



THE RAVEN

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR

VOL. IV

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No. 1

A CAPTIVE LOON

The irony of chance is not infrequently met with in the sport of bird study. The most uncommon birds sometimes turn up in the most unexpected ways and places. One of the birds that I have searched for hopefully but unsuccessfully on the streams of Rockbridge County for five years is the Loon, and recently (on Dec. 19) a little boy caught one in his back yard in Lexington. This bird had probably struck a wire during the severe ice storm, and had somehow struggled into the little stream that flows through the edge of the town. It had one or two wounds about head, and about an inch was missing from the end of the lower bill. This bird, a famous swimmer and diver, is almost helpless on land, even when uninjured. The legs are placed far back under the body, which is of great assistance in swimming and diving, but which is an equally great handicap on the land. Hence, it is not difficult to capture it there, provided one has the courage to face its formidable beak. For a small boy this is quite a feat. Once in the water, it is a splendid swimmer and a magnificent diver, with the ability to stay under long and to travel fast and far.

The bird found here was the Common Loon, so called to distinguish it from its smaller and still scarcer relative, the Red-throated Loon. It occurs frequently along our coast, but is far from common anywhere in the interior in the South. I know of two instances of its former occurrence in Rockbridge; and Dr. E. A. Smyth has seen three at Blacksburg, all in the month of November in different years.

Hoping that the captive bird might recover and be able to travel again, I took it to Big Spring pond and released it. The sight of its delight at being again in its native element was more than worth all the trouble. Its first move was to stick its head under and fill its bill with clean water, then, wetting the whole body, it stood up in the water and flapped its wings vigorously as if to remove every taint of confinement. Swimming a few feet out, it gave a low cry. Soon it was completely at home, feeling no doubt the contrast between the chicken crate in a store-room in which it had spent the night and the expanse of cool, clear water which now stretched before it. It began to dip up water grass and swallow it, and then, swimming rapidly, to take short dives and fish for minnows. I have never seen a greater contrast than that between its awkwardness on land and the grace and skill of its movements in the water. So I left it, wishing it a speedy recovery and a safe trip to its northland home.

But it was not to be so. It was more seriously injured than I had thought. Five days later it was still alive, but when Prof. Carroll and I visited the pond on our Christmas census trip we found the Loon dead, washed up on the ice at the edge of the pond.

---J. J. Murray.

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REVISION OF THE CONSOLIDATED LIST

In the issue of THE RAVEN, 1931, a consolidated list of the birds of nine local regions of Virginia was published. This list aroused more interest than anything that has yet been published in our bulletin. Two years have passed since that list was made up, and since then the members of our Society have gathered a great deal of new data. The Editor feels that the time has come to publish some addenda to that list. He would request each person who furnished data for the consolidated list to examine his local list and report any significant changes in the list since February, 1931, - new species added to the local list, changes discovered in the status of any species, and any noteworthy extensions of migration dates. Where no arrival and departure dates at all were given on the old list, the Editor would now like to have them for all species listed. Please send this data in by March 1st, if possible. And, what is still more important, we should like to have all members who did not cooperate in the former list send in now their local lists, annotated as carefully as possible with dates and notes on the status of species, whether resident, summer resident, winter resident, or transient.

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There are two birds as to the status of which the Editor would like to have reports from all our members. The first is the Migrant Shrike. Please write in information as to when it occurs in your section and how common it is. We especially desire reports from the eastern half of the State. The other is the Red-headed Woodpecker, particularly as to its winter status. Does it occur every winter in your section, and is it common at all seasons?

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CHRISTMAS CENSUS REPORTS AND FIELD NOTES

Henrico County, Va. (Richmond to Curles Neck Farm and return and Byrd Park)--Dec. 28, 7:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. Foggy; raining all day except for short periods; low visibility; ground bare; no wind; temperature 48 at start, 42 at return. About 40 miles by automobile, 4 miles by boat, and 4 miles on foot. Great Blue Heron, 1; American Merganser, 25; Mallard, 600 (est.); Black Duck, 200 (est.); Pintail, 1100 (est.); Ring-necked Duck, 115 (est.); Canada Goose, 600 (est.); Turkey Vulture, 9; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Bald Eagle, 2; Duck Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bobwhite, 12 (1 covey); Herring Gull, 8; Ring-billed (?) Gull, 46; Mourning Dove, 21; Downy Woodpecker, 5;

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Flicker, 11; Crow, 86; Tufted Titmouse, 22; Carolina Chickadee, 20; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 12; Mockingbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 2; Hermit Thrush, 7; Bluebird, 40; Blue Gray Gnatcatcher (?), 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 7; Migrant Shrike, 4; Starling, 300 (est.); Myrtle Warbler, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 50 (est.); Meadowlark, 16; Cardinal, 62; Purple Finch, 11; Goldfinch, 27; English Sparrow, 600 (est.); White-throated Sparrow, 101; Tree Sparrow, 1; Field Sparrow, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 135; Song Sparrow, 21; Swamp Sparrow, 5; Fox Sparrow, .3. Total, 50 species; about 4,325 individuals. I have never before observed the Tree Sparrow in Tidewater Virginia. The bird listed was alone and came into a thicket from a large closely grazed field in response to my "squeak." The red crown and spot in the center of the breast were clearly seen in fair light with 6 x binoculars at close range. What was thought to be a Blue Gray Gnatcatcher appeared with a sizable flock of sparrows, titmice and chickadees, also in response to the "squeak." The slender form of the bird and its long wagging tail having white outer feathers were noted from about twenty feet in the fog and rain but before I could locate the bird with my glasses it had disappeared and was not seen again. The estimates of waterfowl, except the Ringnecks, include only those flushed by the boat in going to and from the several blinds to put out bait. Judging from the sound, there were thousands of ducks, mostly pintails and mallards, in the Curles Neck Creek Marsh which were not seen. The gulls supposed to be Ring-billed were all too far away in the haze to be identified positively but in comparison with the Herring gulls were about the right size for that species.--Chas. O. Handley.

(Mr. Ray Paris of Richmond killed an immature female Pigeon Hawk on the Pamunkey Indian Reservation in King William County on Nov. 15th. The hawk was eating a Mourning Dove when shot. Mr. Paris brought the hawk to me for identification and had it mounted for his collection. On Dec. 15th, between Surry C. H. and Smithfield, I saw a number of flocks of blackbirds which I estimated at about thirteen thousand individuals. One flock contained fully five thousand birds. The flocks which I saw at close range were made up almost entirely of Purple Grackles. There were also a few Red-winged Blackbirds in the flocks. Two of the flocks were seen feeding on the peanuts which are still in the shock.)

---Chas. O. Handley.

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Amelia, Va., Dec. 26. West to, and along Nibbs Creek and return; 5 miles on foot; observer alone; 7:10 A.M. to 11 A.M.; temperature at start 56, at return 61; no wind, partly cloudy. P.M., Winterham to Barkhouse branch, 3 miles on foot, three observers working together, 3 to 5:30 P.M. Turkey Vulture, 11; Bobwhite, 6; Mourning Dove, 2; Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Blue Jay, 14; Crow, 21; Carolina Chickadee, 14; Tufted Titmouse, 15; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 5; Carolina Wren, 3; Winter Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 14;

Robin, 8; Bluebird, 16; Shrike, 1; Starling, (Est.) 200; Myrtle Warbler, 5; House Sparrow, 35; Meadow Lark, 2; Cardinal, 22; Purple Finch, 8; Goldfinch, 12; Junco, 37; White-throated Sparrow, 28; Song Sparrow, 6. Species 33, individuals 505.

The Brown-headed Nuthatch is rather unusual here, though a pair nested in the vicinity last summer. There can be little doubt as to the identification, as the senior observer is familiar with them and observed them with six-power binoculars at close range.

---Miss Mary C. Sheppard,
Harry L. Sheppard,
John B. Lewis.

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Naruna, Va., Dec. 22; 7:30 to 12 A.M., 1 to 4 P.M. Observation around home including one-half mile walk across fields and woods. Clear with no wind. Snow of several days still six inches deep. Temperature 35 at beginning, 55 at close. Turkey Vulture, 1; Mourning Dove, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Flicker, 2; Prairie Horned Lark, 8; Crow, 4; Starling, 15; Goldfinch, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 6; Field Sparrow, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 25; Song Sparrow, 5; Cardinal, 4; Mockingbird, 1; Carolina Wren, 1; Winter Wren, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Hermit Thrush, 1; Robin, 4; Bluebird, 5; Total, 25 species, 102 individuals.

Dec. 16, Cedar Waxwing, 4; Dec. 20, Purple Finch, 1; Dec. 23, Hawk (sp?) 1; Dec. 25, Phoebe, 2; Dec. 26, Pine Warbler, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Black Vulture, 4; Dec. 28, Meadow Lark, 1. Flock of about 40 Robins wintering here.

---Bertha Daniel.

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Salem, Va., December 26, 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Partly cloudy A.M., cloudy P.M.; ground bare; snow melted by warm rain during past few days; temperature 46. Along Roanoke river and across country on foot to foothills of Blue Ridge Mountains. Turkey Vulture, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Flicker, 2; Blue Jay, 1; Crow, 11; Tufted Titmouse, 8; Chickadee, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Carolina Wren, 2; Winter Wren, 1; Robin, 6; Bluebird, 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Starling, 20; Myrtle Warbler, 6; House Sparrow, 10; Meadowlark, 8; Goldfinch, 12; Junco, 25; Song Sparrow, 2; Cardinal, 3. Total, 23 species, 152 individuals.

---Merriam G. Lewis.

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Lexington, Va., Dec. 22; 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.; 3:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. Clear; 5 inches of old snow; streams mostly frozen; light northeast wind; temperature 30 at start, 50 at noon, 44 at finish,

foot. Big Spring Pond (never frozen), woods, open fields. Observers together. American Golden-eye (female or young), 1; Turkey Vulture, 17; Black Vulture, 10; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 25 (three coveys); Killdeer, 5; Mourning Dove, 26; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Northern Flicker, 2; Northern Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 5; Phoebe, 2; Prairie Horned Lark, 240 (est., three flocks and a single); Northern Blue Jay, 8; Crow, 80; Carolina Chickadee, 17; Tufted Titmouse, 18; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 8; Eastern Robin, 4; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 12; Starling, 130; Meadowlark, 9; Cardinal, 19; Goldfinch, 31; Slate-colored Junco, 85; Tree Sparrow, 4; White-throated Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 9. Total, 36 species, 797 individuals. Also English Sparrow, about 75. The Golden-eye was seen with glasses at close range, both at rest and in flight, the short neck and stocky body, snuff-colored head, yellow eye, gray sides, and white speculum being noted. A Common Loon, which the first observer had liberated at Big Spring Pond on Dec. 13, was found there dead. It had come down, injured in a snow storm, and had been taken alive.

---J. J. Murray,
R. P. Carroll.

(Additional Lexington notes: A Male Ring-necked Duck on Dec. 12th; Coot (2) and Barred Owl on 5th; Myrtle Warbler on 26th. The Red-headed Woodpecker has been present at Big Spring Pond throughout the month; and White-throated Sparrows have been fairly common for mid-winter. ---J. J. Murray.)



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OFFICERS OF THE V. S. O.

All officers of the V. S. O. were re-elected at the Norfolk meeting. They are:

President: Ruskin S. Freer, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.

Vice-president: Chas. O. Handley, Commission of Game & Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Va.

Secretary: Florence S. Hague, Ph.D., Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Va.

Treasurer: John B. Lewis, Amelia C. H., Va.

Editor of THE RAVEN: James J. Murray, D. D., Lexington, Va.

Other Members of Executive Committee: M. G. Lewis, Salem, Va.;
A. O. English, 227 Granby St., Norfolk, Va.

(The Editor is not elected but is named by the President)

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THE NORFOLK MEETING

Dr. Hague's report which follows gives such a complete picture of the meeting that other comments may seem superfluous. There are two or three features of the meeting, however, which deserve the emphasis of special mention. All who were present were firmly convinced that the two day program, allowing time for visiting and renewing of acquaintance, for the dinner and field trip, was much preferred to the short and hurried program of last year. The shorter program was tried last year with the belief that more people would find it possible to attend. This year's meeting seemed to prove that if an annual meeting is to be held at all, its functions will be fulfilled only if there are opportunities for social features and a field trip. Everybody seemed to be enjoying the meeting this year, and there was none of the strain incident to pushing the program through in the short time allowed last year.

One of the valuable results of our meetings is the contact made with new members in the community where the meeting is held. There were several visitors from Norfolk in attendance, a number of whom will become members of the Society. It is gratifying to make new friends, and to see interest in our work gradually spread.

Dr. Murray, as Chairman of the program committee, is to be complimented on the well-rounded and interesting group of papers presented. At the request of the Executive Committee, his own paper on the history of ornithology in Virginia, will be published in THE RAVEN in the near future.

As chairman of the committee on local arrangements, Mr. English anticipated every requirement of the meetings, and every wish of the membership. His efficiency will cause all who attended this meeting to look forward with pleasurable anticipation to our next Norfolk meeting.

In addition to presenting a splendid paper, based on his own research, Mr. Handley always provides an entertainment feature which adds very materially to the attractiveness of the program. His motion pictures and Mrs. Handley's bird songs were most enjoyable.

I think all of us felt that it had been good to be at Norfolk, and were looking forward eagerly to the next meeting. In the meantime let us maintain these pleasant contacts through THE RAVEN.

I wish to take this opportunity of congratulating our membership on the splendid response to the appeal for funds for the publication of Dr. Murray's paper, "Additions to the Avifauna of Virginia Since 1890," soon to be published in THE AUK. In this trying year we have not only raised a special fund, but have maintained our membership with very little shrinkage. Credit for this should go, I feel, to our industrious treasurer, Mr. J. B. Lewis. I am in a better position than anybody else, perhaps, to realize the amount of work that Mr. Lewis has done this past year.

---Ruskin S. Freer.

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FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
January 20, 21, 1933

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the V. S. O. convened at 2 P.M., Friday, January 20, in the Southland Hotel, Norfolk, Va., with Prof. Freer, the President, presiding. Mr. A. O. English opened the afternoon session with an address of welcome to which Prof. Freer responded. Mrs. A. O. James was appointed Secretary for the afternoon session. The meeting was then turned over to Dr. Murray, Chairman of the Program Committee, for the presentation of papers. There were twenty-three people at the afternoon session.

After the first three papers there was a ten minute intermission and before adjournment, at about 5:30 P.M., the President appointed the following committees:

Auditing Committee: Mr. English, Mrs. Burgess.

Nominating Committee: Dr. McIlwaine, Mrs. James, Dr. Murray.

Resolutions Committee: Mr. Ferneyhough, Mrs. Shaw, Mr. Hostetter.

The first dinner of the V. S. O. was held in the Southland Hotel at seven o'clock. It was the occasion for informal discussion of experiences, membership, and possible plans for the organization. The following persons attended: Mrs. Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. English, Mr. Ferneyhough, Prof. Freer, Dr. Hague, Mr. Handley, Mrs. James, Dr. McIlwaine, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Mason, Dr. Murray, and Mrs. Shaw.

The evening session opened with the business meeting. The reading of the minutes having been omitted last year, the minutes of the Annual Meeting at Richmond, 1931, were read and approved. Those of the Annual Meeting at Charlottesville, 1932, were also read and approved.

The report of the Treasurer was read and accepted, and is on file. Dr. Murray, Editor of THE RAVEN, reported that the size of the 1932 RAVEN was about 80 pages, practically the same as in 1931, and that the cost likewise was about the same, namely, \$75.00. The report was accepted. The report of the Secretary was read and accepted, and is on file. The President stated that if any members missed numbers of THE RAVEN, they should notify THE RAVEN, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.

Mr. English reported that the Treasurer's accounts had been audited and found balancing except for a 10¢ advantage in the bank account. The report was accepted.

The report of the Resolutions Committee presented by Mr. Ferneyhough, was as follows:

"Resolved, that this Society express by a vote of thanks its appreciation:

First - Of the gift of \$10.00 from the Research Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science for the publication of Dr. Murray's paper.

Second - To Mr. A. O. English for arranging this Meeting.

Third - To Mr. Wallace Carmean for arrangements for the trip to Back Bay.

Fourth - To Mr. C. O. Handley for the lecture and reels presented on the evening program.

Fifth - To the management of the Hotel Southland for their hospitality."

These resolutions were unanimously accepted.

Dr. McIlwaine, in reporting for the Nominating Committee, nominated the present officers: viz., for President, Prof. Freer of Lynchburg; Vice-president, Mr. C. O. Handley of Ashland; Secretary, Dr. Hague of Sweet Briar; Treasurer, Mr. J. B. Lewis of Amelia; Members of the Executive Committee, Mr. M. G. Lewis of Salem, and Mr. A. O. English of Norfolk. Dr. McIlwaine also asked for nominations from the floor, to which there was no response, and then called for the vote. The above named officers were elected.

Under the topic of new business, Mr. Handley explained that there is now a state wide open season on Ruffed Grouse from Nov. 15 to Dec. 31 and, as was shown by his paper given during the afternoon session, there is a scarcity of these birds in certain localities. He therefore moved, 'that The Virginia Society of Ornithology ask the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries to close the season on Ruffed Grouse in all counties east of the Blue Ridge and in Clark County, which is west of the Blue Ridge.' The motion was seconded and carried.

There was a brief discussion of the time and place for the next Annual Meeting. Dr. McIlwaine invited the V. S. O. to meet at Alexandria next winter. It was finally voted that the Executive Committee should decide the place of meeting. Dr. Murray called for additional records for the consolidated lists. Announcements and arrangements for the Field Trip were made before proceeding to the evening program. The attendance at the evening program was 28.

About eight o'clock on Saturday morning, those who made the Field Trip left the Hotel Southland in automobiles driven by Messrs. Freer, Murray, and Handley, with Mr. English as leader. A few brief stops were made along the way and about a three hour stay at our destination, the hunting preserve of W. E. Corey on the shores of Back Bay. Here we were thrilled by the sight of Whistling Swans and Canada Geese, which were quite close to the shore, and many Ducks which were on the fresh water ponds wither we went by boat. A list of the birds seen on the trip has been published in THE RAVEN. The following persons participated in the Field Trip: Miss Ball, Mrs. Barefield, Mrs. Burgess, Mr. English, Mr. Ferneyhough, Prof. Freer, Miss Hague, Mr. and Mrs. Handley and son, Mrs. James, Mr. J. B. Lewis, Dr. McIlwaine, Dr. Murray, Mrs. Shaw.

A summary of the papers presented at the session on Friday and a register of those in attendance is appended.

REGISTER
ANNUAL MEETING, January 20, 1933
Norfolk, Virginia

Miss Ada Ball, Richmond, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Barefield, Norfolk, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. P. Boehmer, Norfolk, Va.
Mrs. C. L. Burgess, Lynchburg, Va.
Mrs. Marion Charlton, Portsmouth, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. A. O. English, Norfolk, Va.
Everett Ewing, Norfolk, Va.
J. B. Ferneyhough, Richmond, Va.
Mrs. Wm. C. Fox, Ashland, Va.
Ruskin S. Freer, Lynchburg, Va.
Mrs. Irvin, Gentry, Portsmouth, Va.
Florence Hague, Sweet Briar, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Handley, Ashland, Va.

Miss Mastin Herness, Norfolk, Va.
D. Ralph Hostetter, Harrisonburg, Va.
Frances H. Houston, Norfolk, Va.
W. W. Houston, Norfolk, Va.
Mrs. A. O. James, Richmond, Va.
Mary L. Leigh, Norfolk, Va.
John B. Lewis, Amelia, Va.
Mrs. H. H. Little, Norfolk, Va.
Wm. B. McIlwaine, Jr., Alexandria, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. George C. Mason, Hampton, Va.
J. J. Murray, Lexington, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Osborne, Norfolk, Va.
Mrs. R. S. Payne, Amherst, Va.
Mrs. F. W. Shaw, Richmond, Va.
Mrs. T. P. Thompson, Lockhaven, Norfolk, Va.

PAPERS presented at the NORFOLK MEETING
of the V.S.O., January 20, 1933

Afternoon Session -

A Minister's Temptation - Wm. B. McIlwaine, Jr.
Rowan, The Riddle of Migration - Reviewed by R. S. Freer
Brief History of Publications on Virginia Ornithology - J. J. Murray

Intermission

Louisiana Water Thrush Nesting in Southern Florida - J. E. Gould
Casualties of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird - J. E. Gould
(In the basence of Mr. Gould, the papers were read by
Mr. English)
Birds of the Far South (Charleston, S.C., and Florida) - Martin
Curtler (Read by Mrs. Shaw)
Glimpses of Some Florida Birds - Florence Hague
Distribution of Ruffed Grouse in Virginia - C. O. Handley

Evening Session -

Interpretations of bird songs and calls - Mr. and Mrs. Handley
Songs, of which both words and music were written by W. B.
Olds, were sung by Mrs. Handley accompanied by Mrs. Fox. Mr.
Handley spoke briefly about each bird and showed lantern
slides. The Bluebird, Goldfinch, Baltimore Oriole, Red-
winged Blackbird, Phoebe, Tufted Titmouse, Sapsucker, and Red-
headed Woodpecker were on the program.
Duck Sickness, two reels of moving pictures - Mr. Handley
Notes on bird songs - Mr. J. B. Lewis
Lantern slide of Life Zones in North America, with a brief
explanation by R. S. Freer
Hunting on Back Bay - Reel shown by Mr. Handley

THE FIELD TRIP TO BACK BAY

The trip to Back Bay was a great success. We left, three cars full, about eight o'clock in intermittent showers, which continued until midday. After that we had several hours of cessation for a beautiful ride in motor boats out into Back Bay proper to see more ducks and geese and swans. And we saw them.

We drove down through Princess Anne Court House, stopping now and then to see the birds along the way. Our objective was the shooting lodge of Mr. W. F. Corey, on a causeway built across the swamp to Knott's Island. At the lodge we stopped for several hours, enjoying the world about us, marsh lands, bays, islands and channels, all open and treeless. Beyond us were the heavy pines of Knott Island. In the water, within gun shot of the yard were thirty-five swans, several hundred Canada geese, mallards, pintails, etc. Across the sand almost at our feet ran a flock of possibly twenty-five least sandpipers. Everywhere were red-winged blackbirds and boat-tailed grackles, probably also purple grackles. In the distance marsh hawks or bald eagles flapped their intent way across the sedge-covered islands, or great clouds of ducks would rise to circle and settle again. We climbed to the top of the look-out tower, possible one hundred feet high, and the whole landscape lay before us, golden marshes and blue waters. Yes, we had a happy time. The afternoon ride out to Back Bay proper took us to more swans (21) and more geese and more ducks. Mallards and pintails were in the vast majority, though I am told there are lots of black duck.

The list of species (as they were jotted down): Starling (abundant), Myrtle Warbler (abundant), Purple Grackle (one flock), Crow (common), Meadowlark (10 approximately), Mockingbird (common), English Sparrow (common), Bluebird (quite a number), Turkey Vulture, Robin (two or three flocks), Black Buzzard (4), Song Sparrow, Dove (three or four), Red-winged Blackbird (abundant), Killdeer (10), Carolina Wren (heard singing), American Pipit (one, identified while driving, thus admitting of a possibility of error in identification), Cardinal (normal), Fox Sparrow (one flock, in song), Field Sparrow (common), Towhee (one or two), Goldfinch (not uncommon), White-throated Sparrow (one or two groups), Cowbird (one flock of females or immature), Sparrow Hawk (several), Chipping Sparrow (several), Savannah Sparrow (one or two), Osprey (one or two), Canada Goose (hundreds, one very pale in color, supposedly an albino), Whistling Swan (35 and 21), Boat-tailed Grackle (common in the big swamp), Great Blue Heron (one), Herring Gull (common), Pintail Duck (hundreds), Coot (5, possibly others), Mallards (hundreds), Marsh Hawk (here and there across the swamps), Flicker (one), Least Sandpiper (30), Eagle (possibly a half-dozen, mostly immature plumage), Black duck (many), Swamp Sparrow (a few), Baldpate (possibly 30), Green-winged Teal (10), Ruddy Duck (certainly about 25, possibly more), Kingfisher (one), Scaup Duck (a few), Fish Crow (I myself have had long years of intimate acquaintance with the common crow. I know that his language is rich and eloquent, employing both syllables and intonations, and even a modified form of the Morse Code. I believe the adult crow can be as fluent in "baby talk" as can the human flapper. When the observer begins to identify the Fish Crow by his call, "which is like that of a young crow," I feel that the result is a little "fishy.")

