and 1959, and from the end of June to the end of December in 1960 and 1961. This is a rather strange pattern when you consider the species is absent only from the first of February to the middle of June.

The Least Terns proved to have quite a different pattern from the other terns in that they visited our area for only two months out of the year, from the first week in June to the second week in August.

The Royal Terns were very regular in all four years from the first week in April to the second week in November.

A few Kingfishers appeared regularly from the first week in August to the first week in April. We assume this species normally breeds elsewhere due to low land, although we discovered one nesting cavity in the bank of Indian River Creek, about four feet above mean tide. This cavity has been occupied, but we have never seen any sign of young.

All of the woodpeckers are on our list, with the Flicker being the most numerous and regular. We are still wondering how we obtained one sighting of the Pileated. He was really off his range.

Our four flycatchers are the Great Crested, Phoebe, Acadian, and Pewee, with the Pewee being by far the most numerous.

Quite surprisingly, Loggerhead Shrikes nested in 1961 in a Live Oak tree adjacent to a Little League baseball diamond near Peterson's Yacht Basin. The male has already returned this year, and has built a new nest in another part of the same tree. This is the only nesting record below Toano in the Peninsula.

Cowbirds occurred in 1958 and 1959 from the first of April to the first of June, and in 1960 and 1961 from the end of January to the middle of April. It seems strange to us that we have never seen this species in our area prior to the end of January.

In our small wooded area we have recorded 14 species of warblers during migrations. Except for the Myrtle and the Blackpoll, these warblers have been in small numbers.

The Song Sparrow is one of our abundant permanent residents to which we have been giving little attention. We have noted, more or less subconsciously, where we usually see them, and the fact that they sing the greater part of the year. In compiling our records, we gave them the usual treatment out of force of habit, little expecting to turn up anything significant. When analyzing the data we were amazed to discover that the usual 6 or so individuals jumped to between 20 and 30 individuals on the third week-end in February in each of the five years! No gradual building up or falling off, a full jump to 4 or 5 times the number for only one week. This seems to indicate the presence of a migratory sub-species, possibly differing from our resident *atlantica*.

The following is a list of species which have been seen only once or twice during the four year period, and which we consider unusual in our area: Holboell's Grebe, Gannet, Common Egret, American Bittern, Whistling Swan, Brant, Gadwall, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Common Scoter, Surf Scoter, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Virginia Rail, Willet, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Pipit, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Dickcissel, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch.

Naturally, our detailed data in this paper covers only a portion of the total number of species we have seen. However, we hope in the future we will be able to compile a complete check list of the birds in our strip.

## DRAMA IN BIRD LIFE

MRS. RUTH SMILEY VENU

This story began on Thursday afternoon, 6 June 1963. Watching a TV program, I was sitting where I could also watch a pair of House Wrens feeding their young at a wren house a few feet from my back window, in a Chinese chestnut tree. Suddenly there was great commotion, and to my horror a Purple Grackle swooped in from nowhere, and attacked the wren feeding from the perch of its nest. I sprang to my feet and knocked frantically on the windowpane, as the grackle felled its little victim to the ground. The grackle flew when I knocked, and when I went into the yard the wren was not to be seen. I hoped it had flown away unharmed. However, neither parent

returned to the nest during the remainder of the afternoon, as I watched closely, although the occupants were noisily demanding attention.

It was not until the next morning that I knew it was the mother bird that had been attacked, and probably killed. Very early that morning, the male wren began singing gaily in the chestnut tree. I assumed he had gotten over the fright of seeing his mate attacked, and had come to care for his young. But no such thing. As the morning advanced, it became apparent that he was trying to attract a new mate to share an unoccupied wren house in the same tree, and that he had abandoned his offspring. Once, the male came to the limb from which the nest hung, looked down at the gaping beaks in the round doorway of the nest, turned away and resumed his singing elsewhere in the tree.

Nearly twenty-four hours had gone by, and the little nestlings had cried incessantly during the daylight hours. At times, not only beaks but fuzzy heads emerging through the opening to the nest.

My husband called from his place of business to inquire if either parent had shown up for feeding the young birds, and when I told him of the male's neglect he suggested that perhaps it would be merciful to chloroform the young, if there was no change by evening.

Shortly after our conversation drama began unfolding. As I kept vigil, an amazing thing happened, that both warmed and tore my heart. Suddenly, I saw the little mother wren, which we had believed dead, running swiftly up the big trunk of the chestnut tree, like a woodpecker, and out upon the limb to her nest, a food morsel in her bill. She lit on the perch barely long enough to drop the insect into a waiting bill, then lost her balance and fluttered to the grass. It was now apparent that she had been injured by the grackle and had lost the use of one wing. She ran across the yard and in and out of low bushes, and was soon back with another morsel, running swiftly up the tree trunk and out to the nest. This time she did not try for the perch, but from the top of the wren house leaned over the edge to feed. Thus began a long and arduous afternoon of feeding for the brave little mother, who had not forgotten her babies those many hours she was delayed by injury from coming to their aid.

After the second feeding, the mother ran back along the limbs to the final big crotch joining the main tree trunk, looked down in indecision, as a person would when faced with jumping from a too high place, started down, found it too difficult, ran back up the tree and out on a limb that made contact with a tall shrub. From there, she fluttered her way to the ground. Thereafter, that was her exit; sometimes she lost her balance and fell, her good wing breaking the fall, but always she approached the nest by running easily, urgently up the trunk of the tree.

We did not know how many birds were in the nest, but as I watched this handicapped mother running tirelessly and almost frantically here and there in search of food for her babies, almost as if she knew that time was of the essence, I felt sadly that she had an impossible task before her. All the odds were against her: the nearly twenty-four hours the young had gone without food; her inability to travel fast enough or far enough afield "on foot" to sustain a hungry brood.

I continued to hope the father wren would lend a hand, but his desertion and lack of responsibility were complete; and he had disappeared from sight and sound as soon as the mother returned. Dark came Friday, and I wondered what the next day would bring. Dawned Saturday, and no mother wren: a bird without flight and a prowling cat, no doubt. On Saturday there was no sound from the nest. In mid-afternoon my husband climbed a step-ladder and lifted the lid of the wren house—five tiny feathered babies, silenced for lack of food.



Perhaps I did the little wren no kindness in sparing her from immediate death. Who knows? But I do know that although she failed ultimately to benefit by my intended kindness, I benefited immeasurably in witnessing the courage of a tiny bird responding faithfully to motherhood in nature. I shall never forget that little mother. Time and again I shall see her running urgently up the chestnut tree and out along the limb to her nest—as noble a little bird as ever lived.

511 Walnut Street, Salem, Virginia,

### BIRDLIFE OF A FIVE YEAR OLD PINE PLANTATION

C. C. STEIRLY

On 14 June 1963, while investigating a bark beetle attack in a portion of a 200 acre loblolly pine plantation in north Surry County that had been burned in a forest fire, I had the opportunity to observe the bird life in the adjacent unburned area.

The plantation was established in the Spring of 1958 after the area had been clearcut and controlled burned, with all inferior hardwoods killed by poisoning. At the present time the loblolly pines average about 8.5 feet in height and 1.5 inches in diameter at breast height, there being approximately 800 trees per acre. A growth of broom sedge (*Andropogon* spp.), scattered hardwood sprouts, and blackberry bushes has become established between the pines. The pines of course are the dominant vegetation on the area.

A census of the singing male birds plus direct observation of the Bobwhite with young was made of the adjacent unburned area covering an area of 3.4 acres, a circular area taken around one of my plot centers on the edge of the burn (a plowed fire line).

Results were as follows:

- Bobwhite, 1 pair.
- Yellow-breasted Chat, 2 singing males.
- Prairie Warbler, 1 singing male.
- Field Sparrow, 3 singing males.

Other birds perching or flying over the area and making some forage use of the area included a Red-tailed Hawk and several Bluebirds, the latter apparently nesting in scattered poisoned hardwoods several hundred feet away from my plot. Using the formula:

$$\frac{N \times 100}{\text{area}}$$

I determined the assumed breeding population per hundred acres of similar habitat as follows:

Bobwhite (with young) .....	29.4
Yellow-breasted Chat .....	58.2
Prairie Warbler .....	29.4
Field Sparrow .....	85.2

District Forester,  
Virginia Division of Forestry, Waverly, Virginia

## GLOSSY IBIS IN THE POTOMAC VALLEY

ROBERT W. WARFIELD

On the morning of 11 May 1963 I discovered a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) on a small island in the Potomac River. The island is approximately 1000 feet offshore from Loudoun County, Virginia and about one and a half miles upstream from Seneca, Maryland. It is technically in Maryland. The ibis was walking slowly about the island apparently looking for food. Also present on the island was an American Egret, thereby providing an opportunity for comparison of the two species. Upon my return next morning the ibis was still present but had moved downstream about 300 feet to another small island.

Until recently this species had a very limited range in the southern states and wandered northward only rarely. In 1952 Murray ("A Check-List of the Birds of Virginia") listed its status in Virginia as hypothetical, but since then a considerable northward extension of its range has occurred along the Atlantic coast. In addition, this species has shown some tendency to spread inland along the river valleys. In 1962 I obtained the first record of this species in the Maryland piedmont (*Atlantic Naturalist*, 1962, 17, 4, 257). The present sighting in the Potomac Valley suggests that additional records of this bird may be expected.

R.F.D.#1, Hereford Hills,  
Germantown, Maryland.

## CLAY-COLORED SPARROW AT BACK BAY, VIRGINIA

BY PAUL W. SYKES, JR.

On 22 September 1962 Walter A. Cooper and the writer carefully observed an adult Clay-colored Sparrow, *Spizella pallida* (Swainson), in the ecotone between a fresh water marsh and a loblolly pine woodland on Long Island at the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (*Audubon Field Notes*, 1963, 17 (1): 21).

The bird was observed for a short time at approximately 30 to 35 feet as it perched on a tall reed. It appeared to be very shy. Upon our attempt to get a closer view, the bird flew off a short distance. A search to relocate it was made, but without success. At the time of this observation, the Clay-colored Sparrow was with a small group of Field Sparrows. The Clay-colored Sparrow was about the same size and proportion as a Field Sparrow. The breast was buff and unmarked. The back was brown. The crown was brown with fine black stripes through it and with a light stripe through its center. The auricular region was brown, outlined above and below by a small dark line. The auricular region was further outlined by a light line below it and a light superciliary line. There was a small dark line in the malar region. The bill was light in color, but not as light as that of the Field Sparrow. No other markings were noted.

This appears to be the third sight record for Virginia. On 8 October 1955 Edwin Willis reported seeing a bird on the V.P.I. Campus at Blacksburg (Murray, J. J., *The Raven*, 1957, 28 (5 & 6): 51), and F. G. Scheider reported a bird on Assateague Island on 11 October 1961 (*Audubon Field Notes*, 1962, 16 (1): 18; and *The Raven*, 1963, 34 (1): 6). Thus, the three reports, all in the fall, are widely scattered over the state, two from the coast and one from the mountains.

1522 Lafayette Boulevard,  
Norfolk, Virginia

## THE LOCAL CLUBS—JULY 1963

Club Name	No. Members	Members of V.S.O.	Percentage
Lynchburg Bird Club	123	23	18.7
Northern Virginia	162	60	37
Roanoke Valley Bird Club	149	28	19.4
Cape Henry Bird Club	100	39	39
Hampton Bird Club	25	17	68
Richmond Natural History Society	53	21	39.6
Turkey Sag Bird Club	35	12	34.3
Damascus Bird Club	18	4	22.2
John S. Battle Bird Club	N.R.	—	—
Rockbridge Bird Club	40	6	15

## REVIEW

Bird Watching, Housing and Feeding, by Walter E. Schutz, The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin, 1963 (second edition), 168 pages, many photographs and designs for nesting boxes, feeders, etc., \$3.75.

