



The Raven

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DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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NEW BIRDS FOR THE VIRGINIA LIST

by J. J. Murray

In "A List of Virginia Birds," published in THE RAVEN (Vol. IX, 1938, pages 85-93), the writer recorded in nominal form 369 species and subspecies of birds for the occurrence of which in Virginia there seemed to be adequate evidence. In a later paper, "Recent Additions to the Virginia Avifauna," published in THE RAVEN (Vol. XV, 1944, pages 90-92), 15 other forms were added, bringing the total to 384 forms. Since that time six other subspecies have been added, bringing our total list now to 390 forms.

1. Lesser Canada Goose. Branta canadensis leucopareia. In a paper, "Speciation in the White-cheeked Geese," in the WILSON BULLETIN (Vol. 58, 1946, pages 94-103), John W. Aldrich lists an unsexed specimen from Neabsco, Virginia. He does not give the date.

2. Ungava Canada Goose. Branta canadensis interior. In the above paper by Aldrich a female from Buckingham County, Virginia, is listed. This form was not recognized in the 1931 edition of the A. O. U. "Check-List," but was accepted in the twentieth supplement, in THE AUK (Vol. 62, 1945, pages 436-449).

3. Northern Black-capped Chickadee. Parus atricapillus atricapillus. In the first paper above only the Appalachian black-capped chickadee (called "Southern" black-capped chickadee in the paper) was listed. Although there seemed to be little doubt that the northern form would occur in Virginia in winter, I did not happen to know of a specimen. Allen J. Duvall, "Distribution and Taxonomy of the Black-capped Chickadees of North America," in THE AUK (Vol. 62, 1945, pages 49-49), says that this form wanders south to northern Virginia in winter. Dr. Alexander Wetmore informs me that there are a dozen Virginia specimens in the United States National Museum, all of them from old collections prior to 1900. In the few spots in our higher mountains where black-capped chickadees breed, the form is practicus.

4. Black-backed Robin. Turdus migratorius nigrideus. John W. Aldrich, in a note, "Additional Breeding and Migration Records of the Black-backed Robin," in THE AUK (Vol. 62, 1945, pages 310-311), reports a specimen in the United States National Museum, taken at Arlington, Virginia, March 22, 1885. This form was accepted in the nineteenth supplement to the "Check-List," in THE AUK (Vol. 61, 1944, pages 441-464).

5. Western Olive-backed Thrush. Hylocichla ustulata almae. Dr. Alexander Wetmore collected two males near my cabin in Rockbridge County on May 14, 1945, and another male on the 16th in the same general area. It is thus probably a common transient in this part of the Virginia mountains. This form was accepted in the nineteenth supplement.

6. Newfoundland Oven-bird. Seiurus aurocapillus furvior. Dr. Alexander Wetmore informs me that he collected a specimen in the northern sec-

tion of the Blue Ridge in Virginia, on September 23, 1945. This is the first record for the State. This form was accepted in the twentieth supplement.

.....Lexington, Virginia.

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CHESAPEAKE BAY NOTES

by Fred R. Scott

On November 30 I took the ferry across the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay from Little Creek to Cape Charles, returning the following morning on the Pennsylvania Railway ferry to Old Point Comfort. On both days the sky was partly cloudy and the weather very warm.

I left Little Creek at 2 p. m. on November 30 and recorded the following birds during the ensuing two hours: common loon, 44; red-throated loon, 1; gannet, 290; golden-eye, 1; white-winged scoter, 6; surf scoter, 4; herring gull, 1000 (est.); ring-billed gull, 36; laughing gull, 2; Bonaparte's gull, 1. The gannets were distributed rather evenly along the entire crossing, becoming progressively less numerous after the ferry had passed opposite Kiptopeke. The laughing gulls were near the Little Creek dock and must have been held up in their southward migration by the unseasonably warm weather during November. None of the ducks were seen until after the boat had passed Fishermans Island off the tip of Cape Charles.

On December 1 I left Cape Charles at 6:40 a. m. for Old Point Comfort and recorded the following species: common loon, 38; gannet, 12; white-winged scoter, 210; surf scoter, 194; American scoter, 2; herring gull, 600 (est.). This time the scoters, instead of the gannets, were the dominant birds, being second only to the herring gulls. Most of the gannets were seen toward the Old Point Comfort side of the bay where they were probably still under the influence of the open ocean. Two gannets were seen within an easy 200 yards of the ferry dock at Old Point. The scoters were most common near the coast of the Eastern Shore. They decreased abruptly as the ferry progressed southwestwardly and were altogether absent from the western half of the crossing. There were several large flocks of ducks that I presumed to be scoters, but they were too far off to be recognized specifically. Mr. Doughty, the game warden living at Oyster, told me that he had seen many "thousands" of these "coots," as he called the scoters, when he took his motor-boat up the western shore of Northampton and Accomack Counties the preceding week.

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Returning to Richmond the same day, I passed through Yorktown and stopped to look at some ducks on the York River. I counted 49 buffle-heads and 35 golden-eyes opposite the city proper. A few miles farther down the

Colonial Parkway there was a flock of 51 pintails on the river. Out beyond them was a large flock of ducks that puzzled me at first. As my binocular swept over them, however, I suddenly realized that many of them had their tails cocked up almost vertically. Armed with this field mark, I very quickly came to the conclusion they were ruddy ducks, 142 of them to be exact. I also counted 240 gulls, both herring and ring-billed, but they were too far away to differentiate them all.

.....Richmond, Virginia.

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HERRING GULL CHOKED BY A FISH

by C. C. Steirly

On November 28, 1946, while walking along the shores of the James River in Surry County, I found a dead herring gull in immature plumage. Closer inspection revealed that it met its death as a result of having a fish stuck in its throat. The fish, which I did not identify, was about two and three-quarters inches high, five and one-half inches long, and three-quarters of an inch in width.

The gull in seizing this fish permitted it to turn with the wide axis of the fish in a horizontal plane. Thus the fish being partially swallowed head first could not be forced down because of its width and it could not be ejected because of the rays of the pectoral fin acting on the principle of the barbs of an arrowhead.

.....Virginia Forest Service,
Waverly, Virginia

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THE 1946 CHRISTMAS CENSUS

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WILLIAMSBURG, VA. (William & Mary College to Jamestown and return; open farmland 40%; deciduous farm woodlots 45%; town suburbs 5%; cattail marsh 5%; lake and creek borders 5%.) Dec. 22; 8:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Fair; temp. 38° to 60° F; no appreciable wind; ground bare, water open. One observer. Total hours, 9 on foot. Total miles, 13 on foot. Pied-billed grebe, 13; turkey vulture, 3; black vulture, 3; marsh hawk, 1; killdeer, 2; ring-billed gull, 4; mourning

dove, 1; belted kingfisher, 1; red-bellied woodpecker, 4; red-headed woodpecker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 2; downy woodpecker, 2; phoebe, 2; crow, 20; Carolina chickadee, 25; tufted titmouse, 18; white-breasted nuthatch, 4; red-breasted nuthatch, 2; brown creeper, 9; winter wren, 2; Carolina wren, 5; mockingbird, 4; brown thrasher, 1; golden-crowned kinglet, 10; ruby-crowned kinglet, 2; myrtle warbler, 27; meadowlark, 29; red-wing, 231; cardinal, 12; goldfinch, 22; towhee, 12; slate-colored junco, 33; field sparrow, 25; white-throated sparrow, 55; fox sparrow, 3; song sparrow, 17. Total species, 36. Total individuals, 607.
Ray J. Beasley.

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BACK BAY GAME REFUGE, Pungo, Virginia. (Game Refuge and approximately six miles of approach road from Oceana, Va.) Open deciduous woodland 5%, farm lands 5%, salt marsh and inland bay 75%, ocean beach 15%. Dec. 29, 1946; 8:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. Cloudy in a. m., clear p. m., temp. 60° - 70° F. No appreciable wind, ground bare. Three observers together. Total hours (6 afoot, 2 in motorboat), 8; total miles, 10 (6 afoot, 4 in motorboat). Gannet, 47; great blue heron, 3; whistling swan, 1075 (est.); Canada goose, 3450 (est.); snow goose, 38; black duck, 26; baldpate, 900 (est.); canvasback, 1000 (est.); lesser scaup duck, 1; ruddy duck, 4; hooded merganser, 5; red-breasted merganser, 100 (est.); red-shouldered hawk, 1; bald eagle, 5; marsh hawk, 4; sparrow hawk, 1; coot, 550 (est.); great black-backed gull, 1; herring gull, 264; ring-billed gull, 187; Bonaparte's gull, 1; Caspian tern, 2; mourning dove, 2; flicker, 2; phoebe, 2; crow, 30; Carolina chickadee, 7; tufted titmouse, 3; brown creeper, 6; house wren, 1; Carolina wren, 7; mockingbird, 3; golden-crowned kinglet, 4; myrtle warbler, 80; yellowthroat, 1; meadowlark, 8; red-wing, 1000 (est.); boat-tailed grackle, 5; cardinal, 11; Savannah sparrow, 6; white-throated sparrow, 58; swamp sparrow, 26; song sparrow, 21. Total species, 43. Total individuals, 8947. Orville Crowder, William McHoul, Ray J. Beasley.

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RICHMOND, VA. (same area as 1944 count; open farmland 45%, pine woodlands 8%, deciduous woodlands 20%, residential districts 17%, tidal fresh-water marshes 10%). Dec. 23; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Partly cloudy; wind SE veering slowly to SW, 3-13 m.p.h.; temp. 24° - 55° F.; ground bare; water open. Five observers in two parties in early morning, joining to form one party for afternoon. Total hours, 9 (8 on foot, 1 in rowboat); total miles, 6 (5 on foot, 1 by boat). Pied-billed grebe, 1; Canada goose, 1500 (est.); mallard, 63; black duck, 2; baldpate, 38; ring-necked duck, 70; lesser scaup, 1; American golden-eye, 2; ruddy duck, 4; American merganser, 7; turkey vulture, 53; black vulture, 49; red-tailed hawk, 2; red-shouldered hawk, 1; bald eagle, 2; marsh hawk, 2; sparrow hawk, 12; coot, 109; killdeer, 4; herring gull, 35; ring-billed gull, 260; rock dove (feral), 155; mourning dove, 7; kingfisher, 1; flicker, 4; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; red-headed woodpecker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 5; phoebe, 2; blue jay, 9; crow, 80; Carolina chickadee, 19; tufted titmouse, 11; white-breasted nuthatch, 7; brown creeper, 4; Carolina wren, 13; mockingbird, 18; hermit thrush, 1; bluebird, 32; golden-crowned kinglet, 41; ruby-crowned kinglet, 5; loggerhead shrike, 7; starling, 810 (part est.); myrtle warbler, 56; English sparrow, 135; meadowlark, 49; red-wing, 73;

cardinal, 44; purple finch, 16; goldfinch, 24; towhee, 4; Savannah sparrow, 1; slate-colored junco, 228; field sparrow, 4; white-throated sparrow, 57; swamp sparrow, 12; song sparrow, 7. Total, 58 species; about 4151 individuals.
J. R. Sydnor, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Smith, J. B. Loughran, F. R. Scott.

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA. (Albemarle Lake area, city reservoir area, fields and woods north and west of town, 5 miles along South Fork Rivanna River, along Rivanna River from Milton to town; open fields 10%, weed fields 5%, pine woods 15%, deciduous woods 10%, river bottom 50%, lake and reservoir 10%). Dec. 24; 7 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Fair; temp, 32° - 55° F.; wind W, 8-12 m.p.h. Four observers in three parties. Total hours, 25; total miles, 80 (45 in car, 35 on foot). Horned grebe, 1; mallard, 4; black duck, 43; ring-necked duck, 1; American merganser, 2; turkey vulture, 81; black vulture, 18; red-tailed hawk, 1; red-shouldered hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 4; bob-white, 1; killdeer, 4; mourning dove, 57; kingfisher, 1; flicker, 8; pileated woodpecker, 6; red-bellied woodpecker, 9; sapsucker, 5; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 29; prairie horned lark, 65; blue jay, 12; crow, 333; fish crow, 1 (W.F.M.); Carolina chickadee, 45; tufted titmouse, 22; white-breasted nuthatch, 6; red-breasted nuthatch, 16; brown creeper, 8; winter wren, 5; Carolina wren, 33; mockingbird, 14; robin, 32; hermit thrush, 3; bluebird, 25; golden-crowned kinglet, 188; ruby-crowned kinglet, 26; cedar waxwing, 21; shrike, 3; starling, 95; myrtle warbler, 19; English sparrow, 26; meadowlark, 12; rusty blackbird, 1; cardinal, 95; purple finch, 180; goldfinch, 212; junco, 734; tree sparrow, 2; field sparrow, 33; white-throated sparrow, 102; fox sparrow, 30; song sparrow, 61. Total: 53 species; 2737 individuals. (Seen during period: phoebe, Dec. 21; great blue heron, Dec. 23.) - J. H. Grey, Jr., J. M. Irvine, Jr., W. F. Minor, C. E. Stevens, Jr.

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LYNCHBURG, VA. (Timber Lake, Municipal Airport, Tomahawk Swamp and Graves' Mill, College Lake; open farmlands, 63%; woods, 37%). Dec. 26; 7:20-11:30 a.m., 12:40-5:30 p.m. Fair, temp, 39° - 60°; wind S shifting to W, 0-16 m.p.h.; ground mostly bare, except small patches of ice in protected places; lakes and streams open. Three observers together. Total hours, 8 on foot; total miles, 7 on foot. Turkey vulture, 17; black vulture, 5; red-shouldered hawk, 1; bob-white, 6; mourning dove, 23; flicker, 2; pileated woodpecker, 1; red-bellied woodpecker, 2; red-headed woodpecker, 7; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 4; phoebe, 1; prairie horned lark, 23; blue jay, 7; crow, 325 (est.); Carolina chickadee, 18; tufted titmouse, 9; white-breasted nuthatch, 3; red-breasted nuthatch, 7; brown creeper, 2; winter wren, 2; Carolina wren, 5; mockingbird, 2; robin, 13; bluebird, 18; golden-crowned kinglet, 8; ruby-crowned kinglet, 11; migrant shrike, 1; starling, 471 (mostly est.); myrtle warbler, 9; English sparrow, 11; meadowlark, 2; cardinal, 15; purple finch, 18; pine siskin, 12; goldfinch, 14; junco, 76; field sparrow, 5; white-throated sparrow, 3; song sparrow, 2. Total, 40 species, about 1162 individuals. - Kenneth Lawless, Jane Freer, Ruskin S. Freer.

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SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK, VA. (Big Meadows, Fishers Gap, Cedar Run trail from Hawksbill Gap to White Oak Canyon and up canyon trail to Skyline, Appalachian Trail from Skyline to Hawksbill Gap; altitude range, 2800-3700 feet; deciduous woodlands 75%, hemlock groves 12%, open meadows 3%, marsh, 10%). Dec. 28; 7 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Partly cloudy; wind WNW, 15-35 mph. on the ridge; temp. 44° - 60° F.; up to 2 in. of snow and ice on ground in woods; most standing water frozen. Two observers frequently separating. Total hours, 10 on foot; total miles, 11 on foot. Turkey vulture, 3; red-tailed hawk, 2; red-shouldered hawk, 1; ruffed grouse, 3; flicker, 1; pileated woodpecker, 2; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 3; downy woodpecker, 5; raven, 2; Carolina chickadee (definitely not black-capped), 9; tufted titmouse, 5; brown creeper, 2; winter wren, 3; Carolina wren, 3; robin, 6; hermit thrush, 1; starling, 1850 (est.); meadowlark, 1; pine siskin, 8 (heavy streakings and small yellow patches seen distinctly and characteristic note heard by both observers); Carolina junco, 11 (each identified by horn-colored bill and color of head which was the same shade as that of back); tree sparrow, 3. Total, 22 species; about 1925 individuals. The robins, to our surprise, were on top of the ridge at Big Meadows at 3500 ft. The starlings were seen in flocks of 50 to 800 birds flying east through Fishers and Hawksbill Gaps. The siskins were in a hemlock grove along White Oak Canyon. - C. E. Stevens, F. R. Scott.