This then is the list of the species we saw. Had we been trying to increase that number it could have been done very easily. But we went to see swans, geese and ducks; and we saw them. Mr. Handley saw a Red-vailed Hawk and three American Mergansers.

Also we saw the japonica in full bloom.

We were back again at our hotel by four o'clock, to say good-bye, and to turn our faces homeward.

---Wm. B. McIlwaine, Jr.

(Editor's Note: The Corey Club-house and the territory for a few hundred yards in front of it, is in North Carolina, the State line crossing the marsh just north of this spot and dividing Knott's Island. Practically all of the birds noted in the above list were seen in Virginia territory. The Least Sandpipers and the albino Canada Goose were seen in Virginia, although the latter was first seen flying in from Virginia side of the line. The Sandpipers were seen at close enough range to detect the yellowish-green color of the legs.)

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FIELD TRIPS ALONG THE VIRGINIA BEACHES

I arrived at Norfolk on the day before the V. S. O. meeting, Thursday, January 19th, 1933. Knowing that on the regular field trip of the organization we would see only the birds of the Back Bay region, I was anxious for a trip along the salt water. Recent winter studies of the coastal region have been very few and there is much data of interest to be picked up there. Mr. A. O. English was kind enough to leave his work for the day and arrange a beach trip with me.

We left Norfolk about ten o'clock, drove nearly to Princess Anne Courthouse and then along a country road, across the marshes and out to the sand-dunes, striking the beach at a point eight or ten miles below Virginia Beach and not far north of Sand Bridge. From there we walked along the hard beach southward for three or four miles and back. The day was almost perfect, just cold enough to make hiking pleasant, and with brilliant sunshine. The only disturbing feature was a stiff wind which drove the sand into our faces and down our backs and even into every crevice of our field-glasses. The only land-birds we saw on the trip were a sparrow which left before we could identify it, a Sparrow Hawk perched on a telephone post, and the ubiquitous Myrtle Warblers flitting about in the scanty shrubbery on the dunes and even coming down to the beach to feed about the driftwood. We had hoped that we might pick up some dead strays on the beach which would be of interest, but there had been no recent storm and our only find was a dessicated Common Loon.

As soon as we came to the beach we began to see large flocks of Herring Gulls, both adult and immature. They were flying everywhere, and gathered in flocks in likely spots at the edge of the surf. There were a few Laughing Gulls among them, but we saw no Ring-billed or Bonaparte's Gulls. One of our most interesting finds was a Great

Black-backed Gull, a handsome fellow, larger than the Herring Gull, with snowy white head and body and tail, and black back and wings. This northern species is rather scarce south of New Jersey, occurring with some regularity at Cobb's Island and occasionally even as far south as Florida. It is rare, however, on the southern Virginia coast. The most important record of the day was that of the Forster's Tern, some ten of which we saw in a scattered flock. While they breed on Cobb's Island they do not winter north of S. C., and so far as I know this is the first winter record for the species on the Virginia coast. There have been no recent winter N. C. records even. The Forster's is very much like the Common Tern, but this is one of the unusual cases in which closely similar birds can be distinguished with more certainty in winter than in summer plumage. We had a close view of some of them, and made our identification on the fact that the black patches on the sides of the head did not meet at the back of the head as they do in the Common Tern. One Double-crested Cormorant was seen flying over the water at a distance. Of shore-birds we found a lone Sanderling.

An interesting feature of the trip was the large number of Loons swimming out beyond the breakers. Possibly some of them were Common Loons but all that we could see well enough for identification were of the Red-breasted variety. Not many ducks were in evidence. We saw one Ruddy. Occasionally small flocks of Black Ducks were noted high overhead flying inland. Red-breasted Mergansers were fairly common in small groups.

The next morning, before the meeting, Dr. Wm. B. McIlwaine, Jr., Mr. English and I took a short trip to the beach at Cape Henry. Our first stop was at the bridge at Lynnhaven. Here, as everywhere, Herring Gulls were abundant. A few hundred yards out floated a flock of ducks - Black Ducks, Baldpates, Red-breasted Mergansers, and one male Scaup - and one Horned Grebe. At Cape Henry we saw one Double-crested Cormorant. Red-breasted Mergansers were seen every where in large flocks. Some of these flocks in the air at a distance were like clouds, the birds were massed in such numbers. The event of the day, however, was the discovery of a far strung out flock of Gannets. They are supposed to be not uncommon in winter about the mouth of Chesapeake Bay but Mr. English had not seen them previously. They were travelling northward into the Bay in small groups. Sometimes four or five were in sight, and in all we saw at least twenty-five. Occasionally one struck the water with terrific force, completely submerging. One or two came close enough for us to see clearly the straw-colored area on the back of the head. They are great, beautiful birds, white with large black wing-tips.

---J. J. Murray

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LOCAL LISTS

Lists of corrections and additions to local lists of birds on file with the Editor have been received for Lynchburg from Prof. Freer, for Amelia County from J. B. Lewis, and for Montgomery County from R. M. Brown. Miss Bertha Daniel has sent in a list (new) for the region

about Naruna, Va. The Editor is anxious to get corrections and additions from those who have formerly sent in lists, and even more anxious to get lists from members in sections that have not provided detailed lists.

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A REQUEST FOR DATA ON THE WOODCOCK IN VIRGINIA

The following letter has been received by several of our members from Mr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., of the Laboratory of Ornithology of Cornell University. As his request was sent to associates or members of the American Ornithologists Union in Virginia only, it is felt that more complete data can be secured by including his request in THE RAVEN, and all readers who can furnish the desired information are requested to forward it at once to Dr. J. J. Murray, Editor of THE RAVEN, Lexington, Va. The letter follows:

"I am wondering if you would be so kind as to help us in our study of the American Woodcock to the extent of supplying us with information relative to its occurrence in the State of Virginia? We are having great difficulty in gathering definite records of its occurrence in your State as such records seem to be exceedingly few. Therefore, we would sincerely appreciate having you add what you possibly can to the scant information which we now have.

"1. Do you know of any place along your coast where the so-called 'flights' occur? That is, do you know of any place where Woodcock concentrate in great numbers such as they do at Cape May, N. J.? Have you any data on the fall Woodcock migration at Cape Charles? (This point of land is geographically not very much unlike Cape May, N. J., consequently it would seem plausible that the Woodcock migration might be the same there.)

"2. Records (including dates and localities) of Woodcock breeding in Virginia.

"3. Records of early spring arrival and late fall appearance and winter records.

"4. Statements that will give us some estimation of abundance in various parts of Virginia during the breeding season, fall and winter."

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BLACK BEARS IN VIRGINIA

There has been a good deal of discussion of late in the newspapers as to the extent to which bears occur in Virginia, some editors being very skeptical as to their presence in any numbers. But official records of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries definitely settle the question. In 1932, 340 Black Bears were reported killed in the State. In the Dismal Swamp section in Norfolk and Nansemond Counties 55 were killed. The game warden of Rockingham County reports

118, and 50 each were reported in Alleghany and Augusta Counties. Bears were also reported from Amherst, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Highland, Nelson, and Rockbridge. Near Buchanan this winter a Black Bear and a Bus had a collision on the highway, neither being seriously damaged.

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Newport News. More than 50 different species of birds were observed in the 800 acres of the Museum grounds on December 28, 29, and 30, 1932, in accordance with the following list:

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| 1. Holboell's Grebe | 28. Northern Flicker |
| 2. Pied-bill Grebe | 29. Phoebe |
| 3. Ring-billed Gull | 30. American Crow |
| 4. Bonaparte Gull | 31. Starling |
| 5. American Merganser | 32. Red-winged Blackbird |
| 6. Mallard | 33. Meadowlark |
| 7. Black Duck | 34. Goldfinch |
| 8. Baldpate | 35. White-throated Sparrow |
| 9. Shoveller | 36. Field Sparrow |
| 10. Wood Duck | 37. Slate-colored Junco |
| 11. Lesser Scaup Duck | 38. Song Sparrow |
| 12. Ring-necked Duck | 39. Towhee |
| 13. American Goldeneye | 40. Cardinal |
| 14. Buffle-head | 41. Cedar Waxwing |
| 15. Ruddy Duck | 42. Myrtle Warbler |
| 16. Great Blue Heron | 43. Pipit |
| 17. American Coot | 44. Mockingbird |
| 18. American Woodcock | 45. Carolina Wren |
| 19. Killdeer | 46. Brown Creeper |
| 20. Bob-white | 47. White-breasted Nuthatch |
| 21. Mourning Dove | 48. Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| 22. Turkey Vulture | 49. Tufted Titmouse |
| 23. Marsh Hawk | 50. Chickadee |
| 24. Bald Eagle | 51. Hermit Thrush |
| 25. Belted Kingfisher | 52. Robin |
| 26. Downy Woodpecker | 53. Bluebird |
| 27. Red-bellied Woodpecker | |

The above list does not include any of our pinioned game birds.

---George C. Mason.

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Harrisonburg. On November 24, 1932, a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) in winter plumage was shot on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River near Brock's Gap. The bird was swimming, and was mistaken for a duck. The hunter at once realized that he had shot a Loon, and wishing to dispose of the bird, took it to a local taxidermist. The mounted specimen has recently been placed in the school museum. It is a male, and measures 32 inches in length. This is the first Loon to be placed on my records for the area north of Harrisonburg.

Three Red-headed Woodpeckers, two adults and one immature, are wintering in a woodlot near the school. During the fall they were busily engaged in pulling out sprouted acorns and carrying them to crevices in the bark of the oak trees. Sprouted acorns were preferred because of the ease with which they could be carried. Recently a tree was cut down which had about a quart of sprouted acorns stored in a pocket formed by the bark bulging away from the trunk. The gray squirrels sometimes attempt a raid on these storerooms, but the Red-heads, with a war whoop, dart fiercely at the intruders. They are usually successful in protecting their property. I wish to call attention to one undesirable trait of these Woodpeckers. They are not on friendly terms with the White-breasted Nuthatches. Apparently without cause or reason, they will drive away the Nuthatches, even chase them through the entire woodlot. I would appreciate some explanation for this conduct. Although the Red-heads are common in this section from April to August, this is the first time they were observed in the winter.

The Migrant Shrike has been seen almost daily on the school campus during the past two months. Shrikes are not common in this vicinity, but we have one here every winter, and occasionally one may be seen as late as March and April. I have no record of the Migrant Shrike for the summer months.

Prairie Horned Larks are increasing in number. Flocks consisting of twenty-five and thirty individuals are common.

---D. Ralph Hostetter

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Snowden, Amherst Col., near the Rockbridge line. On January 5th I saw a male American Merganser at the head of the power house lake on James River. Western Virginia records of this species are exceedingly few.

---J. J. Murray

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Naruna. A few Myrtle Warblers were seen in November and December. By January 19 I saw as many as 35 in one flock. The next day they were as abundant as in spring during migration.

---Bertha Daniel

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Lynchburg. While on a trip to Charlottesville on Jan. 29th I saw a large flock of Bluebirds on the ground in a clearing, with patches of snow in the background showing them up beautifully. On Feb. 4th a Robin came fluttering in the snow to my back door for the food and water which he knew were awaiting him. During the past winter we have fed the birds to such an extent that now we have in the yard a flock of 30 or more Starlings, two pairs of Jays and many English Sparrows. What must we do with these visitors, and will the song birds still be as numerous?

---Mrs. C. L. Burgess

Lynchburg. The events of chief interest for January include the finding of a Woodcock on January 7, two Swamp Sparrows on the same date, and the occurrence of unusual numbers of Robins and Myrtle Warblers. Several others have commented or written to me about the unusual numbers of both of these species. Ornithologists in Ohio have also reported thousands of Robins wintering at Wooster in the central-northern part of the state. This is an unprecedented occurrence for that region. Two Black Ducks were seen at Timber Lake on the sixth, and one male and four female Mallards have been there most of the winter. Several of the domesticated Canada Geese were enticed away by a flock of wild geese during the fall. Thirty-one species were listed through the month of January.

---Ruskin S. Freer



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No. 3

At the suggestion of the Executive Committee this issue of THE RAVEN is devoted almost entirely to the paper on "A Brief History of Virginia Ornithology" read by the Editor at the Norfolk Meeting.

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In accordance with our practice in the past, this is the last issue of THE RAVEN which can be mailed to members in arrears for the current year. However, those who wish to have their subscription continued through this year and who cannot remit dues at present are urged to write the secretary to that effect at once. Address such letters to Dr. Florence Hague, Sweet Briar, Virginia.

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It has been decided by the Executive Committee that the next Annual Meeting of the V. S. O. will be held in Alexandria. Because of the location of Alexandria on the Potomac where such large numbers of water-fowl are to be found in winter and because of its proximity to the National Museum and the Headquarters of the Biological Survey in Washington, an interesting program, both indoors and outdoors, may be expected at this meeting.

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PROPOSED CONSOLIDATED MIGRATION REPORT

Instead of publishing scattered migration notes in each issue of THE RAVEN this spring, the Editor requests contributors to save all migration data and send it in in one contribution just before the first of June. Please list the species and give the following data under each species in three columns: First, date first seen and number seen on that date; Second, date when it first became common, or at least most common; Third, date last seen. For species that winter, state in the first column "winter res.," and for breeding species, state in the last column "summer res." These will be combined and a consolidated list published, probably in the June issue. This will make the data more readily available to readers. This does not mean that no notes should be sent in until June. All unusual records and notes of interest, apart from migration data, should be sent in monthly as usual.

CORRECTION

An error in the Editor's note on page 7 in the February issue should be corrected. The sentence which reads "The Least Sandpipers and the albino Canada Goose were seen in Virginia" should have had a "not" in it. These records were made not in Virginia but on the North Carolina side of the line.

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF VIRGINIA ORNITHOLOGY }

By James J. Murray

There is a surprising amount of literature on the ornithology of Virginia. This is the more interesting when it is remembered that there are few eastern states which have been worked so little in this field as Virginia. It is true that a few places have been covered intensively. I suppose that there is no place in this country and few in the world which have been given such detailed and continuous study as the region about Washington, D. C., which includes some Virginia territory. Cobb's Island, off the Eastern Shore, has long been a point of interest to ornithologists. There are also three or four other localities which have been well studied. But, although Virginia is one of the oldest of the states, it has had few bird students, and the difficulties which our Virginia Society of Ornithology has faced are evidence of the lack of interest in bird study in the State even today. Nevertheless, when the ornithological notes from the points which have been worked are tabulated, the total is impressive.

Ornithological observations in Virginia date back to the earliest years of the seventeenth century. The earliest bird notes from the North American continent, according to a paper read at the last meeting of the A. O. U., come from Canada and are to be found in a description of Bird Rock in the writings of Jacques Cartier (1534), one of the early French explorers. (Cf., "THE AUK", January, 1933, p. 68). Strange to say, the ornithological notes from the far southwestern State of New Mexico antedate all others in the United States by virtue of the observations made on Coronado's expedition in 1540--1549. (Cf., "Birds of New Mexico," by Mrs. F. M. Bailey, pp. 1 and 15). North Carolina comes first among the eastern states, notes of birds having been made at Roanoke Island in 1584 by Captain Barlowe and in 1586 by Thomas Hariot. (Cf., "Birds of North Carolina," by Pearson and the Brimleys, p. 1). Virginia comes third among the states, mention of the Red-winged Blackbird occurring as early as 1606 in the papers of George Percy, and a fairly extensive list of birds being given in 1610--1612 by William Strachey, one of the Jamestown colonists, in his book "The Historie of travaile into Virginia Brittainia," which was printed many years later (1849) in London for the Hakluyt Society. At the last meeting of the A. O. U., Mr. Bayard H. Christy read a valuable paper on "Topsell's Fowles of Heaven," which he has kindly permitted me to see in manuscript and which gave an account of another early Virginia list. Edward Topsell, an English

clergyman of the early seventeenth century, published a "Historie of Four-footed Beastes" (1607) and a "Historie of Serpents" (1608) and began a third book on "The Fowles of Heaven" which he did not complete and which was not published. It dates from 1613 or 1614. This unfinished manuscript is now in the Huntington Library at San Marino, California. In this book sixteen birds are mentioned as from Virginia, including the Thrasher, Bluebird, Flicker, Blue Jay, Red-winged Blackbird, Towhee, and Sandhill Crane, some of them pictured. This manuscript is of great importance in the history of American ornithology. Dr. T. S. Palmer, in a write-up of the A. O. U. program ("The Auk," January, 1933, pp. 66,67) says that this "so far as known is the earliest list of American birds," but overlooks Strachey's list referred to above.

The birds records of Virginia thus go back farther even than those of New England, the first of which were in 1622. ("Birds of New Mexico," p. 1). About the same time Capt. John Smith (1612) and Raphe Hamor (1615) give lists of some of the birds in their writings. Thomas Glover (1676); Rev. John Claytor (in a long letter, 1685); Beverley ("The History and Present State of Virginia," 1705); Col. William Byrd of Westover ("History of the Dividing Line betwixt Virginia and North Carolina," 1728); Rev. Andrew Burnaby ("Travels," 1759); and Thomas Jefferson ("Notes on the State of Virginia," 1781) - all furnish data, mostly of merely antiquarian interest. All of these Virginia books are surveyed by Dr. William C. Rives in his "Catalogue." The more important general works of Mark Catesby (1731) and William Bartram (1791) treat of the natural history of the whole south-eastern section of the United States. In the next century the monumental works of Wilson and Audubon contain references to Virginia.

There is great need of a complete bibliography of Virginia ornithology. The only bibliography on the subject with which I am acquainted is that which is to be found in Dr. Rives' book. This does not claim to be exhaustive, but, after describing some of the earliest works, gives only a list of the more important titles from 1862 to 1890. This should be enlarged and brought down to date. This paper is intended as a preliminary sketch of the more significant references in a bibliography of Virginia ornithology.

I. Books

We may begin with the very small group of books on the subject. 1. The first scientific treatise on the birds of this region is Mark Catesby's great book on "The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands." Mark Catesby was an English naturalist, born in Sudbury, England, died December 23, 1749. His first visit to America was to Jamestown, where his sister had married Dr. William Cocks, Secretary of the Colony. Here he stayed from 1712 to 1717. Family

tradition relates that he spent a large part of his time when in Virginia with the Woodfords in Caroline County. Mrs. Woodford was a daughter of Secretary Cocke and thus a niece of Catesby. He gathered a great many specimens, which, when he took them back to England, so interested Sir Hans Sloane, then President of the Royal Society, and other scientists, that he was inspired to return to America for further collections. This time he visited the Carolinas, although there is some doubt as to whether he ever touched what is now North Carolina (cf., "Birds of North Carolina," p. 3), and points farther south, in Georgia, Florida and the Bahamas. It is evident that, although Virginia is not named in the title of his book, it was Virginia that first inspired his work and furnished him his first material. Much of the material of the book is directly or indirectly pertinent to Virginia. Catesby was an artist as well as a scientist and gave us our first paintings of American birds. "When he returned to England, he endeavored to have his work published, but as he insisted upon his paintings being etched, he found the expense of publishing the work greater than he could afford. He was not daunted by this obstacle, but learned etching himself and published the work in the form that he desired." (From an unpublished address by T. Catesby Jones). The work, in four quarto volumes, is a beautiful book, one of the rarest and most valuable titles in American ornithology. The copy at the Library of Congress is kept locked in a screened room in the rare book department. It was Catesby who first described and named most of our common southern birds. With the perfection by Linnaeus of the binomial system of nomenclature these names were changed and although Linnaeus depended for his North American material almost entirely upon Catesby's work it has fallen out, as Dr. Witmer Stone has observed, that "in our present nomenclature we have nothing to perpetuate the work of this worthy man." On March 24, 1929, a tablet presented by Mr. T. Catesby Jones of New York, a descendant of the Catesby family, was unveiled in Bruton Parish Church at Williamsburg, in memory of Mark Catesby. The inscription closes with these words: "The first naturalist to describe most of our common birds, to introduce to cultivation the catalpa and other useful plants and to observe the effect of altitude upon geographical distribution. A pioneer in American science whose energy and enthusiasm preserved for posterity the fruits of his labor."

2. The most important modern work in this field is the book by William Cabell Rives, M. D., entitled "A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias," which appeared in October, 1890. Dr. Rives, a physician now retired and living in Washington, D. C., is a member of the well known Albemarle County, Virginia, family of that name. He spent much time during his youth in that county, and his first paper of any importance was "A List of the Birds of Cobham, Va." (Newport, R. I., 1884). He lived for some time at Newport, Rhode Island. He has been an Associate of the A. O. U. since 1885, and a Member since 1901. His book on Virginia was published not in this state, strange to say, but at Newport, R. I., as Document VII of the "Proceedings of the Newport Natural History Society." It was published only in paper covers, so far as I know, and is now very scarce. The copy which I have is the only one which I have seen listed in the catalogues during the past five years. It contained exactly one

hundred pages. This book treated of the birds of both Virginia and West Virginia. However, there are only two species listed for which there are no Virginia references. The first section of the book, as has been noted, gives a full and intensely interesting account of the early books of travel which touched on Virginia birds. Then follows the bibliography of 23 titles. There are no illustrations except an excellent ornithological map showing the faunal zones of the two states. With it is an admirable discussion of these zones and of the geographical divisions, with their characteristic plants, birds, and mammals. The body of the book, 53 of its 100 pages, gives a fully annotated list of the birds of the two states, 305 species being noted. The literature of the subject had been carefully searched, and all important records are included. The book closes with a hypothetical list of 40 species. This book is the most important piece of work that has been done on the ornithology of Virginia. The material is presented in a thoroughly scientific manner. This catalogue was all that could be desired in its day, and, indeed, it would be hard today to suggest any improvement in its method without considerably enlarging its scope. The only lack that I have been able to discover in the book is that, while Dr. Rives studied carefully all the literature at hand, there was one important source of information of which apparently he did not avail himself. He does not seem to have examined the collections in the U. S. National Museum nor the volumes in which the accessions to that museum were listed. He would have been able by this method to have added to his list, for example, a record of the Cabot's Tern collected by Ridgway at Cobb's Island on July 12, 1880; two records of the Long-billed Dowitcher collected by Ridgway and Marshall at Bone Island, July 14, 1880; and a record of a Stilt Sandpiper taken by P. L. Jouy at Cobb's Island, July 23, 1880; all of which species he puts on his hypothetical list. Mr. C. F. Batchelder, then Associate Editor with Dr. J. A. Allen of "The Auk," in a review of this book in "The Auk" (VIII, 1891, No. 1, January, pp. 105, 106), said of it: "This catalogue of the birds of Virginia and West Virginia is so admirably proportioned and so carefully worked out in its details, that it might well serve as a model for works of its kind. ... The literature of the subject has been searched with extreme thoroughness, and selected with excellent judgment. We are told the things we want to know, and few if any records of importance have been overlooked."

3. Next in time and in importance is "The Birds of Virginia," by Harold H. Bailey (J. P. Bell & Co., Lynchburg, Va., 1913, 8vo, pp. xxiii, 362, with map, 14 colored plates and 108 illustrations.) This book contains a mass of valuable data, especially on nests and eggs. The title of the book is somewhat misleading, since it is not a State list but treats only of the breeding birds, and is largely limited to the coast and Tidewater region and to a few sections of the mountains. It lists about 170 species for which breeding data are given, 5 introduced breeders, and 7 hypothetical breeders. Dr. Witmer Stone in reviewing it in "The Auk" (XXX, 1913, No. 4, October, pp. 594, 595) says of the book that it is calculated to stimulate interest in birds in the State. He says, however, that the book is "frequently lacking in the detailed data that characterize modern ornithological work." Nowhere else, however, can one find so much information about the nesting habits of Virginia birds.