This very attractive book has a wealth of helpful suggestions for the person interested in any of the activities indicated in its title. The first chapter has useful hints for many forms of bird study: equipment needed, identification, photography, banding, censuses, and bird clubs. Two chapters are full of details about ways of providing food and water, building many types of feeders, and planting trees and shrubs to attract birds. The concluding chapter (71 pages) gives complete instructions for building all kinds of inexpensive bird houses, with plans, measurements, and types of lumber and other materials to use. It also tells how to provide for the needs of birds in winter and to care for sick and injured birds. The book seems to fulfill its purpose admirably.

J. J. Murray

## NEWS AND NOTES

**DEADLINES FOR MATERIAL.** Deadlines for contributions of material for *The Raven* fall on the fifteenth of the month preceding publication: that is, on 15 February, May, August, and November.

**CORRECTION.** The date on the Varied Thrush seen at Blacksburg (*Raven*, 34, 5) should be 27 December 1962.

**BOOK DISCOUNTS.** The Audubon Naturalist Society generously offers to VSO members their 10% discount on books purchased from the Audubon Naturalist Bookshop, 1621 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W., Washington 7, D. C. This applies to purchases of \$1.00 or more.

**COLUMNS ON BIRDS.** The Editor would be glad to publish a list of newspaper columns on birds or nature in general published in Virginia by our members. The Editor wrote a column, "Nature's Diary," for the *Rockbridge County News* for many years, beginning in 1929, but it has been very irregular of late. One of the oldest and most regular columns is "The Rambler," by Dr. Ruskin S. Freer, in *The News*, Lynchburg. Mrs. Mary Frances Morrisette writes "Nature's Children" for *The Virginian-Pilot and the Portsmouth Star*. Mrs. Florence Robinson, Barnesville, writes "Nature Notes" for the Chase City paper. Surely there are others. We would be glad to list them.

EARLY GREAT BLUE HERON NEST. F. R. Scott found Great Blue Herons incubating at Powhatan Creek near Williamsburg on the amazingly early date of March 10.

WACHAPREAGUE NOTES. Scott reports both eggs and walking young of Glossy Ibises near Wachapreague on the week-end of 16 June. No Cattle Egrets were seen. One nest with eggs of the Common Egret was found.

RECENT PURPLE GALLINULE RECORDS. Until this year we have had only some half a dozen records of this bird in Virginia in recent times. Now come three good reports for 1963. Rev. William B. McIlwaine, Jr., D. D., examined one that was brought to him alive on 22 April 1963. It had been picked up in Dinwiddie County, several miles west of Petersburg, near the Appomattox River. He checked the marks with color plates in several bird books, while the bird was in his living room. The lady who had brought the bird in released it the next day near Lee's Millpond in Prince George County. C. C. Steirly reports that T. E. Yancey of the Virginia Division of Forestry saw one in Dinwiddie County, eight miles east of DeWitt, on 10 June 1963. It was in a small pond made by an active beaver colony in a bottomland hardwood forest. The third Purple Gallinule was seen by Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Hotchkiss on 2 May 1963 at Powell's Pond, near Williamsburg, while they were in a canoe taking pictures for Colonial Williamsburg. It was walking on lily pads in fairly close view.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER IN CHARLOTTE COUNTY. Mrs. Florence H. Robinson picked up a still warm Dowitcher on 18 May 1963 near her home at Barnesville, Charlotte County. She sent it in the flesh to the Editor, who made up a skin (it was a female) and sent it on to Dr. Alexander Wetmore, who identified it as *Limnodromus griseus hendersoni*. Although estimates of the comparative abundance of *griseus* and *hendersoni* on our coast vary, both races are common. The species has been listed in the Washington region, in Albemarle County, and also at Lexington, Blacksburg, and Saltville. This, however, is the first definite inland Virginia record for the race *hendersoni*. Dr. Ellison A. Smyth ("Birds Observed in Montgomery County," *Auk*, 29, 508-530) listed two Dowitchers collected at Blacksburg as *griseus*, but this was before *L. g. hendersoni* was separated from *L. g. griseus*.

AVOCETS AT MOUNTAIN LAKE. Miss Louise Bethea, Apartment 132-B, 1049 Buckingham Avenue, Norfolk 8) sends in the following observation. "On 4 August 1963 at 7:30 AM I observed three Avocets flying back and forth over the lake in front of the Mountain Lake Hotel. They kept this up until 9 PM the same day. The next morning they had gone. They hovered near the fishing boats at times, but as far as I know they landed on the shore only once. The identification was confirmed by Dr. Robert K. Burns, who is doing research at the University of Virginia Biological Station this summer." Dr. Burns also wrote about this: "They frequently circled within one hundred feet of us and every detail was visible without glasses. The buffy neck color seemed a little faded."

LATE COURTSHIP OF YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. Mrs. Colgate W. Darden reports seeing late courtship feeding in a pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos on 26 July 1963. "The male bird, with a large fly or moth in his bill, flew to the perched female and landed on her shoulders. He bent over and placed his catch in her bill, which she immediately lifted to him. We saw this four times."

ALBINO RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. On 1 July 1963 Mrs. Dorothy L. Mitchell banded and photographed an albino Red-bellied Woodpecker at Newport News. The bird was light gray and dirty white.

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER IN DINWIDDIE COUNTY.** On 26 August 1963 Dr. and Mrs. William B. McIlwaine, Jr., Mrs. T. B. Maitland, and Benjamin H. McIlwaine found a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in a stand of pine trees and scattered hardwoods 4 miles southwest of Petersburg.

**CERULEAN WARBLER AT NEWPORT NEWS.** On 15 June 1963 Mrs. Dorothy L. Mitchell and Miss Carolyn D. Ayers, while netting birds for banding, heard a singing bird which at first they thought was a Parula Warbler but which they soon realized was a Cerulean. "Then the female appeared and we had a real show. They were feeding in the sun, our backs were to the sun; we looked at the birds, then at the book (Peterson's *Guide*), then at the birds, and talked about the black around the neck, the black streaks down the sides, and snow-white beneath."

**WINTER OVENBIRD.** One was seen near Chincoteague on 28 December 1961 by C. S. Robbins and others.

**WILSON'S WARBLER IN DINWIDDIE COUNTY.** On 26 August 1963 Benjamin H. McIlwaine found a male Wilson's Warbler in the northeast corner of Dinwiddie County, near his home ("Sysonby," RFD 4, Petersburg, Virginia) on the Appomattox River. It came from a cornfield to a tree on the edge of a large stand of young pines and hardwoods. Later it was joined by a female of the species.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.** One was reported by K. H. Weber at a feeding tray at Falls Church on 5 March 1962.

**DICKCISSEL IN AUGUSTA COUNTY.** F. R. Scott found 5 pairs in Augusta County on 25 May 1962.

**HOUSE FINCH AT FALLS CHURCH.** Dr. and Mrs. Dan F. Keeney, in a letter to F. R. Scott, dated 17 April, give the following additional information about House Finches at their feeder in Falls Church: "Following the banding and release of the bird on 5 January 1963, it was seen again four times during January, and then began appearing almost every day throughout February and March, sometimes alone, but sometimes in the company of five or six Purple Finches or five Goldfinches. Then on 27 March we observed a male House Finch on our patio at close range and unmistakably different from the male Purple Finches. The male House Finch has not returned. The banded female House Finch was last seen on 30 March, and apparently has now left the area, although there are still a few Purple Finches and Goldfinches around."

**REDPOLL AT WARREN.** Mr. and Mrs. F. Woolfarth counted 12 at Warren, near Charlottesville, on 30 December 1961.

**FOX SPARROW.** Mrs. Elizabeth D. Peacock reports that while she usually bands from 75 to 100 Fox Sparrows at Fairfax each February and March her first report on one is of a bird banded in Pine Ridge on 8 March 1961 and trapped in Nova Scotia on 2 April 1962.

**SNOW BUNTINGS AT WILLIAMSBURG, LEESBURG, AND BRIDGEWATER.** Dr. John H. Grey and Mrs. Norma Katz report a single Snow Bunting at a yard station within the city limits of Williamsburg on 26 January 1962. Mrs. Herbert M. Church, Jr., and John Dennis saw three at close range four miles north of Leesburg in Loudoun County on 23 November 1962. They saw 11 other birds in the distance that appeared to be white but could not be definitely identified. Dr. Harry G. M. Jopson saw several three miles south of Bridgewater on 30 January 1963.



# The Raven

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

VOLUME 34

DECEMBER 1963

NUMBER 4



Courtesy of Walter Weber

## CONTENTS

The 1963 Bald Eagle Survey In Virginia .....	51
By F. R. Scott	
Franklin's Gull at Norfolk, Virginia .....	52
By Mrs. Floy C. Burford	
New Bird for the Virginia List .....	53
By Paul W. Sykes, Jr.	
Operation Recovery at Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia .....	53
By F. R. Scott	
Decisions of the VSO Executive Committee .....	56
Officers and Committees of the VSO .....	56
VSO Local Club News .....	58
VSO Mountain Foray—June 1963 .....	59
By James W. Eike	
VSO Wachapreague Field Trip—August 1963 .....	60
By C. W. Hacker	
Treasurer's Report .....	61
Review, by J. J. Murray .....	61
Audubon Wildlife Films in Virginia, 1964 .....	62
By Donald H. Messersmith	
News and Notes .....	63
VSO Membership, December 1963 .....	64
Index to Volume 34, 1963 .....	70

The Virginia Society of Ornithology exists to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, to stimulate interest in birds, and to assist the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. All persons interested in those objectives are welcome as members. Present membership includes every level of interest, from professional scientific ornithologists to enthusiastic amateurs.

Activities undertaken by the Society include the following:

1. An annual meeting (usually in the spring), held in a different part of the state each year, featuring talks on ornithological subjects and field trips to nearby areas.

2. Other forays or field trips, lasting a day or more and scheduled throughout the year so as to include all seasons and to cover the major physiographic regions of the state.

3. A journal, *The Raven*, published quarterly, containing articles about Virginia ornithology, as well as news of the activities of the Society and its chapters.

4. Study projects (nesting studies, winter bird population surveys, etc.) aimed at making genuine contributions to ornithological knowledge.

In addition, local chapters of the Society, located in some of the larger cities and towns of Virginia, conduct their own programs of meetings, field trips, and other projects.

Those wishing to participate in any of the above activities or to cooperate in advancing the objectives of the Society are cordially invited to join. Annual dues are \$1.00 for junior members (students), \$2.00 for active members, and \$4.00 for sustaining members.

---

#### OFFICERS OF THE VSO

*President:* MRS. JAMES W. WILTSHIRE, 201 Woodland Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia.

*Vice-President:* CHARLES W. HACKER, 218 Chesterfield Road, Hampton, Virginia.

*Secretary:* ROBERT J. WATSON, 2636 Marcey Road, Arlington 7, Virginia.

*Treasurer:* MISS HELEN L. GOLDSTICK, 4912 S 28th Street, Arlington 6, Virginia.

*Editor:* J. J. MURRAY, 6 Jordan Street, Lexington, Virginia.

*Associate Editor* (for club news, Christmas and other bird counts, field trips):  
F. R. SCOTT, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Virginia.

---

Published four times a year in March, June, September and December at Charlottesville, Virginia. Membership includes subscription to *The Raven*. Annual subscription price to non-members is \$3.00. Individual issues are priced at 75¢.

Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at Charlottesville, Virginia.

The business and mailing address for *The Raven* is Box 57, Charlottesville, Virginia.



## THE 1963 BALD EAGLE SURVEY IN VIRGINIA

F. R. SCOTT

A detailed history of the Bald Eagle nest survey was given in the last report (*The Raven*, Vol. 34, pp. 18-21, March 1963). For the 1963 season the rules were tightened a bit in that no nest was considered active unless the contents were actually observed or an adult was seen incubating. Nests with birds sitting on the edge or nearby in the nest tree, even if observed in this manner over a period of several weeks, were not considered definitely active. Hence the 1963 results are not strictly comparable with previous years.