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HARRISONBURG, VA. Waterman Wood to Tide Spring, a total distance of 12 miles including oak-hickory-cedar-pine woodlot 60%, oak-hickory woodlot 10%, small village bordering school campus 10%, cedar-pine wasteland 10%, pasture field and fence rows 10%. Small pond in oak-hickory woodlot covered with one-fourth inch ice. December 23; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Ground covered with one-half inch crust of snow. At beginning sky 80% overcast with cirro-nimbus clouds, temp. 30° F., wind S less than 1 m.p.h. Noon sky still 80% overcast, temp. 40° F., wind S 8-12 m.p.h. At close sky 50% overcast, temp. 42.5° F., wind SE 8-12 m.p.h. Three observers working together. Total hours, 7 on foot; total miles, 8 on foot. Turkey vulture, 14; sharp-shinned hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 1; killdeer, 1; mourning dove, 1; downy woodpecker, 9; prairie horned lark, 1; blue jay, 4; crow, 105; Carolina chickadee, 34; tufted titmouse, 40; white-breasted nuthatch, 9; brown creeper, 4; Carolina wren, 8; mockingbird, 11; bluebird, 7; golden-crowned kinglet, 10; starling, 160; myrtle warbler, 8; English sparrow, 77; cardinal, 31; purple finch, 4; pine siskin, 1; goldfinch, 21; slate-colored junco, 96; tree sparrow, 6; white-throated sparrow, 1; song sparrow, 1. Total 28 species, 666 individuals. - Daniel Suter, Richard Weaver, D. Ralph Hostetter.

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LEXINGTON, VA. (same area as formerly but covered more intensively: circle of 7 miles diameter with center 2 miles north of town; town 5%; Big Spring Pong 5%, farmland 20%, cedar woods 30%, oak woods 20%, scrub 20%). - Dec. 26; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 40 minutes out for lunch. Clear, a.m.; cloudy, p.m.; temp. 43 to 58; wind NW, 15-25 m.p.h.; old snow in spots; river open. Thirteen observers in 2 parties. Total hours, 17 on foot, car used in shifting between points; total miles, 13 on foot, 35 by cars. Pied-billed grebe, 1;

turkey vulture, 20; black vulture, 17; red-tailed hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 1; bob-white, 31 (3 coveys, reported by hunters in same area); woodcock, 1 (reported by hunter in area); rock dove, 18; mourning dove, 4; belted kingfisher, 5; pileated woodpecker, 4; red-bellied woodpecker, 6; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 5; downy woodpecker, 10; horned lark, 65 (all individuals closely observed were prairie horned larks); blue jay, 8; crow, 343; black-capped chickadee, 5 (occurs sparingly but regularly); Carolina chickadee, 44; tufted titmouse, 29; white-breasted nuthatch, 10; brown creeper, 3; winter wren, 2; Carolina wren, 17; mockingbird, 14; bluebird, 33; golden-crowned kinglet, 32; migrant shrike, 1; starling, 467; myrtle warbler, 19; English sparrow, 160; cardinal, 58; purple finch, 2; goldfinch, 49; junco, 122; tree sparrow, 17; field sparrow, 12; white-throated sparrow, 27; song sparrow, 17. Total, 39 species, 1680 individuals. - J. J. Murray, R. P. Carroll, Robert Paxton, Nell Owen Paxton, Dickson Vardell Murray, Jane Murray, James Murray, Jr., Frances Morton, Alice Carroll, Edward P. Davis, Joe Magee, John McCoy, Charles Law.

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BLACKSBURG (MONTGOMERY CO.), VA. (V.P.I. campus and farm, Strouble's Creek and Price's Mt. to New River, Tom's Creek and Brush Mt. to New River, New River from Mouth of Strouble's Creek to Goodwin's Ferry, within 15-mile diameter; 45% woods; 35% farmland; 20% riverbottom). Dec. 23; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear to overcast; temp. 20° start, 40° return; wind W, moderate; 2" sleet and snow. Four observers working in three groups. Total hours, 33 on foot (car used in shifting from point to point); total miles, 49 on foot, 35 in car. Mallard, 135; black duck, 79; baldpate, 28; pintail, 1; green-winged teal, 14; shoveller, 1; ring-necked duck, 1; American golden-eye, 7; bufflehead, 14; hooded merganser, 21; turkey vulture, 14; black vulture, 4; Cooper's hawk, 2; red-tailed hawk, 2; red-shouldered hawk, 3; sparrow hawk, 10; ruffed grouse, 4; bob-white, 35 (4 coveys; fresh tracks of 2 other coveys); coot, 1; killdeer, 15; Wilson's snipe, 16; domestic pigeon, 30; mourning dove, 72; screech owl, 3; belted kingfisher, 2; flicker, 15; pileated woodpecker, 5; red-bellied woodpecker, 7; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 4; hairy woodpecker, 4; downy woodpecker, 28; phoebe, 2; prairie horned lark, 79; blue jay, 14; crow, 719; Carolina chickadee, 70; tufted titmouse, 50; white-breasted nuthatch, 19; red-breasted nuthatch, 33; brown creeper, 6; winter wren, 21; Carolina wren, 36; mockingbird, 11; catbird, 1 (R.J.W.), robin, 11; hermit thrush, 8; bluebird, 17; golden-crowned kinglet, 247; ruby-crowned kinglet, 5; cedar waxwing, 25; migrant shrike, 4; starling, 1700 (est.); myrtle warbler, 1; western palm warbler, 1; English sparrow, 300 (est.); meadowlark, 5; rusty blackbird, 45; cowbird, 200 (est.); cardinal, 113; goldfinch, 98; purple finch, 19; Savannah sparrow, 2; junco, 317; tree sparrow, 81; field sparrow, 109; white-crowned sparrow, 146; white-throated sparrow, 15; fox sparrow, 9; swamp sparrow, 4; song sparrow, 145. Total, 70 species, 5335 individuals. - C. O. Handley, Sr. & Jr., John Handley, R. J. Watson.

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BLACKSBURG, VA. (V.P.I. campus and farm, top of Brush Mt. for $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. and down New River from Whitethorne 1 mi.), Dec. 21, 1946. Three observers working in two groups most of the day. 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; overcast with sun breaking

through after short intervals, fog, drizzle (accompanied by well developed rain-bos) and snow flurry; 31° start, 34° return; brisk wind most of day, from south at start shifting to west; 2" sleet on ground, all vegetation heavily coated with ice which showered down continually in the woods making observation there most difficult. 18 hrs. on foot, 1 hour in car; 10 mi. on foot; 45 mi. in car. Coverage: 83% farmland, 11% woods; and 6% riverbottom land. Mallard, 104; black duck, 77; baldpate, 26; green-winged teal, 10; shoveller, 1; hooded merganser, 2; turkey vulture, 4; Cooper's hawk, 1; sharp-shinned hawk, 1; red-tailed hawk, 2; red-shouldered hawk, 1; marsh hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 4; ruffed grouse, 5; bob-white, 22 (2 coveys); coot, 1; killdeer, 14; Wilson's snipe, 42; domestic pigeon, 1; mourning dove, 42; screech owl, 1; flicker, 5; pileated woodpecker, 2; red-bellied woodpecker, 4; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 6; prairie horned lark, 367; blue jay, 1; crow, 632; Carolina chickadee, 11; tufted titmouse, 12; white-breasted nuthatch, 9; red-breasted nuthatch, 5; winter wren, 2; Carolina wren, 2; mockingbird, 2; hermit thrush, 2; bluebird, 2; golden-crowned kinglet, 40; ruby-crowned kinglet, 2; migrant shrike, 1; starling, 791; English sparrow, 61; meadowlark, 130; rusty blackbird, 42; cowbird, 200 (est.); cardinal, 15; goldfinch, 220; purple finch, 17; Savannah sparrow, 4; junco, 204; tree sparrow, 67; field sparrow, 28; white-crowned sparrow, 106; white-throated sparrow, 2; fox sparrow, 3; song sparrow, 51; Lapland longspur, 2. Total, 59 species; 3414 individuals. - C. O. Handley, Sr. & Jr., and John Handley.

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ROANOKE, VA. (Murray's Pond and Bennett's Spring.) December 29th; 7:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. Rain. Temp. 55. Mourning dove, 2; kingfisher, 1; flicker, 4; downy woodpecker, 4; blue jay, 9; crow, 60; chickadee, 10; tufted titmouse, 12; white-breasted nuthatch, 3; winter wren, 1; Carolina wren, 2; mockingbird, 6; robin, 1; bluebird, 4; ruby-crowned kinglet, 20; shrike, 1; starling, 200; meadowlark, 4; cardinal, 4; purple finch, 4; goldfinch, 35; slate-colored junco, 50; tree sparrow, 20; field sparrow, 5; white-throated sparrow, 25; fox sparrow, 1; song sparrow, 8. Total, 27 species, 496 individuals. - L. E. Hawkins, Claude Cosby, "Bill" Cosby, A. O. English.

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DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
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BREEDING BIRDS OF A CEDAR BARREN

By Charles O. Handley, Jr.

In the course of an ecological study of cedar barrens in the vicinity of Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia, during the spring and early summer of 1946, rather detailed notes were kept on the distribution of birds in these areas. It was discovered that cedar barrens have a distinct bird fauna of their own which is unmatched by other nearby areas of different floral composition.

Cedar barrens or "glades" occur with considerable frequency wherever certain Ordovician limestone strata appear in Southwest Virginia, and apparently also in other parts of the country as well. They are characterized by extensive outcroppings of limestone ledges, and by the very nature of their geological formation occur always on hills. Because of the characteristics of the strata to which they are confined, the barrens usually occur in well defined belts, often several miles in length, but commonly only a few hundred feet in width. These strata can be accurately traced for miles on aerial photographs simply by following the dark strands of red cedars (Juniperus virginiana).

Since the slopes are relatively steep and the rock strata are near the surface, the soils of these areas are usually shallow and excessively wet in rainy periods and excessively dry in dry periods. These factors as well as others relating to exposure and chemical composition of the soil determine the type of plant growth in the barrens. The red cedar is the most conspicuous plant species of the typical barren and is one of the surest indicators that the combination of factors necessary for the formation of a barren is present.

Other conspicuous plants apparently characteristic of the limestone cedar barren are: Adder's tongue fern (Ophioglossum Engelmanni), broomsedge (Andropogon scoparius), poverty oat grass (Danthonia spicata), Canada blue grass (Poa compressa), barberry (Berberis canadensis), redbud (Cercis canadensis), purple violet (Viola sororia), puccoon root (Lithospermum canescens), viper's bugloss (Echium vulgare), stickweed (Echium occidentale), ragwort (Senecio Smallii), and hawkweed (Hieracium pilosella). Conspicuously scarce or absent are deciduous trees, most of the ferns, and many herbaceous species. The cedars typically grow close together, and there is no bush stratum. The ground beneath the cedars is relatively bare, and there are seldom carpets of vegetation such as are often found in deciduous woodlands.

Because of the rockiness, and often because of the steepness of the slope, as well as the persistency of the cedars, these areas present a perplexing problem to landowners. Usually the problem is solved by using the area for pasture, but the wisdom of this solution is open to question. Actually, the land appears to approach utter worthlessness from the stand-point of agriculture of other economic value. Often in agricultural communities waste land finds its best use as game sanctuary, but in the case of the cedar barren there seems to be no value even for that usage, during the summer at least. Perhaps winter would tell a different story.

For the purpose of the ecological study, two areas in the valley of the Roanoke River three to five miles east of Blacksburg were chosen for examination. Both were in the first tier of foothills above the river, one on the east side and the other on the west, the latter being two miles further down the valley. The east study area was a twenty-one acre tract of cedars, part of a cedar belt extending for several miles along the base of Paris Mountain. It was on a small steep-sided hill, surrounded on two sides by open farmland, and on the other sides by a continuation of the cedar belt. The cedars averaged fifteen to twenty-five feet in height and grew in an almost pure stand with practically no mixture of broadleaf trees. The growth was so dense in many places that movement, except along pathways, was difficult. Patches of brambles (*Rubus*) occurred in many of the more open sections, but there was nowhere a true bush stratum beneath the canopy of cedars. Actual ground cover was generally sparse, consisting mostly of grasses, mainly Canada blue and poverty oat, and stickweed. This area was considered to be a true barren in every sense of the word.

The west study area, on the other hand, was a mixed growth of mature oaks, hickories, and cedars, only in a few spots approaching cedar barren conditions. It extended in a belt across the summit of a hill with gentle slopes and northern and southern exposures and was surrounded on three sides by open farmland and on the fourth by secondgrowth deciduous woods. It was twenty-nine acres in extent. The scattered mature trees were mostly white and black oaks and bitternut hickory, with large slippery elms and black walnuts in lesser numbers. There was a good bush stratum of redbud, shingle oak, hackberry, poison ivy, fragrant sumac (*Rhus aronatica*), and secondgrowth broadleaves. Cedars up to 25 feet in height were scattered throughout, but were concentrated into thickets in only a few places. Growths in general were dense, though in the center of the area there was a relatively open space of three or four acres with brambles, hackberry, and stickweed. The ground substratum, with mayapple, ground ivy, grasses, violets, and numerous other species, was everywhere well developed. Both areas were grazed, the cedar barren area by sheep, the mixed cedar and deciduous area by cattle. By keeping a close check on these areas it was possible to determine which species of birds preferred the cedar barren habitat and which preferred the more open mixed and deciduous woodland.

The vertebrate fauna of the cedar barren appears to be as characteristic and distinct as its flora. Nowhere else nearby were fence lizards so abundant as they were in the barrens, nor could any habitat be found to duplicate the peculiar association of birds. By comparing the study areas, it was found that several birds preferred the cedar barren by significant ratios:

blue jay	6.9-0.4	prairie warbler	28.6-3.1
brown thrasher	5.8-0.0	chipping sparrow	31.2-6.1
cedar waxwing	10.6-1.2		

These figures are in terms of individuals per hundred acres, based upon the average number of individuals observed on each visit to the areas. Thus there were 6.9 blue jays per hundred acres of cedar barren, but only 0.4 per hundred acres of mixed woodland.

A considerably larger group of birds preferred the mixed and deciduous woodland to the cedar barren by convincing ratios. In this listing the individuals

per hundred acres of deciduous forest are first followed by those of the cedar barren.

cuckoo (species)?	3.8-0.0	white-br. nuthatch	0.4-0.0
flicker	8.1-0.5	Carolina wren	6.9-1.1
red-headed woodpecker	0.4-0.0	parula warbler	3.5-0.5
hairy woodpecker	1.2-0.0	yellow-br. chat	6.5-0.0
downy woodpecker	1.2-0.0	cowbird	5.4-0.0
Carolina chickadee	15.0-2.1	towhee	9.1-1.1
tufted titmouse	18.4-4.8		

Still another large group of birds seemed to be about equally characteristic of the two areas. In this list the individuals per hundred acres of the mixed and deciduous area are noted first, followed after the dash by the individuals of the cedar barren area. Several other species were seen in each of the areas, but they were only visitors and not nesting forms.

mourning dove	6.5-6.9	blue-gray gnatcatcher	13.1-5.3
ruby-thr. hummingbird	1.2-1.1	yellow-thr. vireo	0.4-2.1
kingbird	0.4-0.5	red-eyed vireo	5.0-2.6
crested flycatcher	2.7-1.1	black & white warbler	0.7-1.1
phoebe	0.4-2.1	yellow warbler	1.2-0.0
wood pewee	5.4-2.1	hooded warbler	1.2-0.0
crow	7.7-16.4	redstart	0.7-1.1
Bewick's wren	1.9-1.6	orchard oriole	0.4-0.5
mockingbird	1.6-0.0	scarlet tanager	0.4-0.0
catbird	1.6-0.0	cardinal	16.9-23.3
robin	3.8-3.7	indigo bunting	8.1-6.9
wood thrush	1.5-2.6	goldfinch	26.1-15.9
bluebird	5.8-3.2	field sparrow	41.0-33.8

It should be immediately apparent that the cedar barren has a meager bird population. As a matter of fact, it is almost more interesting to consider which birds it lacks than which birds it has in its fauna. However, consideration of the strange assortment of birds nesting side by side in the cedars is no less intriguing.