4. Mention may be made of a little book on "The Natural History of Staunton, Virginia," by William Alphonse Murrill, Ph. D. (privately published, 1919, 8vo, pp xiii, 216), which deals mainly with plants but gives occasional lists of birds, compiled while the author was teaching at Staunton for four years in the late nineties. The author is a distinguished botanist of the New York Botanical Gardens but his knowledge of ornithology, at least at the time of these observations, must have been limited, and his bird lists are of little value. In a list of birds 'ordinarily' observed by himself about Staunton and Blacksburg he gives only 87 species but includes the Snowy Owl and the Sandhill Crane.

5. Attention should be called to a popular study of birds published in Virginia, "Aunt Chloe and Her Birds," by William Edgar Thompson (privately published at Bedford, Va., 1927, cloth, 208 pp., 8 color plates and 14 other illustrations). The author presents his nature material through the mouth of Aunt Chloe, an old negress who tells stories about the birds to a group of children, giving information about the life histories of Oriole, Blue Jay, Cardinal, etc. Dr. Stone says of it that "it is not only interesting reading but educational as well and should do much good in spreading an interest in birds and their protection.

6. Of very great importance in the history of Virginia ornithology is the series of small books and pamphlets that have appeared on the ornithology of the District of Columbia. Among these may be mentioned the following: "Avifauna Columbiana," by Elliott Coues and Daniel W. Prentiss (Bull. 26, U. S. Nat. Museum, 1883, pp 133, first issued under a different title in 1862); "Birds of Washington and Vicinity, including adjacent parts of Maryland and Virginia," containing a list of the birds of the region by Dr. Chas. W. Richmond, by Lucy Warner Maynard (Wash., 1898, pp 204 - revised edition, 1902, pp 210, illust.); and most valuable of all, "Birds of the Washington, D. C., Region," by Miss May Thatcher Cooke, which first appeared in 1921, and then in revised form, March 25, 1929 ("Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, Vol. 42, pp 1-80). This booklet, in paper covers, gives a sketch of the ornithological history and characteristics of the well-worked region about Washington, and then gives a fully annotated list of all forms that have been recorded in that territory, including in all 301 certain and 7 hypothetical and 3 hybrids. This book consolidates the data gathered by all the great ornithologists connected with the government departments and brings it down to date. It contains a bibliography of all important papers on the ornithology of the District. Next to Rives' "Catalogue" and Bailey's book, this is the most valuable contribution to Virginia ornithology, for while it deals specifically with the District of Columbia, that region is considered as including the adjacent parts of Virginia and Maryland within a radius of about twenty miles of the Capitol. It not only lists some Virginia forms for which there are no other records in the State and gives additional data on certain rare species, but provides a mass of data on migration and some careful sub-specific studies. It is our chief and almost our only source book for northern Virginia. The author is a sister of Dr. Wells W. Cooke, the great authority on migration, and is a member of the staff of the U. S. Biological Survey.

7. It will be of interest to mention another book, which deals not with Virginia but with the birds of a faraway country, because it is one of the few books on ornithology by a Virginian. This book, which is an interesting account of bird study in Colombia, South America, and the Island of Curacao, is entitled, "A Flying Trip to the Tropics." (Riverside Press, 1895, pp 194). It was written by Col. (then Lt.) Wirt Robinson, of the U. S. Army. Wirt Robinson was born on October 16, 1864, at "Fernley," the plantation of his grandfather, on the James River in Buckingham Co., Virginia, and died in Washington on January 20, 1929. (Cf., "The Auk," XLVI, 1929, No. 2, April, pp 282-284). During his youth he and his brother Cabell spent the winters at their father's home in Richmond and their summers studying natural history at "Fernley." He graduated at West Point in 1887, and held various army positions, finally serving as head of the department of chemistry at West Point until his retirement in 1928. While he was a cadet at West Point his father bought a place in Nelson County, across the river from "Fernley" but not far away. Here Col. Robinson spent his vacations when he was not abroad, and here he erected a brick building to house his insects and bird and mammal skins, which he collected assiduously wherever he went. His official duties took him on many extensive trips, and he used his vacation periods for collecting expeditions.

He made collecting trips to Colombia, Venezuela, Jamaica, Cuba, and Central America. He was interested in all forms of natural history but particularly in birds. He planned, after his retirement on October 16, 1928, to give all his time to natural history, spending his winters in Washington and his summers in Nelson County, but he lived for only three months. His collections were given to the National Museum. While they were not large, his collection of birds including only 1374 skins, they contained many rare specimens, especially of Virginia birds. Col. Robinson joined the A. O. U. as an Associate in 1897, and was elected a Member in 1901. In addition to his book he published about a dozen papers on ornithology, one of them being on "Some Rare Virginia Birds." ("The Auk," VI, 1889, No. 2, April, pp 194, 195). He also wrote, in collaboration with Dr. C. W. Richmond, a paper of some importance, entitled, "An Annotated List of Birds Observed on the Island of Margarita." (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, 1896, pp 649-685). This island is a part of Venezuela. Col. Robinson had collected 200 specimens of 73 species. Ten of these Dr. Richmond described in this paper as new, and two of them were named for Robinson - a heron (Butorides robinsoni), and a Cardinal (Cardinal robinsoni).

II. Periodical Literature

The more important papers on Virginia birds which have appeared in the ornithological journals consist, first, of a few technical articles, and, next, of a series which may be divided into several groups, according to the localities of which they treat.

1. Technical Papers. Of such papers, dealing with problems of ornithology in Virginia, there have been very few. If William Palmer

had lived longer there would probably have been more. William Palmer, a taxidermist and collector, attached to the U. S. National Museum from 1874 to his death in 1921, made quite a large personal collection of Virginia birds, which he finally presented to the University of Virginia. He was particularly interested in the molting of birds and in the distribution of sub-species. Two of his technical papers are of special interest for our purpose. In a paper on "Our Small Eastern Shrikes" ('The Auk', XV, 1898, No. 3, July, pp 244-258) he first recognized the migrant Shrike as distinct from the Loggerhead, and described its range in Virginia. He pointed out the probability that the Loggerhead occurs in the south-eastern corner of the State, but proof of this has not yet been obtained. In another paper on "Ecology of the Maryland Yellow-throat and Its Relatives" ('The Auk', XVII, 1900, No. 3, July, pp 216-242) he discussed the relations of the three forms of the Yellow-throat that occur in Virginia and described their distribution. It was Palmer who discovered in the collection of a young boy, Master P. Henry Aylett, of Aylett's, King William Co., the only Virginia specimen of Bachman's Warbler, a young male taken in 1892. It was he also who added to the Virginia list the Ruff, Wood Ibis, Prairie Marsh Wren and Western Palm Warbler. A sketch of his life, with portrait and bibliography, may be found in 'The Auk,' (XXXIX, 1922, No. 3, July, pp 305-321). Another technical paper, short but of very great interest to Virginia students is one entitled, "A New Song Sparrow from Virginia" ('The Auk,' XLI, 1924, No. 1, Jan., pp 147, 148), by J. E. Clyde Todd, in which he describes as new the Atlantic Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia atlantica). The type specimen a male from Smith's Island now in the U. S. Nat. Museum, is the only recent type, so far as I know, from Virginia. Prof. Ruskin S. Freer has an interesting paper on "Ecological Factors in Migration" in 'The Wilson Bulletin' (XLIII, 1931, Sept., pp 173-176), first read at the Richmond Meeting of the V. S. O. in 1931.

2. Cobb's Island. Cobb's Island, or as it is sometimes called, Cobb Island, is a narrow sand-spit five miles long and eight miles out from the mainland, just north of Cape Charles, in Northampton County, Virginia. In the shallow sound are other low and marshy islets. It is owned, with the exception of a Coast Guard Station Reservation, by Capt. George Cobb, who acts as an Audubon Society Warden. Cobb's Island, with other similar islands off the eastern shore of Virginia, is a famous breeding place for sea birds, and has long attracted the attention of ornithologists. One of the celebrated habitat groups at the American Museum of Natural History represents the "Summer Bird-Life of Cobb's Island, Virginia." In the very first issue of the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,' which was the predecessor of 'The Auk,' one of the leading articles, the only leading article in the eight volumes of the 'Bulletin' dealing with Virginia, was a paper by H. B. Bailey, father of Harold H. Bailey, "Notes on Birds Found Breeding on Cobb's Island, Va., Between May 25th and May 29th, 1875." It contained brief notes on breeding birds, both land and sea birds. This was the first notice of any consequence of the rich bird life of this part of Virginia. Since that time it has had a wide and deserved popularity among ornithologists. The most recent report on the bird life of the island was made in an article in

'Bird-Banding' (III, 1932, Jan., pp 12-25), "Cobb Island," by C. L. Austin, Jr. On a visit from June 23 to July 6, 1931, he found an almost unbelievable number of some species, although other species had greatly decreased since early days. He found, for example, 6200 pairs (incorrectly tabulated in his summary) of Laughing Gulls, the only gull that nests in our latitude; 1000 pairs of Black Skimmers; 400 pairs of Forster's Terns; and 200 pairs of Common Terns. Caspian and Royal Terns have disappeared from the region, and Least and Gull-billed Terns and Willets are much diminished. Austin summarizes in a chart the numbers of birds of each species listed in all former reports on the island which have appeared. These need not be listed here.

3. The Dismal Swamp. The first ornithological mention of the Dismal Swamp occurs in Col. William Byrd's "History of the Dividing Line" (1728), and is altogether negative. "Since the surveyors had enter'd the Dismal," he writes, "they had laid eyes on no living Creature: neither Bird nor Beast, Insect nor Reptile came in View. Doubtless, the Eternal Shade that broods over this mighty Bog, and hinders the sun-beams from blessing the Ground, makes it an uncomfortable Habitation for any thing that has life. Not so much as a Zealand Frog could endure so Anguish a Situation ... Not even a Turkey-Buzzard will venture to fly over it, no more than the Italian Vultures will over the filthy Lake Avernus, or the Birds in the Holy-Land over the Salt Sea, where Sodom and Gomorrah formerly stood." Those of us who have been in the Swamp know that his report of the lack of life there is as inaccurate as his terrible description of the Swamp is misleading. Although this place of mystery and enchantment is a paradise of bird life, comparatively few ornithologists have visited it. Dr. Paul Bartsch, of the National Museum, accompanied by William Palmer, John W. Daniel, Jr., and two others, visited the Dismal Swamp in the middle of June, 1897, spending a week; and again in early June, 1899, Bartsch and Palmer spent a week at the crude hotel that then stood at the junction of the Washington and Jericho Ditches, near the north-western corner of Lake Drummond. In an article on "A Trip to the Dismal Swamp" that ran through three numbers of 'The Osprey' in 1901 (Vol. V, pp 35-37; 55, 56; 67-79) Dr. Bartsch wrote a description of the Swamp and the Lake and an account of the bird life there. In this paper, which was freely illustrated with photographs, he gives some extremely interesting notes on the Prothonotary and Swainson's Warblers; tells of Swifts nesting in hollow cypresses, discusses the status of the Yellow-throats of the Swamp, and closes with a list of 53 species observed on the two trips. It may be mentioned that a Cormorant taken on the first of these trips is listed by Bartsch as a Florida Cormorant. This specimen, now in the museum at the University of Iowa, was recently examined by Dr. H. C. Oberholser, who says that it is a Double-Crested Cormorant. John W. Daniel, Jr., who was in the party on the first trip, gives an account of the visit in an article on "Summer Birds of the Great Dismal Swamp." ('The Auk', XIX, 1902, No. 1, Jan., pp 15-18). Daniel was the son and namesake of the noted Virginia Senator, and was reared at Lynchburg. In 1897 he took a pair of Bachman's Sparrows, with nest and eggs, on Blackwater Creek, Lynchburg. This was the first record for the State and the farthest north breeding record at that time. He contributed a number of notes to 'The Auk'

around 1900, and was also the first man to report the Black Vulture from Virginia. He later lived in Washington, but died some years ago. One of Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson's first field trips was made into the Dismal Swamp in 1892, and written up by him in the 'Ornithologist and Oologist,' Feb., 1903. So far as I know, these are the only articles on this interesting region which have appeared in ornithological journals, although there have been brief notes from H. H. Bailey and others, Dr. A. K. Fisher described the capture in the Dismal Swamp of the First Swainson's Warbler for Virginia. ('The Auk,' XLL, 1895, No. 3, July, p 20).

4. The High Mountains. The bird life of Virginia represents the four major faunal zones of the eastern United States - from the Austro-riparian region of the Dismal Swamp and the south-east corner; through the Carolinian that covers all the rest of the State outside the mountains, including the floor of the Valley; to the Alleghanian that takes in most of the mountain region; and on up to the Canadian Zone islands on the higher mountain tops. Very little has been written on the two mountain zones. Dr. William C. Rives wrote of the mountain top bird life in two early papers, "Notes on the Birds of the Salt Pond Mountain, Virginia," ('The Auk,' III, 1886, No. 2, April, pp 156-161); and "Notes on the Birds of White Top Mountain, Virginia." ('The Auk,' VI, 1889, No. 1, Jan., pp 50-53). Salt Pond is the old name for the well-known Mountain Lake. The latter of the two papers is the more valuable. On White Top, the highest mountain of the State, except for its slightly higher twin peak, Balsam, he found typical Canadian Zone territory, with Brown Creepers, Sapsuckers, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets present in the breeding season. In 'The Wilson Bulletin' (XXXIX, 1927, Dec., pp 228-230) Mr. John B. Lewis wrote "A Brief Study of Canadian Life Zone Birds in Highland Co., Va.". In a trip to the higher mountains of this county in early June, he and Mr. M. G. Lewis found a Sapsucker's nest and saw a Magnolia Warbler. William Palmer had an article on "August Birds of Stony Mountain" in 'The Osprey'. (I, 1902, Jan., pp 9-12).

5. Local Lists. For the student of the ornithology of a state adequate and accurate local lists are a necessity. Yet there are very few of these for Virginia.

(1) Amelia County. One of the earliest of such lists in Virginia, aside from the Washington region lists, was a paper by Percy Evans Freke, "On Birds Observed in Amelia County, Virginia," published in Ireland as Vol. III, Part III, 'Scientific Proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society' (Read Feb. 21, 1881). I have not been able to get any information about Freke, except that he was a Britisher. His paper was a freely annotated list of 112 species, based on six years of observations in Amelia. He mentions the Ruffed Grouse as a not common resident, and also makes the mistake of listing the Myrtle Warbler in the summer. He was also the author of a paper "On European Birds Observed in North America," and of another on "A Comparative Catalogue of Birds found in Europe and North America."

(2). The most important local list ever published for Virginia is the Montgomery County list, prepared by Dr. Ellison A. Smyth, Jr.,

formerly of the Biology Department of V. P. I. and now of Salem, Va., and presented in two papers in 'The Auk' - "Birds Observed in Montgomery County, Virginia," (XXIX, 1912, No. 4, Oct., pp 508-530), and "Additional Notes on the Birds of Montgomery Co., Virginia." (XLIV, 1927, No. 1, Jan., pp 44-46). This remarkable list records 208 species of birds found within ten miles of Blacksburg. It covers a period of thorough work from 1891 to 1925. It is particularly rich for a mountain list in its water bird records, of which it includes 57 species. In the list are such rarities as the first Franklin's Gull taken east of the Mississippi and a Black-capped Petrel, the third record for the United States. It is a list of which Virginia bird students can well be proud, not only because of the large number of species in it but because of the scientific care with which it is presented. Dr. Smyth has at his home near Salem a small museum in which is housed the best collection of birds in the State, as well as a splendid collection of moths. Dr. Smyth also wrote a pamphlet, entitled "Notes on the Feeding Habits of the Common Hawks and Owls of Virginia." (Bull. No. 38, Va. Agric. and Mech. College, March, 1894, pp 23-39).

(3). Another list for east central Virginia is to be found in a paper by Dr. G. C. Embury, of Cornell University, "A List of Birds Observed at Ashland, Virginia." ('The Auk,' XXVII, 1910, No. 2, April, pp 169-177). This list, which includes 114 species, was made within five miles of Ashland during the period from Sept., 1907, to June, 1908.

(4). The breeding birds of the central part of the Valley of Virginia were treated in a paper by H. B. Bailey, "Notes on Birds Breeding in the Mountains of Virginia," ('The Auk,' XXIX, 1912, No. 1, Jan., pp 79-84), an interesting and useful list with a few obvious errors, such as listing the Bronzed Grackle as the breeding form rather than the Purple, and a few records that are apparently doubtful, such as the breeding of the Brown-headed Nuthatch in that region.

Other short papers worthy of mention are: "Birds Observed at East Lake Goochland County, Virginia," by Robert W. Williams of Washington, D. C., in 'The Oologist' for April, 1922, and January, 1923; "All Day with the Birds at Durmid, Va." (near Lynchburg), by W. F. Henninger, in 'The Wilson Bulletin,' (Xii, 1905, June, pp 58-61); and a paper on "Bird Study at the University of Virginia Summer School," with a list of 91 summer residents of that neighborhood, contributed by Mr. J. Bowie Ferneyhough, a member of our Society, to 'Bird-Lore,' (XVI, 1914, July-August; pp 290-292). It is not possible to mention the shorter notes that have been contributed from Virginia to the ornithological magazines, although some of these ^{are} very important. The most significant of them have been summarized in the paper on "Additions to the Virginia Avifauna Since 1890," which was read at the last annual meeting of the V. S. O. I feel that the most important recent list for the State is the "Consolidated List of the Birds of Nine Local Regions," representing 279 species, which was published in 'The Raven' for February, 1931.

J. J. Murray,
Lexington, Virginia.



THE RAVEN

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DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR

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THE NEXT ISSUE

Because of the way in which the material for the April and May issues has come in it has seemed best to combine them into one issue of double size.

The announcement was made in the March issue that the June issue would be devoted to a consolidated migration report. After some experimenting with this idea the Editor has come to the conclusion that this would take more space than the records for a single season would justify. Consequently this plan has been abandoned, and contributors are asked to disregard that announcement. However, the most important migration dates will be published in June, along with other articles as usual. Contributors are asked to make their reports full and leave it to the Editor to cut them as may be necessary.

The emphasis in the June issue will be on nesting notes. Please send in as soon as possible after June 1st all nesting data secured for the season up to that time.

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LOCAL LISTS

Again the Editor requests that every member of the Society send in a complete local list from his or her region, unless such a list has already been brought up to date. A new local list for Harrisonburg has been received from Prof. D. Ralph Hostetter, and several annual lists of summer residents of the Charlottesville region from Mr. J. Bowie Ferneyhough. Mr. A. O. English has sent in corrections and additions for the list from Norfolk and the Hampton Roads region. These, with the lists reported in the February issue, are now in the files of the Society. We are anxious to get full local lists from as many places in Virginia as possible, especially from the eastern part of the State, where our records are weakest. New matter from these lists will be published sometime in the fall, when copy is not so abundant as at present.

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DR. MURRAY SPEAKS ON DISMAL SWAMP TRIP

Our Editor, Dr. J. J. Murray, recently gave the address before

the first annual public meeting of the Specs Club at Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va. This Club is an organization of students and faculty members in the natural and social sciences in the College. Dr. Murray's subject was "The Birds of the Dismal Swamp." He described his experiences on a four-day trip in the Swamp a year ago. An interesting account of the geological history of the Dismal Swamp was given, and the finding of numerous Prothonotary Warblers, two Northern Phalaropes and two family groups of the Wayne's Warbler were described. The interest of the subject and Dr. Murray's effectiveness as a speaker made the talk a very appropriate one for the occasion.

---Ruskin S. Freer.

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PAPERS ON VIRGINIA ORNITHOLOGY

A reprint of the paper, "Additions to the Virginia Ornithology Since 1890," which was published in the April, 1933, issue of "The Auk," has been provided by Dr. Murray for each member of the V. S. O. and sent to them without charge. Others may obtain these reprints at 25¢ each. Additional copies of the March issue of THE RAVEN, containing "A Brief History of Virginia Ornithology," by J. J. Murray, may be obtained for 25¢. Complete volumes of THE RAVEN for 1930, 1931, and 1932 are available at \$1.50 per volume. Orders for any of these should be sent to the Secretary, Miss Florence Hague, Sweet Briar, Virginia.

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TENNESSEE AVIFAUNA

The Tennessee Ornithological Society has just published two valuable booklets on the birds of that State. Tennessee Avifauna, No. 1, "A Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee," 64 pages, price 50¢, provides a complete list of the birds of the State, arranged in three columns, giving the status of each species in East, Middle, and West Tennessee, and much other matter of interest on ornithology. It is the only modern list for the State and should be obtained by bird students in all the surrounding states. Tennessee Avifauna, No. 2, is a 24 page paper on "The Water Birds of Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee," price 35¢. Mr. Albert F. Ganier is the author of both publications. They may be secured from The Tennessee Ornithological Society, Box 341, Nashville, Tennessee. The Society also publishes a quarterly, THE MIGRANT, at 60¢ per year.

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CORRECTIONS TO "A BRIEF HISTORY OF VIRGINIA ORNITHOLOGY"

Several errors in the article in the March issue on "A Brief History of Virginia Ornithology" have been brought to the attention of

the Editor. First, the date of the publication in the "Ornithologist and Oologist" of the account of Dr. Pearson's trip to the Dismal Swamp was 1893 instead of 1903. Second, Mark Catesby's work on the "Natural History of Carolina" was originally issued in two folio volumes, 1731-1748. The reference to a four volume quarto edition was an error. Third, it should have been stated that the original source of the history of Catesby as an engraver was Edwards, the editor of the second edition of Catesby. Fourth, the bird collection of William Palmer was willed in the main to the U. S. National Museum. Mr. J. H. Riley tells me that only about 500 of them, probably about one-fourth of the whole, were given to the University of Virginia.

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Mr. Charles D. Klotz, of Ripplemead, Va., writes that he is just starting a survey of the birds of Giles County. He is spending a good deal of time in work at Mountain Lake, where not much has been done except in the summer. His studies should bring us some interesting information.

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The members of the Virginia Society of Ornithology will feel a keen sympathy with Mrs. Mary D. Dise in the recent death of her husband. Mrs. Dise had an active part in the organization of our society and has followed its work with a great deal of interest.

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NESTING OF THE GREAT HORNED OWL AT AMELIA, VIRGINIA

From my home a brisk walk of twenty-five minutes takes me to the border of a tract of two or three hundred acres of mixed woods. It occupies a gently rolling ridge and is surrounded by dairy farms. A small stream flows near the west side, separated from the forest by a belt of cultivated low-grounds. For more than two years I have had under observation a pair of Great Horned Owls that make their home in this woods, having seen them frequently when rambling through it, and having heard their hooting at the close of cloudy days and at night. Due to the limited time I have for study a-field, most of the observations here recorded were made in the last half hour before dark. I began searching for the nest of these owls at Christmas, but it was February 2nd, when at last I saw a tail protruding over the edge of a dilapidated looking old crow's nest in the top of a medium sized shortleaf pine, about thirty feet from the ground. When I struck the base of the tree with my foot a few times the owl flew from the nest and at once went out of sight.