Again this year the project leaders are indebted to Harold S. Peters, who was with the National Audubon Society during the period of this survey. He continued his excellent and necessary liaison between the various people working on this project in Virginia and other nearby states and participated in a great deal of the field work. It is impossible to acknowledge everyone else who contributed to this survey, but special thanks are due to Harry L. Gillam, Information Officer of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, who coordinated all reports received from Commission personnel, and Jackson M. Abbott, who had charge of the group investigating the nests in northern Virginia. Abbott also personally covered a large part of the Potomac River by helicopter a number of times and successfully came through a helicopter crackup. Among the many field observers who aided the project Edwin T. McKnight spent many days checking nests in Stafford County, Mrs. Edward Katz kept a close check on the nests at Jamestown, and C. C. Steirly did a much appreciated job of covering the difficult terrain in Surry and Prince George Counties. The author is particularly grateful to the National Audubon Society, which financed in part a detailed coverage of the James River basin from the air.

Table 1 lists by areas the nests examined and the critical information for each. This shows that out of 100 nests under observation, 13 were considered definitely active and only one produced young birds. A number of known nests in Westmoreland County, on the Eastern Shore, and in the Cape Henry Region could not be checked this year.

It is important to realize that the number of active nests, 13, is a minimum figure. The first flight over the James River basin was not made until March 10, and it is probable that some nests had been occupied and then abandoned before that time. In Stafford County, Abbott found an adult incubating on *January 31* and the nest abandoned on February 20. A mile from this another nest inactive on February 20 had an adult incubating on March 25. The implication here is that one pair of eagles used both nests. One big disappointment occurred when a sick adult eagle was picked up below an active nest at Jamestown, James City County, on April 9 and later died. The specimen was frozen and later shipped to Dr. James B. DeWitt at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center for autopsy and analysis.

This survey will be continued with increased emphasis during the 1964 season. It is hoped that better coverage can be made of the areas now being worked and that new areas can be added. One of the problems each year, of course, is to attempt to locate new nests built to replace old or fallen ones. Anyone who knows the location of an eagle's nest or who is willing to cooperate in this survey is urged to contact the writer for report forms and further information.

115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Virginia

Table 1. The 1963 status of known Bald Eagle nests in Virginia.

All nests reported active were later rechecked at least once.

Locality	Total Nests Examined	Nests Destroyed during or before Season	Nests Reported Active	Number of Active Nests Producing Young
<b>Potomac River</b>				
Fairfax Co.	8	3	1	0
Prince William Co.	10	3	0	....
Stafford Co.	26	5	2	0
King George Co.	16	4	2 <sup>a</sup>	0
Westmoreland Co.	2	....	1	0
<b>Cape Henry Region</b>				
Virginia Beach	2	....	0	....
<b>York River</b>				
York Co.	2	1	1	0
<b>James River</b>				
Isle of Wight Co.	1	....	0	....
Surry Co.	9	1	2	0
Prince George Co.	9	1	1	0
James City Co.	11	3	2	1 <sup>b</sup>
Charles City Co.	4	....	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>

<sup>a</sup> 1 Eaglet in 1 nest on March 25 but nest empty and disheveled on April 19.<sup>b</sup> 2 young successfully raised.

## FRANKLIN'S GULL AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

MRS. FLOY C. BURFORD

Late in the afternoon of 30 August 1963 my husband and I were on the pier in our back yard which overlooks Lake Taylor. We were watching the gulls as they flew swallow-like catching insects in the air. Most of them were Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls. Suddenly a Laughing Gull began chasing another gull, and the cries that came from it were not that of a Laughing Gull. We watched the chase with 7x35 binoculars for several minutes. I noticed the wing pattern of the Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) and pointed out the difference to my husband. The pursued and the pursuer kept this up for at least 5 minutes, sometimes down near the water, then circling above us. They finally disappeared around the bend of the lake.

Franklin's Gull was seen on 11 November 1960 in a field just south of Pungo, where Mrs. Colgate W. Darden and her cousin, Miss Lavinia Newell, from England, and the writer, stopped to look over a field where 18 or 20 gulls were resting near the road. All but one were Ring-billed Gulls. Mrs. Darden called our attention to the other one, which at first sight I thought was a Laughing Gull. We were about 200 feet from the gull, it was not mixing with the Ring-bills but was in a corner all alone. We watched the gull for at least 10 minutes with Peterson's *Guide* in hand. When I walked over and flushed the gull it showed the definite wing pattern of the Franklin's Gull. I wonder if we overlook more of these gulls of the prairie. I am familiar with the Franklin's Gull, as I have seen it many times out west.

6049 Lake Terrace Circle, Norfolk, Virginia

## NEW BIRD FOR THE VIRGINIA LIST

BY PAUL W. SYKES, JR.

Roger Rageot, Curator of Natural History for the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences, during the winter of 1960-1961, trapped hawks and owls for the museum collection. During late December 1960 (exact date not known) Rageot, using a pole trap that he had obtained in Paris, France, caught a dark *Buteo* with a reddish tail. The trap was set on a stump along a hedgerow in the midst of a cultivated field between Kempsville and Stumpy Lake, Virginia Beach (formerly Princess Anne County), Virginia. The specimen was mounted and placed in the small collection of the Norfolk Museum. The identity of the bird remained uncertain.

On 12 May 1963 the writer took this bird to Lexington to the Annual Meeting of the VSO. There the bird was examined by Dr. Alexander Wetmore and identified as *Buteo jamaicensis calurus*, the western race of the Red-tailed Hawk. The specimen was then taken to the U. S. National Museum where it was examined further. In later correspondence with the writer, Dr. Wetmore stated that judging from the small size the bird is probably a male. The specimen is now on exhibit in the Norfolk Museum.

This is the first record of *B. j. calurus* for the state. The *A. O. U. Check-list of North American Birds*, 1957, gives the wintering range for this western race of the Red-tailed Hawk from southwestern British Columbia to southern Minnesota south and occurring east to Louisiana. This race is listed as casual in Illinois, southern Ontario, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

1522 Lafayette Blvd., Norfolk, Virginia

## OPERATION RECOVERY AT KIPTOPEKE BEACH, VIRGINIA

F. R. Scott

From 24 through 30 September 1963 a banding station for small transient land birds was operated at Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia, in cooperation with *Operation Recovery*, a national cooperative program to study bird dispersion and migration in the fall. This area of the Eastern Shore should be especially suitable for this type of banding since there are often vast fall concentrations of small land birds here.

During this period the author, assisted on two days by another bander, Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, ran up to 28 Japanese mist nets in the second-growth low scrub vegetation between the open farming areas and the bluffs overlooking Chesapeake Bay. The site lies just south of the ferry terminal at Kiptopeke Beach. Most nets were placed along abandoned roads running perpendicularly to the shore (on an east-west axis). This is a "reverse migration" area, and most transient birds were moved from the south sides of the nets; nets placed on a north-south axis were extremely unproductive.

The author is indebted to the many observers who aided in the station operations. Drs. John H. Grey, Jr., and J. J. Murray kindly helped to set the net lanes up during the first two days, and Charles W. Hacker assisted both banders for two days. Among the others who contributed a substantial amount of aid were Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Smith and Paul W. Sykes, Jr. There were a number of other visitors, both local residents and VSO members, who helped in removing birds from the nets or assisted in the general maintenance of the net lanes. The Virginia Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel Commission very kindly extended permission for the use of their property.

Table 1 gives the complete list of birds banded, a total of 216 individuals

of 41 species. At the bottom of the table the word *repeat* refers to a bird previously banded during the week, and *net-hours* is defined as the summation of all the daylight hours each net was in operation. Thus if two nets were each run for a full 12-hour day, the total net-hours would be 24. The efficiency of the trapping is measured by the last item in the table, *new birds per 1000 net-hours*. This number is a direct function of the number of birds passing through the area, and as can be seen, it varied tremendously from day to day.

Since day-to-day migration of this type is so dependent on the weather, it might be wise to review this for a better interpretation of the daily results. Clear weather and easterly winds put a decided damper on the first three days of station operation. Westerly winds beginning on September 27 brought an immediate improvement in the banding and lasted for the rest of the operation. On September 29 heavy rains in the morning forced the furling of the nets for several hours, but banding was resumed in the afternoon. A cold front moved slowly through the area that night but apparently was early enough to trigger a superb movement the next morning from 6 to 10 a.m. The nets were taken down that day by 12:30. It was unfortunate that banding could not be continued, for banding results at Ocean City, Maryland, during this period indicated that the cold front mentioned above brought an even larger movement on October 1.

The most unusual birds on the list are undoubtedly the Chestnut-sided Warblers. I am not aware of any other records for the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Both the Bay-breasted and Connecticut Warblers should probably be considered rare, but experience in fall banding at Ocean City, Maryland, just north of the Virginia line, indicates that both of these species outnumber the Chestnut-sided Warbler, and the Connecticut Warbler does so by a substantial amount.

Some care should be exercised in interpreting the accompanying table, and the absence of a bird from the list should not be construed to mean that species was rare. This banding technique can be viewed as a limited sampling of a portion of the birds moving through this area in a limited habitat. For example, whereas visual observation confirmed the predominance of the American Redstart in the wooded areas, the Palm Warbler was by far the most abundant warbler in the hedgerows and weed fields. Moreover, any given flight of birds will usually be highly biased in favor of one or more species, and no one flight may necessarily be representative of the migration as a whole.

115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Virginia

Table 1. Banding totals at the Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia, station during September 1963.

Species	September 24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Total
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2	1	4	2	2	1	13
Bobwhite	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1
Black-billed Cuckoo	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1
Blue Jay	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1
Carolina Chickadee	1	2	....	1	....	4	....	8
Tufted Titmouse	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Brown Creeper	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1
House Wren	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Carolina Wren	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1
Catbird	....	1	....	1	....	1	3	6
Brown Thrasher	1	2	3	....	....	....	....	6
Swainson's Thrush	1	1	....	7	8	1	8	26
Gray-cheeked Thrush	....	....	....	2	1	....	3	6
Veery	1	....	1	1	....	....	2	5
Red-eyed Vireo	....	....	....	3	3	4	1	11
Philadelphia Vireo	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1
Black-and-white Warbler	....	....	....	....	1	....	2	3
Magnolia Warbler	....	....	....	....	1	....	2	3
Cape May Warbler	....	....	....	....	1	1	2	4
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2	....	....	3	5	1	9	20
Myrtle Warbler	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	2
Bay-breasted Warbler	....	....	1	....	1	....	....	2
Blackpoll Warbler	....	....	....	2	5	....	6	13
Prairie Warbler	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1
Palm Warbler	....	....	....	3	....	....	5	8
Ovenbird	....	4	....	1	....	....	5	10
Northern Waterthrush	2	....	....	....	1	....	....	3
Connecticut Warbler	....	....	....	1	....	....	3	4
Yellowthroat	....	....	....	1	1	....	2	4
Yellow-breasted Chat	....	....	....	....	1	....	2	3
American Redstart	4	3	1	5	2	4	10	29
Scarlet Tanager	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Cardinal	....	1	....	1	1	2	....	5
Indigo Bunting	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	2
Grasshopper Sparrow	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1
Song Sparrow	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Total new individuals	14	19	12	39	39	21	72	216
Total species	9	11	9	18	20	10	21	41
Total repeats	0	0	2	1	4	5	3	15
Total net-hours	186	269	283	337	344	176	127	1722
New birds per 1000 net-hours	75	74	42	116	113	119	567	125

## DECISIONS OF THE VSO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met in Lynchburg on 5 October 1963 and took the following actions:

1. Agreed that all new memberships shall be applied to the calendar year in which received (regardless of the exact date). Back issues of *The Raven* for the initial membership year will be supplied to each new member.

2. Directed that a comprehensive schedule of all Audubon Screen Tours sponsored by local chapters be published in *The Raven* or the *Newsletter*.

3. Decided to sponsor a winter trip to Mattamuskeet, North Carolina (probably in February 1964) and a summer trip to Wachapreague, Virginia, on 8 August 1964.

4. Nominated Walter P. Smith and Paul S. Dulaney as VSO representatives to the Virginia Wildlife Federation (subject to final approval by the board of directors of the Federation).