In the vicinity of Blacksburg the chipping sparrow is a common nesting species about lawns and gardens and in orchards, while the prairie warbler is an inhabitant of pine thickets and secondgrowth deciduous scrub; yet in the cedar barren both species are found nesting with the blue-gray gnatcatcher, a bird of mature broadleaf woodlands. Equally strange is the association of cedar waxwings with prairie warblers and indigo buntings, and the blue jay with species usually thought of as preferring nesting sites in deciduous growths. Prairie warblers and cedar waxwings are more abundant in the cedar barren than anywhere else in the vicinity.

Making further comparisons, it would be hard to find other woodlands harboring crows and blue jays and lacking a woodpecker population, or to find blue-gray gnatcatchers a common nesting species and not find titmice and chickadees equally or more common. Tree creepers of all kinds seemed to shun the cedar barren. Woodpeckers preferred the mixed and deciduous woodland by a ratio of about 22-1, and titmice, chickadees, and nuthatches by almost equal ratios. Perhaps the red cedar does not decay readily and so does not offer suitable nesting sites for hole-nesting birds, or maybe wood-boring insects are scarce

in cedar, or perhaps both of these factors and still others combine to discourage habitation by this group of birds. No doubt all of these species find the cedars more to their liking in winter when nesting holes are not such an important consideration, and food is everywhere more difficult to find. In a somewhat parallel case, squirrels were common in the broadleaf woods and completely absent in the cedars. Lack of both nutbearing and conebearing trees is apparently sufficient to make cedar barrens uninteresting or possibly even uninhabitable for them.

The distribution of some of the thicket-loving birds is of interest. That the mockingbird, catbird, brown thrasher, yellow-breasted chat, towhee, and Carolina wren have more or less similar habitat preferences is a commonly accepted fact. Indeed, all six are often found nesting in the same deciduous thicket. Variations in their preferences became apparent, however, when the cedar barren was compared with the deciduous woods. Mockingbirds, catbirds, and thrashers were common in the cedars as would be expected, but chats, towhees, and Carolina wrens were almost completely lacking.

The distribution of the cowbird is somewhat puzzling. Why it should have been apparently absent in the cedars, and yet frequent in the other area, even though host species were equally abundant in each, is an interesting point for speculation.

The discovery of the nest of a ruby-throated hummingbird in a cedar is of considerable interest, not because it is unusual, but because it is exactly what would be expected. Apparently this tiny bird has no preference whatsoever as to the type of woodland in which it nests. Nests are as likely to be found in white pine forests or in hemlock thickets as in mature oak woodlands or deciduous thickets, and evidently also in cedar barrens. This nest, which contained the usual two eggs, was located in a small cedar on a dead twig just below a live branch, only eight feet above the ground.

In way of summary, several features should again be pointed out. The cedar barren does not have as great a variety in its breeding bird fauna as nearby mixed and deciduous associations but does have a distinct and well defined group of rather peculiar composition characteristic of it. While it attracts no species during the breeding season which do not occur also in other habitats in the vicinity, it does support several species in larger numbers. At the same time, there are numerous common woodland species missing from its fauna, of which most noticeable are the woodpeckers. It would seem that the cedar barren has an unmatched fauna interesting enough to bear further study.

.....Virginia Cooperative Wildlife
Research Unit
Blacksburg, Virginia

FOREST TYPES OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

By C. C. Steirly

A general, non-technical, description of the major forest types of the Coastal Plain section of Virginia might be of some use to Ornithologists of the eastern part of the state who are particularly interested in habitat studies. Forest types, as conceived by the forestry profession, are useful only as a rough guide in habitat work because they do not consider the brushy and herbaceous vegetation but represent only the immediate timber cover. However, it might be well to consider these forest types as they, to a certain extent, indicate soil conditions which undoubtedly influence the lesser vegetation.

A Forest Type might be defined as a natural grouping or association of trees as influenced by soil conditions. A further refinement would add past treatment of the site. For example, it is not at all uncommon to find many types that have been very much altered through man's lumbering activities in removing just one or more species of trees or through the slow but eventual restocking of areas destroyed by forest fires.

Another example would be the situation created through the abandonment of agricultural lands. Conditions are thus artificially created for the formation of certain forest types which would hardly otherwise occur in nature. Thus any conception of forest types would have to take into consideration both natural and artificial origins. In eastern Virginia many thousands of acres of forest types would be of an unnatural origin. Reforestation of abandoned agricultural land will not be considered as the total acreage of such types is relatively small. It does, however, radically alter extremely local situations.

In the Coastal Plain region of Virginia foresters recognize ten types excluding the types peculiar to the Dismal Swamp. For all practical purposes these ten forest types could be telescoped to six types. In forest management type mapping a brush type and an open (abandoned sedge fields) type are added in order to properly account for the total area of property. Brief descriptions of the major forest types are as follows:

1. Loblolly Pine Type: Occurs throughout the Coastal Plain on a wide variety of soils. This is a pure type (over 80% loblolly pine) and usually results from re-seeded abandoned agricultural lands or forest areas burned over under ideal conditions of seed source during periods of seed abundance. It is the most important commercial timber type in the state. Following cutting it usually reverts to a pine-hardwood type. It is not a permanent type ecologically. Associated species include white oaks, red oaks, yellow poplar, red gum, red maple, red cedar and the hickories.

2. Shortleaf Pine Type: Very limited in Coastal Plain region and very much similar to the loblolly pine type except that it occurs only on the drier sites. In it the associated species include the red oaks, red cedar and the hickories. It is of a great commercial importance and is a temporary type.

3. Loblolly Pine - Shortleaf Pine Type: This type is merely an overlapping of the above types on dry soils. It occurs along the western part of the Coastal Plain.

4. Virginia Pine Type: Occurs extensively in the Northern Neck section of the state and in isolated spots elsewhere. It is of little commercial importance and it is very aggressive in invading abandoned fields. This, too, is a temporary type succeeded by mixed hardwoods.

5. Pond Pine Type: Of limited occurrence. Found most generally in the Norfolk section on low pocoson type soils.

All of these types are often loosely called Pine Types for all practical purposes when technical management considerations are not involved.

6. Pine - Upland Hardwood Types: This is quite often a natural type or one following the cutting of any of the above. Such a type would contain at least 40% pine and a general mixture of the hardwoods including white oak, holly, yellow poplar, red oak, beech, red maple, hickory, red gum, red cedar, etc. In many respects this represents the climax forest type over most of eastern Virginia. It is commercially important for its content of pine and the better hardwoods. Following present, unrestricted cutting practice it reverts to an Upland Hardwood Type minus the most desirable timber species. Of widespread occurrence throughout the area.

7. Upland Hardwood Type: Practically the same as the above but with only a scattering of pine trees.

8. Bottomland Hardwood Type: Foresters recognize several finer breakdowns of this type, however, they have little Ornithological significance. This type occurs only along rivers, creeks, branches, etc. or their beds which are broad and flat and subject to occasional overflow. It contains loblolly pine, swamp chestnut oak, white oak, yellow poplar, red gum, cypress, tupelo, ash, red maple, red birch and sycamore. All of these species will probably seldom be found in any one bottom. The type is apparently the climax vegetation for the site. Owing to the general narrowness of most bottomlands the type does afford quite a large portion of "edge" where the most varied wildlife conditions exist.

9. White Oak - Loblolly Pine Type: This is a type of rather limited occurrence and as its name implies it represents a balanced condition with white oak and loblolly pine as its dominant vegetation. Associates include yellow poplar, red gum, red maple. Following indiscriminant lumbering, this type will revert to an upland hardwood type through losing its two dominant species. This is a type of considerable commercial value. For practical purposes it could be called a Pine-Upland Hardwood Type.

10. Red Gum - Yellow Poplar Type: This type is not too common but it represents a modification of the Bottomland and Upland Hardwood Types in which its two name species are predominant. Its associates include scattered loblolly pine, red maple and white ash. It is in most situations a climax type and often reproduces itself following logging.

A further refinement in mapping many of the above types would be to consider them by size classes. Assume that a naturalist is conducting nesting studies or wishes to map in his favorite census area; he might want to have some indication of whether the types were of large trees or mere saplings. A rough classification would be about as follows: SEEDLINGS, trees up to six feet in height; SAPLINGS, trees above six feet in height and up to five inches in diameter at breast height; POLES, trees from five to ten inches in diameter at breast height; and SAWTIMBER, trees above ten inches in diameter. Some foresters recognize one more category: VETERANS, trees over twenty-four inches in diameter. This classification is for even-aged forests, especially of the pine types.

An ornithologist should find the above classification of forest types and size classes of some use in making habitat studies, in census work and in making a rough map of his nesting study area. The above could serve as a rough framework from which the naturalist could further classify the lesser vegetation beneath the forest types.

Most of these types, especially of shortleaf and Virginia pines occur throughout much of the Piedmont Region.

.....District Forester
Virginia Forest Service
Box 222, Waverly, Virginia.

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EVENING GROSBEAKS AT ARLINGTON - 1946 AND 1947

By Mr. & Mrs. Arthur H. Fast

These rare and beautiful birds were observed on November 25, 1945, by the Donald McHenry's near their home at Lock 7 on the C. and O. Canal. They appeared in that vicinity until January 17, 1946. A total of 32 of them were reported in the 1945 Christmas Bird Count.

On the morning of January 18, 1946, at our feeding station at 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington, Virginia, we had the thrill of observing for the first time, ever, an evening grosbeak - a beautifully plumaged male. The next day about 25 grosbeaks appeared in a neighbor's yard. The following day a few fed at our station. Thereafter, they came in increasing numbers until as many as 35 were counted at one time. When established, they came many times each day from daylight until shortly after noon. We have a few records for as late as 2 P.M. and 3 P.M.; one record for 5 P.M. We were able to share these birds with more than 65 of our friends. Everyone who came saw them and probably no one waited more than an hour.

We succeeded in trapping and banding 51 evening grosbeaks, 42 females and 9 males. The flocks that came seemed to average about half and half - males

and females. Toward the end of their stay when 15 or 20 appeared, only an average of 3 or 4 were banded. Thus it would seem that a total of well over 100 birds visited our station.

Beginning with the last days of April, the number of grosbeaks appearing at our station progressively decreased until the last of them (two females) were observed on the morning of May 13th. We are informed that one of the latest records for New England is May 18th. The birds were with us for only a few days short of four months. This will always be one of the high lights of our birding experiences.

On January 18, 1947, the evening grosbeaks reappeared at our feeding station. By a strange coincidence, their reappearance this year was on the exact anniversary, even as to time, 8:15 a. m., of their first appearance at this station in 1946. This year a pair (male and female) appeared and came each morning for six consecutive days. They came between 7:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. and mostly remained in the vicinity until about noon, after which they left for the day. The pair was last seen on January 23rd,

.....4924 Rock Spring Road
Arlington, Virginia

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ADDENDUM TO "VIRGINIA IN THE 1946 LITERATURE"

By Charles O. Handley, Jr.

To Dr. Murray's summary in the November-December 1946 RAVEN, 17(11&12): 85-86, should be added an article by Dr. John W. Aldrich entitled "New subspecies of birds from western North America," which appeared in the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, 59:129-136. A pine siskin (Spinus pinus vagans) described as new is stated to make sporadic invasions of the eastern states and the following Virginia specimens are listed as being typical of the race: Rosslyn, May 19, 1888; Ballston, Nov. 8, 1887; and Arlington, Oct. 24, 1889. All these localities are in Arlington County.

.....Blacksburg, Virginia

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Report of Treasurer
 VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
 January 1st to December 31st, 1946

Balance on hand December 31st, 1945	\$177.65
Membership dues received	<u>179.50</u>
	\$357.15

DISBURSEMENTS

Voucher #82	1/21/46	Mrs. Elsie Garst	Raven	\$ 7.50
83	3/21/46	C. O. Handley	Postage	6.00
84	"	Double Envelope Co.	Envelopes	3.30
85	4/4/46	Miss Virginia Brooks	Postage	10.00
86	4/16/46	Miss Virginia Brooks	Stencils	6.60
87	4/26/46	Caldwell-Sites Co.	Mimo paper	24.00
88	4/30/46	A. O. English	Stpd. Envel.	1.85
89	5/1/46	Salem Pub'g. Co.	Letterheads	10.06
90	5/6/46	Miss Virginia Brooks	Raven	
			Jan.Feb.Mch.	15.00
91	"	Postmaster, Roanoke	Stpd.Envel.	3.35
92	5/14/46	Natl.Audubon Society	Film rental	4.00
93	6/21/46	C. O. Handley	Expense at	
			annual mtg.	10.90
94	"	Miss Virginia Brooks	April Raven	12.75
95	"	" " "	Postage	10.00
96	6/26/46	Natl.Audubon Society	1946 dues	10.00
97	7/26/46	Miss Virginia Brooks	Raven	
			May-June	8.25
98	11/8/46	Miss Virginia Brooks	Raven	
			July-Aug.	8.25
99	"	Miss Virginia Brooks	Stencils	6.30
100	11/16/46	Miss Virginia Brooks	Postage	10.00
101	11/26/46	Natl.Audubon Society	1947 dues	10.00
102	12/14/46	Miss Virginia Brooks	Raven	
			Sept.-Oct.	7.50
				<u>\$185.61</u>

Balance on hand, December 31st, 1946	<u>171.54</u>
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\$357.15

Respectfully submitted,

T. L. Engleby,
 Treasurer

THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

- - -

The annual meeting will be held in Charlottesville, Virginia, May 16-17. Headquarters will be at the Monticello Hotel. Single rooms - \$4.00 and up. Double rooms - \$6.00 and up.

Afternoon program - 2:30 PM
 Banquet - 6:30 PM
 Evening program - 8:00 PM

May 17th will be devoted to field trip.

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Program is being arranged by Dr. John H. Grey, Jr., Box 550, Charlottesville, Virginia. Those desiring time on the program to present papers or motion pictures, please communicate with Dr. Grey.

- - -

OFFICERS

A. O. English, President
 Dr. John H. Grey, Jr., Vice-President
 Dr. Florence S. Hague, Secretary
 T. L. Engleby, Treasurer
 Dr. J. J. Murray, Editor

- - -

Executive Committee

C. O. Handley
 Mrs. Colgate W. Darden, Jr.
 James R. Sydnor
 Mrs. A. C. Reed
 Leighman Hawkins

- - -

PAST ANNUAL MEETINGS

Organization - Lynchburg, December 1929	7th Meeting - Richmond, 1937
1st Meeting - Richmond, 1931	8th Meeting - Lexington, 1938
2nd Meeting - Charlottesville, 1932	9th Meeting - Norfolk, 1939
3rd Meeting - Norfolk, 1933	10th Meeting - Harrisonburg, 1940
4th Meeting - Alexandria, 1934	11th Meeting - Roanoke, 1941
5th Meeting - Roanoke, 1935	12th Meeting - Blacksburg, 1946
6th Meeting - Lynchburg, 1936	



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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May-June, 1947

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THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 1947

By Florence S. Hague

The Executive Committee met at luncheon on May 16, 1947 at the Monticello Hotel, Charlottesville, discussed various phases of the work of the V. S. C. but took no action.

At 2:30 p.m. the President, Mr. English, opened the Fourteenth Annual Meeting. Rev. John H. Grey, Jr. welcomed the Society to Charlottesville for this Annual Meeting and gave notices of plans for the evening and for the Saturday field trip. The Nominating Committee consisting of Dr. Murray, Chairman, Mrs. Burgess and Mr. Eike was appointed by Mr. English. He also spoke of the recent sudden death of our Treasurer, Mr. T. L. Engleby whose hospitality many of us enjoyed at the Annual Meetings at Roanoke.