My next visit to the nest was on February 11, a rather warm afternoon. The old owls were not at the nest. I waited near it about twenty minutes. During the last half of that time low, twittering squeaks were heard at intervals of about a half minute, indicating

that the young owls were hatched. On the afternoon of Feb. 13 the nest was again visited. This time one of the old owls was brooding and when I struck on the base of the tree she flew about sixty yards, and lighting on a limb, looked at me with horns and feathers erected, snapping her bill threateningly for a half minute and then flew out of sight. A few minutes later both owls began hooting from a distance that just kept them out of sight. On Feb. 19 a cold wind was blowing and I found one of the owls on the nest where it sat tight, with the top of the head and erected horns showing. I made no attempt to flush it, leaving it brooding its family. On visiting the nest just before dark, Feb. 23, I found the old owls away from the nest, but they hooted in concert from just out of sight. At the base of the nest tree were several tail feathers about $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, that were afterward identified by Mr. C. O. Handley as those of a domestic pigeon.

On Feb. 26 the nest was visited in company with Miss Mary C. and Mr. H. J. Sheppard, V. S. O. members of this county. We had with us a pair of lineman's climbers and attempted to ascend a thin barked pine that stands about eight feet from the nest tree. Being without experience in the use of climbers, we could not make the spikes hold; and after many jokes and much laughter we gave it up. The old bird was on the nest this time and flew away when the base of the tree was struck. A good sized piece of a rabbit with some of the fur on it could be seen on the edge of the nest.

When I reached the nest at sunset on March 1, the old owls were away. I sat at the base of a tree about fifty yards away from the nest, and in a few minutes one of the owls came to a tree just beyond the nest from me, where it sat for two minutes, snapping its bill. At this time there was much white excrement on the ground beneath the nest. At midday, March 4, the nest was visited in company with a group of our V. S. O. members from Richmond, but nothing was seen or heard of the owls. On the evening of March 7 the weather was clear and warm after a day of rain. One young owl was moving about quite actively on the nest. At one time he threw up a wing that showed flight feathers well started. Both old owls hooted from just out of sight in the woods. The head of a full grown rabbit was found on the ground under the nest. The young birds gave a twittering, three-syllabled call, like the one heard Feb. 11, but much louder. At one time one of the old birds uttered a hoarse, nasal cack-cack that was different from anything I have heard from Bubo before.

March 10, after a rather violent wind, a half peck of material from the old, rotten nest was found on the ground. March 12 a group of interested friends from Richmond accompanied me to the nest. The gray forms of the young owls were clearly seen above the nest and the first pellets of the indigestible parts of the food swallowed were found beneath it. March 16 I found that another portion of the nest had fallen. One owlet was sitting on the remnant of the nest, and the other was on a limb about two feet above, and a little to one side of it. The youngsters faced me continually in true owl fashion as I walked about the nest tree; their **black** bills and eyes showed up

strangely in contrast with the gray feathers. As nearly as I could decide with 6 power glasses at about fifty feet, the iris of these birds is black at this age, instead of yellow as in the adult. An embryo rabbit $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long was found at the foot of the nest tree, as well as a number of pellets.

When I went to the nest tree March 18, the young owls were gone. A half hour's search of the surrounding woods failed to locate them. A number of pellets and the shoulder of a rabbit were found under the nest tree. The period from the date when the young owls were first heard until they were gone was just five weeks. They may have been a few days old when first heard. The pellets that were found under the nest and a still greater number that were found where the old birds had roosted during the day have been given to Mr. C. O. Handley for analysis. He will report on them later.

---John B. Lewis.

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NOTES ON A TRIP TO THE EASTERN SHORE

Feb. 14. About a quarter mile off shore from Old Point a horned grebe was seen sitting quietly on the water near at hand. Fog and rain cut visibility to a few hundred feet. A large flock of gulls, most of them herring gulls, flocked about the ferry at Cape Charles.

Feb. 15. A flock of about 200 crows were seen in Northern Northampton County at about 8:30 A.M., indicating a roost in that vicinity. Near Keller, Accomac County, a flock of about 500 starlings were seen. Harry Bunting, the County Game Warden, says starlings have become so destructive to corn in the shock in the county that the farmers have taken to shooting them. A flock of about 15 American Mergansers was seen in the marsh near Chincoteague. One sparrow hawk was seen near Accomac C. H., and bluebirds were common along the highway in both counties. Hanging nests of the Baltimore oriole were seen at several places in Accomac County, the most southern one at Tasley.

Feb. 16, 6:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon. Trip from Wachapreague to Swash Bay and return on patrol boat Rosalee, accompanied by Harry Bunting. Crow, 8; Boat-tailed Grackle, 75~~/~~; Turkey Buzzard, 4; Horned Grebe, 100~~/~~; Common Loon, 2; Herring Gull, 200~~/~~; Great Blue Heron, 2; American Merganser, 40~~/~~; Black Duck, 50~~/~~; Lesser Scaup, 800~~/~~; Scoter (Var.?) 50~~/~~; Shorebirds, 150~~/~~; flying at a distance; Myrtle Warbler, 1. Horned Grebes were common, from one to a half dozen being in sight most of the time. About 40 were seen at one point in Swash Bay. During the afternoon near Chincoteague, 500~~/~~ Brant, 75~~/~~ Lesser Scaup, 3 Crow, 50~~/~~ Herring Gull and one Lesser Yellowlegs were seen. The Brant were resting on the water about a quarter of a mile from the highway but took flight as soon as our car stopped. The Yellowlegs was seen near at hand. E. J. Doughty, Game Warden of Northampton County, says a few Lesser Yellowlegs spend the winter in Northampton County.

Return trip from Cape Charles to Old Point, Feb. 18th, 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 A.M.; weather conditions: bright cloudy; haze in distance; temperature of about 60° F. and light wind to within half an hour of Old Point when temperature dropped and wind increased considerably making it necessary to seek cover. Gannet, 2; scattered flocks of White-winged and Surf Scoters for several miles coming out of Cape Charles harbor and at several points far out in the bay, 390 counted, the White-Winged predominating; Old Squaw, 6; American Merganser, 7; Loon and Red-Throated Loon, 31 (three seen near at hand were unmistakably the Common Loon; probably some of the others were of the same species, but most of them took flight too far away for positive identification); Bald Eagle, 1. ---C. O. Handley.

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WOODCOCK ON THE EASTERN SHORE

In the February number of THE RAVEN, I note the request for data on the Woodcock in Virginia, especially on the Eastern Shore. I live about twenty miles from the Point (Cape Charles). During the winter it is not unusual to find several Woodcock during a day's walk. Just before or during a storm you may find quite a few in some locations. Shortly after Christmas I walked for about two hours, and with the aid of a dog flushed perhaps fifteen birds. About a week before, during a storm, it was very easy to find many more than this. This was within a few miles of the Cape, in a location favorable to Woodcock.

---T. Hallet Badger, Birdsnest, Va.

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NOTES ON BACHMAN'S SPARROW

Available information on the Bachman's Sparrow in Virginia indicates that it is one of our uncommon birds. Two recent records for it should therefore be of interest, one for the Blue Ridge in Augusta County, and the other for the Piedmont in Campbell County.

I have been familiar with this species for many years, first finding it in eastern Tennessee in 1920. Later I found it breeding in central-western Ohio. I have two records for it in mid-April for Lynchburg. On April 14, 1933, as we were starting the four-day hike in the Blue Ridge described elsewhere in this issue, we had a splendid view of a singing male, at an elevation of about 2500 feet, just before reaching the base of "The Rocks" on Humpback Mountain. We watched it through 8x binoculars at a distance of about 35 feet for some time.

On April 22, 1933, we again heard the Bachman's Sparrow singing in a field along state highway 18, about 24 miles south of Lynchburg in Campbell County. As we were much limited for time we did not locate the bird, but trusted to its distinctive song for identification.

---Ruskin S. Freer.

APRIL BIRDS IN THE BLUE RIDGE

For some months a friend and myself, both members of the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club of Lynchburg, had been planning a four-day hike over our section of the Trail from Rockfish Gap on the state highway between Staunton and Charlottesville to Hotel Mons at the Peaks of Otter, a distance of over 92 miles. My companion was Mr. Chester Mann, a senior in Lynchburg College. Although the hard rain of Easter Sunday cut short our hike by one day, we reached Rocky Row Run Mountain on the James River at the end of the third day, covering a distance of 56 miles. Undertaken primarily to familiarize ourselves with the Trail, the trip also served to acquaint us with the bird life in the mountains at this time of the year. As the last day's hike was made in a continual downpour of rain, we really listed birds for only two days. Clothing, notes and glasses were all thoroughly soaked by the end of the third day.

The finding of the Bachman's Sparrow, reported elsewhere in this issue, was the first real record of the trip. As we were eating lunch on Devil's Knob on the first day, a Canada Goose flew over, heading north. We were interested in the facts that it was alone, and that it was late (April 14) for the migration of this species. Aside from these two species, there were no unusual birds noted. In fact, in looking over the lists for the two days, the most striking observation is that with a few exceptions, little migration was evident in the mountains. Compared with the lowlands, not only were many of the recent migrants lacking, but many of the year-round residents of lower altitudes were scarce. We saw only three starlings and one mockingbird.

The sixteen miles covered during the first day were largely through forests. On the second day, we were passing through cultivated country much of the time. In the high meadows around Montebello, we were somewhat surprised to find Vesper Sparrows fairly abundant, and we saw one Prairie Horned Lark, giving its flight song.

Of the species more likely to be found in the mountains, we saw several Pileated Woodpeckers, Ruffed Grouse, Hairy Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. We learned to distinguish the latter by his tattoo on dead limbs, the sound starting out rapidly like the other woodpeckers, but ending with a definite retarding movement.

A surprising observation was the fact that the most abundant species was the Flicker. Seventy-five individuals were observed in the two days, although the Junco was a close second with 74 individuals. No warblers were seen except for three Louisiana Water Thrushes. Two Winter Wrens and two Brown Creepers were seen, but no Kinglets were listed. A total of 41 species was listed on the two days that records were kept.

Early spring in the mountains is a rather barren season for field work with birds or plants. The red maple, for instance, has been observed for two years to be about two months behind its kind in the Piedmont in putting forth its flowers. Later on in the season, events take place with a rush, and the disparity between the mountains and the lower country is much diminished, as to progress of the season.

---Ruskin S. Freer.

WINTER ROOSTING HOLES

After the brown-headed nuthatches left the nest in the old cedar fence post last spring, I saw or heard them only a few times during the summer and not at all in the fall. Then, while taking a Christmas bird census on December 26, I came upon a group in some fine old pines in the edge of the village of Amelia, about a mile from the nest.

My next meeting with them was at sunset, February 5, when I found six in the edge of the woods near the old nest. I followed them while they moved rapidly from tree to tree through a wooded pasture until they gathered on an old rotten tulip poplar stub about six feet high, where the whole troupe entered a small hole, probably that of a downy woodpecker. Wishing to learn the number, and to get a close look at them, I tapped on the stump, and at once a brown-capped head appeared in the mouth of the hole, and in quick succession six of them darted out. This stump was about 300 yards from the post in which they nested last spring.

Late in the afternoon of February 7, a group of six, doubtless the same birds, were located in a pine woods about a half mile from the nest. Again at sunset, February 9, I went to the poplar stump and tapped, this time getting only a faint but clear nasal twittering that is characteristic of the species when feeding. None of them came to the opening.

I believe them to be the family that were hatched in the cedar post last spring, though there is no way of proving it.

Between sunset and dark, February 8, I visited the stump that had furnished a roosting place for the brown-headed nuthatches the night before. As I approached a pair of bluebirds were hovering around it, their actions suggesting trouble. On reaching the stump I saw a blue tail projecting about half its length from the hole. The owner of the tail was evidently making a great but unsuccessful effort to back out of the hole. After watching him for several minutes, I gave him assistance, and he flew away, followed instantly by another bluebird that slipped from the hole as soon as the first one cleared the entrance. It seems probable that with one bird already in the hole, the second one could not get down far enough to turn around, and could not back out of the small entrance on account of rubbing his feathers the wrong way.

On all these occasions the temperature was considerably below the freezing point.

---John B. Lewis

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FIELD NOTES

Alexandria. March 13: Mallard; Common and Red-legged Black Duck; Baldpate; Pintail; Shoveller; Canvasback; Scaups; male and female Bufflehead; small flock of Hooded Mergansers; American Merganser (about 75); Marsh Hawk; Herring Gulls in large flocks; Ring-billed Gull; Pine Warbler; Tree Sparrows; Fox Sparrows, common. March 16: Shovellers

(2 pairs); pair of Buffleheads; Horned Grebe (3); Bonaparte's Gull (3); Hermit Thrush. March 27: several Horned Grebes; Mallard; Black Duck; Baldpate, Pintail; Shoveller; Hooded Merganser (2 pairs); American Mergansers; Ring-billed Gulls, common; Bonaparte's Gulls; Hermit Thrush (2). March 28: Horned Grebe; Pied-billed Grebe; Hooded Merganser (2 pairs); Redbreasted Merganser (2 pairs); a flock of Savannah Sparrows; Bald Eagle. March 21: Whistling Swans on Hunting Creek, 32 of them. Miss Cooke of the Biological Survey says that this is the largest flock reported in this section for years. April 4: Whistling Swans (19) on Hunting Creek; Mallards; Baldpates (several dozen); Ring-necked Duck (1); Canvasback (2); Red-legged and Common Black Ducks (about 150); many Lesser Scaups; several Ruddy Ducks; American Merganser (1); (Dr. Oberholser saw two Green-winged Teals); a few Coots; Wilson's Snipe, plentiful; Yellow-legs (5); Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls; Myrtle Warblers, one or two; Yellow-throated Warblers (6 or 8); Rusty Blackbird (1); Purple Finch (1); Fox Sparrows (2); Swamp Sparrow (1); April 24: American Bittern; Woodcock; Black Duck; Baldpate (several); Greater Yellow-legs, common; Herring, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls, the latter common; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (pair nesting). April 25: Lesser Yellow-legs (2). April 27: Black Duck; Tree, Bank, and Barn Swallows, and Purple Martin; Hermit Thrush (4); a flock of Purple Finches. Three Caspian Terns seen, black feet and large red bill. April 29: One Blue-winged Warbler, and a couple of Crested Flycatchers. May 1: Scarlet Tanager. May 4: Cape May Warbler (1 or 2); Wilson's Warbler (male); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (pair); a male Canvasback; Bonaparte's Gulls, all in winter plumage, although I have been seeing them recently with fully black heads; Cardinal's nest with two eggs; Scaups (not common); Coot (4); Greater Yellow-legs; Ring-billed Gull (a few). ---William B. McIlwaine, Jr.

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Norfolk. First Robin, February 28; Geese, March 6, Flying North; Laughing Gull, April 8; Maryland Yellow-throat, April 10; Pine Warbler, April 12; House Wren, April 21; Wilson Snipe, April 21; Crested Flycatcher, April 25; Yellow Warbler, April 28.

---Jos. E. Gould.

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Norfolk. Mr. Vollmer, Ledger Dispatch photographer, gave me two Black Vulture eggs found by him in end of dead log, at Lake Joyce, May 1st. Eggs blown and found fresh. ---A. O. English.

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McKinney, Va. Monday, May 8, I was asked by a friend to identify a strange bird which has been found on a tennis court in a village. With the help of Chapman's "Color Key to North American Birds", we found it to be an "American Coot." Evidently this bird, in its northward migration, had been too tired to travel with the rest of its kind and had come to the ground exhausted. It showed very little fright, although it was somewhat restless in its temporary home, a

rabbit hutch. We took the bird, in a woomy box, to a pond and released it. As we caught it, it gave a low cackle. We put it into the edge of the water, but instead of swimming it walked rapidly along the edge of the pond and disappeared in the underbrush.

During the snow and sleet of last February I had a number of visitors at my restaurant, but was quite surprised one morning to see a Hermit Thrush helping himself to peanuts. That afternoon he ventured even nearer and ate peanuts with the English Sparrows on an oak stump about four feet from my window. He returned again and again and helped himself to the choice tidbits. As we were quite a distance from the woods this was a great surprise. I'd like to know if others have been so fortunate.

---Bernice Rives.

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Amelia. I found a greater yellow-legs on a small pond near here April 5, watching it for more than a half hour with my glasses. It seemed without doubt to be melanoleucus, as it was larger of body than a killdeer, and much longer in the legs and neck.

---John B. Lewis.

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Charlottesville. February 26th, Mourning Dove first "sings"; Fox Sparrows, Killdeers, Phoebes, a Purple Finch and a Brown Creeper. An odd Purple Finch or two here all winter, but much commoner in fall and spring. I should like to know the status of the Brown Creeper in Virginia; I have not seen one for two or three months; is it not a winter resident? Myrtle Warblers here all winter. Fox Sparrows absent during midwinter this year but present last winter. Mr. Barger reports a Redheaded Woodpecker in the city of Charlottesville on February 19. Apart from this one, the bird has been entirely absent from this vicinity during the last two winters. Mr. Barger also reports a woodcock in the city (flying) for February 23.

---Martin Curtler.

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Lynchburg. Two or three events of unusual interest have been noted during the past two or three months. Myrtle Warblers were unusually abundant about the middle of February, and were much diminished in numbers through March. On three occasions an unusual mode of behavior for Myrtles was noted. On February 16 while driving along a road near Lynchburg, a flock of birds was seen to alight in an alfalfa meadow. Catching only a glimpse of them, I stopped, thinking they might be early Pipits. They proved to be Myrtle Warblers, about fifty in number, feeding on the ground like so many sparrows. This behavior was noted again on February 18 and 19. It was quite a surprise to me to see these woods birds adopting the feeding habits of ground birds.

On March 17 at Timber Lake, Mr. Chester Mann and I heard the song of the Golden-crowned Kinglet. This is the first that I had heard it sing, realizing the identity of the songster. The song had a very

familiar sound, and I am wondering if I had attributed it to some other bird. Inquiries were sent to five other ornithologists, including Mr. Ellison A. Smyth, Jr., and Dr. Wm. C. Rives, asking for data on the singing of this bird in Virginia and none had any records or recollection of having heard it sing in this state. I also heard the song of the Hermit Thrush at Timber Lake on April 10. Its song lacked much of the richness and variety that it possesses in its summer breeding grounds. I heard it in such surroundings last summer for the first time in the mountains of Pennsylvania.

During March an egg of a vulture was brought to me by a student. It was obtained on March 10 on Tobacco Row Mountain in Amherst County. This seems to be an unusually early record for egg-laying for either vulture. The man who found the egg was unable to distinguish the species of the bird which flew from the nest.

It has been a very good season for observing ducks at Timber Lake. The largest flight of the season occurred on March 31, when 216 ducks were on the Lake. A flock of about sixty ducks was reported as being at the Lake on March 20, but I was unable to get out to see them. The flock of March 31 included several Baldpates, twenty-four Red-breasted Mergansers and about 184 Lesser Scaups. Two or three American Goldeneyes have been at the Lake for most of the spring. A female American Merganser, a female Shoveller, a male American Pintail and Blue-winged Teal, a number of Common Mallards, Common Black Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers and Horned Grebes have been seen. A single Ruddy Duck was seen at the Lake, and a male Bufflehead was seen on the river. The little Pied-billed Grebes have been common as usual.

My second record for the Yellow-throated Warbler was made on April 11, when we found it on the campus. ---Ruskin S. Freer

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Harrisonburg. On a recent field trip a number of us had the privilege of seeing the Prairie Horned Lark demonstrate his aerial evolutions. He was first observed standing on a flat rock in a grass field uttering a few broken notes. Suddenly he flew spirally skyward, singing his song which has been described as resembling the screeching produced by the wires when one crawls through a wire fence. Finally he appeared as a mere dark speck in the sky, probably six hundred feet above us. He maintained this altitude for approximately two minutes, singing all the while; then without a bit of warning he closed his wings and dashed headlong toward the earth. To save himself from being dashed to pieces, at the height of five feet above the ground he spread his wings, and gracefully circled around and landed on the same rock from which he "took off" several minutes before.

Another illustration of avian behavior is that of a Robin fighting his reflection in a window. A plum tree four feet from the window afforded an excellent perch from which to plan his attacks. The onslaughts were many and hard. A pane was broken by one of the insane thrusts. To prevent further damage to both window and bird, the party concerned tried various methods to thwart the bird's determination to

come in through the window. After several unsuccessful attempts, a window screen placed on the outside finally did tend to cool his ambition to whip his rival. An interesting feature of this performance was that there was nearly always a spectator present. For some reason, a female English Sparrow took delight in watching this Robin beat his head against the pane. She invariably perched on a limb nearby to observe.

---D. Ralph Hostetter.

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Blacksburg. During January I saw a Winter Wren (8th) and a Myrtle Warbler (29th), neither of which has ever been recorded in Montgomery County during this month. The latter also seen on February 26th. January: 6th; Fox Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker, Mockingbird. 21st, thousands of Starlings along the North Fork of the Roanoke River, probably 20,000 of them. A flock of as many or more were seen in the same locality on Nov. 10-15, 1932. 22nd and 29th, Fox Sparrow. February: 19th, Winter Wren, Robin (200). 26th, Myrtle Warbler, Cowbird, Prairie Horned Lark (2), Fox Sparrow, Robin (500).

---Ralph M. Brown.

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Lexington. Three new species have been added to the Rockbridge County list since the first of the year: (1). The most important of these additions was the Ring-billed Gull, a specimen of which was taken at Big Spring Pond on February 12th. The bird was an adult female that had been previously wounded and was very thin. The suffusion of blood in the crippled leg gave it a pinkish color and made field identification very difficult. In the dead specimen the other leg was seen to be of the normal yellowish-green. Twice when frightened the bird lit out in a field in the snow. (2). Canvasback - a female seen at Cameron's Pond, March 24. (3). Pigeon Hawk - After watching for this bird for many years I finally saw one near Cameron's Pond on April 13, and another on Jump Mountain the next day, having good views of both of them. Spring records are very few in Virginia.

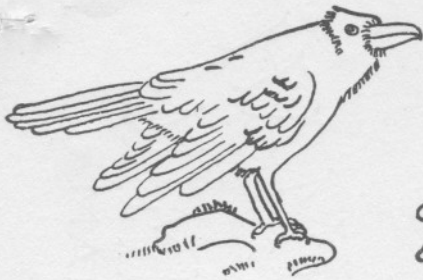
On April 14, I saw, high over Jump Mountain, a scattered flight of 17 Loons, a very unusual occurrence for the mountain country. They were too high for definite specific identification, though they seemed small enough for the Red-throated.

I have been interested this spring to determine whether the Warbler migration is earlier along the mountain tops or in the valleys. The data that I have gathered convinces me that they move much earlier in the valleys, as might be expected from the earlier coming of the leaves there.

A Horned Grebe stayed at Cameron's Pond from March 24 to April 13, showing a decided development in the nuptial plumage during this period. Two were seen at the town reservoir on March 31. This is the only time I have ever seen these birds in flight. They tried to leave the small pool. One could not clear the fence that surrounds the pool and dropped back in the water. The other left but soon returned.

Other records. -- Osprey, April 5, 6, 8; May 7 and 8. Marsh Hawk (female), 4/21. Ducks: Black, 3/13; Blue-winged Teal, common from 3/20 to 4/21, and a pair on 5/1; Green-winged Teal, pair on 4/1 (both species of teal seen lighting in a plowed field); Pintail, 5 on 3/1, and a pair on 4/5 and 4/6; Lesser Scaup, scarce this season, single males on 3/21 and 27, and 4/21; Ring-neck, pair on 3/21; Golden-eye, male on 3/21, female on 4/21; Ruddy, female on 4/3; Hooded Merganser, common from 3/20 to 4/21. Great Blue Heron, 3/2. American Bittern, 5/1; Snipe, abundant in April. Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, common from 4/5 to 5/8. Least Sandpiper, 5/5. Raven, 2 on 3/17. Least Flycatcher, 5/8. Cerulean Warbler, 4/30 and 5/2 (2). Northern Water-thrush, 5/1 and 15.

---J. J. Murray.



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THE NEXT ISSUE

Material for the July number of THE RAVEN should be sent in to the Editor by July 15th. Additional nesting records are particularly desired. There will be no August issue. Data collected after July 10th and before September 1st should be sent in as soon as possible after September 1st for the combined August-September issue. There are still some sections from which we do not have complete local lists. It is hoped that others will be sent in by September 1st, so that new and important material from these revised lists may be published in one of the fall issues.