5. Agreed that the VSO be represented in the Izaak Walton League by Dr. James R. Chamberlain.

6. Authorized each committee of the VSO to expend up to \$10.00 for operating expenses.

7. Selected Northern Virginia as the place for the 1964 annual meeting of the VSO. A local arrangements committee, consisting of Robert J. Watson (chairman), Miss Helen Goldstick, and James W. Eike, will select the date and the precise location in the Arlington-Falls Church-Alexandria area. [Note: The date of 24-25 April 1964 has been tentatively chosen].

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE VSO

President: Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, Jr., 201 Woodland Ave., Lynchburg, Va. 24503 VI5-6883

Vice-President: Charles W. Hacker, 218 Chesterfield Road, Hampton, Va.

Secretary: Dr. Robert J. Watson, 2636 Marcey Road, Arlington 7, Va.

Treasurer: Miss Helen L. Goldstick, 4912 S. 28th St., Arlington 6, Va.

Elected Members Executive Committee

## Terms Expire 1964

Jackson M. Abbott, 1100 Doter Drive, Alexandria, Va.

Eliot Breneiser, 5102 Studeley Ave., Norfolk 8, Va.

Walter P. Smith, 11 Orchard Ave., Hampton, Va.

## Terms Expire 1965

Mrs. L. E. Burford, 6049 Lake Terrace Circle, Norfolk 2, Va.

Harry Frazier, III, 1912 Hanover Ave., Richmond 20, Va.

Miss Gertrude Prior, Sweet Briar, Va.

## Terms Expire 1966

Royster Lyle, Jr., Box 596, Lexington, Va.

Dr. D. H. Messersmith, Radford College, Radford, Va.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore, U. S. National Museum, Washington 25, D. C.

Editor of *The Raven*: Dr. J. J. Murray, 6 Jordan St., Lexington, Va.

Associate Editor (for Club News, Christmas and other bird counts, field trips):

F. R. Scott, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Va.

Publisher of *The Raven*: W. O. Lewis, The Michie Company, Box 57, Charlottesville, Va.

Subscription List of *The Raven*: Miss Gertrude Prior, Sweet Briar, Va.

Immediate Past President: Paul S. Dulaney, Greenwood, Va.

**COMMITTEES:****Local Chapters**

J. W. Eike, Chairman, 3307 N. Tuckahoe St., Falls Church, Va.

Any local chapter which is not otherwise represented on the Executive Committee is authorized by the constitution of the VSO to elect one of its members to serve on the Executive Committee.

Cape Henry Bird Club: Robert E. McGlaughon, 1318 Brunswick Ave., Norfolk 8, Va.

Damascus Bird Club: Miss Eleanor Christie, 333 Court St., Abingdon, Va.  
Hampton Roads Bird Club: Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell, 596 Harpersville Rd., Newport News, Va.

John S. Battle Bird Club: A. B. Billings, Rt. 1, Abingdon, Va.

Lynchburg Bird Club: John R. Withrow, 448 Belvedere St., Lynchburg, Va.

Northern Virginia: J. W. Eike, 3307 N. Tuckahoe St., Falls Church, Va.

Richmond Natural History Society: Warren M. Smith, 1005 Beveridge Rd., Richmond, 26, Va.

Roanoke Valley Bird Club: Gary Davis, 2204 Wycliffe Ave., S. W. Roanoke, Va.

Turkey Sag Bird Club: Mrs. Trevor B. Heald, 1534 Oxford Rd., Charlottesville, Va.

Rockbridge Bird Club: J. J. Murray, 6 Jordan St., Lexington, Va.

**Conservation:**

Dr. James L. Chamberlain, Chairman, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Va.

Dr. Henry S. Mosby

W. F. Rountrey

Dr. R. J. Watson

**Education:**

Dr. D. H. Messersmith, Chairman, Radford College, Radford, Va.

Dr. Harry G. M. Jopson

Max Carpenter

Dr. Alexander Wetmore

**Membership:**

Eliot Breneiser, Chairman, 5102 Studeley Ave., Norfolk 8, Va.

Mrs. L. E. Burford

A. O. English

Gertrude Prior

John R. Withrow

Membership Representative in each Local Club

**Publicity:**

Royster Lyle, Jr., Chairman, V.M.I., Lexington, Va.

Paul S. Dulaney

Mrs. Colgate W. Darden

Mrs. Hawes Coleman, Jr.

**Research:**

F. R. Scott, Chairmen, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Va.

**Records:**

Dr. J. J. Murray, Chairman, 6 Jordan St., Lexington, Va.

Dr. Ruskin S. Freer

Dr. John H. Grey, Jr.

F. R. Scott

**Trip:**

Charles W. Hacker, Chairman, 218 Chesterfield Rd., Hampton, Va.  
 Donald Ambrosen  
 Paul W. Sykes, Jr.  
 Walter P. Smith  
 J. Steven Thornhill

**Representatives to Virginia Wild Life Federation:**

W. F. Rountrey (Director, V.W.F.)  
 F. R. Scott (Director, V.W.F.)  
 Walter P. Smith  
 Paul Dulaney

**Representatives to Nature Conservancy:**

Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, Jr.  
 Dr. Ruskin S. Freer

**Representative to Izaak Walton League:**

Dr. James L. Chamberlain (Director)

**Representative to National Audubon Society:**

Mrs. Margaret Hawes Coleman

**Nominating Committee:**

Paul Dulaney, Chairman  
 Mrs. L. E. Burford  
 James W. Eike

## VSO LOCAL CLUB NEWS

**Cape Henry Bird Club:**

October first marked the sixth consecutive year that the Cape Henry Bird Club has brought the Audubon Wildlife Films to the Tidewater area. This program, "The Delta of the Orinoco," with Mr. Robert C. Hermes, was scheduled originally for last February, but due to a snow storm was shown to a mere handful of people. Mr. Hermes graciously offered to repeat it for the current season. It was given as a bonus to purchasers of season tickets and single tickets were sold also. Early ticket sales promise another successful season.

The club President, Mrs. C. Dodson Morrisette, is heading a committee interested in the preservation of some of the areas in Dismal Swamp, including Lake Drummond and adjacent property, for a wildlife preserve. Other members of the Committee are: J. E. Ames, Jr., of Driver; Mrs. Colgate W. Darden, Jr., W. F. Rountrey, and Eliot Breneiser, all of Norfolk.

The Cape Henry Bird Club meets regularly the second Friday of each month in the Library of Old Dominion College at 8:00 P. M. and has field trips once or twice a month, according to the season. Visitors are welcome to all club activities. On a field trip to the Craney Island Disposal Area in September members were able to observe a Northern Phalarope at such close range that the use of binoculars was not necessary. Plans are being made for a number of field trips during the fall and winter, among them trips to Knotts Island, Craney Island Disposal Area, and Lake Mattamuskeet.

Virginia W. Hank, Recording Secretary

**Turkey Sag Bird Club, Charlottesville:**

The club has held discussions regarding the State's use of insecticides to combat the infestation of the white-fringed beetle in Norfolk. We are mailing to the 41 active members of the club for 1962-1963 "Use of Insecticides," the report of the President's Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Trevor B. Heald, Secretary-Treasurer.



## VSO MOUNTAIN FORAY—JUNE 1963

JAMES W. EIKE

The VSO Summer Foray was held at Skyland, on the Skyline Drive, on 21, 22, and 23 June. Hepburn Cottage served as headquarters and meeting hall for what was perhaps the last time because of new construction planned.

The evening programs included a series of very striking color slides of birds, many of them extreme close-ups, taken by Mrs. Dorothy L. Mitchell, President of the Hampton Bird Club, and beautiful scenic slides, taken by Miss Helen L. Goldstick in the Great Smoky Mountains.

An all-night rain ended about 8:00 A.M. Friday, followed by fog clearing in midmorning. The limited visibility did not reduce the birds seen to the extent expected; 31 species and about 160 individuals were recorded on the beautiful walk down White Oak Canyon and back up the fire trail. The more fortunate hikers saw at close range the pair of Barred Owls on the downward trip. A walk to the new lookout at Miller's Head, near Skyland, added four additional species. A Wood Thrush nest was found beside the Fire Road near the Second Falls with the bird on the nest.

On Saturday the group followed the Big Meadows Nature Trail, then down Dark Hollow to the Rose River Falls, and returned by the Fire Road. This was a brilliant day and rather cool for the first few hours. This walk produced 45 species and 511 individuals (the number boosted by 150 Starlings). The nest of a Rufous-sided Towhee containing four eggs was found under low shrubs on the Big Meadows Nature Trail; that of an Eastern Wood Pewee was found beside the Dark Hollow Trail near Skyline Drive; and two Wood Thrush nests were found near the Fire Road about one-half to three-fourths of a mile from the Drive, one containing four eggs and the other three young. On the Dark Hollow Trail a pair of Hooded Warblers were observed feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird. Several of the group observed a Least Flycatcher on the Big Meadows Nature Trail near the weather station. Following this trip, several members walked to the top of Stony Man. Later, the Scotts, Rotherys, and Wiltshires served as co-hosts for an outdoor social hour on the sunny slope overlooking the Page Valley, with many types of delicious snacks. It was generally agreed that such items as the Scott's smoked Rainbow Trout are more desirable than the dried grasshoppers and chocolate-covered ants which have been tried in the past.

The climb up Mary's Rock on Sunday was an innovation for the VSO. Perhaps the birding highlight of this trip was the discovery of a brooding male Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the nest about 35 feet above the trail in an oak tree, with the bird singing a beautiful muted song repeatedly. The nest was of such flimsy construction that the flaming breast of the bird could be clearly observed through it. As the group started up the trail from the Panorama Restaurant parking lot, a female Scarlet Tanager was observed busily gathering nest material, and a Barred Owl called briefly on the mountainside. In all, 34 species and 120 individuals were reported on the half-day walk. The view from the top of Mary's Rock proved to be one of the finest in the Park, with the Thornton Gap cloverleaf far below and a long panorama to the east and the west.

The group dispersed after lunch on the trail or at the restaurant at Panorama.

3307 North Tuckahoe Street  
Falls Church, Virginia

## VSO WACHAPREAGUE FIELD TRIP—AUGUST 1963

C. W. HACKER

The annual field trip of the VSO to Wachapreague was held on August 17 and 18. Last year the trip was arranged for mid July in order to view the nesting shore birds. This year the date reverted to the usual August date for emphasis on the migrating birds.

Friday night was filled with conversation on the third floor porch as everyone told of his activities since the Skyland trip. The first-timers at Hotel Wachapreague became involved in an investigation of some of the unique appointments of their quarters for the night. It was the writer's misfortune to be assigned the famous "Fred Scott" bathtub. Dabney Sandidge, the hotel manager, spent Friday night trying to find out why Gert Prior was not with the group. He was concerned that her reservation might have been misplaced in his peculiar filing system.

On Saturday morning, after a hearty breakfast at six, 34 pairs of binoculars set sail through the Wachapreague channel. The first stop was to allow three scouts to investigate one of the inner islands. While they sloshed through the mud, the others remained aboard the boats and observed the marsh birds being flushed. The second stop was at Club Point for a view of the heronry. Although nothing unusual was turned up, this stop was the customary highlight of the trip. For variety and numbers of herons and accessibility of nests, Club Point cannot be excelled. The Barn Owl put in his expected appearance. On Cedar Island the group was turned loose for individual forays. Some strolled the beach, others pushed far up the island, and the majority took a close look at the middle area where the largest concentrations of birds seemed to be. After a water-borne lunch the boats headed back to the hotel via the back channel. Although this was a different route, it was not very rewarding. The arrival at the hotel dock was welcome even though it was earlier than usual. The afternoon trip had been curtailed since the owners of Parramore Island did not see fit to give our group permission to land on the island.

Saturday night the VSO president, Mrs. Wiltshire, arranged a discussion of the day's activities. The opinions expressed were:

1. Due to favorable weather in the breeding season initial nesting had been successful, and therefore we saw few late nests.
2. Although we saw the usual migratory species, there were no large concentrations. It was thought that we had experienced a lull between main migrations.
3. Means to study the northern end of Cedar Island should be arranged.