The program started with a group of papers about the bird life of Albemarle County by John H. Grey, Jr. and two students who have co-operated with him. Wm. F. Minor reviewed the records from the County, the earliest of which was a list published by Thomas Jefferson; in 1882 Ridgway reported the Fish Crow almost as abundant as the common Crow; Wm. Cabell Rives of Castle Hill recorded 130 species in 1915; and subsequently Ludlow Griscom, N. R. Barger, R. S. Freer, Kirtland and John Calhoun worked in the county, the latter four adding 43 species by 1930. About this time ducks began using the Charlottesville water reservoir and by 1941 the total number of recorded species was 189. Chas. E. Stevens, Jr. spoke of the recent and unusual records of Northern Phalarope, Snowy Owl, Ibis and, within the last weeks, a Brown Pelican. Rev. Grey gave 218 as the up to the minute total for the County and among other problems mentioned Dr. Rives' record of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker which has not been reported again. Other problems are: do Purple Martins, Yellow-throated Warblers and Northern Water-Thrushes nest in the County; and is there an October migration flight at a high elevation over Charlottesville as is suggested by several records.

Mrs. Darden's interesting report on the Nesting of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron is to appear in The Raven.

Prof. Handley told of banding 469 Grackles and of the returns which indicate that the birds banded in Blacksburg winter inland in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Dean Ivey F. Lewis gave a very entertaining account of bird behavior that he has observed at a feeding tray. When the feeders include the Purple Finch, Song, Field and Chipping Sparrows and Juncos, the Purple Finches will peck or drive away any individuals of the other species; the Song Sparrows will peck the last three species named but not the Purple Finches and so on through the list to the Juncos which are bossed by all of these other species. The Titmice peck all the above named birds and the Chickadees which in turn chase the Chipping Sparrows and the Juncos from the feeding tray. A Cardinal will chase away one Starling but not a group of Starlings. The Starlings have learned this and so "gang up" on other species as do the English Sparrows also.

We were all wanting to make a trip to Dismal Swamp as a result of Dr. Murray's vivid description of its beauties and life but before the end of May in order to avoid the mosquitoes. The Swamp consists of a thick forest of Black Gum, of a less dense area of Juniper which has been burned and cut over and of

centrally located Lake Drummond whose water drains out through a canal. There are many bears, some deer and have been wild cattle in the Swamp. It is the only Austroriparian area in Virginia and hence has some species which are characteristic of the humid coastal regions to the south but are not found farther north. Pileated Woodpeckers are abundant; also Chimney Swifts which follow the ancestral habit of nesting in hollow trees. Prothonotary and Hooded Warblers are very abundant in the Swamp and Parulas at its edge.

The kodachrome slides of nesting birds at Mountain Lake along with Mrs. Wiltshire's account of the behavior of the birds and of some of the difficulties which she and Mr. James W. Wiltshire, Jr. had in taking the pictures took us in spirit to the homes of Cedar Waxwings, several Warblers, Vireos, Juncos and Hummingbirds. Since Prof. Sydnor and Mr. Ray Beasley were unable to be present we missed their papers on Bird Songs and on Birds from a Chesapeake Bay Ferry. The afternoon program was concluded with films on The Western Grebe and The Birds of Wood Island. Between these, Mrs. C. O. Handley read parts of a letter telling of some bird trips taken by Chas. O. Handley, Jr. in Guatemala where he is working on a biological survey.

Thirty-nine members and guests attended the Annual Dinner at the Albemarle Hotel. Before departing for the evening program at the Presbyterian Church Annex, Dr. Murray reported the following nominations: for President, Rev. John H. Grey, Jr.; for Vice-President, Mrs. Colgate W. Darden; for Secretary, Dr. Florence S. Hague; for Treasurer, Mr. W. Edwin Miller; for the Executive Committee, Prof. C. O. Handley and Mr. A. O. English to serve until 1950; Mr. James Eike to serve until 1948 in place of Dr. Stevenson who has moved away from Virginia. The Committee also recommended that Rev. Grey should have an Assistant Librarian in Charlottesville and that Mrs. J. Frank-Key should continue to direct Junior work for the V. S. O. Since there was no response to a call for nominations from the floor, the above named officers were elected by one and the same vote.

The evening program consisted chiefly of the "Problems of Field Work" presented by Dr. John W. Aldrich of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the discussion which followed. The plan for the federal work is to study (1) Distribution and Migration of Birds, (2) Life Histories, (3) Ecology and Populations and (4) Taxonomy. Directions and forms for reporting information which V. S. O. members might assemble, particularly on distribution and migration, are to be sent out soon. The work at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge near Washington, which includes intensive work in plant succession, how changes can be brought about, effects on bird life and breeding populations was described and illustrated by slides.

Again the program was concluded with films; Sharp Eyes and A Trip to Cobb's Island.

V. S. O. FIELD TRIP - 1947

By C. E. Stevens, Jr.

On Saturday morning, May 17, at 7:30 about 45 people in 10 cars started on the annual field trip, leaving from the Griddle, in Charlottesville. One group began earlier, going to the Woolen Mills, and another went to the City Reservoir. The main group went through the University of Virginia Grounds, to Observatory Mountain, to an area about Michie Tavern (where, because of the early hour, the barkeeper would not dispense any hot buttered rum), to Bellair Pond, to Henley's Lake, and ended the trip along the forks of Moorman's River in Sugar Hollow. Luncheon was had at the summer home of Mrs. C. E. Stevens.

Before the field trip, we of the Charlottesville group were interested very much to see how many new or unusual records would be made when this large group of observers were turned loose in our County. Surely enough, two new birds were recorded for the County. A double-crested cormorant was seen at Henley's Lake by the whole group, and a Bachman's sparrow was seen singing in a hillside field along the Reservoir road. Dr. Wetmore and others saw three gray-cheeked thrushes at Michie Tavern. This constitutes our second record for this bird. Of unusual occurrence was a red-breasted nuthatch at the City Reservoir.

I have included the numbers of birds seen even though they are underestimates in many cases. The densities of the species seen on a trip like this are interesting even if they are somewhat inaccurate. We counted the rock dove here in Charlottesville officially, for the first time. We had never counted the critter before, but we noticed that everyone else is doing it. In the future, we shall continue to employ him as a means of making a high count.

The list follows:

May 17, 1947 - Double-crested cormorant, 1; green heron, 3; American bittern, 2; wood duck, 2; turkey vulture, 26; black vulture, 4; Cooper's hawk, 1; red-tailed hawk, 1; red-shouldered hawk, 1; broad-winged hawk, 1; osprey, 1; sparrow hawk, 1; bob-white, 5; killdeer, 4; Wilson's snipe, 1; spotted sandpiper, 31; solitary sandpiper, 9; mourning dove, 9; yellow-billed cuckoo, 7; black-billed cuckoo, 4; barred owl, 2; whip-poor-will, 7; nighthawk, 20; swift, 35; hummingbird, 8; kingfisher, 2; flicker, 6; pileated woodpecker, 2; red-bellied woodpecker 4; red-headed woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 7; kingbird, 12 (1 on nest); crested flycatcher, 12; phoebe, 11; Acadian flycatcher, 23; wood pewee, 14 (1 sitting on nest); prairie horned lark, 1; rough-winged swallow, 6; barn swallow, 3; cliff swallow, 1; blue jay, 10; raven, 3; crow, 23; fish crow, 3; Carolina chickadee, 9 (feeding young in hole); tufted titmouse, 8; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; red-breasted nuthatch, 1; house wren, 10 (carrying food); Bewick's wren, 3; Carolina wren, 8; mockingbird, 10; catbird, 15; brown thrasher, 7; robin, 42; wood thrush, 41; olive-backed thrush, 38; gray-cheeked thrush, 3; veery, 1; bluebird, 12; gnatcatcher, 8 (1 sitting on nest); cedar waxwing, 14; shrike, 1; starling, 35; white-eyed vireo, 4; yellow-throated vireo, 6; mountain vireo, 5 (pair, nestbuilding); red-eyed vireo, 80 (nest & 2 eggs); black & white warbler, 12; worm-eating warbler, 5; Tennessee warbler, 9; parula warbler, 15; yellow warbler, 6 (nestbuilding); magnolia warbler, 7; Cape May warbler, 1; black-throated blue warbler, 11; myrtle warbler, 3, black-throated green warbler, 6; Blackburnian warbler, 6; yellow-throated warbler, 2; chestnut-sided warbler, 3; bay-breasted warbler, 8; black-poll warbler, 24; pine warbler, 6; prairie

warbler, 28; western palm warbler, 1; ovenbird, 41; Louisiana water-thrush, 12; Kentucky warbler, 1; Maryland yellow-throat, 24; chat, 26; hooded warbler, 35; Wilson's warbler, 1; Canada warbler, 14; redstart, 42; English sparrow, 15; bobolink, 1; meadowlark, 10; red-wing, 7 (nest & 3 eggs); orchard oriole, 1; Baltimore oriole, 1; purple grackle, 16; cowbird, 6; scarlet tanager, 24; summer tanager, 5; cardinal, 23 (nest & young); rose-breasted grosbeak, 4; indigo bunting, 36; goldfinch, 20; towhee, 49; savannah sparrow, 2; grasshopper sparrow, 11; vesper sparrow, 5 (carrying food); Bachman's sparrow, 1; chipping sparrow, 15; field sparrow, 23 (nest & 4 young); white-throated sparrow, 16; song sparrow, 13; rock dove, 3. Total: 119 species. (Prairie horned lark was seen by Dr. Grey and party on their way back to Charlottesville after the luncheon. Red-shouldered hawk, savannah sparrow, and raven, were seen by W. Minor, F. Scott, and C. E. Stevens, Jr., on an excursion after lunch. The ravens were found along the Sky-line Drive.)

.....Charlottesville, Virginia

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NEST OF A YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON

By Mrs. Colgate W. Darden

The yellow-crowned night heron is commonly seen on all salt water creeks in the Norfolk area. It has been a recorded resident of the section for a number of years but its nesting was unknown heretofore. A. C. Bent, in his "Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds," states that its breeding range in the southeastern states is from Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina (Santee River). Craighill, in "Birds of North Carolina," gives an account of its breeding in North Carolina in 1939. Our observations begin with last spring, 1946.

This heron remains in our coastal section from late March to early October. One record of the species on fresh water is that of July 20, 1940, at "Salt Pond" a fresh water pond in which lilies grow north of Back Bay.

The first nest known to us was one found in our yard in Norfolk in the early stages of building, May 22, 1946, about 60 feet up in a pine tree a few paces from our porch. All books describe the yellow-crowned night heron as shy and retiring, but I have heard of four of our neighbors who have nests in their yards.

The recorded height of nests is, Bent in Florida, 9 to 20 feet from the ground; Howell, 8 to 40 feet. Three of my neighbor's nests are about 60 feet, as is mine. They are well built of sticks about 18 or 20 inches across. In watching the building in two cases I noticed that one bird flies off to collect sticks, while the other appears to place them. A. C. Bent says there are usually 2 pairs of birds in the rookeries of this species. Another nest a little more advanced than ours was found in my neighbor's yard which embraces the same small growth of pines bordering a cove of Crab Creek. This creek is well named for it contains an abundance of swimming and fiddler crabs, the latter making up a large part of the diet of these herons. Witmer Stone, in "Bird

Studies at Old Cape May," states that about a quart of fiddler crab shells was found under the nest of the yellow-crowned night heron. My guess would be that at least 3 times this amount lay under our tree.

Eight days after discovering our nest a heavy storm set in and it was abandoned. I left town June 18 remaining away until July 9. On returning, the pair of herons was seen each evening in the pine tree. By July 19 - two young birds were standing in the nest. Two days later a third was seen. These young birds were of such different sizes as to appear to be 3 or 4 days apart in age. At first only the heads were visible, then they stood on the rim of the nest.

In all these observations, I never saw the feeding of the young. On July 30, starting a little before dawn, I watched the nest from a second floor window but did not see the parent birds in the tree at all. The young moved about, stretching their wings as in daytime.

I did not record the progress on my neighbor's nest because of the difficulty in such a dense part of the woods. I noted it abandoned on July 20, and an immature heron standing in the cove nearby.

On July 22 a fourth young bird was discovered in our nest, but that evening my children and I found it on the ground with blood at the base of its bill. Evidently the fall had killed it outright for it was warm and limp. The measurements were 12 inches from bill to tail; the bill 2 inches; upper mandible $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from tip to forehead; lower mandible $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from tip to chin. The wings were 3 inches from shoulder to elbow; $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches from elbow to wrist carpus; 3 inches from carpus to tip of middle phalange. The tarsus was 3 inches.

The feathers were black, with tan tips. The primary feathers had blue rachis. The head was gray, with white and tan string feathers extending from the crown, brownish streaked feathers on cheek. The upper mandible was black, lower green. The breast was whitish, partially covering pea green skin.

One of my neighbors on being called to come see this young bird said that she had found a similar but smaller baby under this tree on July 6 when coming through our yard to the wharf. That made 5 young from this nest. Bent says that 5 eggs are not so commonly found in nests of this species, usually 3 or 4. He gives the eggs as pale bluish green. He has no record of the downy young or partially fledged birds.

.....Charlottesville, Virginia

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A GUATEMALA LETTER

(From Charles O. Handley, Jr., to his family)

May 5, 1947 -

Here is another breathless letter between jumps. We got back late Saturday afternoon from the most interesting trip to date and I am leaving in the morning

on another short outing. There are so many things to tell about this last trip that it would take days, so I can only hit the high spots. The easiest way to tell about it will naturally be to start from the beginning, which was almost two weeks ago. Getting an early start from the city we drove west thru the altos to Lake Atitlan, which nestles like a blue gem among towering volcanoes, and had a magnificent vista from the highway 2000 feet above the lake. As with most of the rest of the trip we were blessed with perfect weather. From Atitlan we turned north thru Solola', Chicki castenango, and Quiche' and spent the first night in the oak ridge country near San Pedro Jocopilas at 7000 ft. elevation. For the first time in Guatemala I slept inside my sleeping bag. The next day we continued north and down into the arid valley of the Rio Negro at Sacapulus where we spent the night amid the cactus and acacias beside the Rio Blanco, which is really milky white. Driving northward again the next morning we climbed practically straight up four thousand feet out of the valley of the Rio Negro, enjoying breathtaking scenery, and finally arriving in the cloud forest at 8300 ft. Here there was an interesting assortment of birdlife and I enjoyed good trapping, catching among other things a nice big skunk, the hide of which made our truck, or at least the interior of it, distinctive for the rest of the journey. Moving on northward again after a two day stop on this ridge, we dropped down into the lovely green valley where the little town of Nebaj is the chief metropolis. We spent the night at the Pension there which serves as headquarters of the Carnegie Institution crew which is excavating Mayan tombs nearby, the richest that have yet been discovered. They showed us the most perfect jade plaques and figurines ever found, which they had recently uncovered. Around Nebaj we found streams with temperatures as low as 57°, cold enough for trout. At Chajul the next day we came finally to the end of the "road" where to have gone further into the wild country toward the Chiapas border would have meant hoofing it or going mule back. Cars are a real curiosity at Chajul, and so not more than thirty seconds after we came to rest in the central place there were at least 50 Indians crowded around inspecting the car. Here I got my first souvenir of Guatemala--an Indian blow gun, with which they claim to be able to kill or stun game up to the size of turkeys and raccoons. They seemed to have little difficulty clipping leaves off trees up to forty or fifty feet, and I have hopes of learning to shoot it when I get home. Driving east the next day we passed thru Cotzal after negotiating the hills, valleys, and barrancas in the road, and the following day reached the end of the east road at Finca San Francisco, again at the edge of the wild cloud country. Here there was every sort of game from jaguars and tapirs on down within a stones throw of the hacienda, and quetzals were said to be common even in the coffee plantations, but time was so limited that we had to retrace our steps back toward Sacapulus without searching for them. Here, incidentally my trapping fortunes hit high gear and I caught one of the rarest mice in Central America, which hadn't been captured, as far as I know, since it was described back in the 1860's. Next day we passed again thru Sacapulus and west thru the arid pine and oak ridge country, and on into Huehuetenango. Here we turned north again and ascended the mighty battlements of the Sierra de los Cuchumatanes, the biggest mountain range in the country. We camped at 11,000 feet among the spruce and cedar in the midst of one of the most interesting bird faunas I have seen in the country. Everything was abundant, but especially the rufous flickers, golden-eyed juncos, and rufous collared robins. Black-eared bushtits, chipping and savannah sparrows, spotted towhees, orange-breasted wrens, brown creepers, golden-cr. kinglets, painted redstarts, pink, and olive warblers, band-tailed pigeons, pine siskins, and ravens were all nesting or feeding young. My suntans were shed in favor of OD's and field jacket. At sunrise on the second of May the thermometer read 25°, everything was white with frost about sooo-thick, and the water was frozen solid in the

coffee pot! The still of the night was broken several times by the eerie wail of a coyote which was answered in a few seconds by another on a far away ridge. This was one place which we certainly hated to leave, but other missions were calling and we had to do it, and so back we came, thru Huehuetenango and Quetzaltenango, over the 11,000 ft. ridges and thru the forests of pine and spruce and cedar of Calal, Fotonicapán, and Tecpán, and at last back to the Hotel Pan American and the big city. As usual I have been working harder here than in the field, getting specimens cataloged (150 this trip), guns cleaned, restoring the grub-box, etc. Now while Dr. Saunders answers his mail I am going to take Camacho down to the desert portion of the Rio Motagua, somewhere near Zacapa for more collecting among the cacti. Then, next weekend, we plan to take off for a week in the Coban country of Alta Vera Paz.