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BIRDS SEEN ON WHITE TOP MOUNTAIN

May 5 to June 3, 1933 - Woodcock, 1 (5/10); Wilson's Snipe, 1 (5/11); Mourning Dove, 10; Turkey Vulture, 12; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1, 5/25; Red-tailed Hawk, 1 (5/30); Barred Owl, 10; Quail, 15; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Kingfisher, 1 (5/12); Starling, 20; Hairy Woodpecker, 12; Downy Woodpecker, 14; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 16; Flicker, 20; Whippoorwill, 6; Chimney Swift, 20; Humming Bird, 1; Crested Flycatcher, 5; Phoebe, 4; Peewee, 15; Least Flycatcher, 20; Acadian Flycatcher, 1; Blue Jay, 30; Northern Raven, 1 (5/6) and 2 (5/27); Crow, 20; Cowbird, 6 (5/30); Red-winged Blackbird, 6; Meadowlark, 4; Purple Grackle, 10; Goldfinch, 20; Vesper Sparrow, 4 (5/6); Chipping Sparrow, 10; Field Sparrow, 35; Junco, very common; Song Sparrow, 30; English Sparrow, common; Towhee, common; Cardinal, 2 (5/6); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, common; Indigo Bunting, common; Scarlet Tanager, common; Barn Swallow, 20; Red-eyed Vireo, common; Mountain Vireo, common; Black and White Warbler, 15; Parula Warbler, 1 (5/8); Yellow Warbler, common; Cairn's Warbler, common; Chestnut-sided Warbler, common; Blackburnian Warbler, 1 (5/8), 1 (5/19), 1 (5/20), 2 (5/28), 2 (6/2); Black-throated Green Warbler, common; Ovenbird, common; Louisiana Water thrush, 1 (5/20), 1 (5/28), 1 (6/1); Maryland Yellow-throat, 15; Yellow-breasted Chat, 2; Canada Warbler, very common; Catbird, common; Brown Thrasher, common; Carolina Wren, 6; Bewick's Wren, 10; House Wren, 15; White-breasted Nuthatch, common; Tufted Titmouse, common; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 (5/10); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1 (5/11); Wood Thrush, common; Veery, very common; Robin, very common; Bluebird, common.

---Ralph M. Brown,
Blacksburg, Va.

(Editor's note: White Top (5673) and its slightly higher twin peak, Balsam (5719), in Grayson County, are the highest points in Virginia, and consequently furnish the most typical Canadian Zone territory that we have. One of Dr. Wm. C. Rives' earliest papers described a trip to White Top. The present list is of considerable interest.)

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A DUCK HAWK'S NEST

For some time I have felt sure that a pair of Duck Hawks were nesting each year on a cliff on Jump Mountain near Goshen Pass in the western part of Rockbridge County, Virginia. On June 25, 1930, while at the top of the mountain with Mr. M. G. Lewis, we heard a series of loud screams and a Duck Hawk flew out from the cliff below us and sailed away across the valley. On April 14th Rev. John Grey and I made a trip to the mountain to look for a nest. Jump Mountain rises to a height of 3190 feet and has a cliff of several hundred feet at the top. When we walked out to the top of the cliff a Duck Hawk, which we later decided to be the male, flew out, cackling loudly, "chac - chac - chac, chac - chac - chac." This bird was in brilliant adult plumage. It rose higher and higher in circles until it went out of sight. From this time, which was about 10:30 A.M., until 2:30 it was in sight most of the time. After spending the rest of the morning on top watching other birds we went to the base of the cliff about 2:30 to search for the nest. As we came near the cliff the other bird, which was considerably duller and which, from her greater concern, we took to be the female, flew out. For the next three hours both birds were in sight all the time. The male did not appear to light anywhere all day, and certainly neither of them rested during these three hours. We first searched the wrong end of the cliff, the birds flying about not far away. When we came near the other end of the cliff the female flew near the cliff with a loud scream, somewhat like the squeal of a pig in pain, though a bit harsher. This was the only sound she made but it was repeated many times during the day, even when she was at a great distance in the air, while the only kind of sound the male made was the cackling note. When the female approached, the young answered from the cliff above us with a harsh "cheek - cheek - cheek, " showing us the approximate location of the nest. After this we heard no more sounds from the young birds. We were never able to reach the nest, as the cliff was too steep and dangerous for climbing. Under the nesting place were many droppings, a few feathers and some small bones. The old birds were always in sight and usually not far away, though at times they flew very high. A good deal of the time they were close together. The only difference we noted in their manner of flight was that the female on certain occasions fluttered her wings a great deal, while the male always flew with steady, rapid wing beats. Both of them did a lot of soaring, but he more than the female. Their exhibition of skill and power in the air was a thrilling sight. When we left the cliff we made our way rapidly down through the woods to an open field, one of us always

keeping the cliff in sight. At first the birds did not come any closer to the nesting place, but about ten minutes after we reached the open the female began coming nearer the nest and finally lit on a rock but left again in a moment. Ten minutes later she again lit at this point and we then lost sight of her, as she probably slipped to the nest. Almost immediately the male flew away, as if going for food before it became too dark. And then we had to leave them.

--- J. J. Murray,
Lexington, Va.

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A WOODCOCK'S NEST

Mr. Ralph M. Brown reports that on a trip along the Cowpasture River and Mill Creek in Bath County on April 28 and 29, 1933, he found a Woodcock's nest with eggs. Very few nests have been reported from western Virginia.

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LOUISIANA WATER THRUSH BREEDING IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA

Mr. Arthur H. Howell in his most excellent book "Florida Bird Life," states that the Louisiana Water-thrush breeds in Northern Florida, but not in Southern Florida. I lived in Arcadia, Fla., from September 15th, 1915, to February 1st, 1921, and made notes of all birds during that time. I possessed no dates on Florida birds; consequently I did not know whether I was recording common or rare birds. So that when the Louisiana Water Thrush was noted, it was just another bird added to my list.

On April 29th, 1915, I noticed a pair of Water-thrushes in a "bay head" near the railroad shops. The male bird was in full song. I felt very positive that they were nesting and made a search for it, but owing to the mud and water it was impossible to tramp through the center of the "head" without bogging up to one's knees. However, later on I saw both birds with food in their bills and uttering their alarm calls, but even then I could not trace them to their nest. They would disappear, to be seen again with bills empty.

I also located another pair in a similar site at Bradley Junction, some fifty miles north of Arcadia. The "Bay Head" was drained the following winter and the birds were not seen there again. I feel satisfied if a careful search should be made, that the Louisiana Water Thrush would be found to breed fairly common in Southern Florida.

--- Jos. E. Gould,
Norfolk, Va.

(This paper was read at the Norfolk Meeting of the V. S. O.)

BIRDS AND A SNAKE

One of my students, Melvin Ruth, a careful observer of birds, has had an unusual field experience. His account follows -

"While visiting in Hardy Co., W. Va., Sunday afternoon, June 11, 1933, my attention was called to an unusual stir among the birds congregated in a large poplar tree near the house. Among the various birds participating in the excitement were Robins, English Sparrows, Catbirds, and Yellow Warblers. The center of the fracas proved to be a robin's nest, thirty feet from the ground and approximately twelve feet from the main trunk of the tree. The dense foliage prevented a clear view and we looked in vain for the intruder, thinking it would be some bird of prey that was bent on robbing the nest. The owners of the nest seemed to be fagged out from their repeated and vicious darts of attack in the direction of the nest.

"Presently one of our group noticed a snake at the nest, and upon a more concentrated observation we could see the outline of its coils around the fork of the branches. Bird-dom was in distress and it certainly had our sympathy. The dense foliage prevented us from seeing whether or not the birds pecked the snake, but they were close enough. So earnest were the robins in their attacks that their frequent retreats became shorter and shorter. Finally when we saw the snake with a robin in its mouth, one of our party insisted that the blacksnake had charmed and caught one of the parent birds. To see our feathered friends helpless and in the clutches of a cruel marauder stirred us to action and a rifle was pressed into service. Three shots were fired. A rain of blood soon told us that the shots had taken effect. After some vigorous squirming the wounded snake with bird in mouth, started to make an escape, descending not by way of the main stem but falling from limb to limb, catching itself and holding on for brief periods before it finally fell to the ground. It still held tenaciously to its fluttering prey which it had succeeded in gulping down to its wings. The snake had two wounds, the most effective being about two feet back of its head. This made locomotion rather difficult, though it was still quite active. After failing to make a quick escape, it released its prey. This proved to be a young robin almost old enough to fly. Thus exploded the charming idea. The liberated bird was, at first, rather helpless. Its skin was lacerated around the neck just in front of the wings, undoubtedly from the snake's teeth. The bird seemed to recover rapidly when placed in the fork of a tree. A post mortem examination was made upon the snake which revealed that this was the second victim from that nest on this particular day. The blacksnake measured four feet eight inches. How it climbed the tree is a mystery. The tree is fully fifty feet high, almost two feet in diameter, and is exactly perpendicular to the ground level."

---D. Ralph Hostetter,
Harrisonburg, Va.

FIELD NOTES

The Editor regrets that it was found impracticable to publish the proposed consolidated migration report for the State. Complete reports were sent in for this purpose from several observers, and the more important material is published below. Because of the fact that we have published so little migration data from the coastal region the report from Mr. George C. Mason, of Newport News, is published in full. This report covers a period of five years, from 1928 to 1933, and the dates given are the earliest and latest for the whole period.

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The Mariners' Museum, Newport News - migration data, 1928 to 1933:
 Horned Grebe, 11/30/29 to 4/7/29; Pied-billed Grebe, 11/9/32 to 4/9/33,
 Laughing Gull, 3/20/29 to 12/1/32; Bonaparte's Gull, 10/12/32 to
 5/26/30; Black Skimmer, 6/30/29 to 9/4/29; Double-crested Cormorant,
 9/23/32 to 2/15/31; American Merganser, 11/2/29 to 4/13/33; Red-
 breasted Merganser, 11/3/32 to 5/1/29; Green Heron, 5/4/33 to 10/20/32;
 Coot, 10/10/32 to 5/7/33; Solitary Sandpiper, 5/12/29 to 9/17/29;
 Spotted Sandpiper, 4/25/33 to 9/23/28; Osprey, 3/12/33 to 12/10/31;
 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 11/22/30 to 5/25/30; Whip-poor-will, 5/10/33;
 Nighthawk, 5/3/33; Chimney Swift, 4/14/33 to 10/14/28; Ruby-throated
 Hummingbird, 4/26/33; Kingbird, 4/17/30; Crested Flycatcher, 4/20/29;
 Wood Pewee, 5/8/30 to 9/5/30; Acadian Flycatcher, 5/2/33; Bobolink,
 4/23/31; Cowbird, 4/3/33; Orchard Oriole, 4/30/33; Purple Finch,
 1/14/30 to 3/6/30; White-throated Sparrow, 10/3/32 to 5/26/28;
 Chipping Sparrow, 3/13/33 to 11/4/28; Slate-colored Junco, 11/14/32 to
 4/10/30; Fox Sparrow, 12/4/32 to 3/15/33; Indigo Bunting, 4/20/30;
 Summer Tanager, 3/30/33 to 9/12/29; Purple Martin, 4/4/29 to 9/16/28;
 Barn Swallow, 4/18/33; Rough-winged Swallow, 3/29/33 to 10/27/29;
 Red-eyed Vireo, 4/6/29 to 9/12/29; Yellow-throated Vireo, 4/14/33 to
 9/12/29; White-eyed Vireo, 4/7/33 to 9/12/29; Black & White Warbler,
 4/3/33 to 9/12/29; Parula Warbler, 4/17/33; Yellow Warbler, 4/5/33;
 Black-throated Blue Warbler, 5/13/33; Myrtle Warbler, 10/8/32 to
 5/20/28; Blackpoll Warbler, 5/3/30 to 5/12/29; Yellow-throated Warbler,
 3/23/33; Pine Warbler, 2/23/33 to 10/3/32; Yellow Palm Warbler, 4/5/33;
 Prairie Warbler, 4/14/33; Oven-bird, 4/3/33 to 9/20/32; Louisiana
 Water-thrush, 4/19/33 to 9/29/29; Kentucky Warbler, 5/4/29; Maryland
 Yellow-throat, 4/1/29 to 10/6/32; Yellow-breasted Chat, 4/4/29; Hooded
 Warbler, 4/17/33 to 9/25/32; Redstart, 5/15/33 to 9/20/29; Pipit,
 11/11/32 to 4/15/30; Catbird, 3/29/30 to 11/10/29; House Wren, 4/8/33;
 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10/8/32 to 4/23/33; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher,
 3/21/33 to 9/12/29; Wood Thrush, 4/10/33; Veery, 5/15/33; Hermit Thrush,
 12/10/32 to 4/14/33; Robin, 1/26/30 to 12/29/29.

--- George C. Mason.

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Charlottesville. The following birds should be added to the Charlottes-
ville List: 1. Nashville Warbler, April 26, 1932 and April 30, 1933.
 2. Northern Parula Warbler, seen frequently every year, its omission an obvious

oversight in the Consolidated List. 3. Painted Bunting, seen here by a capital observer some years ago. 4. White-crowned Sparrow, April 29, 1933, also October 22, 1932.

Migration notes; Feb. 23, Woodcock; March 13, Pine Warbler; 23, Swamp Sparrow; 31, Bewick's Wren, Osprey; April 2, Wilson's Snipe, Cowbird; 9, Scaup, Spotted Sandpiper, Green Heron, Rusty Blackbird, and Phoebe's nest with eggs; 18, Broad-winged Hawk, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler; 17, Prairie Warbler; 23, Yellow-throated Vireo; 26, Baltimore Oriole; 29, White-crowned Sparrow; 30, Solitary Sandpiper, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler (eight), Cape May Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Canada Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak. May 2, Blackpoll Warbler. 4, Verry, Warbling Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler. 18 and 26, Prairie Horned Lark. 25, Purple Martin (a rare bird here).

---M. Curtler and N. R. Barger.

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Amelia. The Brown-headed Nuthatches nested and reared a brood this spring, in a rotten scrub pine stump in the same pasture in which they nested last spring, but about 300 yards distant. This time the nest stump is on a hill and about 100 yards from the edge of the woods. The young left the nest between May 19 and May 21. At sunset the 19th I saw both old birds enter the nest hole, apparently with food for the young. Sunday afternoon, May 21, Mrs. James, Mrs. Shaw and Miss Ryland, of Richmond, members of the V. S. O., came out to see them. None of the birds were about the nest but we located the old ones and at least one young bird in the nearby woods, where we watched them at close range with glasses for some time.

Another item of interest, and an addition to my Amelia list, is a pair of Rough-winged Swallows that are almost certainly nesting in the bank of the small stream that runs through the same pasture. I first saw them there May 16, when they were spending much time on a wire fence opposite a natural hole in the perpendicular bank of the stream. The 19th, while the ladies from Richmond were here, we all watched them for some time, and all agreed that they were rough-wings, as the dark band across the breast is entirely lacking. Late in the afternoon of the 22nd, I saw one of them enter the hole mentioned above twice at an interval of about 10 minutes.

On May 9, a Bachman's Sparrow was singing in an old field in the north part of the county. I have had no chance to re-visit the place since.

---John B. Lewis

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Lynchburg. Two new species were added to the Lynchburg list in April, when seven Cliff Swallows and two Bank Swallows were seen at Timber Lake on April 28. The status of another species was made more secure

when a Least Flycatcher visited the college campus for a short while on the morning of April 26. I have been carrying this bird on my list for some years, but have never had a definite record for it until this year . . . Data on nesting follow in A. O. U. Check-List order: Little Blue Heron, young bird seen at Timber Lake June 21-24. Lesser Scaup: one female, June 11, two males, June 24, at Timber Lake; no other evidence of their nesting than their unprecedented presence at the Lake on these late dates. Miss May Thacker Cooke, in "Birds of The Washington, D. C., Region," says: "Non-breeding individuals often remain quite late in spring, and birds, probably cripples, have been seen throughout the summer." Eastern Sparrow Hawk: 2 adults with 3 fully-grown young flying about, June 9. Black-billed Cuckoo: My first positive identification of a living bird here, June 12. Two dead birds have been brought to me. An adult was seen at close range, through 8x glasses, making red ring around eye and black mandibles plainly visible, with one young Black-bill, college campus, on above date. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: nest found at Timber Lake, May 18; another nest containing two downy young found near Hotel Mons, Peaks of Otter, June 12, about 2450 ft. elevation. Prairie Horned Lark: On June 9, a flock of nine birds seen at edge of city, only one of which was positively identified as an adult. All others seemed to be young in juvenal plumage, fully-grown. It was at this same station that a nest was found in 1931. On June 10, a male was seen at close range just south of Gladys, about 21 miles south of here. The finding of the nest near Lynchburg in 1931 seemed to extend the known breeding range of this bird for the Atlantic slope about 150 miles farther south. The Gladys record would be a further extension, if the presence of a male may be taken as evidence of nesting. Brown Thrasher: four young, nearly grown, almost underfoot in the yard, week of May 29-June 3, and another brood came off in a neighbor's yard about June 3. Red-eyed Vireo: female brooding, nest in sugar maple tree, Apple Orchard Mt., Botetourt Co., June 17, elevation 2900 ft. Black and White Warbler: young bird fully grown; Apple Orchard Mt., Botetourt Co., elevation c. 3240 ft. Adults seen several times in June near Lynchburg. Blackburnian Warbler: one adult male seen along Apple Orchard Falls Trail, Botetourt Co., June 18, altitude c. 3140 ft. I have only three other breeding records for this species, so it was gratifying to find it again. Ovenbird: nest alongside trail, Apple Orchard Mt., Botetourt Co., altitude about 2900 ft. Four downy young just hatched. Maryland Yellow-throat: adults feeding four noisy youngsters, almost grown, Timber Lake, June 24. Hooded Warbler: adult female feeding young which we did not locate, at altitude of c. 2150 ft., Botetourt Co., between Peaks of Otter and Buchanan. Canada Warbler: by far the most abundant breeding warbler on Apple Orchard Mt.; we were never out of sound of the scolding or alarm notes of adult birds during a three-day stay. Young bird nearly grown found at top of Apple Orchard, c. 4200 ft.; nest and 2 young just out of nest, c. 3100 ft. When the adult Canada Warblers begin to scold intruders, other warblers quickly gather to see what all the excitement is about. The male Blackburnian was thus attracted. Many Cairn's and Chestnut-sided Warblers also respond. Orchard Oriole: beautifully woven nest

of grasses, about 7 ft. high in young Lombardy poplar, containing two downy young just hatched, Timber Lake, June 24. Scarlet Tanager: male staying and singing in woods on college campus up to June 25; this is only my second record for the breeding of this bird in the Piedmont. They are fairly common in the mountains. Eastern Vesper Sparrow: singing male seen near Timber Lake, June 24. My first summer record for this bird near Lynchburg. Bachman's Sparrow: singing 2.85 miles south of Gladys, Campbell Co., June 10. Carolina Junco: two nests found on Apple Orchard Mt., Botetourt Co., June 16 and 17. First located in low bank beside trail, contained 3 eggs; second located in angle between large roots of tree beside trail, contained 4 eggs . . . The gathering of above data was incidental to plant collecting. A trip into the mountains at this season, the exclusive purpose of which is the study of birds, should yield an abundance of records, as the mountains are teeming with bird life. ---Ruskin S. Freer,
Lynchburg College.

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Naruna. Feb. 25, Pine Warbler. March 23, Bewick's Wren. April 2, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. 7, Purple Martin. 9, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow Palm Warbler. 15, Prairie Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker. 25, Scarlet Tanager. 25, Black-throated Green Warbler, White-eyed Vireo. 28, Blue Grosbeak. 29, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Louisiana Water-thrush. 30, Acadian Flycatcher. May 1, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole. 3, Blackpoll Warbler, Nighthawk. 4, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cape May Warbler. 5, Chestnut-sided Warbler, 7, Wilson's Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Canada Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow. 8, Blackburnian Warbler. 12, Bald Eagle.

The Nashville, Cape May and Wilson's Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Bald Eagle are new ones on my list. The warblers were seen at close range and were closely observed and their songs heard. The Bald Eagle was an adult and was identified by its white head and tail feathers, and by its size, which was larger than the Turkey Vulture. The White-crowned Sparrow was also seen at close range twice. During the spring of 1929 I saw them here frequently and heard them sing several times. ---Bertha Daniel.

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Lexington. Nesting data: Duck Hawk, April 14, described on preceding pages. Eastern Sparrow Hawk, pair feeding two or more young on June 19. Ruffed Grouse, May 8, female incubating 11 eggs, apparently about ready to hatch. Upland Plover, June 21, a well grown young bird found by a farmer, at same place where I saw a nest on June 3, 1930. Spotted Sandpiper, set of downy young on June 8, and set of feathered young on June 9. Mourning Dove, nest with one egg on April 14, nest with two eggs on June 19, nest with one egg and one young on June 19. Black-billed Cuckoo, nest with two eggs on May 15. N. Flicker, occupied

nests on April 25 and May 1. E. Hairy Woodpecker, nest with young on Thunder Hill on May 29. Phoebe, building on April 3, nest with four eggs on May 1, another brood left the nest on May 17, nest with well grown young on June 5. Acadian Flycatcher, with eggs or young but inaccessible, nest on June 14. Barn Swallow, three nests on June 1, with eggs, with small young, and with well grown young. N. Blue Jay, nest with young one-third grown on May 30, another set out of the nest on June 15. Carolina Chickadee, nest with six or seven eggs on May 1. E. House Wren, eggs in late May. Carolina Wren, nest with six eggs on May 8. E. Mockingbird, nest with small young on June 1. Catbird, nest with eggs on May 19. Brown Thrasher, four nests, one with two eggs on April 30, one with four eggs on May 8, one with two eggs and one with four eggs on May 19. Southern Robin, first nest on May 14, with large young. Wood Thrush, nest with young on May 29, an occupied nest on June 28. E. Bluebird, two nests with eggs on May 1, another with young on May 8. Starling, carrying food by May 1. Red-eyed Vireo carrying nest material on May 19. E. Warbling Vireo, nest on May 18 with eggs or young, another pair nesting nearby. Black & White Warbler, pair feeding young on May 29, another pair feeding young on June 5.

E. Yellow Warbler, nest with three eggs and one small bird on June 1, another pair feeding young on June 23. Cairn's Warbler, nest with three eggs on June 16, at about 3800 ft. elevation on the Bath Co. side of Elliott Knob. Black-throated Green, pair feeding a young bird at 1100 ft. on Thunder Hill on May 29, and a female feeding a young bird at 1800 ft. on Pine Mountain at head of Arnold's Valley on June 20. Blackburnian, pair feeding young in Goshen Pass at 1200 ft. on June 16. N. Prairie, pair feeding two young at about 2800 ft. on the Augusta side of Elliott Knob on June 16. Oven-bird, nest with four young ready to leave the nest in Arnold's Valley on June 20. Louisiana Water-thrush, nest in Goshen Pass on June 1, just deserted by the young which were still within a few yards of it. Maryland Yellow-throat, pair feeding well grown young on June 22. Canada Warbler, pairs feeding young on both Bath and Augusta side of Elliott Knob on June 16, several pairs feeding young on Apple Orchard on June 20. Redstart, pair feeding young on June 14, new empty nest on June 16. E. Red-winged Blackbird, nests with eggs on May 8. Orchard Oriole, occupied nest on May 18. Purple Grackle, nest with large young on May 14. E. Cowbird, egg in Indigo Bunting's nest on June 22. E. Cardinal, nest with three eggs on May 15. Rose-breasted Grosbeak, female carrying food at Parker's Gap in Botetourt Co. on June 20. Indigo Bunting, nest with three eggs and a Cowbird's egg on June 22 and small young on June 28. Red-eyed Towhee, fledglings on Elliott Knob on June 16, and on Apple Orchard on June 20. Carolina Junco, immature bird on Apple Orchard on June 20. E. Chipping Sparrow, four nests, one with 4 eggs on May 16, two with 3 eggs on May 20, one with small young on June 1. E. Song Sparrow, one with four eggs on the ground on May 7, another with four eggs in a small cedar on May 8.