The Sunday morning trip was better than usual this year. Dr. F. G. Scheider provided a map of Assateague Island with the bird locations pencilled in. With this aid, in a short time we were able to see White-rumped Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Black Terns, numbers of Common and Cattle Egrets, and many of the species seen at Wachapreague.

Inshore, this year's trip was significant for the sizable flocks of Cattle Egrets at Cheriton and Accomac in addition to the above-mentioned flock at Assateague Island.

218 Chesterfield Road, Hampton, Virginia

## VSO TREASURER'S REPORT—5 OCTOBER 1963

31 Dec. 1962	Publication fund balance .....	\$ 829.28
31 Dec. 1962	Checking account balance .....	685.06

## Deposits

2 Oct.	Publication fund (sales and donations) .....	26.30
2 Oct.	Accumulated dividends .....	43.37

## Checking account

29 Jan.	Memberships .....	610.00
8 May	Memberships .....	261.00
7 June	Memberships .....	122.00
2 Oct.	Memberships .....	107.00
2 Oct.	Annual meeting refund .....	2.13

## Expenditures

24 Jan.	Postage .....	50.90
28 Jan.	Raven .....	155.19
1 March	National Audubon Society (dues) .....	15.00
1 March	Stationery .....	66.25
8 April	Duplicating Executive Com. minutes .....	7.88
7 May	Raven .....	194.50
5 June	Annual meeting speaker .....	82.26
22 June	Newsletter & envelopes for Raven .....	41.37
13 July	Raven .....	85.20
1 Oct.	Raven .....	78.10
1 Oct.	Virginia Wildlife Federation (dues) .....	75.00
9 March	Postage .....	6.00

Total expenditures .....	\$ 857.65
--------------------------	-----------

5 Oct.	Balance in checking account .....	929.54
31 Dec. 1962	Checking account balance .....	685.06
1963	Deposits in checking account .....	1,102.13

\$ 1,787.19
-------------

1963	Total expenditures .....	-857.65
------	--------------------------	---------

\$ 929.54
-----------

31 Dec. 1962	Balance in publication fund .....	\$ 829.28
1963	Deposits .....	26.30
1963	Dividends .....	43.37

5 Oct. 1963	Balance in publication fund .....	\$ 898.95
-------------	-----------------------------------	-----------

## REVIEW

The Great Auk, by Allan W. Eckert, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1963, 202 pages, \$4.75.

When I saw that this book is a fictional bird biography, I began the reading with a prejudice. Such treatment is always dangerous, since it opens the way to sentimentalizing. The worst of this fear was soon relieved. There are indeed too many places where the birds are humanized. For instance, after the young Great Auk's mother had been lost in a storm the leaders of the flock let him swim close to them. "Perhaps it was out of respect for his loss." (page 85) This, however, gives the wrong impression of the book. There

are not a few spots of this kind, but they are only spots on an otherwise good performance. While the book is not a scientific treatise, it does have a scientific soundness.

This is the story of the last migration of a group of Great Auks from Iceland to the North Carolina coast and back, of the bloody massacres along the way, and of the final destruction on Fire Island, off the coast of Iceland, of a striking and highly specialized form of animal life.

The book is very much worth reading. As an example of a bird biography it is first rate. Its style is vivid and attractive. As the record of human recklessness in wiping out a unique bird species it has many lessons for conservation. It is a serious piece of historical ornithology.

J. J. Murray

## AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS IN VIRGINIA, 1964

DONALD H. MESSERSMITH

Audubon Wildlife Films have been entertaining and informing Virginia audiences for a number of years throughout the state. We are presenting a schedule of the remaining programs for this season. Tickets are available at the door for a nominal cost. At least two films have already been shown in these areas.

**Washington, D. C.** In the auditorium of the Natural History Museum, 10th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. Each will be given twice, a matinee at 5:15 PM, and an evening performance at 8:30 PM.

Thursday, 30 January—"Reserved for Birds", The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (film narrated by James Fisher).

Wednesday, 26 February—"Waterway Wildlife", Karl Maslowski.

Wednesday, 25 March—"Village Beneath the Sea", Harry Pederson.

Tuesday, 21 April—"Pika Peaks", Emerson Scott.

Tuesday, 5 May—"A Naturalist's Treasury", Maurice Broun.

These lectures are presented by the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, Inc., and the National Audubon Society.

**Roanoke.** The remaining lecture will be presented at the Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, 1813 Carter Road, S. W. at 8:00 PM, by the Roanoke Valley Bird Club and the National Audubon Society.

Monday, 30 March—"The Right to Live", Chester P. Lyons.

**Norfolk.** These lectures, sponsored by the Cape Henry Bird Club and the National Audubon Society, are held at Northside Junior High School, Westmont Avenue and Granby Street in Norfolk at 8:15 PM.

Saturday, 22 February—"The Living Wilderness", Walter Berlet.

Monday, 23 March—"Pastures of the Sea", B. Bartram Cadbury.

Saturday, 11 April—"The Right to Live", Chester P. Lyons.

**Williamsburg.** The Clayton-Grimes Biological Club and the National Audubon Society will present their lectures in Room 100, Washington Hall, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia at 8:00 PM.

Friday, 21 February—"The Living Wilderness", Walter Berlet.

Tuesday, 24 March—"Pastures of the Sea", B. Bartram Cadbury.

**Charlottesville.** The University of Virginia Union and the National Audubon Society will present the following lectures in Newcomb Hall Ballroom at 8:15 PM:

Sunday, 12 January—"Delta of the Orinoco", Robert C. Hermes.

Thursday, 20 February—"The Living Wilderness", Walter Berlet.

Sunday, 5 April—"The Right to Live", Chester P. Lyons.

## NEWS AND NOTES

**ABSENCE OF EDITOR.** The editor hopes to be away all of January and much of February on a visit to the Caribbean and Florida. Correspondents are asked to be patient about unanswered letters. Address in January and to February 12: John C. Brooks, 711 Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, Florida.

**1963 CHRISTMAS COUNTS.** The dates permissible for the counts are 19 December through 1 January. See *Newsletter* or April 1963 issue of *Audubon Field Notes* for details. Send counts no later than 15 January to F. R. Scott, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Virginia 23226, as well as to Miss Elizabeth S. Manning, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

**1964 ANNUAL VSO MEETING.** The annual meeting of the VSO will be held in the Alexandria-Arlington-Falls Church area. Tentative dates are 24-25 April; place and exact date to be announced later.

**1964 FIELD TRIPS.** Skyland, 19-21 June; Wachapreague, 8-9 August; Hawk Flight Trip, Skyline Drive, date and place to be arranged, probably 19-20 September.

**CATTLE EGRETS Banded NEAR CHINCOTEAGUE.** John S. Weske and others banded 133 young Cattle Egrets in two heronries just south of Chincoteague on four different trips in July and August 1963. These seem to be the first young Cattle Egrets banded in Virginia.

**HERON BANDING.** On the trips noted above John S. Weske and others banded birds as follows: Snowy Egret, 345; Louisiana Heron, 123; Little Blue Heron, 99; Common Egret, 10; Black-crowned Night Heron, 1; Glossy Ibis, 15. Weske states that one of the colonies was pretty well covered, the other only partially, so that these totals probably represent only half of the young produced there.

**GLOSSY IBIS AT OYSTER.** W. T. Taylor reports Glossy Ibis feeding (evidently on insects) around a tomato dump at Oyster; 60 in the summer of 1962 and an even larger number in 1963. This species is clearly increasing on the Eastern Shore, both as a breeding bird and a post-breeding visitor. Fritz Scheider got a maximum of 300 on 21 July 1963 at Chincoteague.

**SHOREBIRDS AT CRANEY ISLAND.** F. W. Rountrey saw 10 Golden Plovers at the Craney Island Disposal Area near Norfolk on 27 September 1963; and J. E. Ames, Jr., saw another on 29 September. J. E. Ames, Jr., and John H. Grey report a good migration of Silt Sandpipers at Craney Island in September, with a ratio of about one Silt Sandpiper to four Lesser Yellowlegs. Ames saw an Avocet there from 27 July into September. The same observer saw two Northern Phalaropes there on 21 September.

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER AT MT. SOLON.** R. H. Peake, Jr., carefully describes four sandpipers which he, Harry G. M. Jopson, and Max Carpenter saw at a drained mill pond at Mt. Solon, Augusta County, on 23 August 1963, and identified as Baird's Sandpipers.

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER AT BRIDGEWATER.** R. H. Peake, Jr., watched at close range a Short-billed Dowitcher in full spring plumage on 12 August 1963 at the college pond at Bridgewater.

**LARK SPARROW AT NEWPORT NEWS.** Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell reports seeing a Lark Sparrow in a field next to her home, 596 Harpersville Road, Newport News. The bird associated with a flock of mixed sparrows from 9 to 17 September 1963.

## VSO MEMBERSHIP—DECEMBER 1963

- Abbe, Edward H., 1936 Aberdeen Ave., S. W. Roanoke, Va.  
Abbott, Jackson M., 1100 Doter Dr., Alexandria, Va.  
Abbott, Mrs. Judith A., 737 Alabama St., Bristol, Tenn.  
Adams, Miss Sally B., 1421 Hillary St., New Orleans, La.  
Addington, Mrs. J. C., Cedar Cove Farm, London Bridge, Va.  
Akers, Dr. & Mrs. W. G., 1138 Bolling Ave., Norfolk 8, Va.  
Aldrich, Dr. John W., 7725 Lakeview Dr., Falls Church, Va.  
Allen, Miss Cleo, 4704 Sylvan Rd., Richmond 25, Va.  
Allen, Mrs. Harry, Jr., 527 Cureton Ave., Ft. Sill, Okla.  
Almy, Richard R., 334 Grand Ave., Front Royal, Va.  
Ambler, Robert A., 31-B Elizabeth Rd., Hampton, Va.  
Ames, J. E., Jr., Driver, Va.  
Ames, J. E., III, 1717 King Mt. Road, Charlottesville, Va.  
Androvitch, Miss Ruth Ann, Lovingson, Va.  
Armistead, Henry T., 7720 McCallum St., Philadelphia 18, Pa.  
Armstrong, Mrs. Martha B., 510 Newport Ave., Williamsburg, Va.  
Artz, Miss Lena, RFD, Waterlick, Va.  
Babcock, Mrs. W. H., Conquest-Greenwood, Marion Station, Va.  
Bailey, Dr. John Wendell, 27 Willway Rd., Richmond 26, Va.  
Baker, Mrs. Sarah S., 4419 Springdale St., N. W., Washington 16, D. C.  
Ball, Miss Ada, 4508 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond 25, Va.  
Barksdale, Miss Winifred, 1501 Palmyra Ave., Richmond 27, Va.  
Bass, Mrs. Charles, Stephens City, Va.  
Beasley, Ray J., 8316 Orcutt Ave., Newport News, Va.  
Bewig, Mr. & Mrs. Karl W., 18 Tauxemont Rd., Alexandria, Va.  
Bergey, Byard C., Box 191, Fentress, Va.  
Bethea, Miss Louise, 1049 Buckingham Ave., Norfolk 8, Va.  
Billings, Mr. & Mrs. A. B., Rt. 1, Abingdon, Va.  
Blesé, Miss Emily Ellen, Emory, Va.  
Bliss, Miss Laura, 322 Sumpter St., Lynchburg, Va.  
Boone, Miss Jeanette, Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Va.  
Borda, Walter, 4962 Quebec St., N. W., Washington 16, D. C.  
Bott, Mrs. N. J., Westover Hills, Rt. 2, Waynesboro, Va.  
Braxton, Mrs. H. H., 440 Walker St., Chase City, Va.  
Breneiser, Mr. & Mrs. Eliot, 5102 Studeley Ave., Norfolk 8, Va.  
Brodie, Mr. & Mrs. David, 428 Elmwood Ave., Lynchburg, Va.  
Brooks, Dr. Maurice, West Va. Univ., Forestry Bdg., Morgantown, West Va.  
Burford, Mrs. L. E., 6049 Lake Terrace Circle, Norfolk 2, Va.  
Burgess, Mrs. C. L., 1900 Memorial Ave., Lynchburg, Va.  
Burns, Dr. R. K., 102 N. 2nd St., Bridgewater, Va.  
Byer, Mrs. Carl, Rt. 2, Hot Springs, Va.  
Calver, Steven, 1614 Oxford Rd., Charlottesville, Va.  
Carpenter, Max, Rt. 1, Dayton, Va.  
Carroll, Col. R. P., Biology Dept., V. M. I., Lexington, Va.  
Casner, Mrs. Evelyn, 519 Riverside Dr., Lynchburg, Va.  
Cater, M. B., P. O. Box 146, Madison Heights, Va.  
Chamberlain, Dr. J. L., Biology Dept., Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Va.  
Charlton, Mrs. Marion, Rt. 2, Box 341, Portsmouth, Va.  
Chisholm, Leslie H., 200 Drummond Pl., Norfolk 7, Va.  
Christian, Mrs. R. E., Deerfield, Va.  
Christie, Miss Eleanor, 333 Court St., Abingdon, Va.  
Christie, Mrs. Lindon, Northeast Harbor, Maine  
Church, Mrs. H. M., Jr., Janelia Farms, Ashburn, Va.  
Claiborne, Mrs. Frank T., 508 Tyler St., Williamsburg, Va.

