

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB



VOL. V.

JANUARY, 1941

No. 1

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

At State College Station

Raleigh, N. C.

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Published five times a year on the fifteenth of January, March, May, September, and November as the official organ of the North Carolina Bird Club and is sent to all members. Articles for publication should reach the Editor by the first of the month in which the issue is published. Notification of change of address or of lost copies should also be sent to the editor.

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00. Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer. Present officers:

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Birds That Hunt And Are Hunted

J. S. HOLMES, Raleigh

Predatory birds are those which feed on other live birds or animals. Hawks and owls catch mice, rats, small birds, and even poultry; and Ospreys and Kingfishers feed themselves and their young on fish. The predators should not be confused with the scavengers or those which feed on dead birds or other carrion. The Turkey Vulture and the gulls are scavengers but they are not predators since they do not catch their prey.

All of the predatory birds are hunters, and they are also hunted by men who feel that such birds destroy many game birds. There are three main lines of thought regarding animals and birds that prey on others. These three lines we may call right, left, and center.

The left is made up of the radicals who feel that all predators and their relatives, together with most other animals that might interfere with the game should be destroyed. Fortunately, this is not now the most influential group, though it still seems to be the most vociferous. This is the group which has been responsible for the bounty systems. North Carolina began paying bounties on crows, hawks, and wild cats in 1928 and ceased in 1936, paying as much as \$5,000.00 in a year. To these leftists the word wildlife means only game: other birds and animals are of interest to them only as they increase or decrease the amount of game.

The right includes the vast majority of the population, which has no interest in killing game or other wild things. Their joy is in seeing and hearing the wild things of field and stream.

The center is a compromise group with an economic point of view, best illustrated by the Biological Survey (now called Migration and Distribution of Birds). They seem to accept the contention that the major objective in wildlife management is to produce a maximum amount of game to be killed each year.

North Carolina has been making some progress with regard to its law dealing with predators. Prior to 1927 the law provided that all wild birds except game birds, English Sparrows, Crows, Blackbirds, Jackdaws, Hawks, and Owls be protected throughout the year. Robins and Larks were considered game birds. In keeping with this law the State the next year offered bounties for certain predators, or "vermin" and the counties were authorized to expend up to \$1,000 in such bounties, to be reimbursed by the State. The result was the indiscriminate slaughter of all hawks, as practically no county official or even game wardens knew one hawk from another. The beneficial hawks, like the Sparrow, Red-shouldered, and Red-tailed, were killed and paid for along with the Cooper's and Sharp-shinned which do take game and poultry.

In 1935 the law was amended to remove beneficial hawks from the unprotected list, and the law now reads: "Sec. 18. Birds and animals for

which no open season is provided shall be classed as protected and shall be unlawful to take or possess at any time. Unprotected birds and animals may be taken, possessed, bought, sold and transported at any time in any manner. 1. *Unprotected birds*: English Sparrow, Great Horned Owls, Cooper's Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Crows, Jays, Blackbirds, Starlings and Buzzards, and their nest and eggs. 2. *Unprotected animals*: Wild Cats, Weasels and Skunk: Provided that unprotected birds and animals may not be killed by the use of poison or dynamite except under permit issued by the Commissioner." It will be noticed that Starlings are here added to the list of unprotected birds. They first appeared in the State in 1919.

In recent years the Federal Government has been studying—chiefly from an economic standpoint—the habits, food, and life histories of our predators and other birds and animals which have been loosely classed as "vermin." Trained scientists have been added to many of our state game commissions, and the publications of the Fish and Wildlife Service are more and more advocating a live-and-let-live policy.

It should be remembered that predation is normal, and that the same predators existed back in the early days when wildlife populations were much greater than they are today. The reason for predation is nearly always to secure needed food. In earlier days man had as good a reason for killing as did the other wild creatures, for game was essential to the maintenance of life. Today, however, when food is no object, man stands practically alone among predators as killing for the thrill of the kill. Man is also the most destructive predator. There are three general types of human predators: (1) Those who need food and are satisfied with what they and their families can use; (2) those who kill for sale; (3) those who hunt within the law for their own pleasure. This last group is the more conspicuous and the more respected group, yet they are actuated by selfishness for they want all the game for themselves both now and in the future.