Other Notes; Osprey, June 19; Raven, two on Thunder Hill on May 29, four near Lexington on June 5, one on Apple Orchard on June 20; Worm-eating Warbler, two on May 29 and three on June 20, all in

Arnold's Valley; Cerulean Warbler, June 1; Wilson's Warbler, adult male on May 19; Prairie Warbler, on North River at 850 ft. altitude on June 19.
---J. J. Murray.

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Blacksburg. Pied-billed Grebe, April 3; Blue-winged Teal, March 22 to May 4; Lesser Scaup, Feb. 1 to April 2; Ring-necked Duck, March 29; American Golden-eye, April 5; Bittern, April 28; Coot, April 21; Wilson's Snipe, March 1; Cooper's Hawk, March 26; Prairie Horned Lark, April 22, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, May 2 to 4; Blue-headed Vireo, April 9 to 23; Yellow-throated Vireo, May 2; Warbling Vireo, April 26; Parula Warbler, April 16; Black-throated Blue, May 6; Magnolia Warbler, May 2; Chestnut-sided Warbler, May 2; Blackpoll Warbler, May 9, Pine Warbler, May 8; Bewick's Wren, March 10; Veery, May 8; Olive-backed Thrush, April 9; Hermit Thrush, Feb. 26.

March 16, Robins mating. March 22, 1000 Robins on ground and in trees on V. P. I. Campus. April 3, Robins building. April 5, Starlings building. April 9, Robins nesting. April 10, Starlings nesting. April 22, a white-patched Robin. April 28, a white Robin. April 28, an American Bittern (male) captured on the north fork of Roanoke River, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Blacksburg. It was emaciated and weak. A student chloroformed and mounted it.

---Ralph M. Brown.

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Giles County: On June 17, I made a trip up Big Stony Creek, Giles County. The creek empties into the New River by Snidow's Ferry, opposite Ripplehead. We drove up the creek for about twelve miles and there parked our car. The elevation here was about 2500 feet. I heard some birds singing which at first I thought were redstarts. That was my delight, on luring some of these birds into the open, by imitating bird distress cries, to find out that they were Golden-winged Warblers, the first that I had ever seen. I saw or heard some six of them, both males and females. I also found Chestnut-sided Warblers nesting there. They were fairly common. Dr. Smyth had two nests of the Chestnut-sided Warbler, with eggs, on May 23, 1909, in Montgomery County. These are the only other records of its breeding in Giles or Montgomery counties. Dr. Smyth also found one nest, with young, of the Golden-winged Warbler, June 5, in Montgomery County.

---Ralph M. Brown



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THE LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, A NEW BIRD FOR THE VIRGINIA LIST.

The most interesting recent event in Virginia Ornithology is the discovery by Mr. John B. Lewis, of Amelia, of the regular occurrence of the Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus) in eastern Virginia. In the 1931 A. O. U. 'Check-List' this bird is listed as only occurring as far north as southern North Carolina, and the only Shrike recognized as occurring in Virginia is the Migrant Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus migrans). The two, of course, are closely related, being two of the six sub-species within the species, Lanius ludovicianus. Now Mr. Lewis has collected specimens which prove that the Loggerhead Shrike ranges well up into Virginia. He collected a pair near Amelia, one on March 30 and one on April 8, 1932, and sent them to Dr. H. C. Oberholser for examination. Dr. Oberholser's answer was as follows:

"The shrikes that you sent prove to be very interesting in that they are without doubt examples of the true southern loggerhead shrike (Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus), not the migrant shrike, as I thought they probably would be. Since these without doubt represent the breeding form of Amelia, it extends the range of this form up the coast to southeastern Virginia, constituting apparently the first authentic record of this bird for the State."

One interesting feature of this discovery is that it was made not in one of the extreme southeastern counties of the State but west of Richmond and well up from the southern border. Mr. Lewis also thinks that specimens of shrikes collected by him while he was living in Brunswick County, but not preserved nor sent away for identification, were probably of this same sub-species.

An account of this important discovery appears in the July, 1933, issue of THE AUK, page 364. This was a valuable piece of work, and both Mr. Lewis and our Society are to be congratulated on it.

The editor would like to suggest other similar points in regard to ranges in Virginia that need to be cleared up by judicious collecting. Is the Flicker of southeastern Virginia the northern or the southern form? The A. O. U. 'Check-List' limits the northward range

of the Southern Flicker to North Carolina, but it would not be surprising if it also occurs in Virginia. There is some uncertainty as to whether the Southern Downy Woodpecker occurs in the southeastern corner of our State, and some of these should be collected. No-one knows just where the boundary line comes in Virginia between the Eastern and Southern Hairy Woodpeckers, between the Northern and Southern Pileated Woodpeckers, between the Eastern and Southern Crows, and between the Northern and Southern Parula Warblers. Both forms of each of these species, of course, occur in Virginia. Does the Atlantic Song Sparrow range any distance from salt water? Some member of the V. S. O. can do some good work along these lines.

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WINTER BIRD COMMUNITY GROUPS

Every student who has devoted any considerable amount of attention to winter bird life is more or less familiar with the habit of the smaller winter resident species of living in groups. Apparently very little careful study has been made of this habit, as no published treatise on the subject has come to the writer's attention.

During the winter season most of the smaller species are usually found in groups covering an area fifty yards or less in extent in any one direction. The distance between these groups as well as the size of the group is largely dependent upon the abundance of winter resident birds and to a lesser extent upon the type of country. Usually this distance is between one quarter and one half mile in the sections in which these observations were made, viz. Rockbridge, Scott, Roanoke and Floyd Counties. In the southeastern counties of Virginia where winter resident birds are more numerous both as to species and individuals, the groups are usually much larger.

The area between these groups is very largely without bird life with the exception of the relatively few species which lead a more solitary life during the winter months. This applies to the thrushes, including the robin, though strangely enough the Bluebird is usually associated with the groups. The larger species are not usually associated with the groups. The strictly gregarious species which commonly occupy open fields and pasture lands are, of course, not included. This applies to the Alaudidae (larks), Sturnidae (starlings), and those species of Icteridae which are winter resident. All the other families of Passeriformes which are winter residents usually live in groups, though the groups are usually limited to these families, with the exception of Piciformes (woodpeckers) and sometimes Bob-whites. Observations made only during late November, December, January and the early part of February are included, as conditions as affected by migration should be eliminated.

The relative abundance of the winter resident Passeriformes, may of course be quite accurately determined from studies of these groups. Fringillidae usually predominate, and often the Junco exceeds all other species in number of individuals. Each group almost invariably in-

cludes several Golden-crowned Kinglets, usually a Winter Wren, rarely two, a number of Tufted Titmice, Chickadees, one or two Downy Woodpeckers, one or more species of Sparrows, one or more pairs of Cardinals and a number of other species which are not so certain to be found as those named.

Groups are usually found near a water course and in areas partly wooded, often the edge of a woodland, bordering a pasture or open field. In the mountain sections treated in this paper, groups are not usually found in the more remote mountain areas, distant from a water course or human habitation. When found in such localities they usually include a comparatively few species or individuals. Species most frequently found in these small groups higher up the wooded mountainsides, are Chickadees, Golden-crowned Kinglets (where there are pines or hemlocks), White-breasted Nuthatches and Tufted Titmice.

The Fox Sparrow is very rare in winter in the mountain sections of the State. A few observations made by the writer in southeastern Virginia, however, would indicate that this species is somewhat inclined to live apart from other species, usually being found several in a group of their own kind.

Conjectures as to the reasons for this habit of grouping together are interesting. It seems very reasonable to assume that the most likely cause is the advantage which the habit provides in avoiding natural enemies. It is possible also that the species which follow this habit prefer the company of others of their kind during this season when family ties do not exist to any appreciable extent. Further studies offer much of interest and importance.

Merriam G. Lewis.

(Editor's note: This paper was sent for the Norfolk meeting of the V. S. O., to be read in the absence of the writer, but arrived too late for presentation.)

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BACK BAY - WINTER NOTES

(The following excerpts from a letter to the Editor from Mr. Lester L. Walsh, of Ridgewood, New Jersey, will be of interest).

"It was with interest that I read the account of some observations of water birds in the Back Bay region of Virginia during January, 1933, made by your party and reported by you in the Auk for this July. I have done some birding on Knotts Island and waters adjacent thereto on several occasions during winters in recent years.

"Your comment with respect to Forster's Tern leads me to inform you that I have on two previous occasions observed wintering individuals of this species in Virginia, the most recent of which I find to be November 16, 1931, which you may consider too early for a winter record, in which event I name December 27, 1928. On both occasions

the birds were seen off the northern end of the Island.

"With respect to the Least Sandpiper, again my experience indicates on December 27, 1928, in Virginia, a record of 6 individuals observed. Two of this species for North Carolina (Knotts Island) on November 16, 1931, possibly too early for a real winter record.

"While we are speaking of water birds, and shorebirds in particular, you might be interested in a single Dowitcher which I saw on December 28, 1928, on a sandy bar about two miles south of Knotts Island in North Carolina. Black-bellied Plover winter apparently regularly, as I have found them on each winter trip in the region of the Island. Red-backed Sandpipers occur sparingly, as might be expected, in that latitude. I have a late record for a Semipalmated Plover on November 14, 1931.

"I have a record of two Black-backed Gulls on November 14, 1931, in Virginia, and two on December 29, 1928. It is, I think, of regular occurrence beachward in winter.

"The status of the American Raven is of some interest to me. I have recorded them on each trip, sometimes as many as four individuals, and I am wondering whether they breed anywhere in the vicinity.

"What is your experience with the Caspian Tern in late fall and early winter? Seven individuals passed over my head on Nov. 15, '31, travelling south, as I watched ducks from the tower on Mr. Corey's property.

"During the three days spent on and near the Island in December, 1928, we recorded an even hundred species of birds, which number was again duplicated in a three-day trip in middle November, 1931.

"I have on one previous occasion, with another observer, taken a Christmas Census on Knotts Island, which resulted in 75 species being recorded. We were handicapped at the time by intolerable weather and by the limitations of a single party."

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A SUMMARY OF THE VIRGINIA AVIFAUNA

The total number of species and sub-species of birds at present known from Virginia is 354. The list was reviewed in the paper on "Additions to the Virginia Avifauna Since 1890," in the April, 1933, issue of The Auk. In 1890 Dr. William C. Rives listed 305 forms for the two Virginias. A typographical error in his serial numbers, however, reduces the list of that date to 304. With 13 removals and one addition that seem advisable in his list the total for Virginia proper for 1890 should stand at 292. Since that time 48 species were discovered and 13 sub-species were recognized, making the Virginia list at the time of the publication of this paper reach the total of 353 species and sub-species. In The Auk for July, 1933, the Loggerhead Shrike was added by Mr. J. B. Lewis, and the total is now 354.

A LIST OF VIRGINIA TYPES

A list of the birds of which Virginia furnishes the type or type locality may be of interest to the readers of THE RAVEN. A type is the original specimen from which a new species or sub-species was first described. A type locality is the place in which this original specimen was procured. Virginia has furnished eight type localities. Five of these were for birds described by Catesby or other early ornithologists. In such cases the type specimens are no longer in existence. As most of Catesby's work was done in the Carolinas rather than in Virginia, where he began his work, our State cannot compete with the Carolinas in the number of type localities to her credit. Virginia has furnished only three types in modern times, so far as the editor of THE RAVEN knows. The list follows:

1. Chen hyperborea atlantica Kennard. Greater Snow Goose.
Chen atlantica Kennard, Proc. New Eng. Zool. Club, IX, 93, Feb. 16, 1927. (Back Bay, Princess Anne County, Virginia).
2. Bubo v. virginianus (Gmelin). Great Horned Owl.
Strix virginiana Gmelin, Syst. Nat., I. Pt. i, 119, (in omni Americana, etc.-Virginia).
3. Mimus p. polyglottos (Linnaeus). Eastern Mockingbird.
Turdus polyglottos Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, I, 1758, 169.
Based mainly The Mock-Bird, Turdus minor cinereo-albus non maculatus Catesby, Carolina, I, 27. (in Virginia).
4. Dumetella carolinensis (Linnaeus). Catbird.
Muscicapa carolinensis Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, I, 1766, 328.
Based mainly on The Cat Bird, muscicapa vertice nigro Catesby, Carolina, I, 66. (in Carolina-Virginia.)
5. Setophaga ruticilla (Linnaeus). American Redstart.
Motacilla ruticilla Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, I, 1758, 186.
Based mainly on The Red-Start, ruticilla maericana Catesby, Carolina, I, 67. (in America-Virginia).
6. Icterus galbula (Linnaeus). Baltimore Oriole.
Coracias galbula Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, I, 1758, 108.
Based on the Baltimore-Bird, Icterus ex aureo nigroque varius Catesby, Carolina, I, 48. (in America-Virginia).
7. Passerherbulus henslowi susurrans Brewster. Eastern Henslow's Sparrow.
Passerherbulus henslowi susurrans Brewster, Proc. New Engl. Zool. Club, VI, 78, Feb. 6, 1918. (Falls Church, Fairfax Co., Virginia).
8. Melospiza melodia atlantica Todd. Atlantic Song Sparrow.
Melospiza melodia atlantica Todd, Auk, XLI, No. 1, Jan. 10, 1924, 147. (Smith's Island, Northampton County, Virginia).

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The members of the Virginia Society of Ornithology will learn with deep regret of the death of Mr. Herbert K. Job. The report has come indirectly, with no particulars as to time or place. Mr. Job was the author of several deservedly popular books on bird study and one of the pioneers in the field of bird photography. His photographs have been constantly used in books and magazines. All of us will remember his moving pictures of the nesting of the Osprey, which he

showed at our Richmond meeting. He was also a pioneer in the field of game propagation. The last work of his life was done in Virginia in educational work for the State Game Commission. A man of the highest character and of the sweetest, simplest spirit, he was a good companion in the home or in the field and beloved by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

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The set of The Auk formerly owned by Mr. Herbert K. Job and temporarily deposited by him in the Virginia State Library, is to be kept in Virginia. It has been purchased by the Library of the University of Richmond. The Library has had the set bound. This set lacks only two or three volumes.

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NESTING OF THE YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER IN AMHERST COUNTY

The following excerpts taken from "The Rambler", a column written for the Sunday Lynchburg News by Ruskin S. Freer, describe a trip taken on July 6 to Mt. Pleasant in Amherst County, with Dr. Murray.

"We have found from past experience that in watching for birds and plants we make very slow time over mountain trails, so we left Lynchburg at three o'clock in the morning. We reached the turning-off point on U. S. route 60 shortly after four-thirty, and soon had a fire going on which to cook our breakfast. Promptly at five we were joined by Dr. J. J. Murray of Lexington, and were soon on our way up the side road leading to Mr. Kerr's home. Several stops were made along the way to list birds. A number of warblers were seen, including the Blackburnian, Black and White, Black-throated Green, Redstart and Louisiana Water-Thrush. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was listed also, and several other Grosbeaks were seen or heard after taking to the trail.

"From the Kerr home we took a trail which leads up along the side of Cold Mountain.....Passing over a low ridge, we descended into a small stream valley. Here we saw a family of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, the young being full-grown.

"A short distance farther on we made the big discovery of the day. The trail was following the edge of a birch-maple woods. (East slope of Cold Mountain, altitude about 3570 feet.) We had been hearing a peculiar tattoo of one of the woodpeckers, which we had heard frequently on Rocky Mountain on our four-day hike in April, and which we had found to be caused by the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. However, according to our combined knowledge and experience, which was really quite respectable, there should be no Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in that region. But fortunately for members of the rambling fraternity, nature has a way of jumping over the boundaries prescribed by all the learned manuals. What a dreary world it would be for all who like to look for birds and plants and insects, if their ranges were all known and reduced to prosaic print!

"Dividing forces, we climbed up the mountain-side into the woods, and after only a few minutes had found two male Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. What a delightful home they had selected! Here was a beautiful forest of sugar maples and sweet birches, furnishing an abundance of sweet sap for these birds which are habitual tipplers. The forest floor was carpeted with a fine growth of large Clayton's or interrupted ferns.

"We were greatly pleased with ourselves over this 'find', as there are no records for this bird in our part of the Blue Ridge. Mr. J. B. Lewis of Amelia, and his son, Mr. M. G. Lewis, of Salem, have found the Sapsucker breeding in the Alleghenies of Highland or Bath County, I am not sure which. It is also known to breed on White Top Mountain, in southwest Virginia."

Numbers of House Wrens were found nesting in knot-holes of dead chestnuts lying prostrate in a low gap overlooking a large grass-covered basin, called "The Hog Camp". Carolina Juncos were seen frequently, of course, and several Scarlet Tanagers were listed. Several Chestnut-sided Warblers, a Cairns's Warbler, several Mountain Vireos, a Wilson's Thrush, a number of Canada Warblers, were also recorded. On the return trip, Dr. Murray preceded Mr. Freer and his two companions, on account of an engagement in Lexington. He found another Sapsucker at a different station than that where they were first seen, and the same bird was also doubtless seen later by Mr. Freer and his party. The latter group also saw the Prairie Horned Lark in its flight song and maneuvers at The Hog Camp, and listed a Killdeer at the same place.

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FIELD NOTES

Lexington. I made a hurried trip over to Lewisburg for the 4th of July. At about 7:30 o'clock that evening while on my way back to Richmond I saw a young Bartramian sandpiper on the highway near Lexington about a quarter of a mile from the R. R. crossing towards Staunton. The bird appeared to still be in its natal down but was probably two-thirds grown. As I approached it ran to the roadside but as I came near it ran back upon the pavement and started down the road. I stopped my car as soon as possible and gave chase, but before I got under way three cars came by following in close succession. It appeared at first that the plover must certainly be flattened on the roadway but before the first car got to him he had scrambled to the roadside. As soon as the last car was by he was back on the road. I was able to overtake him rapidly but when within twenty-five feet of him he trusted no longer to his legs alone but brought his wings into play also. At first he sailed along down hill but much to my surprise it was soon apparent that he could fly quite well and he was soon well out of reach in the adjoining pasture. On my way back to the car one of the adults flew up from the wheat stubble on the opposite side of the road from where the young bird had gone. On alighting the wings were held above the back for a moment before being folded and the characteristic call was given.

---Chas. O. Handley.

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Richmond. Another interesting note concerns the unusual nesting site of a pair of Summer Tanagers. On June 28th, Mr. John Chaffin showed me a nest containing two young of this species in a small maple on his front lawn in the Westover Hills subdivision of Richmond (Chesterfield County). The young birds were sitting on the edge of the nest at the time of my visit and both parents scolded from the nearby trees. Mr. Chaffin says the young left this nest the following day. The nest was about six feet from the ground, close up against the trunk. The tree was hardly ten feet tall and stood between the sidewalk and curbing. Dozens of people passed within a few feet of it daily. It is strange that these woods loving birds should have picked such a public place when there were dozens of other lawn trees in the neighborhood well back from the road and walk, also woods to their liking were hardly a stone's throw away.

--- Chas. O. Handley.

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Ashland. On July 9th there was quite a display of white herons at the upper end of Luck's Pond about one mile west of Ashland. At the time I passed the pond I counted twelve American egrets and three Little Blue Herons. In recent years these beautiful birds have apparently reached the point where they are increasing so fast that it is apparent even to the casual observer. It will be interesting to see if the herons, now given complete protection, will run a course similar to that of the Starling.

---Chas. O. Handley.

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Sweet Briar. Departure of winter residents: April 30, Junco; May 3, Myrtle Warbler; 5th, White-throated Sparrow. Arrival of Summer residents: March 17, Red-winged Blackbird, male; 28, Chipping Sparrow; April 2, Brown Thrasher; 7, Red-wing, female; 17, Maryland Yellowthroat; 19, Swift, Rough-winged Swallow; 27, Hummingbird, Yellow Warbler, Catbird; 30, Baltimore Oriole, Crested Fly-catcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo; May 5, Kingbird, Indigo Bunting; 12, Summer Tanager; 14, Pewee. Spring migrants: April 5 & 10, Wilson's Snipe; 12, Coot; 17, Solitary Sandpiper; 27, Barn Swallow; May 1, Bobolink (2), 20 to 30 on May 3, increased to 75 before departure on May 10; 4, Spotted Sandpiper; 14, Blackpoll Warbler.

---Florence Hague.

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Naruna. This summer several indications of the nesting of species of which I had been uncertain were noted. On June 1st a Scarlet Tanager was singing between Naruna and Gladys. On June 11 a Bewick's Wren was heard singing. The Louisiana Water-thrush stayed on our brook until May 25, and one was seen on June 28. While the Blue Grosbeak is a fairly common summer resident I had not found a nest until June 27. The nest was in a low bush, made of grasses, and decorated on the outside with a snake skin. It contained three eggs. Two hatched on June 29 and the third on July 1st. The nest and young were destroyed on July 8th. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher's nest completed on May 21; the bird incubating four eggs on May 27; downy young in nest on June 9. This was the second brood, the first nest having been begun on April 9. A

newly-made nest of the Goldfinch in a maple tree over the brook on June 30. Titmouse, nest in a stub on May 22, with very small birds. Bluebird, nest in hollow of apple tree, April 25, with five eggs. Another in my mail box, April 30, with four eggs. The Bluebirds returned to the apple tree to raise a second brood, and there were three young in the nest on July 1st. Young in nest of Yellow-throated Vireo on July 1st. Nest of Whip-poor-will, on leaves in woods, two eggs on May 15, two downy yellow chicks hatched on May 31 and remained there until June 6, the mother bird covering them during the day until flushed from the nest.

---Bertha Daniel.

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Blacksburg. On June 24th I saw Chestnut-sided Warblers near White House Ferry on New River in Montgomery County at 1800 feet. This point is five miles from Radford. At the same point on June 29 I saw 14 Herring Gulls flying up New River. On June 25th, in Craig County, on Meadow Creek, which comes through a gap between Sinking Creek and John's Creek Mountains, at 2600 feet altitude, I found the Black-throated Green Warbler. It undoubtedly nests there. Hooded Warblers nesting at 2200 feet on Tom's Creek, Montgomery County, July 2d, first record of their nesting in the county. Immature Redstarts at the same place. At Mountain Lake, Giles County, July 9: Mountain Vireo, Hairy Woodpecker, Veery, Cairns's, Hooded and Canada Warblers, Maryland Yellow-throat, Carolina Juncos (the Juncos nesting). I learn from the Geological Survey that the altitudes given in the last issue of THE RAVEN for White Top and Mt. Rogers (Balsam) are somewhat incorrect. White Top is 5530 and Mt. Rogers is 5725. ---Ralph M. Brown.

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Lexington. Nesting Notes: The most important record during July was that of finding a colony of a dozen pairs of Cliff Swallows nesting on a barn near Big Spring Pond, on July 4th. This was quite a late nesting date. Of five of the nests examined, one had young, two had three eggs each, one had one egg, and one was barely begun. None of the nests were in the usual location under the eaves on the outside. Eleven of them were on joists under the main floor of the barn and over a driveway which was open at the ends and at one side. The other was on a sloping rafter in a wagon shed open at each end but closed at the sides. Most of the nests were imperfect and with large openings. There were many nests of Barn Swallows in the same barn. On July 4th four Red-winged Blackbird nests were found at Big Spring; one with 2 eggs, one with 3 eggs, one with 2 eggs, and a young bird, and one accessible but occupied. Young Kingfishers fishing for themselves on July 5th. Well grown young in nest of Chimney Swift, July 6th. Yellow-throated Vireo carrying food, July 19th. A family group of Crested Flycatchers still flying about together, July 5th. Goldfinch nest, with eggs, July 19th, 45 feet up in a Sycamore. Grasshopper Sparrow feeding young just from the nest, July 9th.