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HIGHLAND COUNTY NOTES

By Fred R. Scott

On last December 29th Charles Stevens, Jr., and I were planning to take a Christmas bird count of the northwestern corner of Highland County. Although we were prevented from taking a complete census because of almost continuous rain, we did get a few records which might prove of interest.

Near Crabbottom we found a kingfisher coursing up and down the stream, a large flock of crows (50), one mockingbird, and six juncos.

At the point where U. S. route 220 crosses the Potomac River, a small stream here, about eight miles northeast of Monterey, we came across a scattered flock containing the following birds: pileated woodpecker, 1; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 2; downy woodpecker, 6; white-breasted nuthatch, 2 (feeding on the ground most of the time); brown creeper, 1; bluebird, 8; myrtle warbler, 1; cardinal, 1. Farther down the road towards Monterey we flushed up a ruffed grouse.

As we drove westward from Monterey on U. S. 250, we passed over a ridge called Red Oak Knob. We turned off to the left here on a rough dirt road leading up along the ridge. At the very top (4100 ft.) we noted a raven flying overhead which very thoughtfully croaked a few times to verify our identification. There was also a flock of about eight tree sparrows, one of which considered us a sufficient audience to break into song.

We turned off route 250 again on the top of Allegheny Mountain on the Virginia-West Virginia border and worked about a half mile south. The altitude here was between 4250 and 4400 feet. We identified 3 ruffed grouse (2, unfortunately, on the West Virginia side), 2 blue jays, 3 robins, 6 juncos, and 7 tree sparrows. The robins, although unexpected, did not surprise us as we had just seen six the day before on the crest of the Blue Ridge at Big Meadows.

As far as birds are concerned, this completes the day's work. The temperature fortunately remained above freezing, but the rain cut down on observation a lot.

.....Hampden-Sydney, Virginia

THE BLUE GOOSE IN RICHMOND

By Fred R. Scott

On the morning of April 5, 1947, there were many Canada geese feeding in the fields of Curles Neck Farm, a dairy farm 15 miles east of Richmond on the James River. John Irvine, from Pittsburgh, and I drove on to the edge of a large field in order to count more accurately a group of about 300 geese.

We immediately noticed a goose with a white head and neck which was quite conspicuous among the darker Canadas. More detailed observation revealed the bird to be an adult blue goose. By driving slowly towards the flock, we were able to get within a hundred yards of the birds before they took flight. We noted with interest the jet black primaries and secondaries of the blue goose that contrasted somewhat with the flock's prevailing color of grayish brown.

While counting the Canada geese, we noticed what appeared to be a smaller edition of the other geese. It was paler in color and a good deal smaller than the rest of the birds. This would seem referable to the race of the Canada goose known as the Hutchins's or Richardson's goose, Branta canadensis hutchinsi. However, exact identification of this bird would be relatively impossible without collecting.

.....Richmond, Virginia

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BIRD OBSERVATIONS DURING THE HEAVY SNOW

Period - February 20, March 1, 1947

By S. W. Givens

The following observations were made along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Roanoke, Bedford, and Botetourt Counties:

Song birds gathered in large groups, often 3 or 4 species together, usually found about honeysuckle and along streams. This congestion was due mainly for food and cover found along the creek banks.

Several sparrow hawks were observed on three consecutive days in the same location and were probably found there because the snow had been blown and melted from a large hayfield. No doubt many mice were taken from this area by the sparrow hawks.

Only one covey of quail was under observation during the snow. This was an interesting observation from the standpoint of roosting. The covey roosted in the same exact spot for at least 5 nights, thus accumulating a very large pile of droppings. It is important from a game management standpoint to mention that this covey roosted in a large honeysuckle growth. The covey is known to have frequented this honeysuckle entanglement before the snow came, eleven birds

having been flushed there February 18, the day before the heavy snow fell.

Doves were quite frequently found along creeks and ridges. Cooper's hawks have been scarce; only one having been seen.

Many crows are observed daily, ranging along the mountain slopes and into the adjacent farming areas.

.....Virginia Cooperative Wildlife
Research Unit
Blacksburg, Virginia

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PINE SISKINS AT LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

By Robert Paxton

On February 8, 1947, probably the coldest day of the winter, I discovered a flock of small, heavily streaked birds with an olive yellow patch on each wing feeding on the ground. I identified them as pine siskins and was able to compare them with goldfinches in winter plumage. The siskins were feeding on mock orange seeds which had dropped to the ground and also I saw several hanging head downward in a cedar tree eating. I heard them utter two notes. One was a short wavering note heard constantly and the other was a long "quee" similar to that of a goldfinch.

When I first saw them I counted eleven on the ground but several were flying around and I heard their notes in every direction. I was able to keep check on them for I passed them daily on my way to school, and for the first week the flock expanded until on February 15 Dr. J. J. Murray and I estimated them at between 40 and 50. Then steadily the number declined for some reason until on February 22 after a fifteen inch snow, I saw only 4 in a low honeysuckle vine. These were the last siskins I saw, but in the two weeks they were there, they seemed almost the commonest bird in the vicinity and judging from the "Audubon Field Notes" on the fall migration, pine siskins were everywhere more numerous than usual.

.....Lexington, Virginia

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WINTER BIRDS OF THE YORK-JAMES RIVER PENINSULA

By Kay J. Beasley

It has been several years since the Peninsula between the York and James rivers extending south from a line drawn from Jamestown through Williamsburg to Yorktown has been explored ornithologically. Probably little has been done since the days of Harold H. Bailey's exhaustive work in this area.

It has been my opportunity to make a number of observations in this area during the winters of 1945-1946 and 1946-1947, particularly of the land bird population. Circumstances prevented these observations being started before the latter part of November of either winter, and this report includes only those taken until the following March 31st.

The following birds were found to be quite common throughout the period; Buffle-head Duck; Turkey Vulture; Bob-white; Bald Eagle; Killdeer; Herring Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Mourning Dove; Belted Kingfisher; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Downy Woodpecker; Crow; Fish Crow; Carolina Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Carolina Wren; Mockingbird; Bluebird; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Myrtle Warbler; Meadowlark; Cardinal; Goldfinch; Red-eyed Towhee; Slate-colored Junco; Field Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow; Song Sparrow.

Others less common than the foregoing but undoubtedly present through most, if not all, the period covered follow: Pied-billed Grebe- 3/3, 3/31, 12/22/46- 1/5/47; Great Blue Heron- 3/3, 3/31, 12/22/46- 1/5/47; American Golden-eye- 12/2/45- 2/3/46- 1/5/47; American Merganser- 1/13, 3/3, 3/31/46- Black Vulture- 2/3, 2/17, 12/1, 12/15, 12/22/46; Sharp shinned Hawk- 1/13, 2/17/46; Red-tailed Hawk- 11/18/45- 3/31/46- 2/2/47; Flicker- 2/17, 3/24, 12/8, 12/15/46- 1/5/47, 3/30/47; Hairy Woodpecker- 12/8, 12/22/46- 1/5, 1/26, 2/2/47; Phoebe- 3/3, 3/31, 12/22/46- 1/5, 1/26, 2/2, 3/30/47; Robin- 11/18, 12/2/45- 2/17, 3/3, 3/31/46- 3/30/47; Red-wing- 2/17, 12/15, 12/22/46, 1/5, 2/2/47.

A number of birds were sighted only once or twice during the period under discussion, yet it is reasonable to suppose that more frequent observations would have been recorded had their natural habitats been more often visited. These include: Red-throated Loon- 2/3/46; Canada Goose- 12/1/46; Mallard- 3/3/46; Black Duck- 11/18/45, 1/13/46-3/30/47; Baldpate- 3/30/47; Pintail- 1/5/47; Ring-necked Duck- 12/1/46; Greater Scaup- 1/15/46- 1/5/47; Lesser Scaup- 3/3, 3/31/46; Red Head Duck- 2/2/47; Hooded Merganser- 1/13, 3/31/46; Red-breasted Merganser- 1/15/46.

In still another category are actual migrants through the area, or late departures and early arrivals of regular summer residents: Red-shouldered Hawk- 3/3/46; Marsh Hawk- 12/8, 12/22/46, Osprey- 3/24, 3/31/46- 3/30/47; Sparrow Hawk- 12/15/46; Laughing Gull- 11/18/45- 3/31, 12/1/46- 3/30/47; Bonaparte's Gull- 11/18/45- 3/30/47; Forester's Tern- 11/18/45; Red-headed Woodpecker- 12/8, 12/22/46; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker- 2/17, 12/1, 12/15/46; Least Flycatcher- 3/24/46; Rough-winged Swallow- 3/30/47; Blue Jay- 1/5/47; Red-breasted Nuthatch- 12/2/45; 12/1, 12/22/46; House Wren- 3/3, 3/31/46; Brown Thrasher- 3/3, 3/31, 12/15, 12/22/46- 3/30/47; Hermit Thrush- 3/31/46- 1/26/47; American Pipit- 12/15, 12/22/46; Yellow-throated Vireo- 12/2/45; Black and White Warbler- 3/30/47; Prothonotary Warbler- 3/24, 3/31/46- 3/30/47; Yellow Warbler- 3/3/46; Yellow-

throated Warbler- 3/31/46; Yellowthroat- 3/27/47; Purple Finch- 12/15/46- 1/5/47;
Pine Siskin- 3/3/46; Savannah Sparrow- 3/24/46; Chipping Sparrow- 3/24, 3/31/46-
3/30/47; Fox Sparrow- 12/15, 12/22/46.

.....Newport News, Virginia

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WANTED: BACK NUMBERS OF THE RAVEN

The V. S. O. Library is in need of some issues of The Raven in order to supply certain libraries that wish a complete file of the bulletin. Frequently these files are used by ornithologists in research work, or in seeking records on scarce species of birds that may have occurred in Virginia.

You can help the Society by sending some of your old copies to the Librarian at the address below. Proceeds from the sale of these bulletins helps support some of the work done by the V. S. O.

Numbers that are especially needed are:

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1933	IV	2.
1935	VI	5, 6.
1936	VII	4, 9-10, 11-12.
1938	IX	need all numbers.
1939	X	8-9.
1940	XI	11-12.
1941	XII	1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8-9, 10-11.
1942	XIII	2-3, 11-12.
1943	XIV	1-2.
1944	XV	7, 8, 11-12.
1945	XVI	1, 2.
1946	XVII	1, 2-3, 4.

Also, if you wish some back numbers for your own files we may be able to supply these. The price of back issues, as set by the V. S. O., is 25¢ for each number, or \$ 1.00 a volume; except volumes I-IX which are \$ 1.50 each.

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John Grey, Librarian V. S. O.
Box 550
Charlottesville, Va.



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The W. E. D. Scott Collection of Virginia Birds

by J. J. Murray

One of the most fascinating American ornithological autobiographies is William E. D. Scott's, The Story of a Bird Lover. Scott, who was a pupil of Louis Agassiz at Harvard and who became Curator of the Department of Ornithology at Princeton University, traveled all over the United States studying and collecting birds. In 1889 he spent several months collecting in the mountains of Virginia and North Carolina, his two collecting stations in Virginia being Mountain Lake and Wytheville. Interested in knowing more about his collections, I wrote to Mr. Charles F. Batchelder, veteran Massachusetts ornithologist. He told me, in a letter dated April 23, 1932, that Scott's birds had been bought by William Brewster, and was kind enough to copy the list from Brewster's accession catalogue.

I quote part of his letter. "The whole collection, as I understand, was purchased by Mr. William Brewster, and all of the skins, save a few that he gave away or exchanged, remained in his possession until his death. He bequeathed his whole collection to the Museum of Comparative Zoology here, and the Scott birds remain in this Museum. The list which I enclose I copied from Mr. Brewster's original accession catalogue. I have noted each date on which specimens were taken, but I have not given the number of specimens taken, nor their sexes.....The list seems to me remarkably lacking in unusual species, and I fear you will be disappointed in its failure to give you interesting 'records.' It only has the merit of clearing up one doubtful source of possible information."

Even though the species are all common, it seems worth while to put the list on record in The Raven. I am listing them under the English names now in use. There were no references to sub-species in the original list, except in one or two cases, as noted. The year is 1889 throughout, except in one instance, where 1890 is indicated.

Mountain Lake:

Pied-billed Grebe, August 24
Broad-winged Hawk, August 31
Ruffed Grouse, June 19, 28, July 4
Bob-white, August 16
Spotted Sandpiper, August 31
Solitary Sandpiper, August 31
Ruby-throated Hummingbird, July 15, 17, 29, August 2, 16, 18, 21
Belted Kingfisher, September 2
Flicker, June 19, 28, July 15
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, June 26, 28
Hairy Woodpecker, June 28, July 22, 24, 29
Crested Flycatcher, June 24
Blue Jay, July 15, 17, 21
Carolina Chickadee, July 9, 29
Tufted Titmouse, June 20, August 6
White-breasted Nuthatch, July 3, September 10

Red-breasted Nuthatch, July 8, 24, August 6
 House Wren, April 15, 1890
 Bewick's Wren, July 2, 3, 9, 10, 12, 13, 29
 Carolina Wren, July 4, August 1
 Catbird, June 20
 Veery, June 24, 26, July 3
 Bluebird, June 19
 Cedar Waxwing, June 26, July 15, 22, August 1
 Mountain Vireo; Scott listed one, September 9, as Vireo s. alticola;
 one, July 8, as V. solitarius-alticola, intermediate; and the rest, June
 26, July 4, 8, 9, 17, 21, 24, September 5, 9, as V. s. solitarius.
 Red-eyed Vireo, June 26, 28, July 10, 12, 13, 18, September 10.
 Black and White Warbler, June 9, 19, July 4, 8, 13, 15, 23.
 Worm-eating Warbler, July 13, 26
 Golden-winged Warbler, July 8, 9, 10
 Parula Warbler, June 20, July 10, 15, 17
 Magnolia Warbler, June 24, July 15, 18, September 9
 Cairns's Warbler, June 20, 24, 26, 28, July 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17,
 18, 23, 29, August 6, September 9, 10
 Black-throated Green Warbler, June 26, 28, July 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 13, 15,
 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, August 2
 Blackburnian Warbler, July 2, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 18, 22, 24, September 10
 Chestnut-sided Warbler, June 19, 26, 28, July 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 17,
 21, 28, 29
 Pine Warbler, July 8
 Oven-bird, June 20, July 12
 Yellow-breasted Chat, June 19
 Canada Warbler, June 20, 24, 26, 28, July 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17,
 24, 29, August 6
 American Redstart, July 12, 21, 23
 Scarlet Tanager, June 28
 Indigo Bunting, June 19, 20, 24, 26, July 2, 4, 12, 29
 Goldfinch, July 12, August 21
 Red-eyed Towhee, June 19, July 24
 Carolina Junco, June 19, 20, 24, 26, 28, July 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 22,
 24, 29, September 9
 Chipping Sparrow, June 28
 Field Sparrow, June 19, 20

Wytheville:

Killdeer, June 3
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, June 5
 Screech Owl, May 31, June 5, 6, 9
 Nighthawk, June 1
 Chimney Swift, May 31, June 1, 9
 Flicker, June 5
 Red-headed Woodpecker, June 3
 Hairy Woodpecker, June 9
 Crested Flycatcher, June 3, 6
 Least Flycatcher, June 5
 Barn Swallow, May 31

Purple Martin, May 29
 Carolina Chickadee, June 1, 9
 Tufted Titmouse, May 28, June 9
 White-breasted Nuthatch, June 9
 Carolina Wren, May 28, June 1, 3
 Catbird, May 28, 31, June 1, 9
 Brown Thrasher, May 31, June 1, 6
 Wood Thrush, June 3
 Bluebird, June 6, 9
 Cedar Waxwing, May 28, June 3
 Yellow-throated Vireo, May 31, June 3, 9
 Mountain Vireo, June 9, listed as V. solitarius-alticola, intermediate
 Red-eyed Vireo, May 28, June 3, 9
 Warbling Vireo, May 28, 29, June 3
 Black and White Warbler, June 9
 Parula Warbler, June 1, 3
 Yellow Warbler, May 28, 29
 Oven-bird, June 9
 Yellow-breasted Chat, June 9
 English Sparrow, June 6
 Baltimore Oriole, May 29, June 5
 Purple Grackle, May 31, June 6
 Scarlet Tanager, May 28, June 9
 Cardinal, June 1, 3
 Indigo Bunting, June 9
 Goldfinch, June 1
 Red-eyed Towhee, May 31, June 1, 9
 Vesper Sparrow, June 9
 Chipping Sparrow, May 28, 29, 31
 Field Sparrow, June 1, 3, 9
 Song Sparrow, May 28, June 3, 11

Lexington, Virginia

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SUMMER RESIDENTS AND EARLY FALL MIGRANTS AT EMORY, 1946

by Henry M. Stevenson

Under the heading of "better late than never" might come the following account of the writer's last field work undertaken during an enjoyable two-year period at Emory and Henry College, in southwestern Virginia.