There is one definite benefit in having predatory birds and animals. Each piece of land has a certain carrying capacity, varying with the amount and kind of food and of plant cover. It has been conclusively demonstrated that predators catch only those animals which are in excess of the number that the land will naturally support. If predators do not kill this excess, starvation and adverse weather do.

Personally, I am a great admirer of the crow. The early morning flight across the fields and the return at dusk is closely associated with rural life. Both in Europe and America scarecrows are a recognition of the damage which farmers think they may receive from this bird. In some places crows congregate in enormous numbers and in such cases considerable damage is done to grain crops. The Biological Survey estimated that about three and three-fourths million crows were in Oklahoma in the winter of 1937-38. Crows from eight major roosts in the Grady County

section were observed feeding over an area of 2,592 square miles with an average of 323 birds to the square mile. While the cost per farm in these concentrated areas ran as high as \$66.00, the damage sustained ran from five to twelve per cent, or an average for the state of nearly seven per cent for grain sorghums, and Indian corn. The investigator concluded that from a state-wide viewpoint the crow is a much less serious problem, and in some wheat-raising sections is a benefit.

Sportsmen are, of course, only a minority group among all those interested in the preservation of our wildlife. Yet this small group has controlled the making of most of our laws about game and other animals. The groups who are interested in wildlife in ways other than shooting owe it to themselves to become more active in the securing of protective legislation.

The value of hawks and owls to agriculture has long been known. Dr. A. K. Fisher's "Hawks and Owls of the United States in Their Relation to Agriculture," published in 1893, made clear to the farmer the desirability of protecting the majority of these birds, covering as it did a scientific study of the feeding habits of thirty-two species of hawks and seventeen species of owls. Ten years later the North Carolina Audubon Society was organized and the National Association of Audubon Societies supported the educational and protective programs here and elsewhere. T. Gilbert Pearson and the two Brimleys were the active organizers of the State Society.

For years many so-called sportsmen slaughtered thousands of migrating hawks each fall at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, merely for the pleasure of killing. Under the Emergency Conservation Committee first, and now under the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, this shooting is terminated. Last fall 4,200 people visited this sanctuary to observe and study the flights of some fifteen species of hawks and eagles.

The sad thing is that until a few years ago the non-killers who take their keenest pleasure in the form, the action, the intelligence, the aesthetic and spiritual qualities in birds have been silent, or nearly so, probably for lack of a mouthpiece or a leader, or perhaps an audience. Now with *The Chat* and the State and local bird clubs they can and should appeal to the Legislature and the public. These clubs have been organized none too soon. There are a number of predators which are rapidly decreasing and some have about reached the vanishing point. Their grace and skill and beauty must be perpetuated and their high and daring spirits must not perish from the earth. Let those who love the birds alive seize their share of the responsibility of control legislation, not leaving it all to the hunters. We must see that the higher and more satisfying view of our wildlife is more adequately presented in our schools and colleges. Let us actively participate in the education of our children, teaching them to observe and love all life and beauty as their common heritage. Besides enjoying the meetings of the club,

we have the privilege and I think the duty of protecting as well as studying these weaker creatures and of interpreting them sympathetically to the next generation.

Mattamuskeet Field Trip, February 1, 1941

E. E. BROWN, Davidson

The Club's second attempt to reach Mattamuskeet Lake under arctic conditions is planned for *Saturday, February 1*. Dr. Maynard S. Johnson, manager of the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, has kindly consented to serve as host and guide to "those who can take it." Dr. Johnson says that plenty of wildfowl may be seen, regardless of the nature of the *weather* or the time of day.

It is suggested that members arrive at New Holland on Friday, January 31, in time for a good night's rest. *Accommodations* (heated tourist cabins at about the usual rates) may be had at the tourist camp of Mr. Leslie O'Neal, New Holland. More luxurious rooms may be found at the Mattamuskeet Lodge (Mrs. Rebecca S. Mann, Manager, New Holland) at \$3.50 and \$4.00 per person, American Plan. For the convenience of Mrs. Mann and Mr. O'Neal, it is suggested that members make reservations in advance.