Other Notes: An American Egret, July 9th, at Roop's Pond, near Lexington and two at Big Spring on July 19th. This bird is very rare in the Valley. The bird on the 9th was my second record for Rockbridge Co.,

and only the third, so far as I know, west of the mountains. The little Blue Heron has been unusually abundant (all in white plumage) this season on all the ponds and streams, from July 2d to date (19th).
--- J. J. Murray.

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Massanetta Springs (near Harrisonburg): During a stay of five days, July 11-15, several birds of interest were seen. A Warbling Vireo, which I believe is new to the Harrisonburg region list, was singing in the trees about the Hotel. Cliff Swallows were feeding young on telephone wires, but I could not locate the nests. Scarlet Tanagers, still in bright red plumage on July 15th, were fairly common. A Pewee's nest was found on the 14th, the bird incubating. Grasshopper Sparrows were abundant. A pair of Bewick's Wrens were seen.
--- J. J. Murray.

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Amherst County. Two American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) were seen along the James River at Snowden on July 4 through 8-power glasses. Size, yellow bill and pure white plumage were the features on which the identification was based. Another single bird was seen at the same place on July 17 through a 30-power telescope. These are my first records for this species. --- Ruskin S. Freer

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New Market, Shenandoah Co. A single American Egret was seen at a pond right by the roadside about a mile east of New Market on July 21.
--- Ruskin S. Freer

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Augusta County. A number of Eastern Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor minor*) were seen and heard in Staunton and Churchville and at intermediate points on July 18. This species does not breed at Lynchburg. Dr. Murray reports that it does not breed at Lexington either, but that he has found it breeding at Harrisonburg, twenty-five miles north of Staunton. In the Consolidated List of the V. S. O. it is reported as a fairly common summer resident in Montgomery county, summer resident in the Bristol region, scarce as a summer resident in Amelia County. It would be very interesting to know more of its summer distribution in the state. --- Ruskin S. Freer

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Highland County. Two Northern Ravens (*Corvus corax principalis*) were seen and heard by Prof. Robert P. Carroll and myself near the state line on old state route 835 (old Staunton-Parkersburg turnpike) in Highland County between Monterey Virginia and Durbin, W. Va., on July 19. This was the writer's first positive record for this species, although this identification, verified by Prof. Carroll who is familiar with the species, convinces me that without a doubt I saw and

heard a Raven on the Rivanna River just outside Charlottesville, in the fall of 1931.

Our trip into Highland County was a part of a five-day botanizing trip with Dr. Edgar T. Wherry of the University of Pennsylvania. Our first camp was on Back Creek, in Highland County. On the morning of July 19, a member of the party, Mr. Ralph V. Mostoller, of Stoyestown, Pa., found a Magnolia Warbler (Dendroica magnolia) at this camp. His identification was verified by the writer also. I am also positive that we saw several Black-capped Chickadees (Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus) at this place. On coming to Virginia from Ohio in 1924, I noticed at once the difference in the songs of the Black-cap and the Carolina Chickadees. The song of the Chickadees at Back Creek was decidedly that of the Black-cap, consisting of only the two whistled notes without the two lisping prefatory notes inserted by the Carolina. Chapman says of the Carolina's notes, that they are "Quite unlike those of P. atricapillus. Instead of the two clear whistles which atricapillus utters in New Jersey, the Florida bird (P. carolinensis carolinensis) repeats four rather tremulous notes." The Black-cap is not included in our Consolidated List, and H. H. Bailey includes it only as a hypothetical breeder in the state, with no positive records. It is unfortunate that we were unable to collect a specimen. The Magnolia Warbler likewise is not included as a breeding bird in our Consolidated List, but Bailey has found it breeding sparingly at Mountain Lake in Giles County, at an altitude of about 4,000 feet.

Just across the state line on Cheat Mountain in West Virginia at an altitude of 3700 feet, we found the Hermit Thrush, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Magnolia Warbler and Winter Wren.

--- Ruskin S. Freer

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Lynchburg. On a trip to the Edgewood Farm on July 16, where most of our birds of upland pastures and meadows are found, I saw a male Cowbird. Although hundreds of Cowbirds visit this place during migration, this is my first record for this species in summer.

--- Ruskin S. Freer

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Madison County. A single Northern Raven was seen and heard by the writer on Hawksbill Mountain, along the Skyline Drive in Madison County on July 22. This and the Highland County record above, add two more counties for this species in our Consolidated List.

--- Ruskin S. Freer



THE RAVEN

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PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR

VOL. IV

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Nos. 8 & 9

THE BIRD WATCHER

I like to stop and paint
The lovely things I see,
Upon the living canvas
Of my memory.

---Bertha Daniel, Naruna, Va.

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The Editor regrets very much that this issue of THE RAVEN is so late in appearing. Will correspondents please send in their October notes at once so that the October issue may follow close upon this issue.

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George W. Cobb

George W. Cobb, of Cobb's Island, Virginia, lost his life on August 23, 1933, in the great storm that swept the Virginia coast. A brief notice of his services to ornithology appeared in the September-October issue of BIRD-LORE. In this storm all the buildings on the Island were demolished, at the Coast Guard Station as well as at Mr. Cobb's home. His body has not been recovered. Three generations of the Cobb family have lived on the Island, and throughout this period they have been hosts to hundreds of visiting bird students. Mr. Cobb had been for many years a Warden for the Audubon Societies, and also a Federal Warden.

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THE HAWK & OWL SOCIETY

The "Annual Report of the Hawk & Owl Society" (Bull. No. 3, March, 1933) is a very interesting publication. This Society, of which Warren F. Eaton is Secretary, is doing some valuable work for the protection of our birds of prey, although it is greatly limited by lack of funds. This report gives a summary of the year's work of the Society. A graphic article, with photographs, by Henry H. Collins, Jr., describes the reckless slaughter of all kinds of hawks during the migrations at Dreher'sville, in the Pennsylvania mountains.

Another article presents some hitherto unpublished material on the food habits of certain of the raptors. The state laws in regard to birds of prey are summarized. About half of the states have no protection for any of the hawks, and some sixteen have no protection for any owls. Virginia is among the states that furnished no protection for either hawks or owls. The cover picture for this bulletin is that of a Short-eared Owl photographed at Markham, Va., by John A. Moore.

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FIELD NOTES

Knott's Island, on the Virginia-North Carolina line:

The Coastal Virginia records contained in the letter from Mr. Lester L. Walsh (of Ridgewood, New Jersey), which was published in a recent issue of THE RAVEN, were so interesting that the Editor wrote him requesting further notes. His answer follows:

"I don't know what additional data I can give you with respect to my shorebird records except possibly be a bit more specific with relation to the locality. The Black-bellied Plover were feeding on the mud flats just north of Knott's Island channel. Consistent observation during winter would indicate the presence of this species there regularly, I imagine. There are several winter records for New Jersey, much farther north. The Red-backed Sandpiper record for Virginia would be November 14th in the southern portion of Back Bay, near what used to be the Deal Beach Club. There were two individuals. The year is 1931. On the same day in almost the same place I found a single Semipalmated Plover.

"Below is our list for November 14, 1931, which is probably purely a typical list for the region. Where the record was made in N. C. I have indicated: Loon, 7; Horned Grebe, 8; Pied-billed Grebe, 12; Herring Gull, common; Ring-billed Gull, 5; Black-backed Gull, 1; Gannet, common; Red-breasted Merganser, 125; Mallard, 35; Black Duck, 400; Baldpate, 30,000 (mostly Va.); Pintail, 17,000; Gadwall, 8; Greater (?) Scaup, 400; Redhead, 35; Canvasback, 4; Shoveller, 17; Green-winged Teal, 8; Ruddy Duck, 225; Surf Scoter, 10; Brant, 6 (rather unusual in Back Bay); Canada Goose, 5,000; Greater Snow Goose, 35 (N.C.); Whistling Swan, 850 (mostly N.C.); Great Blue Heron, 10; American Bittern, 4; Coot, 15,000; Snipe, 12; Black-bellied Plover, 2; Semipalmated Plover, 2; Red-backed Sandpiper, 2; Turkey Vulture, common; Black Vulture, 11; Mourning Dove, 14; Osprey, 1; Bald Eagle, 5; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Marsh Hawk, 5; Savannah Sparrow, 2; House Sparrow, common; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Flicker, 10; Raven, 4; Crow, common; Fish Crow, less common; Starling, common; Meadowlark, 3; Boat-tailed Grackle, 10; Myrtle Warbler, common; Carolina Wren, 6; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Greater Yellowlegs, 2; Caspian Tern, 7; Mockingbird, 13. Total, 54.

"On the following two days we added an additional 46 species we had not seen on the above list. We spent most of the day on the 14th in a boat cruising through Back Bay and Knott's Island Channel, which

accounts for the large number of water birds and the comparative scarcity of land species. There is too much territory to be covered by a single party and obtain an adequate census of the bird life of the Island. It needs several observers working in separate parties to do it justice.

"In connection with the 1929 list referred to, on the third day, December 29th of that year, we spent some time working the outer beach northward from a point opposite the causeway across the marshes to the Deal Beach Club property and noted the following additional species which we had not recorded on either of the previous two days: Black-backed Gull, 2; Ring-billed Gull, 5; Bufflehead, 1; White-winged Scoter, 200; Duck Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Pipit, 3; Brown Thrasher, 3; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Robin, 100 (surprising we didn't get them before); Surf Scoter, 6 (James River, Dec. 30, 1929); Laughing Gull, common (Norfolk, Dec. 30, 1929)."

---Lester L. Walsh

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Norfolk. The American Egret is decidedly on the increase in this section. On July 17th nine were seen feeding in the upper marshes of Linkhorn Bay near Virginia Beach. Their snowy white bodies and yellow bills poised in various attitudes made a beautiful picture. While we gazed entranced, a Great Blue Heron joined the group and suddenly out came a Marsh Hen from the oozy mud. Since then at different times Egrets have been seen feeding in various other waterways in this district. Now that they are protected no doubt we will soon have numerous colonies in our marshes hereabout where all the choicest varieties of seafood are theirs for the taking.

---Helen T. Thompson

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Amelia. The American Egret. One seen at a small pool in a cattail swamp, where there was formerly a mill pond, late in the afternoon of July 22, 1933. I am sure of the species, as I saw it at a distance of not over 20 yards for a second or two before it took wing. It was the size of the Great Blue, pure white, including wing tips, and the legs were black.

On July 26 I saw a Little Blue Heron in the white plumage at a small pond in the north side of the county, and on July 28 I saw one at the "Wingo pond", a mile from my home.

Nesting of the Rough-winged Swallow in Amelia County. May 18, 1933, a pair of swallows were seen along a small stream where it flows through a pasture one-half mile from the village of Amelia. At this place the stream banks on either side are of rather friable clay, nearly perpendicular in many places and about 5 feet high. May 21, in company with Mrs. James, Mrs. Shaw and Miss Ryland, V.S.O. members from Richmond, we saw the same pair of swallows and all agreed that they were Rough-wings. May 22, I saw one of the pair enter a hole in the bank. This hole seems to be a natural one about 20 inches deep

and about 13 inches down from the top of the bank. The opening is about 4 inches high and 11 inches broad, with a nearly level floor. June 6, one of the pair entered the hole and did not leave it during the 15 minutes that I was there. June 9, both swallows about the nest; one entered. June 13 and 18, both swallows about the nest, one or both of them entering, scolding me at my approach. June 22, both swallows at the nest, one entering twice. June 26, visited nest at dusk and lighted it with a flash light. The nest is a rather flat affair of coarse material at the extreme back end of the hole. Four young birds were in the nest and one egg was on the ground just in front of it. June 30, old birds scolded loudly as I approached the nest. The flash light showed the four young birds, nearly grown. July 3, young birds still in or near nest. One called much like the old birds when I approached the hole. July 5, the young birds still in the hole with tails and wings nearly grown. July 15, returning from a week at Jamestown 4-H Club camp, I found the nest deserted, but one swallow flying about near it.

---John B. Lewis

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Naruna. Late nests: Wood Thrush, June 15, bird incubating eggs. Summer Tanager, downy young in nest, July 19. Bob White, downy young, July 19. Mocking bird, 4 young left nest July 24; downy young in another nest Aug. 8. Kingbird, 2 young left nest Aug. 1. Brown Thrasher, 2 young Aug. 7. Wood Pewee, 2 left nest Aug. 14. Migratory movement: Great Blue Heron, July 24; Redstart, July 29; Barn Swallow, Aug. 5; Night Hawk, Aug. 16.

---Bertha Daniel

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Massanetta Springs, near Harrisonburg. On July 12th, 1933, I saw a Scarlet Tanager in bright red plumage. So far as I could tell with glasses at less than twenty foot range there was not yet a green feather on it. This is of some interest in regard to the moulting period of this bird. In Dr. E. A. Smyth's article on "Birds Observed in Montgomery County, Virginia," in THE AUK, Vol. XXIX, Oct., 1912, pages 508-530, he says that "Red males pass south, July 4 to 17." The Editor of THE AUK in a footnote challenged this statement of Dr. Smyth's, saying that "it would seem more probable that they pass into the green plumage at this date." In a later article (THE AUK, XLIV, Jan., 1927, pages 44-46) Dr. Smyth maintained that his observations were correct. The above record, as well as other notes that I have made at Lexington, Va., would seem to bear out Dr. Smyth's statement.

---J. J. Murray

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Blacksburg. I have the following data on the Little Blue Heron in this section. Every summer I have reports of White "cranes" being seen on the North Fork of the Roanoke River; four years ago a Little

Blue Heron in white plumage was shot on the North Fork of the Roanoke and brought to Blacksburg; in 1931 one in white plumage was seen near Shadow Lake, an artificial lake three miles from Blacksburg; this year it has been noted in the blue and in the white plumage on Tom's Creek, Montgomery County; and one in white was recorded on Strouble's Creek, on the V. P. I. campus, July 20.

September records: 1st, 30 Sparrow Hawks seen circling over the campus. 17th, young male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 3 Black Vultures; 27th, Black & White Warbler (Dr. Smyth's latest is Sept. 5), Blackburnian Warbler. 28th, warblers, Cape May, Black-poll, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Yellow Palm, Redstart. 29th, Cape May Warbler. On Sept. 12th I saw two Ravens on Reddish Know in the Shenandoah National Forest.

---Ralph M. Brown.

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Giles County. In reference to the notes in the June issue on the breeding of the Chestnut-sided Warbler in Giles County, Mr. Harold H. Bailey, of Miami, Florida, writes that he has often taken the eggs of this warbler in Giles County. He says that during the period from 1913 to 1918 he and his father collected 30 or more sets of the eggs at and around Mountain Lake. "These birds bred mostly in the wild blackberry bushes and thick vines, from around 4000 feet altitude down to about 3200 feet," and did not come below the territory inhabited by the Carolina Junco.

Lexington. During the month of September three new birds were added to the Rockbridge County list: (1) Broad-winged Hawk. I saw a flock of 25 migrating hawks near Cameron's Pond, Sept. 25, most if not all of which were Broad-wings. Prof. R. S. Freer had previously heard one on Thunder Hill about the middle of the summer. (2) Connecticut Warbler. I took a specimen at Cameron's Pond on Sept. 25, and saw another on Sept. 29. (3) Lincoln's Sparrow. One seen at Cameron's Pond on Sept. 18, and another on Sept. 29.

The Little Blue Heron was unusually common this fall, up to Sept. 15 and probably later. Fall records for the American Egret were Aug. 28, Sept. 2 and 19. Pied-billed Grebe on Oct. 2. Marsh Hawk, Sept. 2. One Sora seen on Oct. 2. These rails were formerly very common in fall, but have been exceedingly rare for several years. This seems to be due to the changing conditions at Cameron's and Big Spring Ponds, the former having been dry so much of the time, and the water weeds and cattails having almost died out of the latter. Shorebirds have been unusually common this fall: Woodcock, Aug. 25 and Sept. 4; Snipe, usually scarce in fall, five times, Aug. 28 to Oct. 2; Pectoral Sandpiper, Sept. 18; Solitary Sandpiper, abundant, still present on Oct. 2; Lesser Yellowlegs, Aug. 31 (2), Sept. 2, and 4 (2), and 8; Least Sandpiper, Aug. 31 (3); Semipalmated Sandpiper, Aug. 28 (3), and 31, Sept. 4 and 7; Semipalmated Plover, Aug. 31. A female Blue-winged Teal was seen at Cameron's Pond, Sept. 18, and another at Big Spring, Oct. 2, both unusually early fall dates. Nighthawks have

been scarce since Sept. 10th. Bobolinks were more common than usual this fall and for a longer period than usual, from Aug. 25 to Oct. 2. Many Long-billed Marsh Wrens were seen throughout September. A Nashville Warbler, Oct. 2, is my second record for the county.

---J. J. Murray



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Nos. 10 & 11

THE SUMMER BIRDS OF MOUNTAIN LAKE, VIRGINIA

The following birds were observed in the region of Mountain Lake, Giles Co., Virginia, at an altitude of 3600-4500 feet, between June and September over a period of three summers. My observations covered a period of ten weeks this summer, June 26 to August 31, 1933; while Prof. R. P. Carroll added observations made during the last three summers. No effort was made to record nesting dates, or dates of arrival and departure. Field trips were taken when time permitted, but most of the observations were made on trips associated with the courses offered at the University of Virginia Biological Station.

The abbreviations c, fc, and r, stand for common, fairly common, and rare, respectively.

Horned Grebe	r	Song Sparrow	fc
Woodcock	r	Towhee	c
Killdeer	r	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r
Bob-white	fc	Indigo Bunting	fc
Ruffed Grouse	c	Scarlet Tanager	r
Wild Turkey	fc	Cedar Waxwing	c
Turkey Vulture	c	Red-eyed Vireo	fc
Red-tailed Hawk	fc	Blue-headed Vireo	fc
Great Horned Owl	fc	Black and White Warbler	c
Belted Kingfisher	fc	Black-throated Blue Warbler	c
Hairy Woodpecker	c	Magnolia Warbler	r
Northern Pileated Woodpecker	fc	Chestnut-sided Warbler	fc
Northern Flicker	c	Black-poll Warbler	r
Nighthawk	fc	Black-throated Green Warbler	fc
Chimney Swift	fc	Ovenbird	fc
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	c	Louisiana Water-thrush	r
Crested Flycatcher	c	Canada Warbler	c
Phoebe	c	Redstart	r
Wood Pewee	c	Catbird	c
Blue Jay	fc	Brown Thrasher	fc
Northern Raven	r	Carolina Wren	fc
American Crow	c	Bewick's Wren	c
Starling	r	White-breasted Nuthatch	c
Purple Grackle	r	Tufted Titmouse	c
English Sparrow	r	Carolina Chickadee	c
Goldfinch	c	Wood Thrush	r
Chipping Sparrow	c	Veery	c
Field Sparrow	fc	Robin	c
Slate-colored Junco	c	Bluebird	c

NOTES: Three hundred Wild Turkeys have recently been introduced near the Cascades, about one and one-half miles west of Mountain Lake. A Ruffed Grouse was heard drumming on two occasions; July 23, near Johns Creek Valley; and August 22, near White Pine Lodge. The Cedar Waxwings were very abundant about the Lake during the late afternoon and evening. They resembled the Chimney Swifts and Barn Swallows in their manner of catching insects in the air above the water and skimming close to the water surface. The Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were observed only during the last week in August, in small flocks consisting of females and immature males. The Raven seems to be disappearing from this region. Several years ago it was a fairly common bird, whereas this summer very few were heard and seen. The only Purple Grackles recorded for Mountain Lake were one pair observed during a period of one week in August, 1930. The following list includes those birds of which only one individual was observed this summer: Horned Grebe, Woodcock, Scarlet Tanager, Black-poll Warbler, Redstart and Wood Thrush.

---Robert F. Carroll
D. Ralph Hostetter

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A LOCAL LIST OF LONG AGO

One of the main objects of the Virginia Society of Ornithology has been the preparation of accurate local lists of birds in all parts of our State. THE RAVEN has constantly argued that the best way in which any of its readers can serve science is by becoming thoroughly acquainted with the natural history of his or her local region. The following quotation from an old book is to the point here. It is the first paragraph from the Advertisement (or Preface) to Gilbert White's "The Natural History of Selborne," a book that is a landmark in the progress of natural history.

"The Author of the following letters takes the liberty, with all proper deference, of laying before the public his idea of parochial history, which, he thinks, ought to consist of natural productions and occurrences as well as antiquities. He is also of the opinion that if stationary men would pay some attention to the districts on which they reside, and would publish their thoughts respecting the objects that surround them, from such materials might be drawn the most complete county-histories, which are still wanting in several parts of this kingdom."

Gilbert White was a clergyman in the parish of Selborne, in the County of Hampshire, some fifty miles south-west of London. He was one of the first of the amateur field naturalists, who are now more or less accepted by the general populace as at least harmless, but who were then looked on as lunatics. His book, first published in 1789 and then in scores of later editions, contains a mass of natural history material, some of it, though strangely little of it considering his opportunities, inaccurate, most of it carefully presented, and all of it interesting. The quiet dignity of its literary style, as well as the interest of its matter, has made it a classic.

BIRD SLAUGHTER IN THE EARLY DAYS

If we tend to become discouraged at the slow progress of bird protection in America, we need only to look backwards to realize that great steps have been made. A paragraph culled from John Muir's book, "The Story of My Boyhood and Youth," is evidence in point. The sport (?) which he describes was a common one in the period just before the Civil War, and the practice was a sickening one to a man of his sensitiveness of spirit and his love of wild life. The quotation follows:

"In the older eastern States it used to be considered great sport for an army of boys to assemble to hunt birds, squirrels, and ~~every~~ other unclaimed, unprotected live thing of shootable size. They divided into two squads, and, choosing leaders, scattered through the woods in different directions, and the party that killed the greatest number enjoyed a supper at the expense of the other. The whole neighborhood seemed to enjoy the shameful sport especially the farmers afraid of their crops. With a great air of importance, laws were enacted to govern the gory business. For example, a gray squirrel must count four heads, a woodchuck six heads, common red squirrel two heads, black squirrel ten heads, a partridge five heads, the larger birds, such as whip-poor-wills and nighthawks two heads each, the wary crows three, and bob-whites three. But all the blessed company of mere songbirds, warblers, robins, thrushes, orioles, with nuthatches, chickadees, blue jays, woodpeckers, etc., counted only one head each. The heads of the birds were hastily wrung and thrust into the game-bags to be counted, saving the bodies only of what was called game, the larger squirrels, bob-whites, partridges, etc. The blood-stained bags of the best slayers were soon full. Then at a given hour all had to stop and repair to the town, empty their dripping sacks, count the heads, and go rejoicing to their dinner.

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The December number of THE RAVEN must be issued early in the month so members may have the notice about Christmas Census dates in time. Notes and contributions for the December issue should be in the hands of the Editor immediately after December 1st.

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FIELD NOTES

Norfolk: - I am quoting below from an article which appeared in the Virginian-Pilot August 26th, which I think might be of some interest. The story is by Al Lewis, a staff member of the paper, who was aboard a tug which went to the assistance of the stranded steamer, "City of Norfolk." The boat was stranded near Watts Island in Chesapeake Bay.

"One lifeboat drew alongside empty - but for the pitiful clinging-on of one of Mother Carey's chickens. Captain James said that he had never seen Mother Carey's chickens in Chesapeake Bay before in his whole career. Captain James had been a skipper in the Chesapeake Line for 37 years - master of the "City of Norfolk" for 15 years - and prior to his present service, a mate on the Old Bay Line. Hundreds of Mother Carey's chickens were hovering about, some of them perched on the rails of the "City of Norfolk." They appear at sea only in bad weather, seeming to prefer isolation until they are so weakened by fighting gales that they seek shelter anywhere, and only then seem to be among the tamest and friendliest of creatures, despite their shyness."