The two most unusual summer residents found in 1946 were separated by only a few minutes of field work. Singing Alder Flycatchers (Empidonax traillii) were discovered in alder thickets less than one mile west of Abingdon on June 27, and a few minutes later a Black Rail (Laterallus jamaicensis) was

flushed. In company with Dr. James Tanner, I again had opportunity to see these flycatchers and hear their song on July 14, but the Black Rail was never found again. Tanner, who has had previous field experience with Alder Flycatchers in New York, fully agreed with my identification. The detailed account of this record was later submitted to The Auk for more general circulation, as this appears to be the first instance of the flycatcher's breeding in Virginia. The Black-billed Cuckoo, another unusual summer resident for this region, was also recorded on July 14.

Other uncommon summer residents which were recorded in 1946 include the Summer Tanager, Yellow-throated Warbler (subsp.?), Red-headed Woodpecker, and Bachman's Sparrow, but these species evidently occur sparingly in the Emory region every summer. The complete absence of the Baltimore Oriole in the summer months of 1946 was surprising, as it was frequently recorded during the same period in 1945.

The first fall migrants recorded were a few Solitary Sandpipers at Saltville, July 14, by Tanner and the writer. (Other Saltville records are designated by the letter "S", and Abingdon records by an "A".) The first American Egret and an early Pied-billed Grebe were found on the Middle Fork of the Holston River ("H"), July 23. Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral and Semipalmated Sandpipers were listed on July 26 (S).

Fall migrants increased during August, as indicated by the following records: Aug. 8 (A), Semipalmated Plover and Yellow Warbler (late); Aug. 16 (S), Western Sandpiper (direct comparison with a Semipalmated Sandpiper) and Northern Water-Thrush; Aug. 23, Blackburnian Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler (only record for the region); Aug. 27, Sora (S), Black Tern (S), and Bobolink; Aug. 30, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, and Canada Warblers, and Crested Flycatcher (late); Aug. 31, Blue-headed Vireo.

The migration in September (up to the 12th, the date of my last field trip) was developing into one of the heaviest I have witnessed anywhere: Sept. 2, Wilson's Warbler (singing repeatedly); Sept. 7, Broad-winged Hawk (only fall record) and Black-billed Cuckoo (late); Sept. 8, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal (S), (Black-crowned?) Night Heron (H), Florida Gallinule (H), Greater Yellowlegs, Baird's and Western Sandpipers, and Warbling Vireo (all at S) (unusual records on this date were checked by Dr. and Mrs. Lee R. Herndon, Dr. and Mrs. Hugo Doob, and Dr. Tanner, who were with the writer all day); Sept. 11, Red-headed Woodpecker, Purple Martin, and Golden-winged Warbler (only fall records), Acadian Flycatcher (singing repeatedly), Olive-backed Thrush, Worm-eating and Bay-breasted Warblers, and Bachman's Sparrow (late); Sept. 12, flock of 12 Pied-billed Grebes (A). The last-named species, as well as the Sora, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Blackburnian Warbler, seemed to be more common in the fall of 1946 than for the same period in 1945.

Large daily lists of species were recorded on September 8 (55 species in less than five hours) and 11 (64 species in 3½ hours). The abundance of small arboreal migrants on the latter date exceeded anything I have seen before or since; as no bodies of water were visited that morning, all of the 64 species listed were land birds. The best two-day lists were 71 species (Sept. 7 and 8)

and 76 species (Sept. 11 and 12--only five hours in the field). Such a rich variety of birds during my last week at Emory wrote a fitting conclusion to an invaluable two years of field work in this interesting region.

Zoology Department
Florida State College for Women
Tallahassee, Florida

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THE FAITHFUL BLUEBIRD

by E. Hunter Powell

For the past ten years of my sixteen years of life, I have been very interested in the life of birds.

Recently I have found a very faithful bluebird. This bird began to build its nest in the boom of a crane. Before the bird had completed the nest, it was necessary to move the crane. This faithful bird followed her nest eight miles and there completed it.

After laying her eggs she began to set. There she sat, swinging back and forth with the crane.

After a few days of setting the crane was moved again, and the faithful bird followed it for two miles of the five mile journey. Here she gave up the task, and turned back. Since then I have seen nothing of her.

Charlie Hope, Virginia

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BIRD OBSERVATIONS FROM A CHESAPEAKE BAY FERRY

by Ray J. Beasley

Pertinent to Fred R. Scott's trip across Chesapeake Bay described in his article "Chesapeake Bay Notes" in The Raven for January-February, 1947, I left Little Creek at 12:30 P.M., March 10, 1947, on the ferry for Cape Charles. The day was clear, chilly and very windy, and the water quite choppy.

At the Little Creek entrance, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were flying and wheeling about in such confusion that an estimate would have been only a wild guess, many following in the wake of the boat entirely across to Cape Charles. A few Bonaparte's Gulls were observed. Surf and White-winged

Scoters were occasionally seen in swift single-file flight barely above the wave-crests. As the boat neared the Cape Charles harbor, one small flock of Red-breasted Mergansers and a couple of Pied-billed Grebes were floating near the shore.

The fascinating feature of the trip, however, was the numerous Gannets that first began to appear in flocks of two to four and five soon after entering the Bay and were continually in sight until almost abreast of Plantation Creek, a few miles south of Cape Charles. Most of them seemed to have been resting as they would be floating on the water ahead of the boat. On its approach, they would rise and fly off to either side. A few flocks, though, instead of flying away to the side would fly astern, parallel to our course, and quite near the boat so that excellent observations could be obtained. Their beauty of form and contrasting coloration and their grace in flight are unforgettable.

Newport News, Virginia

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RED CROSSBILL AND LAWRENCE'S WARBLER NEAR FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

Mrs. R. H. Rule, who is a daughter of Dr. Austin H. Clark, reports seeing a female Red Crossbill at a feeding station at her home at Pine Ridge, between Washington and Fairfax, on April 13, 1947. Her husband's attention was drawn to the bird first by the noise it made in cracking pine cones. They saw it several times during the day. On May 20 they had a close view of a Lawrence's Warbler. It was in the normal plumage, except that there seemed to be no yellow dividing the black of the face and throat. Early in May a Virginia Rail came to their yard and spent the day under a cement bag. Several times the bird was chased out for other bird students to see, but each time it returned to its hiding place. The next morning it was gone.

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BLACK VULTURES KILLING YOUNG PIGS

[As there have been several comments in ornithological literature recently, the correspondence below is of interest. Editor]

Chester, Va.
May 7, 1947

Va. Extension Service
Blacksburg, Va.

Dear Sirs:

I have been informed that you might be able to help me with my problem.

My father, whom farms along the James River, had trouble with buzzards this year. He had twelve brood sows and they ate up all the young pigs. Mr. Rixey Jones the County Agent here, informs me that this was not the only complaint he had of this nature.

They are the N. C. type and not the old Va. buzzard. I'm sure that you know the vulture as he is well known in this section.

We would like to help eradicate these vultures & would like to know if you have any suggestions.

Thanking you, I am,

S/ LaGrande Martin

Chester, Va.

* * *

Blacksburg, Virginia
May 16, 1947

Mr. La Grande Martin
Chester, Virginia

Dear Mr. Martin:

Your letter of May 7 requesting information relative to the control of vultures has been referred to me by Mr. George C. Herring, Extension Animal Husbandman of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

The bird which you describe as responsible for killing and eating twelve litters of pigs on your father's farm in Chesterfield County this past spring is undoubtedly the black vulture, Coragyps atratus; also, commonly known as the Carolina vulture. This vulture is much more aggressive than our native turkey vulture and for a number of years has been gradually extending its range northward. It now occurs in all sections of Virginia and is common to abundant in southeast Virginia. The bird has the reputation of doing considerable damage to newly born pigs and lambs and may at times even kill the mother at the time she is giving birth to her young, if not properly cared for.

The black vulture is not protected by law in Virginia. While it may be advisable at times to kill offending individuals, I would advise against a general campaign against the bird. It has considerable value as a scavenger, particularly so in those sections where steps are not taken for the disposal of the carcasses of dead animals, offal, and waste fish. The bird being numerous, it would be both difficult and expensive to eradicate the species even were this advisable. I feel that the better course to follow would be to shoot those individuals that persist in entering the hog houses and to take such precautions as may be necessary to protect the sows at the time they are giving birth to their young, and for a few days afterwards. It is not often that the vultures attack the pigs after they are strong on their feet. Proper care of the brood sows at the time they are giving birth to their young might

also save some pigs, that would be lost to causes other than vultures. This, so it seems to me, would be the better control angle to work on.

Very truly yours,

S/ C. O. Handley

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THE DICKCISSEL NEAR RICHMOND

by Fred R. Scott

Two males and at least one female of this species were present between May 12 and 24, 1946, at Curles Neck Farm, fifteen miles east of Richmond on the James River. On May 12 Phillip Youngman of Riverside, Connecticut, and I found two males singing continuously from telephone wires bordering an alfalfa (?) field. All of their field marks were carefully noted — the white throats, the black bibs, the yellow breasts, the white bellies, and the chestnut-brown color of their shoulders.

I returned on May 18 and found only one male, but I flushed a female out of the edge of the field. On the 22nd Mr. James Sydnor and I found both males and the female. I saw all three birds again and for the last time on the 24th. I was unable to return again until June 13, and by that time the birds had gone. The fact that they remained in the same small area for such a long time led me to believe that they were nesting, but I could not find any other signs of it.

Dickcissels were once commonly seen on the middle Atlantic seaboard, but in the latter part of the nineteenth century they withdrew to the west of the Appalachians. Chapman describes them as being "formerly very abundant" at Washington. In 1928 they appeared over a large part of the East and were recorded in many different localities. Since that time they have been recurring throughout the East with ever increasing frequency, especially in New England. In fact, no less than twelve were reported from the Boston region during 1946. I know of two Virginia records since 1928: Albemarle County (Calhoun, Raven XII: 7, 1936) and Rileyville (Clark, Raven XII: 65, 1941). I believe there are others too, but I don't know for certain.

Richmond, Virginia

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WILD MAMMALS OF VIRGINIA - A REVIEW

by J. J. Murray

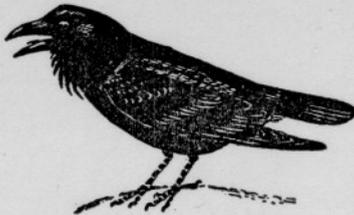
Wild Mammals of Virginia, by Charles O. Handley, Jr., and Clyde P. Patton, published by the Commission of Game & Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Virginia, 1947, pp. vi, 220, \$3.00. As one would expect from the past work of the authors, this is a careful and comprehensive study of the mammals of our State. The Commission has done a good job on the physical side of the book. It is well printed and illustrated and attractively bound.

The first half of the book consists of a series of nine well written and popular chapters, discussion classification, methods of studying mammals, extinct species, the natural regions of Virginia, and treating of special groups, such as game mammals, furbearers, rodents, insectivorous mammals and marine mammals. In these chapters we are given interesting accounts of the larger and of some of the better known small mammals.

The chapter on natural regions, although all too brief, is particularly interesting to bird students. The approach is very different from the faunal zone approach familiar to ornithologist's and still helpful in spite of the valid criticisms directed against it. The authors divide the State into six regions: the Appalachian Plateau Province (comprising the counties along the Kentucky line); the Tennessee Section of the Appalachian Valley Province (the Tennessee River drainage in southwestern Virginia, east and north of the former province); the Middle Section of the Appalachian Valley Province (the valley area north of the Tennessee Section); the Blue Ridge Province; the Piedmont Province; and the Coastal Plain Province. We wish that this discussion could have been many times longer.

The second part of the book provides a check-list of the 109 species and subspecies known from Virginia, and also of 16 forms which have not been recorded but which may be expected to occur within the State. The systematic accounts give the type locality, description, measurements, general and Virginia distribution, and habitat. For each recorded form a map shows the counties where specimens have been taken. The book closes with a seven page bibliography and a good index.

This book is a valuable addition to the books on the natural history of the Old Dominion. The authors and the Commission are to be congratulated.



The Raven

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DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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V. S. O. NotesThe Raven:

Beginning with this issue, The Raven is being published at Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia, by Miss E. Gertrude Prior.

V. S. O. Information:

The current officers of the V. S. O. are:

President: Dr. John H. Grey Jr., Box 550, Charlottesville, Va.

Secretary: Dr. Florence S. Hague, Sweet Briar, Va.

Treasurer: Mr. W. Edwin Miller, State Planters Bank and Trust Company, Richmond, Va.

Editor: Dr. J. J. Murray, Lexington, Va.

New memberships and renewal dues should be sent to the Treasurer. Requests for information about lost or delayed issues of The Raven should go to Miss E. Gertrude Prior, Sweet Briar, Va. Requests for old volumes or issues should go to Dr. John H. Grey. The Editor will be spared much trouble if these suggestions are followed.

Winter Field Trip:

The Winter Field Trip of the V. S. O. will be made to Back Bay Migratory Wildfowl Refuge on Saturday, December 6. Headquarters for the trip will be the Essex House, Ocean Front and 16th. Street, Virginia Beach. They are prepared to take reservations at \$2.50 per person, for two in a room, with twin beds and private or connecting bath. Write them well ahead of the date. Mrs. Ashton Porter, Algonquin Park, Norfolk, will take care of orders for box lunches, if those desiring lunches will let her know in time. These lunches will be delivered at the Essex House, where they may be paid for. There will be no chance to obtain food during the day at the Refuge. The group will leave the Essex House not later than 7:00 o'clock on Saturday morning. There will be room for those who do not have their own cars. The cars will proceed in a group to Sand Bridge, where we will transfer to a truck for the rough trip down the beach to the Refuge. Warm clothes will be needed. The big attraction will be the flock of Snow Geese.

Christmas Census:

The dates for the 1947 Christmas Bird Count are December 20 through 28. Follow the methods indicated in the census reports in the January-February 1947 issue of The Raven. Full description and rules may be found in Audubon Magazine for November-December 1945. Copies of your census should be sent, by January 1, to The Raven and to the Christmas Census Editor, National Audubon Society, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, 28, N. Y.