Equipment for the trip should, by all means, include binoculars. Camera fans will find game at which to shoot. *Clothing* should be planned for warmth, with emphasis on feet and hands. Better bring all you can wear, including the old red "F. F. V's."

Plan. The group should assemble at the refuge office by 8:30 Saturday morning. Those on hand earlier (7:30 to 8:30) may be taken by Dr. Johnson in small groups up the headquarters tower. The tower offers an excellent general view of the lake, and a view of waterfowl through Dr. Johnson's high-powered telescope. Short trips will be taken to several points near headquarters. If banding traps make any catch that day, members may be interested in seeing the birds banded. Lunch may be had at New Holland, and there may be further opportunity for "towering" at this time. After lunch Dr. Johnson is likely to take the group to Lake Landing and the east end of the refuge, though plans are subject to change by local conditions of bird distribution, etc. Members may, of course, feel free to leave at any time which suits their particular convenience, or to remain at New Holland over another night.

Dr. Johnson says that "the people who come may confidently look forward to a good view of waterfowl."

Wildfowl

H. H. BRIMLEY, Raleigh

There are some sixty species and sub-species of wildfowl found in the United States, half of which have been known to occur in North Carolina. The largest of these birds is the Trumpeter Swan which is now almost extinct, with something like a hundred birds left to us. The Whistling Swan, a slightly smaller bird, winters mainly in our State, being seen by the thousands at Lake Mattamuskeet. The smallest of the wildfowl is either the female of the Bufflehead or of the Green-winged Teal, both of which occur with us. Thus, while we do not have the largest wildfowl, we have the next largest and also the smallest in North Carolina, and there a goodly number of species that are between these two extremes.

The ducks are the most numerous in species and in numbers of the wildfowl. A hundred thousand ducks have been known to occur on Back Bay, Virginia, just north of our own Currituck Sound; and Mattamuskeet Lake, Albemarle Sound, and Currituck count their ducks not by tens, or hundreds, or even thousands, but by the tens of thousands. North Carolinians have never appreciated the abundance of wildfowl that winter with us. In general, we class ducks under three groups: dabbling ducks, diving ducks, and fish eaters.

The dabblers, or river ducks, are those which do not like to dive for their food but prefer to feed along the edge of pond or river, or to tipple in shallow water for the vegetation growing on the bottom. Tippling means they stand on their heads in the water with their feet moving rapidly to keep their tails aloft—as though they had to work hard to keep themselves in this position. Included in this group are the Mallards, Black Duck, Green-winged and the Blue-winged Teals, Baldpate, Gadwall, Pintail, Wood Duck, and Shoveller. All of these occur in our State.

The diving ducks usually feed on larger bodies of water than do the dabblers, and this is for a good reason. It takes more room for a diving duck to get on the wing than for a dabbling duck, for the diving duck has to skitter along the surface using both feet and wings to get up momentum like an airplane taking off, while river ducks can spring off the water into the air in short order. Some of our diving ducks are the Redhead, Canvas-back, Greater and Lesser Scaup, and the Ring-necked Duck. Another group of diving ducks are the scoters, or Sea Coots as some call them; just off the beach one can often find the American, White-winged, and the Surf Scoter. Other forms of diving ducks that like the ocean and bays are the Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Old Squaw, and Ruddy Duck.

The fisheaters, or mergansers, include the Red-breasted, American, and Hooded Mergansers. These birds are equipped with small ridges on their bills similar to saw teeth with which they can hold on to a slippery fish. The flesh of these birds is not considered such a delicacy on account of the fishy taste.

Another major division of wildfowl is the geese, which include the Canada Goose, Brant, Greater Snow Goose, White-fronted Goose, and the Blue Goose. North Carolina is again the major wintering grounds for some of these species. The Brant winter mainly in Albemarle Sound, far off shore. The Greater Snow Geese have been concentrating on the Pea Island Refuge, just south of Oregon Inlet, where Sam Walker reported ten thousand on one day last year. The Common Canada Goose is by no means confined to North Carolina as a winter visitor, as it is found in the Gulf States also, but we have a heavy concentration of these birds in the inland waters near the coast, and Mattamuskeet Lake has a notable reputation as headquarters for goose hunters. Of recent years we have had a few Blue Geese in with the Snow Geese, and an occasional White-fronted Goose, but these are stragglers from the west where these birds usually winter.