Claiborne, Miss Katherine, 508 Tyler St., Williamsburg, Va.  
Clark, Mrs. Mary, Rt. 5, Chesapeake, Va.  
Clarkson, Mrs. Edwin O., 248 Ridgewood Ave., Charlotte 9, N. C.  
Cobey, Dr. W. G., 3401 Gresham Pl., Charlotte 7, N. C.  
Cocke, C. F., 20 Cardinal Rd., Roanoke, Va.  
Coffey, J. Wallace, 508 Spruce St., Bristol, Tenn.  
Coleman, Mrs. Hawes, Jr., 108 Gaymont Rd., Richmond 29, Va.  
Cooper, Walter A., 1341 Surrey Crescent, Norfolk 8, Va.  
Cornell, George M., 800 Bennetts Pasture Rd., Suffolk, Va.  
Cosby, W. O., 1843 Bellevue Rd., S. W., Roanoke, Va.  
Couper, Monroe, 1925 Cherokee Rd., Waynesboro, Va.  
Cox, Miss Martha W., 617 Fairfax Ave., Norfolk 7, Va.  
Craig, Miss Margaret, 203 Court St., Abingdon, Va.  
Craige, David, 401 Sheffield Dr., Winston-Salem, N. C.  
Crews, Mrs. Grasty, 141 Holbrook Ave., Danville, Va.  
Criswell, Mrs. Joan H., 2728 32nd St., N. W., Washington 8, D. C.  
Dabney, Miss Elizabeth, 227 W. Freemason St., Norfolk 10, Va.  
Dabney, M. B., 227 W. Freemason St., Norfolk 10, Va.  
Daniel, Miss Bertha, 318 Charlotte St., Lynchburg, Va.  
Darden, Mrs. Colgate W., 7438 Flicker Pt., Norfolk 5, Va.  
Davenport, A. B., Rt. 3, Box 127, Charlottesville, Va.  
Davies, Mrs. A. B., Jr., P. O. Box 212, Clifton Forge, Va.  
Davis, Edwin, 1201 S. 23rd St., Arlington 2, Va.  
Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Gary, 2204 Wycliffe Ave., S. W., Roanoke, Va.  
Dean, A. L., 911 Preston Ave., Blacksburg, Va.  
de Bedts, Dr. Ralph F., P. O. Box 6111, Norfolk 8, Va.  
Derby, Mr. & Mrs. D. S., 202 Sir Oliver Rd., Norfolk, Va.  
DeWitt, Miss Katrine, 12th & Ocean Sts., Virginia Beach, Va.  
Dickerson, Mrs. S. S., Rt. 2, Washington Valley Rd., Somerville, N. J.  
Dietz, J. M., 605 Hartman Dr., Harrisonburg, Va.  
Dietrich, Dr. R. V., 1304 Oak Dr., Blacksburg, Va.  
Disney, W. Barrett, 911 E. Main St., Richmond, Va.  
Ditger, William L., 129 E. Main St., Abingdon, Va.  
Dodd, Mrs. G. D., 2943 Rivermont Ave., Lynchburg, Va.  
Donohue, Mrs. James H., Jr., 2330 Monument Ave., Richmond 20, Va.  
Dulaney, Ben B., 2407 Stanley Ave., S. E., Roanoke, Va.  
Dulaney, Paul S., Greenwood, Va.  
DuMont, Philip, 4114 Fessenden St., N. W., Washington 16, D. C.  
Eike, Mr. & Mrs. J. W., 3307 N. Tuckahoe St., Falls Church, Va.  
Eike, Miss Susan, 3307 N. Tuckahoe St., Falls Church, Va.  
Ely, Mrs. Louis B., Rt. 1, Box 117, Herndon, Va.  
English, A. O., 2803 Rosalind Ave., S. W., Roanoke 14, Va.  
Estes, Earl W., Jr., 7423 Long Pine Dr., Springfield, Va.  
Fast, Arthur H., 4924 Rock Spring Rd., Arlington 7, Va.  
Forrest, Mrs. L. L., 7437 Flicker Point, Norfolk 5, Va.  
Frazier, Mr. & Mrs. Harry, Jr., 1833 Westview Rd., Charlottesville, Va.  
Frazier, Harry, III, 1912 Hanover Ave., Richmond 20, Va.  
Freer, Dr. Ruskin S., 1158 Timber Lake Dr., Lynchburg, Va.  
Frost, Granger H., RFD, Gordonsville, Va.  
Frost, Mrs. Thomas, Warrenton, Va.  
Gabrielson, Dr. Ira N., Rt. 1, Box 349, Oakton, Va.  
Garber, Mrs. H. A., 1010 Forest Ave., Richmond, Va.  
Gerry, Mrs. Harold T., 1828 Varina Ave., Petersburg, Va.  
Gibbins, LCDR. G. W., 2978 Murray Ave., Norfolk 18, Va.  
Gillaspie, Mrs. R. S., 1034 Martin St., Charlottesville, Va.  
Gilman, Mrs. Virgil, 2951 S. Columbus St., Arlington 6, Va.  
Goldstick, Miss Helen L., 4912 S. 28th St., Arlington 6, Va.

- Gordon, Donald S., 90 Farragut St., Portsmouth, Va.  
Graves, Mrs. K. D., 35 Cardinal Rd., Roanoke, Va.  
Greever, Miss Annella, 4814 S. 30th St., Arlington 6, Va.  
Gregory, Mrs. C. S., A-5 Harbor View Apts., Portsmouth, Va.  
Gregory, Mrs. Charles O., 43 Old Farm Rd., Charlottesville, Va.  
Gresham, Mrs. Proctor, Rt. 1, Covington, Va.  
Grey, Dr. John H., Jr., P. O. Box 445, Williamsburg, Va.  
Grimm, Miss Gisela, Rt. 2, Chesapeake, Va.  
Guenther, Mrs. Mary B., 1608 Balfield Pl., Lynchburg, Va.  
Gulley, Mrs. Samuel R., Rt. 1, Box 210A, Bayside, Va.  
Guss, Dr. S. B., 368 Bradley Ave., State College, Pa.  
Guthrie, Mrs. J. E., Cape Charles, Va.  
Gwathmey, Miss Mary Tayloe, 143 Lake Shore Dr., Virginia Beach, Va.  
Hacker, Mr. & Mrs. C. W., 218 Chesterfield Rd., Hampton, Va.  
Hacker, Carl S., Dept. of Biology, Rice University, Houston 1, Texas  
Hague, Dr. Florence S., 4815 Boonsboro Rd., Lynchburg, Va.  
Haldeman, Mrs. Paul M., P. O. Box 74, Winchester, Va.  
Haller, Miss Virginia, 143 Taylor Ave., Salem, Va.  
Hamm, Douglas S., 1117 Park St., Charlottesville, Va.  
Hamm, George S., 1117 Park St., Charlottesville, Va.  
Handley, Dr. C. O., 6571 Roosevelt Ave., S. E. Charleston, West Va.  
Handley, Dr. C. O. Jr., U. S. National Museum, Washington 25, D. C.  
Hank, Miss Virginia W., 830 Gates Ave., Norfolk, Va.  
Hardcastle, Mrs. H. S., 415 Halloway Dr., Portsmouth, Va.  
Harper, Mr. & Mrs. R. T., 3647 Iredell Ave., Roanoke, Va.  
Hastings, Miss Hester, 2939 Rivermont Ave., Lynchburg, Va.  
Hathaway, M. E., 35 Hill St., Hampton, Va.  
Haw, John S., Jr., 505 Ridge Top Rd., Richmond 29, Va.  
Hayward, Edwin J., 3612 N. Rockingham, Arlington 13, Va.  
Heatwole, Miss Wintie, Box 175, Dayton, Va.  
Heckel, Dr. Harry L., Box 338, Rt. 2, Chester, Va.  
Helbert, Dr. & Mrs. H. G., 338 Monticello Ave., Harrisonburg, Va.  
Helbert, Miss Diane, 338 Monticello Ave., Harrisonburg, Va.  
Helbert, Paul, 338 Monticello Ave., Harrisonburg, Va.  
Helbert, Rodney, 338 Monticello Ave., Harrisonburg, Va.  
Hemp, O. C., 231 Churchville Ave., Staunton, Va.  
Henry, William R., 506 27th St., Virginia Beach, Va.  
Herbert, Mrs. Richard, R. D. No. 2, Middletown, Del.  
Herring, Travis, P. O. Box 1191, Fredericksburg, Va.  
Hespenheide, Franz S., 1315 Sussex Pl., Norfolk 8, Va.  
Hespenheide, Henry, 1315 Sussex Pl., Norfolk 8, Va.  
Holmes, Mrs. David, 308 Jamestown Rd., Williamsburg, Va.  
Hood, Mrs. Amelia H., Box 357-C, Rt. 1, Leesburg, Va.  
Hoover, I. C., 225 Mt. Zephyr Dr., Alexandria, Va.  
Houston, Lt. Col. & Mrs. William A., 905 Cherokee Ave., Alexandria, Va.  
Howard, Mrs. Mildred C., 1311 Claremont Ave., Richmond, Va.  
Huber, Dr. William M., 512 Beacon St., Boston 15, Mass.  
Hughes, Mrs. Stevens, 1407 Sauer Ave., Richmond, Va.  
Hurt, Mrs. H. H., 212 Langhorne Rd., Lynchburg, Va.  
Inskeep, G. Esler, 6812 Westcott Dr., Richmond 25, Va.  
Ireson, Miss Blanche, 721 Tazewell Ave., Bluefield, Va.  
Irvine, Rev. J. M., Jr., 102 Bellview Ave., Winchester, Va.  
Jackson, R. R., 413 23rd St., Virginia Beach, Va.  
James, Dr. G. W., III, 2401 Burroughs St., Richmond 35, Va.  
Jay, Miss Frances, 155 E. 72nd St., New York 21, N. Y.  
Jeffress, Robert M., 309 Stockton Lane, Richmond 21, Va.  
Jenkins, Mrs. H. E., 202 Fayette St., Farmville, Va.