1948 Annual Meeting:

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided that the 1948 Annual Meeting will be held at Lexington in April, the definite date to be announced later.

Membership Dues:

All memberships will expire with the next issue of The Raven. The Treasurer will be spared a good deal of trouble if you will mail him your dues at once.

ECHOES FROM MOUNTAIN LAKE

By D. Ralph Hostetter

It was my privilege to be at the Mountain Lake Biological Station, Mountain Lake, Virginia, from June 19 to July 22, 1947. While Plant Geography occupied most of my time, the birds did not escape my notice.

Carolina Juncos, so very abundant in 1936-37-38, were scarcely seen or heard during the above five-weeks period. Not one nest was found between the Station and the Hotel, a distance of approximately two miles, whereas in 1937 a dozen nests were under observation within this distance. Only on the higher knobs, Bald Knob and Bear Cliff, and on the road on the west side of the lake were Juncos seen and heard. I have no explanation for this change in population other than periods or cycles of abundance and scarcity, and this is no explanation.

Chipping sparrows were not heard on the Station grounds during this period. The yellow-breasted chat was heard for the first time by me at an elevation of 4000 feet, and the cardinal was reported singing at an elevation of 3820 feet. The following species including whip-poor-will, phoebe, least flycatcher, wood pewee, Bewick's wren, robin, wood thrush, veery, cedar waxwing, mountain vireo, chestnut-sided warbler, rose-breasted grosbeak and towhee were common on the Station grounds.

Duck hawks have been observed in the vicinity of Barney's wall, a perpendicular cliff southwest of the Station, during the past several years. A trip to this place on June 22 rewarded us with a pair of adults and two young screaming and circling overhead as we approached the cliff. On the cliff were feathers and two different partial skeletons of pigeons. Excreta on the face of the wall indicates roosting places and probable nesting sites. No nest was found.

A mountain vireo built her nest five feet above the ground on the lower limbs of a small white oak tree. Having read that these birds may be stroked while incubating, I experimented. Both male and female allowed us to approach and stroke them while sitting on the nest or when standing on the rim of the nest or a twig close by. It was a most unnatural experience and gave one quite a thrill to stroke a wild uncaged bird on the nest. When stroking the head, the bird would lower it slightly under each stroke just as a puppy does. I am confident that these vireos were the most discussed, most visited and most petted of all birds on the Station grounds this summer.

At least two species of birds practice economy during this age of housing shortage. On June 30 a pair of cedar waxwings were seen to make regular trips between two white oak trees approximately 50 feet apart. Upon investigation we found that they were dismantling an old robin nest and carrying the fibrous material to their own nest under construction. This continued for several days until all usable materials were stripped from the robin nest, leaving only the mud cup. The waxwing's nest was completed by July 5.

At the opening of the Station, June 19, an empty (used) robin nest was found on the log supporting the roof to the dining hall porch. No more thought was given to it. On July 15 a long narrow tail was seen extending upward from the nest. Upon approaching, a Bewick's wren flew off and closer investigation revealed the fact that she had built her

nest inside the mud cup of the robin nest and was sitting upon four eggs. In one sense this is a double duty nest, but in reality two nests in one as the wren built her nest in the robin nest.

It is well known that the foster mother will feed the young cowbird in her nest as readily as her own young. Instances have been reported where adult birds of one species fed the young of another species rather infrequently or under certain conditions. This summer an instance was reported to me in which a pair of robins, through loss of their own nest of young, adopted a nest of young catbirds and fed them regularly. The parent catbirds also fed regularly but not at the same time that the robins were feeding. There appeared to be a feeding schedule, at one time the parent catbirds would feed, then the robins, and so forth. Whether both species continued to feed the young after leaving the nest is not known.

Eastern Mennonite School
Harrisonburg, Virginia

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AMERICAN EGRETS NEAR EAGLE ROCK

By Richard L. Hoffman and Robert B. Platt

On the morning of July 17, 1947, we had the extreme good fortune of observing a pair of American Egrets (Casmerodius albus egretta) in the floodplain of the James River near Eagle Rock, Botetourt County. About 9:30 a.m., as we drove south along Route 220 approximately three miles (by road) north of Eagle Rock, we saw two very large white birds flying parallel to the highway, about 500 feet on the right of, and 100 feet above, our car. The broad and flat floodplain here is effectively separated from the river by the C & O roadbed, and is extensively cultivated. However, it is divided roughly in half by a long marshy area, which averages about twenty feet wide, down the center of the long axis. In some places there is open water bordered by marsh plants, and at one of these, about 600 feet from the highway, the two egrets descended, being intercepted on the way down by several vociferous red-winged blackbirds.

Leaving the car on the roadside, we were able to approach the slough behind a slight rise, which enabled us to examine the birds from a distance of less than a hundred feet. One individual was concealed in low alders, possibly feeding, while the other stood guard, swinging its head from side to side. A large number of the blackbirds, seemingly the entire population of the marsh, gathered in the alders in a great state of agitation and set up a loud outcry. In fact, several of the bolder ones went so far as to circle around the exposed egret. On becoming aware of our presence, the guardian bird took flight and made several wide circles over the area, not more than fifty feet overhead. It was then joined by the second, which was accompanied by several blackbirds, and the troop flew slowly down the marsh, alighting in another pond several hundred yards away.

During the low circling of the first egret to fly away, we were able to observe plainly the yellow bill, black feet, and other characteristics of the species. The occurrence of these egrets in the mount-

ains is, of course, purely fortuitous, but nevertheless worthy of passing notice. The senior author has observed an interesting assortment of apparently coastal birds at various times and places on the upper James River, but due to varying circumstances only a few identifications could be made. The area would certainly be worthy of investigation by ornithologists.

Clifton Forge, Va. &
Dept. of Biology,
Univ. of Pennsylvania

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SPRING BIRDING IN THE YORKTOWN-NEWPORT NEWS AREA

By Ray J. Beasley

During the past Spring I made several birding trips to the Yorktown Battlefield Area, and to the Mariners' Museum Grounds, about six miles north of Newport News, on the James River.

The Yorktown area is slightly rolling, quite heavily wooded in some portions, the balance open park. East of the town lies a beach and low meadow of almost a half mile in length, at the base of a bluff which extends along the whole of the York River boundary of the Area. Just west of the town is a flat marsh area of probably 100 to 120 acres in extent, fed by a small stream which cuts through the bluff and empties into the river. Back of the marsh inland, fairly heavy woods lie on both sides of the stream for some distance. Wormley Lake and the surrounding woods extends along the southeastern border of the area. The woods for the most part consist of deciduous hardwoods, with occasionally some pine, and other growth typical of the region.

The Mariners' Museum Grounds are practically all fairly heavy woods, also with hardwoods predominating, except for a small park area on the shore of the James River. The Grounds extend back from Waters Creek on both sides.

The two areas were chosen for a study of the migrating songbirds as being fairly likely to attract as large an assortment of birds, particularly warblers, as any easily accessible sites on the lower end of the Peninsula. It was realized at the outset that many species more generally found in more definitely agricultural territory could hardly be expected. Nor was it anticipated that a very large variety of shore and water birds would be found.

In the following lists of birds sighted during these trips, the accompanying symbols designate the area where the birds were first seen, i.e. M Mariners' Museum, Y Yorktown, and NN Newport News City.

1. Summer residents - includes species of birds subsequently found with nests, feeding young away from nests or definitely known to nest in the locality. Dates shown are the first date the bird was sighted this Spring:

Green Heron (M) 5/4; Osprey (M) 3/30, 1 pair on nest 5/4; Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Y) 4/27; Nighthawk (NN) 4/8; Chimney Swift (NN) 4/8; Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Y) 4/27; Eastern Kingbird (Y) 4/20; Crested Flycatcher (Y) 4/27; Rough-winged Swallow (M) 3/30; Barn Swallow (Y) 4/20, carrying mud to nesting site; Purple Martin (Y) 4/27; House Wren (Y) 4/20; Long-billed March Wren (NN) 5/12, 1 pair in reeds but nest not found; Catbird (Y) 4/20; Brown Thrasher (M) 3/30; Wood Thrush (Y) 4/27; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (Y) 4/13; White-eyed Vireo (Y) 4/13; Yellow-throated Vireo (Y) 4/27; Red-eyed Vireo (Y) 4/27; Prothonotary Warbler (M) 3/30; Yellow-throated Warbler (Y) 4/13; Prairie Warbler (Y) 4/13; Ovenbird (Y) 4/13; Yellow-throat (NN) 3/27; Yellow-breasted Chat (Y) 5/11, saw one nest with parents carrying food to young 6/22; Hooded Warbler (Y) 4/27, found one nest with two fledglings 6/22; Orchard Oriole, not seen earlier but observed male feeding three young off nest 6/22; Purple Grackle (M) 5/4; Cowbird (Y) 4/13; Summer Tanager (Y) 4/27; Indigo Bunting (Y) 5/11; Grasshopper Sparrow (Y) 5/11, 3 individuals seen at same site first seen but no nest found 6/29; Chipping Sparrow (M) 3/30.

2. Spring Migrants - birds passing through on their way to their regular northerly nesting regions:

American Bittern (M) 5/4; Solitary Sandpiper (M) 5/4; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Y) 5/11; Blue-headed Vireo (Y) 4/27; Black & White Warbler (M) 3/30; Yellow Warbler (M) 4/13; Black Poll Warbler (NN) 5/20; Redstart (Y) 5/11; Savannah Sparrow (Y) 4/20; Swamp Sparrow (Y) 4/27. Summer resident but not breeding - Laughing Gull (M) 3/30.

3. Winter birds wintering in this area and remaining after April 1st. Date shown is last date seen. This list does not include species inhabiting this area the year around.

Pied-billed Grebe (Y) 4/27; Herring Gull (NN) 5/20; Myrtle Warbler (Y) 5/11; White-throated Sparrow (Y) 5/11.

Newport News, Virginia

A FIELD TRIP TO COBB'S ISLAND

By Irston R. Barnes

(Taken by permission from The Wood Thrush, Audubon Society of Washington, D. C., Vol. 3, No. 1, September, 1947, page 3)

Cobb Island, Va. was visited on June 21. This annual trip to see nesting shore birds demonstrated vividly the hazards which beset colonial birds. The season on Cobb Island had been rigorous with storms, high winds and very high tides. Three of the colonies of terns and skimmers which we visited on the southeast side of the island last year were nonexistent this year, perhaps because wind and tide had altered the contours of the beach. A single nesting colony was found - some 300 Black Skimmers at the north end of the island. This we visited only briefly as the northeast wind buried eggs and young in a few minutes if the nest were left unprotected by the parents. In this large colony of about 300 birds we found about 40 active skimmer nests and three active tern nests; the large majority of the nests were buried under sand and tidal debris. From the number of scattered tern eggs, it appeared that many terns had abandoned their nests under the adverse conditions. Last year the mixed colonies had been composed of one-fourth or one-third terns' nests. We saw only 30 Common Terns; the

others were as numerous as last year - Bull-billed 25, Forster's 12, Least 15. Obviously, the nesting season on Cobb Island was a failure; at least a 65 per cent failure for the Black Skimmers and a 90 per cent failure for the terns. The season was apparently a failure for the early nesting Oyster-catchers; we saw 50 adults in small flocks but not a single young bird. Even the grassy flats on which the Willets nest had been under water repeatedly; six nests were found and 170 birds were seen. Other interesting birds on Cobb Island were American (2) and Snowy (6) Egrets, Great Blue (4), Louisiana (1) and Little Blue (1) Herons, Osprey, Clapper Rail, Piping (6), Semipalmated (2), Wilson's (10) and Black-bellied (10) Plovers, Knot (7), Herring (40) and Laughing (150) Gulls, Screech Owl and Boat-tailed Grackles (42). A Hudsonian Curlew was seen at Oyster. Brief stops were made at Chincoteague flats and the Pocomoke swamp. Eleven members made the trip with transportation furnished by Dr. Davis and Captain Phillips.

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NOTES FROM MOSSY CREEK & DAYTON

By Henry G. M. Jopson

The following birds have been observed at Mossy Creek, Augusta County, by Max Carpenter and myself. Carpenter is a student at Bridgewater College, and was formerly employed at the Patuxent Research Refuge.

Least Bittern, October 14, 1946 (Jopson).

Florida Gallinule, three on May 24, 1947 (Carpenter); and one on June 26, 1947 (Jopson).

Upland Plover, two, June 26, 1947 (Jopson).

American Egret, 45 on July 17, 1947 (Jopson & Carpenter); and five on July 22, 1947 (Jopson).

The following were observed at Silver Lake, Dayton, Rockingham County: Black Tern, three on May 20, 1947 (Carpenter); and one on June 24, 1947 (Jopson).

Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, Va.

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BREEDING-BIRD CENSUS

Lexington, Virginia

OPEN MIXED HARDWOODS. About 20 acres of open, lightly-grazed woodlot, with thick, rapidly growing undergrowth; 2 grass openings of $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres. Located three miles north of Lexington, Va. First censused in 1944.

COVERAGE: March 24, 27; April 1, 7, 8, 13, 18, 21, 28; May 1, 5, 12, 26; June 2, 15, 30; July 2, 8, 9, 10, 12; August 6, 10, 11, 12. Total hours: 40. Weather; dry in May ($\frac{2}{3}$ normal) and June ($\frac{1}{3}$ normal); wet in July.

CENSUS: mourning dove, 1P; yellow-billed cuckoo, 1N, 1P; ruby-throated hummingbird, 2P; downy woodpecker, 1P; crested flycatcher, 1P; phoebe, 2N, 1P; Acadian flycatcher, 1N; wood pewee, 1N, 2P; Carolina chickadee, 4P; tufted titmouse, 4Y; white-breasted nuthatch, 1P; Carolina wren, 1Y, 2P; brown thrasher, 1P; robin, 1P; wood thrush, 1P; bluebird,

1N (2N); blue-gray gnatcatcher, 1N, 2Y, 2P; yellow-throated vireo, 1P; red-eyed vireo, 1N, 1P; black and white warbler, 3P; worm-eating warbler, 1Y; parula warbler, 1Y; cerulean warbler, 3Y; prairie warbler, 1N, 3P; oven-bird, 1P; yellow-breasted chat, 1Y, 2P; redstart, 2Y; English sparrow, 4N (in steel bridge); orchard oriole, 1P; cowbird, 4P; summer tanager, 2P; cardinal, 5N, 3Y, 2P; indigo bunting, 2N, 2P; goldfinch, 1N, 3P; red-eyed towhee, 1P; chipping sparrow, 1N, 2Y, 2P (1P in 1944, 3P in 1945, 8P in 1946); field sparrow, 3N, 2Y, 9P. TOTAL: 37 species, 105 pairs. Density: 525 pairs per 100 acres (530 in 1944, 560 in 1945, 570 in 1946).

FREQUENT VISITORS: green heron, wood duck, swift, kingfisher, pileated woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, flicker, crow, mockingbird, Louisiana water-thrush, robin (Large flocks in late summer), English sparrow.