Of particular interest was the destruction of a small flock of adult starlings, noted by me on the 23rd, the morning of the storm. I was up about 5:30 and had walked out to the Granby Street bridge over LaFayette River. The birds were flying about 75 feet above the water and with difficulty into the storm - in an instant the flock of seven were plunged into the water, from the force of the wind. Two were seen to arise, the other five disappeared. At this moment I had to seek shelter and turned away. The wind velocity was between 66 and 75 miles per hour and stronger in gusts.

---A. O. English.

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Alexandria. October 9 (Four Mile Run): Great Blue Heron, 1; Egret, 4-5; Common Black Duck; Pintail, a few; Osprey; Sparrow Hawk; Sora; Coot, Wilson's Snipe, 8-10; Lesser (?) Yellowlegs, 4; Long-billed Marsh Wren, singing; 5; Migrant Shrike, with remains of a small frog stuck on the barb of a wire fence. October 17 (Mt. Vernon Highway): Pied-billed Grebe, common; Great Blue Heron, 4; Black Duck, common; Baldpate, large flock; Blue-winged Teal, 6; Bald Eagle, 2, immature; Osprey, 2; Coot, common; Ring-billed Gull; Sapsucker; Myrtle Warbler, 2; Black-poll Warbler, 2; Pine Warbler; Tree Sparrow; Swamp Sparrow, 2. October 26: Old Squaw, male; Whistling Swan, 2; Canada Goose, 5. October 30: Pied-billed Grebe, common; Great Blue Heron, 2; American Bittern; Whistling Swan, 2; dirty and with heads dark; Black Duck; Gadwall (?), 1; Baldpate, abundant; Scaup, common; Old Squaw, 1 male; Ruddy Duck, quite a few; Coot, abundant; Wilson's Snipe, about 25; Greater (?) Yellowlegs, 30; Least Sandpiper, 5; Red-backed Sandpiper; Herring Gull, common; Ring-billed Gull, common; Bonaparte's Gull, 2; Pintail, quite a number.

---William B. McIlwaine, Jr.

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Naruna: - The following birds have been added to my local list: Bobolink, Broad-winged Hawk, and Red-headed Woodpecker. Sept. 7, two Broad-winged Hawks seen and identified by their call notes. Sparrow Hawk, Oct. 3. Red-tailed Hawk, 2 on Oct. 28; 1 on Nov. 1. On Nov. 2 a Crow was heard, the call of which was like that of the Fish Crow.

Migrants: Bobolink, Sept. 26; Red-breasted Nuthatch, Oct. 4-14;
Hermit Thrush, 3 on Oct. 24; Fox Sparrow, Oct. 29.

---Bertha Daniel.

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Lynchburg: - Nighthawks seemed to be unusually abundant here this fall. Thousands were seen personally or reported to me for Sunday, Aug. 27. We saw hundreds in the valleys of Pedlar and Buffalo rivers in Amherst County on above date. An American Woodcock was seen on the campus Sept. 28. First fall date for the Red-breasted Nuthatch was Sept. 30, on Apple Orchard Mt., Bedford County. On the same day a Hawk migration was observed, same place. Ten Hawks, species undetermined, were seen flying high and southward over Apple Orchard, within ten minutes. (October) First fall dates, all for Timber Lake: 10/7, Red-breasted Nuthatch; 10/19, Greater Yellowlegs, Purple Finch; 10/26, Mallard; 10/27, Pied-billed Grebe, Rusty Blackbird, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Junco.

---Ruskin S. Freer.

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Goochland County, Etc. - Oct. 24, 1933. Harris Pond on New State Highway No. 5 from Richmond to Charlottesville in upper Goochland County, Va. - 1 canvasback seen alone on the pond.

Oct. 26, 1933, Dayton Mill Pond near Dayton, Rockingham County, Va.: Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Gadwall, 4; Baldpate, 1; Green-winged Teal, 2; Pintail, 2; Canvasback, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 4; Buffle-head, 2, one a beautiful male; Ruddy Duck, 4; Coot, 6; Yellow-legs, 2; Turkey Vulture, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1. I never pass this pond without finding something of interest there.

Oct. 26, 1933 - Cameron's Pond, near Gordonsville, Va. I arrived at the pond just at dusk and within a few minutes it was too dark to make identifications with any certainty. Birds seen were 5 bufflehead ducks, one of which was a brilliant male, 2 ruddy ducks, 1 coot and one great blue heron. The five bufflehead ducks took flight and left the pond, probably continuing their flight southward, after I had returned to my car and was preparing to leave. It was then so dark that only their dark forms could be seen against the sky. The heron had apparently taken up his abode for the night, standing sedately on one foot, with his neck drawn down to half its usual length. He stood close in shore in a sheltered nook within ten feet of a group of white Peking ducks which had chosen a sandbar. While watching the heron the coot approached the ducks cautiously, pausing occasionally to get a last mouthful, but probably acting as unconcerned as possible while it sized up the situation. When it drew near to the group of ducks, it hesitated once or twice, then swam directly to the sandbar, walked into the midst of the ducks, and settled down contentedly while the ducks continued their preening unconcerned. There the coot knew he would be much safer than were he alone on the bank. Apparently both the heron and the coot recognized safety in the presence of the ducks, but of the two the coot showed the better judgment; he could not have picked a safer place to spend the night.

Nov. 1, 1933 - Charlottesville, Va. - One Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at the bird bath at the home of Dr. Fletcher Woodward and on the following day another was heard on the Massanutten Mountain in western Page County, near Pitt Spring. ---Chas. O. Handley.

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Lexington: - Correction: I must correct an error in the Lexington report in the last issue. The warbler which I reported as a Connecticut Warbler turns out to be a Mourning Warbler. I had identified the specimen, which was an immature without very definite markings about the head, as a Connecticut because of its very long under tail coverts, even though I found the measurements to come somewhat short, but Dr. H. C. Oberholser, to whom I later submitted it, says that it is a Mourning Warbler, probably a young male. I was too hasty in reporting it. The Mourning Warbler is an addition to the Lexington list just as the other would have been.

October and early November records: Canada Goose, 1 seen by the caretaker at the Adcox Knob Reservoir, which is high up in the mountains, on 10/18; Mallard, a male, on 10/29, and 2 males on 11/6; Common Black Duck, 2 on 11/6; Gadwall, 2 females from 10/27 to date (11/7); Baldpate, young male, 10/27 to date; Green-winged Teal, 3 males on 10/29; Ruddy Duck, female, on 10/30. All these ducks were at Big Spring except the Ruddy. I have seen a Duck Hawk around the neighborhood of Big Spring several times lately. On November 6th it flew at a flock of ducks that were circling over the pond, scattering them as if a shell had burst in their midst, and sending them down to the water with terrific speed, but without catching one. The Wilson's Snipe, usually rare here in fall, was again seen on 10/29. The Solitary Sandpiper remained until 10/17, being common this fall. I saw a single Lesser Yellowlegs at Adcox Knob Lake on 10/23 which is extremely late; and 2 Pectoral Sandpipers at Big Spring on 10/17. Coots have been more common than usual, two or three being present at Big Spring every time I have gone there since 10/17. Three Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on one tree out in an open field near Big Spring on 11/3. Cape May Warblers were abundant up to 10/21, and Black-polls to 10/20. Yellow Palm Warblers have been scarce this fall, but, on the other hand, the rarer Western Palm Warbler has been not uncommon. White-crowned Sparrows were seen on 10/18 (6) and 11/6 (2). I saw a Lincoln Sparrow at Cameron's Pond on 10/18, possibly the same bird reported last month.

---J. J. Murray.

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Salem: - The following migration dates in Roanoke County are of interest: Last seen: Redstart, about 12, September 29; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2, September 12; Pine Warbler, about 10, September 29; Prairie Warbler, 2, September 29. First seen: White-throated Sparrow, 2, October 3; Winter Wren, 1, October 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5, October 15th. I will watch very carefully this winter for a Catbird in a certain locality about three miles north of Salem in which I am quite sure that I heard one last January. At the time, however, it was impossible to

follow it up to verify; therefore it was not reported to THE RAVEN. White-throated sparrows have been quite common in favorable localities during the past ten days. Juncos have not yet been seen down in the valley section, (October 16th).

---Merriam G. Lewis.

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Blacksburg; - Migrant Shrike, Oct. 1.-29; Cape May Warbler, Oct. 1-21; Blackburnian Warbler, Oct. 2; Magnolia Warbler, Oct. 2-11; Bay-breasted Warbler, Oct. 2-21; Black-throated Green Warbler, Oct. 2-17; Virginia Rail, Oct. 2; Black-throated Blue Warbler, Oct. 3-14; Myrtle Warbler, Oct. 3-29; Chestnut-sided Warbler, Oct. 4-10; Black and White Warbler, Oct. 4; Black-poll Warbler, Oct. 2-24; Pewee, Oct. 3-11; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Oct. 4; Brown Creeper, Oct. 5; White-crowned Sparrow, Oct. 6-18; Blue-headed Vireo, Oct. 8-9; Towhee, Oct. 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet, Oct. 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch, Oct. 9-13; Pine Warbler, Oct. 10; Brown Thrasher, Oct. 14; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Oct. 15-27; Junco, Oct. 15; White-throated Sparrow, Oct. 15; Lesser Scaup Duck, Oct. 25; American Coot, Oct. 29; Purple Finch, Oct. 27-29; Phoebe, Oct. 29.

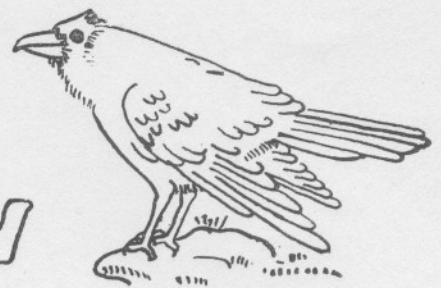
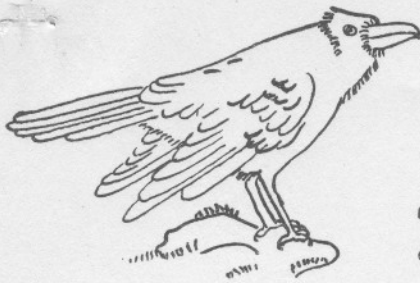
---Ralph M. Brown.

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NOTICE

Final announcement as to the date of the Alexandria meeting will be made in the December issue of THE RAVEN which will appear shortly.

---Ruskin S. Freer



THE RAVEN

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No. 12

THE ALEXANDRIA MEETING OF THE V.S.O.

March 9 and 10, 1934, have been selected as the dates for the next Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. This will be our Fourth Annual Meeting, not counting the organization meeting of December 7, 192. The date was determined upon by the Executive Committee in consultation with members living in the Alexandria and Washington region, the chief factor given consideration being the season when the weather and numbers of water fowl along the Potomac are likely to be most favorable for a profitable field trip! Previous Annual Meetings have been held in Richmond, Charlottesville, and Norfolk. The organization meeting was held in Lynchburg.

Members especially responsible for the coming meeting are Dr. J. J. Murray, editor of THE RAVEN, who is Chairman of the Program Committee, and Dr. Wm. B. McIlwaine, Jr. of Alexandria, Chairman of the Committee on Local Arrangements. ---Ruskin S. Freer.

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Our past Annual Meetings have been notably successful for the number of papers read by members. It is hoped that this year will be no exception to the past record. Members planning to contribute papers should send in titles to the Editor not later than January 20, as it is planned to include the entire program in the February issue of THE RAVEN. Dr. McIlwaine will also have information as to hotels in an early issue.

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THE PROGRAM FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

A very interesting program is being arranged for the Annual Meeting to be held at Alexandria. Dr. H. C. Oberholser, of the Biological Survey, an authority on water fowl, has consented to give a talk on "The Water Birds of Virginia." We hope also to secure the help of another nationally known ornithologist from Washington. But while these two talks will be the high lights of the program we must not forget that the chief purpose of our annual meeting is to give opportunity for our members to share experiences and exchange views. Hence the program committee is anxious to have as many of our members as possible present papers. This notice is an invitation to each member of the V. S. O. to prepare a paper or talk for the meeting. However, it is important that the titles of papers, with an estimate of the amount of time needed, be sent to Dr. J. J. Murray, Lexington, Virginia, by January 15th.

Four members of the V.S.O. attended the Fifty-first Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists Union in New York City, November 14-16. They were Dr. Murray, Mr. M. G. Lewis, Mr. Martin Curtler, and the writer. Dr. Murray read two papers which were very favorably received. It is hoped that they will be available to the members of the V.S.O. in some form in the near future.

---Ruskin S. Freer.

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CHRISTMAS CENSUSES

Each year 'Bird-Lore' sponsors a Christmas Census. Responses from points in the South are all too few. Last year there were only five from Virginia. It is hoped that this year all Virginia readers of 'Bird-Lore' will send in a census list. The directions on page 319 of the November-December issue of 'Bird-Lore' should be carefully followed. The census must not be taken earlier than Dec. 22nd nor later than Dec. 27th. The trip must take at least four hours; preferably a whole day should be given to it; and only one day's records may be included. The area covered must not exceed fifteen miles in diameter. The report should be typewritten, and the names of all members of the group making the list should be appended. At the head of the list should be noted the place, date, time of beginning and end of trip, weather, temperature at start and finish, distance travelled by auto and on foot. The names of all species observed should be listed (in the order of the new A.O.U. 'Check-List'), and the number of individuals of each species seen should be given. Immediately after taking the census the report should be sent to: Editor of Bird-Lore, American Museum of Natural History, New York City.

Please send a copy of your list to the Editor of THE RAVEN for inclusion in the January issue. Members who are not sending a census to 'Bird-Lore' are requested to send one in to THE RAVEN anyway. The same rules will be followed, except that any date in December after you receive this issue of THE RAVEN will be allowed. It might be well to make two tries and send in the better list.

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A SKETCH OF THE WATER-FOWL POPULATION OF THE POTOMAC RIVER DURING THE FALL

"Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further..." This article is only "a sketch" (for details consult the author). Our "Potomac River" is just that fifteen mile stretch between Washington and Mount Vernon, and on the Virginia side. The term "Water-Fowl" being somewhat indefinite, and our article no check-list, I am liable to criticism for sins both of omission and of commission. The subject matter is confined almost entirely to personal observations that have been, of necessity, limited and irregular. But - we wade in.

The most conspicuous thing on the Potomac River during the month of September is the American Egret. A ride down the Memorial Highway to Mount Vernon may reveal scores of them. Dotted here and there along the shore and out on the shallow bars, they are in massed formation in the creek bays. With them will be their smaller cousins, the Little Blue Herons, most of the latter in white phase, many of them in transitu. Not uncommon will be the Great Blue Herons. A keener look will reveal the Black-crowned Night Herons, old and young, and perhaps several Green Herons. But with the second week of October all are gone except a few Great Blues, which will winter here, and possibly an occasional Night Heron. The American Bittern remains longer. I saw one on Hunting Creek on October 30.

I am not sure of having ever seen on the river a Loon, though I have had my suspicions. And of course there are some in season. (our editor finds them in his back yard in Lexington, Va.) But the Grebes are common, both Pied-billed and Horned. They come in late August and late September respectively. And if anyone feels that the Pied-billed Grebe has been maligned in any of his local appellations (water witch, hell-diver, etc.), it is because he has never stood and watched this bird drop out of sight in still, open water, and not reappear. It gives you a queer feeling, like that described by the colored girl in North Carolina. She had been sitting among the chips in the woodshed. Feeling something moving under her, she got up to investigate, and discovered a large copperhead snake. When asked about her sensations she replied, "Well, it did make me feel kinder droll."

We have no Gulls in the summer. But with about October 1st they return in force, Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's. I have identified very few Laughing Gulls, but I believe they are not uncommon. I was interested on October 3rd to see many Gulls at Annapolis, Maryland, when there were practically none here. On September 4th (Labor Day) I counted eighteen Black Terns flying swiftly low over the water, dropping now and then for food from the surface. This was the largest group, but I saw them in smaller companies from time to time until September 26th, when there were at least four. This date is four days later than the last recorded in Miss Cooke's "Birds of the Washington (D. C.) Region." Last fall a heavy northeast gale brought several Common Terns, and in the Spring (April 27) I had the good fortune to see on Hunting Creek three Caspian Terns. But these records are exceptional.

My first trip afield in this section was made about September 20, two years ago. Pointing to certain water-fowl that flew up from the river, my companion said, "Those are Crow Duck (Coot), the only duck we have on the river this early." And last year an old man who lives in a shack on the river bank said to me, "Ain' nothin' on 'e river now 'cep' 'em _____ Water Witches, - an' a few Mallard." I know now that both men were wrong. Yet in a way they were not so far from right. For, while there are few water-fowl to be seen on the river so early, yet they are to be found on "the plashy brink of weedy lake," just off the river proper. In the marshy tidal basin of the

intersection of Four Mile Run, where you can see almost anything, including Pied-billed Grebes and Florida Gallinules in mid-summer, I saw on September 2nd a flock of about fifteen duck that I took to be Black Duck. A friend tells me he was seeing Black Duck down the river all summer, and he believes they were breeding. From September 11th Blue-winged Teal were on Four Mile Run regularly. From September 15th in the marsh of Roach's Run I saw my first Baldpate of the season and a pair of exquisite Wood Duck. On September 20th on Four Mile Run, three or four Pintails.

After a gap of some days I find in my notes this entry: "October 7.--Coot are here by the hundreds, and the ducks are beginning to "raft" out in the middle of the river. Most of them today were too far away for identification, but I did see many Black Duck, some Ruddy Duck, and others."

And so the Ducks are here, sometimes in thousands in a single "raft." To the query as to which are the most numerous I should make reply about like this: First in numbers come the Canvasback; then the Scaups (two species); thirdly, the Black Duck (two species); next, Baldpate; then, Pintail. I see comparatively few Mallard, and these mostly confined to the flats of Roach's Run. Ring-necked Duck are said to be scarce here; but, on the contrary, I find them common. Though I confess that I have seen few Scaups this fall, and have recognized no Ring-necks. But this is probably because I have looked for them so seldom. Ruddy Duck are not at all uncommon, though never in large numbers. Shovellers I met last year for the first time on November 21st. I have seen none this season. I find them in groups of three or four from time to time throughout the winter. The Bufflehead does not arrive until the last of November. I have not seen one this fall, but last season I ran across a few in late winter and early spring. My complete record for the Gold-eye is just one, seen across the river from Potomac Park. I am never quite satisfied with my distance identifications of Gadwalls, and therefore make no observations here. But sometimes a fellow has the good fortune to be able to make an entry in his notes like this: "October 26, 1933.--Driving down the country to pay a call, my wife and I stopped at least long enough to see on the river a male Old Squaw, two Whistling Swans, and five Canada Geese." I have another record of one male Old Squaw, on October 30. On this date, too, I saw a pair of Swans, this time on the river at Four Mile Run. They remained there several days. I was interested as I looked across toward the Swans to see on the edge of the river, close to me, and evidently very tired, a flock of thirty Greater Yellowlegs. (But Yellowlegs are not in this particular story.) Last Spring I was excited greatly by "an iceberg" of thirty-two Swans. This was on March 31. On April 4th I saw a flock of nineteen.

I have seen no geese this season other than the five named above. But last year I had an interesting experience. On November 16th the newspapers were telling of heavy blizzards in the Northwest, and were

predicting a cold wave here. On that day from eight o'clock until sunset I saw, or was told of, fifteen flocks of geese headed south. Was it just a coincidence?

---William B. McIlwaine, Jr.,
Alexandria, Virginia,
December 1, 1933.

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PROFESSOR FREER HONORED BY THE A. A. A. S.

The following item was taken from "The News" (Lynchburg, Va.) without the knowledge of our President: "Professor Ruskin S. Freer, head of the biology department at Lynchburg College, has been notified of his election as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The notification states that the award is made to 'persons who have contributed to the advancement of science, usually by the publication of a scientific research, or in other significant manner.'....Professor Freer has devoted the last few years to research on the flora and birds of the Blue Ridge section. In recognition of this work, the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences has invited him to publish a paper in its annual journal, 'Bartonia.' The article by Professor Freer, 'Notes on the Occurrence of Some Unusual Plants in the Virginia Blue Ridge,' will appear in February."

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ANOTHER DANGER TO OUR VIRGINIA WILD FOWL

Orin D. Steele, field worker for the Biological Survey, has just completed an inspection of the Currituck Sound and Back Bay areas. He reports that incursion of sea water into these areas threatens destruction of the food by which the vast numbers of winter water fowl are supported. The hurricanes of the late summer cut inlets through the sand banks of the barrier strips and let in the salt water that kills the grass and wild celery upon which the ducks and geese depend. It is too early yet to say what the final effect will be, but the situation is serious.

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A USEFUL FIELD BOOK

From time to time useful books for the bird student are suggested in these columns. The Editor would like to recommend at this time a book which, though it is by no means new, he finds very helpful in field identification. It is "Birds of the New York City Region," by Ludlow Griscom, published in 1923. It has very few pictures, but its discussions of field marks and its suggestions toward field identifications are unsurpassed. It is particularly helpful in pointing out the marks by which closely similar species may be recognized in the field. The author is an expert in this phase of bird study. And not least in importance, the book, which contains 400 pages, is remarkably

inexpensive. It may be procured for \$1.00 plus 10¢ postage, by addressing: The Librarian, American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street and Central Park West, New York City.

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FIELD NOTES

Norfolk. Miss Lucy Pendleton Kearns, Lynnhaven, Virginia, sends in a clipping from the "Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch" of Nov. 14th, relating how a Loon flew into the open window of an automobile near Cape Henry and was captured by two boys.

Richmond. Since moving to Richmond I have had the opportunity to go to Byrd Park more often than formerly and I delight in seeing the ducks which congregate there, chiefly at Shields' Lake. There were approximately 200 Ring-necked Ducks, 6 Golden-eyes and 4 Coots on the lake on November 12th. That is the largest group of Ring-necks I have ever seen there. I took along a little cracked corn and succeeded in tolling about thirty of the Ring-necks to within twenty feet of shore to feed on the grain. At first the ducks were rather wary because of the groups of people standing and walking nearby, but finally a beautiful male bird came in close enough to get a few pieces of the corn and it was not long until the water was boiling with others. There were between fifteen and twenty diving for the grain constantly from then on until we had to go. Probably most of the birds that came for the grain at this time were old visitors that had become accustomed to being fed in years past, but nevertheless it is remarkable that these wild birds, which are so wary elsewhere should show so little fear of human visitors in this park. ---C. O. Handley.

Blacksburg. This has been a good duck month. I have recorded five species that I had not seen here before, although Dr. Smyth has records for all of them. I also saw a Canada Goose, my first Blacksburg record, on Nov. 6th. On Nov. 4, 10 and 13 I saw Scaups. Nov. 6, Coot, Baldpate, Canada Goose. Nov. 5, Myrtle Warbler, Migrant Shrike, Red-shouldered Hawk. Nov. 10, Gadwall, Hooded Merganser. Nov. 12, Horned Lark (20). Nov. 12, Cedar Waxwing (20). Nov. 15, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Nov. 19, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Purple Finch. Nov. 20, Canvas-back. ---Ralph M. Brown.

Lexington. A Great Blue Heron is wintering in the neighborhood of Big Spring Pond. This is the fifth season one has been present in winter. There have been a few Mallards at Big Spring throughout November. They have become so tame that they not only associate with the domestic ducks on the pond but climb the bank with them and walk up to the

granary to feed at the feet of the mistress of the farm. A pair of Green-winged Teals have frequented the pond throughout November and into December, the male in a very rusty plumage that seems to be brightening as the season goes on. I have three November records of the Woodcock, a bird that is quite scarce here, - of birds shot by hunters on Nov. 20, 25, and 30. Other records are: Myrtle Warbler, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Raven (seen within three miles of Lexington), all for Nov. 27.

---J. J. Murray.