- Johnson, Miss Frances E., 426 Lake Dr., Virginia Beach, Va.  
Johnson, J. Enoch, 4616 Ravensworth Rd., Annandale, Va.  
Johnson, H. M., 5406 Darel Dr., Suitland 23, Md.  
Johnston, Mrs. M. Cary, 6300 Ridgeway Rd., Richmond 26, Va.  
Jones, Flippen, 635 Walnut St., Statesville, N. C.  
Jopson, Dr. Harry G. M., Bridgewater, Va.  
Jordan, Mr. & Mrs. P. A., Jr., 3375 Woodland Dr., S. W., Roanoke, Va.  
Katz, Mr. & Mrs. E., Rt. 1, Box 213-D, Williamsburg, Va.  
Keeley, Miss Katherine, 8225 14th Ave., Hyattsville, Md.  
Keeney, Dr. D. F., 1413 Lexington Rd., Falls Church, Va.  
Kemper, J. R., Rt. 1, Manassas, Va.  
Kendig, John, 114 College Ave., N. W., Salem, Va.  
Kerr, Mrs. David R., 4852 N. 33rd Rd., Arlington 7, Va.  
Kilpatrick, Jack, 1615 Hanover Ave., Richmond, Va.  
King, Mrs. George T., Jr., 4113 Crestwood Rd., Richmond 27, Va.  
Kundt, John F., Lawrenceville, Va.  
Lakeman, Miss Marcia, 1 Providence Terrace, McLean, Va.  
Lees, Miss Gertrude, 800 S. Washington St., Alexandria, Va.  
LeHew, Dr. A. E., 76 Alleghany, Clifton Forge, Va.  
Lehman, James D., 20 Reservoir Ave., Luray, Va.  
Lehmann, N. R., 2618 Crystal Spring Ave., S.W., Roanoke, Va.  
Leslie, Joseph A., Jr., 5405 Rolfe Ave., Norfolk 8, Va.  
Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. C. H., 6313 N. Barrens Rd., Roanoke, Va.  
Lewis, Dr. Ivey F., 800 Rugby Rd., Charlottesville, Va.  
Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. W. O., Box 22, Ivy, Va.  
Livesay, Harry, Jr., 2130 Dupuy Rd., Petersburg, Va.  
Lovering, J. S., Jr., 606 Somerset Ave., Richmond 26, Va.  
Lukens, Miss Helen S., 711 Spotswood Ave., Norfolk 17, Va.  
Lotz, R. F., R. F. D. 1, Box 190, Portsmouth, Va.  
Lutz, Miss Nancy, Box 114, Mandarin, Fla.  
Lutz, R. E., Chemistry Dept., Univ. of Va., Charlottesville, Va.  
Lyle, Royster, Jr., Box 596, Lexington, Va.  
MacDonald, Miss Kay, Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Va.  
Machen, Mrs. L. W., 89 Snug Harbor Dr., Hampton, Va.  
Mahoney, Mrs. Claude A., 1009 Ox Rd., Fairfax, Va.  
Marks, Mr. & Mrs. E. A., Jr., Box 1998, Richmond 16, Va.  
Martin, Mrs. Dorothy P., Faber, Va.  
Marvin, Miss Anne, 1518 Dairy Rd., Charlottesville, Va.  
Mason, Mrs. D. W., Box 146, Pearisburg, Va.  
Mays, Rev. James L., 1203 Laburnum Ave., Richmond 27, Va.  
Merkel, Robert S., Rt. 3, Box 33-C, Charlottesville, Va.  
Messersmith, Dr. D. H., R.F.D. 3, Radford, Va.  
Michie, Mrs. A. H., Doll House, Box 22, Ivy, Va.  
Miller, Clark, Inwood, W. Va.  
Miller, Miss Mareta O., Port Republic, Va.  
Miller, Miss Trecla, Inwood, W. Va.  
Miller, W. E., Jr., 8517 Hanford Dr., Richmond 29, Va.  
Mills, Dudley, 76 William St., New York 5, N. Y.  
Minor, William F., 324 Homewood Dr., Fayetteville, N. Y.  
Mitchell, Sydney, 596 Harpersville Rd., Newport News, Va.  
Moe, Mr. & Mrs. Lorimer, U. S. Embassy, Stockholm, Sweden  
Monson, Gale, 5403 Inverchapel Rd., Springfield, Va.  
Moore, Mr. & Mrs. E. C., 1031 Windson Ave., S. W., Roanoke, Va.  
Moore, Miss Myriam E., 9 Riverview Pl., Lynchburg, Va.  
Morgan, Brent M., 109 E. Glendale Ave., Alexandria, Va.  
Morris, Miss Mary Ann, 3357 18th St., N. W. Washington 10, D. C.  
Morrissette, Mrs. M. F., Severn Pt., Norfolk 5, Va.

- Morton, Miss Winnie B., 3837 Milan Dr., Alexandria, Va.  
Mosby, Dr. Henry S., Dept. of Forestry & Wildlife, V. P. I., Blacksburg, Va.  
Mumaw, David K., 1130 Shenandoah St., Park View, Harrisonburg, Va.  
Murray, Dr. & Mrs. J. J., 6 Jordan St., Lexington, Va.  
Murray, Dr. J. W., 101 York Dr., Blacksburg, Va.  
McAlexander, Leon, Box 206, Collinsville, Va.  
McCamey, B. F., Jr., Hawk Mtn. Sanctuary, Rt. 1, Box 214, Orwigsburg, Pa.  
McCarty, Mrs. Nancy L., Box 909, Warrenton, Va.  
McGlaughon, R. E., 1318 Brunswick Ave., Norfolk 8, Va.  
McIlwaine, Dr. W. B., Jr., Sysonby, Rt. 4, Petersburg, Va.  
McIlwaine, Benjamin H., Sysonby, Rt. 4, Petersburg, Va.  
McPherson, Mrs. R. R., Jr., 2943 Rivermont Ave., Lynchburg, Va.  
Nair, Mrs. C. P., Jr., 504 McCormick St., Clifton Forge, Va.  
Nelson, Mrs. W. J., 2510 Avenham Ave., S. W., Roanoke, Va.  
Nicholas, Mrs. Denis, 404 Durant Dr., Fayetteville, N. C.  
Nichols, J. H., 234 Cleveland Ave., Lynchburg, Va.  
Nimmo, Charles E., Jr., Box 2442, Williamsburg, Va.  
Noonan, W. M., 3231 Kensington Ave., Richmond, Va.  
Norris, Mrs. C. M., 2309 Airline Blvd., Portsmouth, Va.  
Nunley, H. W., Box 203, Bristol, Va.  
Nutt, Miss Virginia S., 324 E. Beverly St., Staunton, Va.  
Oberholser, Dr. Harry C., 2933 Berkshire Rd., Cleveland Hghts, Cleveland  
18, Ohio  
O'Bannon, Miss Beth, Woodville, Va.  
O'Brien, Mrs. W. C., 230 Hutcheson Ave., Chase City, Va.  
Parker, Jimmy, 5614 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk 8, Va.  
Paxton, Dr. R. O., Univ. of Calif., Dept. of History, Berkeley 4, Calif.  
Peacock, Mrs. M. Brantley, 200 Highland Rd., Fairfax, Va.  
Peacock, Daniel, 200 Highland Rd., Fairfax, Va.  
Peacock, Richard, 200 Highland Rd., Fairfax, Va.  
Peake, Richard H., Jr., Box 163, Cullowhee, N. C.  
Pendleton, Mrs. L. F., 1217 Crestwood, Clifton Forge, Va.  
Pennoyer, Capt. R. G., 728 W. Moreno St., Pensacola, Fla.  
Perkins, Jack E., Rt. 1, Box 186, Lake Arthur, La.  
Perry, Mrs. William J., 1500 Dogwood Lane, Staunton, Va.  
Pettingill, Dr. Olin S., Jr., Lab. of Ornithology, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N. Y.  
Pointer, Mrs. J. E., Sr., Bena, Va.  
Pond, John, 5600 Brite Dr., Bethesda 14, Md.  
Porter, Mrs. W. A., 800 Graydon Ave., Norfolk 7, Va.  
Poultney, James W., Garrison, Md.  
Prince, Capt. H. R., 2709 Wakefield Dr., Bayside, Virginia Beach, Va.  
Prior, Miss Gertrude, Sweet Briar, Va.  
Pulley, Mrs. Mary G., Rt. 1, Box 77, Burke, Va.  
Ragsdale, Mrs. B. A., DeWitt, Va.  
Rawls, Mr. & Mrs. Ash, 10 Club Terrace, Newport News, Va.  
Richardson, F. C., Box 84, Baldwinsville, N. Y.  
Riddick, C. J., Jr., P. O. Box 175, Driver, Va.  
Ripgaard, G. N., Northfield, Minn.  
Roane, Curtis W., Lucas Dr., Blacksburg, Va.  
Robbins, Chandler, 1409 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Md.  
Robinson, Mr. & Mrs. E. F., 620 S. Stewart St., Winchester, Va.  
Robinson, Mrs. Florence, Barnsville, Charlotte Co., Va.  
Roden, Mrs. J. C., 8304 Corinth Ave., Richmond 27, Va.  
Roesler, Mrs. Carol S., June Rd., Coscob, Conn.  
Rose, Mrs. David, 1937 Windsor Rd., Petersburg, Va.  
Ross, Hollis T., West Lawn Rd. 1, Lewisburg, Pa.  
Rothery, Mr. & Mrs. W. A., Box 105, Rt. 2, Lorton, Va.

- Rountrey, W. F., 904 St. Lawrence Ave., Norfolk 6, Va.  
Rowland, Miss Mary, White's Mill Rd., Abingdon, Va.  
Rudd, Mrs. R. H., 4315 Fauquier Ave., Richmond, Va.  
Rudd, R. H., Jr., 4315 Fauquier Ave., Richmond, Va.  
Ruffin, Miss Jane, Rt. 2, Mechanicsville, Va.  
Rule, Mr. & Mrs. R. H., 203 Highland Rd., Fairfax, Va.  
Rule, Ian A., 203 Highland Rd., Fairfax, Va.  
Russell, Dr. S. M., Dept. of Biology, La. State Univ., New Orleans 22, La.  
Ryan, Miss Sally C., 3709 Pacific Ave., Virginia Beach, Va.  
Sanders, Miss Katy F., Broadwater Pt., Churchton, Md.  
Savage, J. Thomas, Cape Charles, Va.  
Scheider, Dr. F. G., 6748 2nd St., N. W., Washington 17, D. C.  
Schmid, John C., 24 Bowman Dr., Greenwich, Conn.  
Scholes, Robert T., 5123 N. 14th St., Arlington 5, Va.  
Schultz, Albert B., Jr., Penryn Park, Port Hope, Ontario  
Scott, Miss Eugenia, 1067 N. Shore Rd., Norfolk 5, Va.  
Scott, Mr. & Mrs. F. R., 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Va.  
Scott, Mrs. Norman C., 812 Gardner St., Clifton Forge, Va.  
Seay, L. P., Jr., 8221 Bon View Dr., Richmond 35, Va.  
Sharp, Mr. & Mrs. J. W., Marlboro Spring Farm, Middletown, Va.  
Shear, G. M., 107 McConkey St., Blacksburg, Va.  
Shetler, Stanwyn G., Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C.  
Sibley, Miss Iva C., 608 Gibson Circle, Vienna, Va.  
Simmons, Mr. & Mrs. Grant, Boones Mill, Va.  
Sledge, Joseph B. Jr., 67 Hopkins St., Newport News, Va.  
Sloane, E. K., 7637 North Shore Rd., Norfolk, Va.  
Smith, Rev. George M., 116 High St., Strasburg, Va.  
Smith, Dr. R. O., P. O. Box 272, Pulaski, Va.  
Smith, Mr. & Mrs. W. P., 11 Orchard Ave., Hampton, Va.  
Smyth, Miss Briony, 1616 Keswick Dr., Norfolk 18, Va.  
Smyth, Miss Charlotte M., 1616 Keswick Dr., Norfolk 18, Va.  
Snyder, Mrs. Mark D., 1245 Chatham Rd., Waynesboro, Va.  
Snyder, Stephen W., 3708 Somerset Dr., McLean, Va.  
Somerville, Mr. & Mrs. W. H., Rt. 14, Box 459, Richmond 31, Va.  
Spencer, Mrs. Hugh, 1627 Oxford Rd., Charlottesville, Va.  
Spratley, Mr. & Mrs. J. B., Ellerson, Va.  
Sprunt, Dr. James, Rt. 1, Staunton, Va.  
Stahl, John, 1140 Parkway Dr., Harrisonburg, Va.  
Stahl, M. D., 1140 Parkway Dr., Harrisonburg, Va.  
Steirly, Charles C., Waverly, Va.  
Stephens, Miss Betsy, 1305 Westover Ave., Norfolk 7, Va.  
Stevens, C. E., Jr., 615 Preston Pl., Charlottesville, Va.  
Stevens, Raymond L., 3518 N. Delaware St., Arlington 7, Va.  
Stinson, Dr. H. W., Warrenton, Va.  
Strong, Mrs. Arthur D., 900 Summit Ave., Minneapolis 5, Minn.  
Suddith, Mrs. Olive J., Gladys, Va.  
Sutton, Miss Harriet, 4105 Wisconsin Ave., N. W., Washington 16, D. C.  
Sydner, Dr. J. R., 3400 Brook Rd., Richmond 22, Va.  
Sykes, P. S., Jr., 1522 Lafayette Blvd., Norfolk, Va.  
Talbot, Mrs. J. Thomas, 4201 Massachusetts Ave., S. W., Washington, D. C.  
Taylor, Mrs. G. E., Rt. 1, Box 136-B, Colonial Heights, Va.  
Taylor, William Thomas, Oyster, Va.  
Terborgh, John W., 4582 N. 26th St., Arlington 7, Va.  
Thielen, Col. Bernard, Floyd, Va.  
Thomas, Miss Elizabeth, 1305 Westover Ave., Norfolk 7, Va.  
Thomas, Pembroke L., Jamestown, Va.  
Thompson, Mrs. Thomas P., St. Francis Lane, Lockhaven, Norfolk 5, Va.  
Thomsen, Dr. Lillian C., 414 Boyce Ave., Farmington, Missouri