J. J. Murray
Lexington, Va.

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SPRING CENSUS FROM RICHMOND

Richmond, Va. (Windsor Farms, Byrd Park, Bryan Park, James River and woods near end of Osborne Turnpike, and Curles Neck Farm; open farmland 35%, deciduous woodland 8%, pine woodland 10%, maple swamp 30%, tidal fresh-water marshes 8%, city parks 4%, residential area 5%). - May 3, 1947; 4 a.m. to 7 p.m. Alternately cloudy and fairly clear; wind W, 2-8 m.p.h.; temp. 50°-73°F. Three observers together. Total hours, 15 on foot and in car. Total miles, 10 on foot. Great blue heron, 6; green heron, 1; black duck, 2 (surprisingly late); wood duck, 2; turkey vulture, 14; black vulture, 58; Cooper's hawk, 1; red-shouldered hawk, 2; broadwinged hawk, 1; bald eagle, 5; marsh hawk, 1; osprey, 2; sparrow hawk, 1; bob-white, 3; turkey, 2 (tracks); Virginia rail, 1; coot, 2; killdeer, 1; Wilson's snipe, 3; spotted sandpiper, 7; greater yellow-legs, 4; pectoral sandpiper, 1; ring-billed gull, 1 (16 other unidentified gulls flying east and very high); rock dove, 4; mourning dove, 14; yellow-billed cuckoo, 5; black-billed cuckoo, 3; barred owl, 1; whip-poor-will, 8; nighthawk, 2; chimney swift, 28; ruby-throated hummingbird, 1; kingfisher, 2; flicker, 3; pileated woodpecker, 5; red-bellied woodpecker, 7; downy woodpecker, 3; eastern kingbird, 26; crested flycatcher, 7; phoebe, 4; Acadian flycatcher, 18; wood pewee, 6; prairie horned lark, 1; tree swallow, 3; bank swallow, 1; rough-winged swallow, 8; barn swallow, 34; purple martin, 1; blue jay, 6; crow, 38; fish crow, 1; Carolina chickadee, 10; tufted titmouse, 7; house wren, 5; Carolina wren, 19; mockingbird, 15; catbird, 5; brown thrasher, 4; robin, 53; wood thrush, 20; olive-backed thrush, 1; bluebird, 5; blue-gray gnatcatcher, 17; ruby-crowned kinglet, 1; loggerhead shrike, 1; starling, 150 (est.); white-eyed vireo, 36; yellow-throated vireo, 7; red-eyed vireo, 55; black and white warbler, 6; prothonotary warbler, 38; blue-winged warbler, 1; parula warbler, 25; yellow warbler, 3; black-throated blue warbler, 13; myrtle warbler, 35; yellow-throated warbler, 6; black-poll warbler, 4; pine warbler, 20; prairie warbler, 26; oven-bird, 10; northern water-thrush, 1; Louisiana water-thrush, 7; Kentucky warbler, 1; yellow-throat, 24; yellow-breasted chat, 24; hooded warbler, 25; redstart, 48; English sparrow, 67; bobolink, 350 (est.); scarlet tanager, 1; summer tanager, 4; cardinal, 29; blue grosbeak, 3; indigo

bunting, 13; goldfinch, 59; towhee, 21; savannah sparrow, 12; grasshopper sparrow, 18; Henslow's sparrow, 4; chipping sparrow, 22; field sparrow, 26; white-throated sparrow, 67; song sparrow, 11. Total, 108 species, about 2205 individuals. Seen on May 11: great horned owl, 1; red-headed woodpecker, 2; cliff swallow, 9; veery, 1; black-throated green warbler, 2; chestnut-sided warbler, 4; Canada warbler, 1; orchard oriole, 1.

J. Irvine, J. R. Sydnor, F. R. Scott.

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FALL BIRD COUNT FROM RICHMOND

Richmond, Va. (Windsor Farms, Byrd Park, Bryan Park, city dock, and vicinity of Curles Neck Farm; open farmland 25%, lowland deciduous woodland 20%, pine woodland 17%, tidal fresh-water marshes 26%, small park lakes 4%, residential area 8%. - Sept. 8, 1947; 5 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Fog in early morning and remaining wet and heavily overcast until noon, when a series of thunderstorms took over until dusk; temp. 71°-84°F.; wind N, veering slowly to NE, 4-12 m.p.h. One observer. Total hours, 12.5 (8.5 on foot, 4 in rowboat); total miles, 12 (9 on foot, 3 by boat). Great blue heron, 2; American egret, 45; little blue heron, 27; green heron, 1; black duck, 2 (possibly bred); wood duck, 2; turkey vulture, 26; black vulture, 22; Cooper's hawk, 5; red-tailed hawk, 2; red-shouldered hawk, 1; bald eagle, 2; sparrow hawk, 2; bob-white, 18; coot, 7 (plus 2 juv. in downy plumage being fed by 2 adults - these birds, possibly the second brood, were hatched out on an island in Swan Lake in Byrd Park); killdeer, 2; spotted sandpiper, 2; semipalmated sandpiper, 12; Forster's tern, 14; common tern, 1; rock dove, 7; mourning dove, 98; yellow-billed cuckoo, 5; black-billed cuckoo, 1; whip-poor-will, 1 (singing); chimney swift, 22; ruby-throated hummingbird, 4; kingfisher, 1; flicker, 2; pileated woodpecker, 3; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 10; eastern kingbird, 3; Acadian flycatcher, 1 (singing); wood pewee, 8; barn swallow, 15; blue jay, 12; crow, 71; Carolina chickadee, 24; tufted titmouse, 27; white-breasted nuthatch, 3; Carolina wren, 17; mockingbird, 13; catbird, 10; brown thrasher, 1; robin, 16; wood thrush, 7; bluebird, 8; blue-gray gnatcatcher, 2; shrike, 5; starling, 40; white-eyed vireo, 21; yellow-throated vireo, 6; red-eyed vireo, 23; black and white warbler, 4; prothonotary warbler, 4; parula warbler, 5; yellow-throated warbler, 6; bay-breasted warbler, 1; pine warbler, 56; prairie warbler, 3; ovenbird, 1; Louisiana water-thrush, 2; yellow-throat, 11; hooded warbler, 8; Am. redstart, 4; English sparrow, 12; bobolink, 162 (partly est.); meadowlark, 1; red-wing, 33; Baltimore oriole, 1; grackle, 13; cowbird, 415 (partly est.); summer tanager, 2; cardinal, 28; indigo bunting, 2; goldfinch, 11; towhee, 5; grasshopper sparrow, 1; chipping sparrow, 4; field sparrow, 11; song sparrow, 3. Total, 83 species. (Seen Sept. 2: turkey, 1. Sept. 4: osprey, 2; Kentucky warbler, 1; blue grosbeak. Sept. 5: redheaded woodpecker, 1.)

F. R. Scott

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WILD WINGS - A Review of the Book
By John Grey

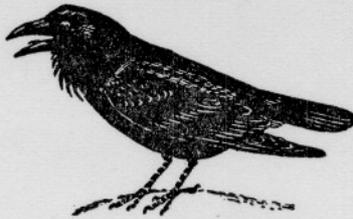
Wild Wings, by Joseph James Murray, John Knox Press, Richmond, Va., 1947. 123 pp. \$2.50. The Editor of The Raven leads us on field trips in search of birds throughout his home county of Rockbridge in Virginia. Even in his own back yard we are introduced to such wonders of nature as the urge which leads a Blackpoll Warbler to make an annual journey of some seven thousand miles, or a Redheaded Woodpecker to return each spring to the same nesting site.

This is a helpful book about the habits of birds. The author selects a large number of feathered friends, not that he may parade them before us, but that he may lead us out in search of them. With him we don hiking clothes and scramble over Brushy Hills, or stop by Cameron's Pond in search of early spring migrants, or lingering winter visitors. In another chapter we go bird nesting; modern style of course, for we are not interested in collecting nests or eggs, but to see which birds have begun to nest, where they build, how many eggs they lay, or we watch the display of the mother as she tries to draw us away from the nesting site.

In case one is not able to hike there is still the opportunity of bird study as illustrated by the day the "flu" kept Dr. Murray in bed and he describes the antics of birds coming to a feeding tray beside his window. Avian society appears to share many of the habits that are so prominent in humans, with the beautiful Cardinal displaying his greediness, or the Titmouse his slyness. Neither of these can compete with the rascality of the Blue Jay, and are in marked contrast to the sheer joy of living displayed by that perpetual songster, the Carolina wren.

The book should be particularly helpful to anyone who wants to learn birds by observing them. It would be useful to one in beginning to learn birds because the emphasis is on looking at the bird, rather than learning them from a book; likewise it suggests so many things to look for in distinguishing one bird from another. An additional feature which runs throughout the book is the enjoyment which birds bring to the author and the joy of hunting with field glasses all year long.

Two things appeal to me especially. First, the keen mind of Dr. Murray is never satisfied with what the bird does, but he is probing behind the pattern of behavior to discover the cause, thus relating the commonplace to the eternal principle which is behind it. Second, his mind is deeply religious in the most natural sort of way; there is none of the obvious moralizing that was so characteristic of the New England school of poets, but a reverent and attractive suggestion of a Scripture passage which is illustrated by bird behavior.



The Raven

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DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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CEDAR WAXWINGS

By Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Fast

This story begins as March came in somewhat lion-like. Temperatures were low and the ground was covered with several inches of snow. On these days a flock of about 50 Cedar Waxwings made frequent visits to the vicinity of the bird bath at our home in Arlington, Virginia. About two quarts of raisins were put out for them. After making many feints and false starts, the bravest of these birds came down for a tid-bit. Soon they were all eagerly feeding in relays at the newly-found banquet table.

On March 8th. the first cedar waxwing was trapped and banded. A few days later several of these sleek and well-groomed birds were on the tray, feeding on raisins; they could be seen at very close range through our observation windows. When once established, they usually came shortly after daylight, returning frequently until about 1 P.M.; then with decreasing frequency until the final feeding about 5 P.M., when they left for the day. After a time, the supply of raisins was gradually reduced and apples substituted. By late March, ten or twelve halves of apples would in one day be so completely consumed that the wind blew away the paper-like skin that remained. Raisins (and currants) were then used sparingly. The apples kept the birds in close view for longer periods of time than did the raisins or currants. We were able to share these birds with many of our friends. Considerable time was spent in picture taking by such bird photographers as Mr. Roger Tory Peterson, Mr. Ralph E. Lawrence, and Dr. Myron A. Elliott.

Not more than 150 waxwings were observed at any one time. By means of the banding operations, we learned that these birds came in successive waves. A flock of 25, 50 or more of these birds would appear and swarm into and around the trap. These birds are so gregarious that by leaving one or two of them in the trap, others of their kind crowded around and soon filled our 12-cell Potter trap - sometimes 2 or even 3 birds being trapped in one cell. For the next several days, an increasing percentage of the birds trapped were repeats. The birds also decreased in numbers and were less eager to enter the trap. When this first happened, we had the impression that the waxwings were about to leave. However, in a few days or a week another flock came; their behavior followed the same pattern. There were fewer birds in the final wave, which decreased until the last bird was seen on May 15. Our incomplete repeat records indicate that by far the greater percentage of repeats were the most recently banded birds, which entered the trap with decreasing frequency. However, 10 or 12 of the repeats persisted from near the beginning until near the end. During the last six weeks of the banding operations, the total number of repeats approximated the total number of new birds banded. No Bohemian waxwings were trapped or observed, although at the time reports persisted that these birds were seen in this general area.

Our twelve-cell trap was placed on the ground in full view from within the house. All of the cedar waxwings which we banded were taken from this one trap - except about 15 which entered our one-cell EBBA trap. With very few exceptions, the traps were operated only prior to 8:15 A.M.

on work days, and all day Saturdays and Sundays. 120 were banded on March 15th. and 16th.; 75 on March 29th. and 30th.; and 101 on April 17th., 18th., and 19th. Between March 8th. and May 13th., WE Banded A TOTAL OF 875 CEDAR WAXWINGS. ALL THE OTHER BANDERS in the United States and Canada reported, to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a grand total of 366 cedar waxwings banded for the year ending June 30, 1947. The second highest bander reported 206; the third highest 44.

Last year the rare Evening Grosbeaks were our guests for quite a spell. This year the doings of the not-so-rare Cedar Waxwings proved to be of considerable interest. If the booking agent for the wild birds should favor us with another stellar attraction next year (or the next), we hope to be able to accept the situation humbly and to be worthy of the many good things which have come our way.

4924 Rock Spring Road
Arlington, Virginia

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WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW Banded AT BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA,
RECOVERED AT PENTECOST, QUEBEC, CANADA

By C. O. Handley, Sr.

Leg band No. 46-128541 was placed on an immature white-crowned sparrow at Blacksburg, Virginia by Mr. George A. Gehrken, a graduate student at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute on March 19, 1947. Discovery of the band was reported to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service by Mr. W. B. Salkekd, Resident Manager of the Canadian International Paper Company of Montreal, Canada, who stated that the bird was found in the stable of a logging camp about 15 miles northwest of Pentecost Village, Quebec on May 26, 1947. The recovery of this band is of particular interest in that it constitutes the first of more than a thousand such bands placed on white-crowned sparrows at Blacksburg during a period of twelve years to be recovered in the breeding range of the species. Two other white-crowned sparrows banded at Blacksburg as fall migrants were recovered later on their wintering grounds - one in eastern Arkansas and the other in eastern Texas. The white-crowned sparrow is a common bird about Blacksburg during the fall, winter and spring. A number banded there have been recovered in the same locality during subsequent winters - several for two or three winters in succession. Thus it has been established that the white-crowned sparrow after establishing a winter home in a particular place normally returns to the same place to winter year after year.

6571 Roosevelt Avenue
Charleston 4, W. Va.

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WELCOMING THE WINTER SONG BIRDS BACK TO THEIR FEEDING SHELF

By William Day Smith

First things in Nature in the year's calendar are always thrilling. The first "cheerups" of the robin in the Spring are even less thrilling than the return of the chickadee to the feeding shelf, as the former must be shared with the first violet and first dandelion.

It is to be hoped that you have your suet, mashed nuts, and peanut butter in readiness now, for these foods are most desired by the winter visitors because of their protein, I might suppose.

I would like to suggest that the shelf or indoor cubicle, which is much to be preferred, be at a window in your dining room, where you can observe, as you eat your meals, the birds eating theirs. My cubicle furnished some twenty different species counting in occasional summer residents delaying late in the season.

To return to the subject of welcoming a nuthatch and two titmice have already given delight by putting in an appearance. We will wait anxiously for the chickadee, Carolina wren, the kinglets and woodpeckers, daily visitors last winter.

118 Washington Street
Charlottesville, Virginia

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WREN NEST ON AN AUTOMOBILE

"An interesting bit of strange news comes from Bent Medley, deputy wildlife manager of the Barbour's Creek Wildlife Management Area in the Jefferson National Forest. Medley reports that a wren built her nest on the chassis of his automobile near the rear wheel. She laid her eggs, hatched them, and successfully reared her young and got a daily automobile ride free as compensation for her feat. Medley says that he drove the car continuously, sometimes as much as fifty miles a day during the month that the little wren was hatching and rearing her young. He discovered the bird one day while tightening the automobile brakes and watched the progress being made every day thereafter. There was never a sign of distress or even so much as a 'peep' from the free-riding guests as they journeyed with their chauffeur about the countryside." (Virginia Wildlife, September, 1947, Vol. 8, Number 9, page 19)

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A FLOCK OF GREBES

Alleghany County, Va. - My son, John, and I, on passing the pond (about 5 acres) along the road between Sweet Chalybeate and Crows around noon on October 12, saw a number of grebes. Closer inspection with binoculars revealed at least 38 pied-billed grebes and 1 immature Florida gallinule on the pond. The grebes dived continuously and were therefore somewhat difficult to count accurately. The grebes were of

particular interest to me in that it was the largest flock of pied-bills I had ever seen. John counted 16 pied-billed grebes on the Kanawha River a few miles above Charleston, W. Va. on October 9. It appears likely from these two observations that a large flight of grebes may have been under way over the mountains of the two Virgihias during this period. C. O. Handley, Sr., 6571 Roosevelt Ave., Charleston, W.Va.

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"A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE BIRDS OF MARYLAND
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA"

A Review - by J. J. Murray

A Preliminary List of the Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia, by Irving E. Hampe and Haven Kolb, xii, 80 pages, 9 illustrations and one map, heavy paper covers, 1947, published by the Natural History Society of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, \$1.00. This is a carefully annotated list of birds known to have occurred in the state of Maryland and in the District of Columbia, the latter being included because of the fact that its territory was taken from Maryland. The reviewer is inclined to think that it would have been better if the District had not been included, both because of the fact that without it the book would have been a definite state list, and because the District has been so long and so thoroughly worked as to overshadow the work in Maryland proper. It was interesting to find, however, that there are surprisingly few species in the list which rest only on District records. The main list contains 338 forms, the status for which in various parts of the State is given. The authors have personally examined specimens of 304 of these, 21 being included on the basis of the reports of the collection of specimens by others, and 13 being accepted on the basis of sight records. There is a hypothetical list of 27 forms. The book has a selected bibliography and a good index. The work seems to be very carefully done; and the book should be not only interesting but useful to workers in Virginia.

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