- Thornhill, J. Steven, 3614 Manton Dr., Lynchburg, Va.  
 Thornhill, Steven L., 3614 Manton Dr., Lynchburg, Va.  
 Tillotson, M. B., Rt. 1, Old Graves Mill Rd., Lynchburg, Va.  
 Tompkins, Miss Mary I., 5217 Bassett Ave., Richmond 25, Va.  
 Trippitoe, Miss Malinda, Rt. 4, Leesburg, Va.  
 Trone, Earl K., Rt. 2, Box 107, Lorton, Va.  
 Trott, Mr. & Mrs. L. J., 2740 Burgundy Rd., Alexandria, Va.  
 Turnbull, Miss Janet D., Casanova, Va.  
 Tutwiler, Carrington C., III, Box 1159, Lexington, Va.  
 Underwood, Mrs. R. S., Rt. 5, Winchester, Va.  
 Van Buskirk, Mrs. Earl, P. O. Box 66, Virginia Beach, Va.  
 Venn, Mrs. Ruth S., P. O. Box 22, Salem, Va.  
 Vinson, Mrs. P. P., 6323 Ridgeway Rd., Richmond 26, Va.  
 Vrachel, Dr. William, 5912 Wilmett Rd., Bethesda 14, Md.  
 Wachenfeld, Mrs. William A., 787 E. Clark Pl., Orange, N. J.  
 Waid, Mrs. Homer, 2330 Sanford Ave., S. W., Roanoke, Va.  
 Walker, Miss Mary, 805 Pershing St., Lynchburg, Va.  
 Walker, Ross H., P. O. Box 1758, Richmond 14, Va.  
 Wall, Mrs. Herbert G., 1424 Woodhouse Rd., Virginia Beach, Va.  
 Wallace, Dr. Geo. L., 100 Oakdale St., Martinsville, Va.  
 Walton, Miss Lucille, 1116 E. Main St., Danville, Va.  
 Walton, Miss Margaret, 1116 E. Main St., Danville, Va.  
 Warfield, Benjamin B., 3223 Volta Pl., N. W., Washington 7, D. C.  
 Warfield, Robert W., R.F.D. 1, Hereford Hills, Germantown, Md.  
 Watkins, Miss Evelyn, 1023 S. Dogwood Dr., Harrisonburg, Va.  
 Watson, Dr. & Mrs. R. J., 2636 Marcey Rd., Arlington 7, Va.  
 Watts, Miss Margaret, 109 Court St., Portsmouth, Va.  
 Watts, Miss Nancy B., 714 Duke St., Alexandria, Va.  
 Weaver, Richard, Box 92, Parkview, Harrisonburg, Va.  
 Weber, Karl H., Box 265, Oakton, Va.  
 Weeks, Mangum, 219 N. Royal St., Alexandria, Va.  
 Weidenfeld, Miss Henrietta, 3720 Brookside Rd., Richmond 25, Va.  
 Wells, F. A., 1816 Winston Rd., Charlottesville, Va.  
 Wetmore, Dr. Alexander, Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C.  
 White, Mrs. Jane D., Glade Spring, Va.  
 Whiteside, Mrs. F. S., Woodstock Farm, Scottsville, Va.  
 Wicke, R. J., 225 Pear Ave., Newport News, Va.  
 Wigley, Miss Elsie H., 1023 S. Dogwood Dr., Harrisonburg, Va.  
 Wilcox, Mrs. Sara, Mayflower Apt., Virginia Beach, Va.  
 Wiley, Mrs. Keith B., Wakefield Forest, Earlysville, Va.  
 Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. Robert C., Altamont, Covington, Va.  
 Wiltshire, Mr. & Mrs. James W., Jr., 201 Woodland Ave., Lynchburg, Va.  
 Wingfield, Mrs. John L., Damascus, Va.  
 Withrow, John, 3627 E. Woodside Ave., Lynchburg, Va.  
 Womeldorf, J. C., Rt. 5, Box 25, Lexington, Va.  
 Wood, J. E., 1016 University Dr., Alexandria, Va.  
 Woodhouse, T. L., P. O. Box 5541, Norfolk 16, Va.  
 Woodson, Franklin, 3304 Carolina Ave., Richmond 22, Va.  
 Zinsser, Mrs. J. S., Poplar Grove, Sweet Briar, Va.

## INDEX TO VOLUME 34—1963

- Audubon Wildlife Films, 62  
 Avocet, Norfolk, 24; Mountain Lake, 46; Craney Island, 63  
 Bailey, Harold H., 1878-1962, 22  
 Banding, 3; A. H. Fast, 23 (banding record)  
 Blackbird, Yellow-headed, 47  
 Bluebird, Christmas Count, 11  
 Bunting, Snow, 47

- Burford, Mrs. Floy C., Franklin's Gull at Norfolk, 52  
Christmas Counts, 7  
Church, Mrs. H. M., Jr., Sage Thrasher Banded near Leesburg, Virginia, 4  
Cormorant, Double-crested, 8 (Christmas)  
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed, 46 (late courtship)  
Curlew, Long-billed, 24  
Dickcissel, 11 (Christmas); 47  
Dietrich, R. V., Varied Thrush at Blacksburg, Virginia, 5, 45  
Dovekie, 12  
Dowitcher, Short-billed, 46 (Charlotte County); 63 (Bridgewater)  
Duck, Black, 24 (young)  
Duck, Fulvous Tree, 24, 27  
Duck, Harlequin, 27  
Duck, Wood, 24 (young)  
Eagle, Bald, 18 (survey)  
Eagle, Golden, 9 (Christmas)  
Egret, Cattle, 17  
Egret, Reddish, 27  
Egret, Snowy, 8  
Fast, A. H. (banding record), 23  
Finch, House, 5, 28  
Finch, Newfoundland Purple, 28, 47  
Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied, 43 (Dinwiddie County)  
Fulmar, 27  
Gallinule, Purple, 46  
Goose, Canada, 8  
Grebe, Eared, 4  
Grosbeak, Black-headed, 28  
Grosbeak, Evening, 11  
Gull, Bonaparte's, 36 (Pulaski County)  
Gull, Glaucous, 24  
Gull, Herring, from Quebec, 36  
Gull, Iceland, 24 (Alexandria)  
Gull, Laughing, 9 (Christmas Count)  
Hacker, C. W., see W. P. Smith  
Hawk, Pigeon, 9  
Hawk, Western Red-tailed, 53  
Hawk, Rough-legged, 9; 24  
Heron, Black-crowned Night, 8 (Christmas)  
Heron, Great Blue, 46 (nest)  
Ibis, Glossy, 44; 46  
Junco, Oregon, 28  
Keeney, Daniel F., 5  
Kingbird, Western, 10  
Kite, Mississippi, 24 (Norfolk), 27  
Longspur, Lapland, 11  
Murray, John W., Brewster's Warbler at Blacksburg, Virginia, 33  
Murray, J. J., House Finch at Falls Church, Virginia, 5; Spread of the Cattle Egret in Virginia, 17; Fourth Revision of the Virginia 1952 'Check-List,' 27; Reviews: Dorst's "The Migration of Birds," 35; Schutz's "Bird Watching, Housing and Feeding," 45; Eckert's "The Great Auk," 61  
News and Notes, 23; 36; 45; 63  
Nimmo, Charles E., Jr., Birds of Virginia on Stamps, 29  
Oriole, Baltimore, 11 (Christmas)  
Osprey, 9 (Christmas)  
Ovenbird, 47 (winter)  
Oystercatcher, 9 (Christmas)

- Peacock, Mrs. Elizabeth D., Some Observations on Data Obtained through  
Birdbanding, 3; Significance of Wing Lengths in Evening Grosbeaks, 28
- Phalarope, Northern, 63
- Plover, Golden, 63
- Plover, Piping, 9
- Plover, Semipalmated, 9
- Raven, 36
- Redpoll, 47 (Warren)
- Refuge Managers, 23
- Reviews, 35, 45, 61
- Sandpiper, Baird's 63
- Sandpiper, Purple, 9
- Sandpiper, Stilt, 63
- Scheider, Fritz G., Clay-colored Sparrow on Assateague Island, Virginia, 6
- Scoter, White-winged, 24 (Dayton); 36 (Radford)
- Scott, F. R., The 1963 Bald Eagle Survey in Virginia, 51; Operation Recovery  
at Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia, 53
- Siskin, Pine, 11
- Smith, W. P., and C. W. Hacker, A Strip Census—Hampton Roads, 39
- Sparrow, Chipping, 11 (Christmas)
- Sparrow, Clay-colored, 6; 28; 44
- Sparrow, Fox, 47 (banding report)
- Sparrow, Grasshopper, 11 (Christmas)
- Sparrow, Ipswich, 11
- Sparrow, Lark, 7, 11, 63
- Sparrow, Tree, 11 (Newport News)
- Steirly, C. C., Birdlife of a Five Year Old Pine Plantation, 43
- Sykes, Paul W., Jr., Eared Grebe in Virginia, 4; Clay-colored Sparrow at  
Back Bay, Virginia, 44; New Bird for the Virginia List, 53
- Swan, Mute, 27
- Teal, Blue-winged, 24 (young)
- Teal, Cinnamon, 27
- Tern, Common, 9 (Christmas)
- Tern, Sooty, 27
- Thrasher, Sage, 4, 28
- Thrush, Gray-cheeked, 11 (Christmas)
- Thrush, Varied, 5, 45
- Venn, Mrs. Ruth Smiley, Drama in Bird Life, 41
- VSO, Annual Meeting, 1963, 22; 1964, 63
- VSO, Committees, 56
- VSO, Executive Committee, 21, 29, 56
- VSO, Field Trips, 1963, 33; 1964, 63
- VSO, Local Clubs, List in July 1963, 45; Richmond Chapter, 34; Rockbridge  
Chapter, 23; Cape Henry, 58; Turkey Sag, 58
- VSO, Membership List, 64
- VSO, Treasurer's Report, 22, 61
- Warbler, Brewster's, 33 (Blacksburg)
- Warbler, Cerulean, 47 (Newport News)
- Warbler, Lawrence's, 23
- Warbler, Orange-crowned, 11
- Warbler, Prothonotary, 36 (Roanoke County); 36 (Radford)
- Warbler, Wilson's, 47 (Dinwiddie County)
- Warfield, Robert W., Glossy Ibis in the Potomac Valley, 44
- Willet, 9 (Christmas)
- Woodcock, 36 (nesting)
- Woodpecker, Red-headed, 10 (Christmas); Albino, 46
- Wren, House, 10 (Christmas)