An interesting characteristic of game birds and animals that is often overlooked by observers is the weight of individual specimens. Guesswork and the newspaper boys are responsible for some of the following absurd items: "A turkey gobbler with a ten-inch beard weighing thirty pounds"—"wild cats weigh forty pounds and up, coons run up to forty, Canada Geese weigh fifteen to eighteen pounds." Even Audubon tells of a "sixty-pound wild gobbler and a thirty-eight-pound Trumpeter Swan."

Here are a few weights that I know to be correct from my own hunting, and from preparing specimens for the State Museum. The largest Canada Goose I ever handled tipped the scales at ten and three-quarters pounds—probably weighed eleven pounds when freshly killed. I have seen Whistling Swan of 22 pounds, and know of a 25-pound bird. Large fat Mallard and Black Duck will go six pounds to the pair; so will Canvas-back, Redheads, and Greater Scaup, which gunners call Big Blackheads, will make five pounds per pair; while the Lesser Scaup will do only three and three-quarters pounds to the pair. Brant in good condition four pounds. The heaviest duck I ever weighed was an unusually large American Merganser killed by W. N. Hutt on New River, that pulled down three and three-quarter pounds. I have never seen a Wild Turkey that weighed over twenty pounds, and the largest Wild Cat I ever handled weighed twenty-two pounds.

In the days when it was quite a habit to look upon the wine when it was red, the names Canvas-back and Terrapin were synonymous for high living, but when spirituous liquors were nationally outlawed the formerly outrageously priced Terrapin decreased considerably in value, and the Canvas-back cannot now be purchased legally. I have heard it said that the reason why the demand for terrapin fell off was that no man would pay the awful prices asked for the stewed delicacy unless he was half-stewed himself, for a few drinks under the belt were necessary to the enjoyment of a bloody, half-raw Canvas-back as served according to the recipe endorsed by our Best People.

The diving powers of some of our Sea Ducks approach those of the loons and grebes, particularly in the case of a slightly wounded fowl, as every duck hunter knows to his cost. I hesitate to mention definite depths of water in which some of the Sea Ducks have been known to feed on the bottom, but I know that I have seen a hundred feet mentioned. A vessel loaded with beans went ashore on the island of Heligoland and, in sinking, scattered her cargo over the bottom in ten fathoms of water (60 feet). Flocks of Scoters discovered this submarine beanery and fed on the beans until their flesh lost its usual fishy taste and became quite palatable.

An examination of the body of a typical wild duck shows a development of flying mechanism different in character from that of most of the noticeably strong flyers. The deep keel of the breast-bone so much in evidence in vultures, hawks, gulls, shorebirds, etc., is replaced by a comparatively shallow keel, the flight muscles being cared for by a lateral instead of a vertical distribution. This arrangement results in a broad, streamline, boat-like body, so necessary to a bird that spends the greater part of its active life on or under the water. The wing area is noticeably small compared to the total weight of the bird, calling for a development of wing muscle capable of driving the wings at a very high rate of speed.

When an eagle or a herring gull moves from place to place the progressive force results from comparatively slow strokes of long, broad wings, but when a duck is called hence it steps on the gas and whirls through the air like a bullet.

The statement that a canvas-back flies at the rate of a hundred miles an hour has been made so many times that most people believe it, though it has no basis in fact. Let us consider for a moment what a hundred miles per hour means: Suppose you are in a duck blind and a canvas-back crosses you forty yards away flying at that speed, which is $146\frac{2}{3}$ feet per second! You shoot directly at the duck with a cartridge giving the shot a muzzle velocity of 1,100-foot seconds. Owing to excessive air resistance to shot the velocity would average perhaps around 900-foot seconds for the whole 40 yards, the shot requiring two-fifteenths of a second to reach the place where the duck was when you pulled trigger. Meanwhile, the duck has not been idle, not so that you would notice it, and he has traveled $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet while the shot has been traveling 120 feet, and your shot passes on into the unknown about nineteen feet behind the duck's tail. In other words, if you fired with your gun stationary, you would have to aim $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet ahead of a duck flying at a hundred miles per hour, forty yards away, to hit the bird. If you cut the accredited speed rates of any bird about one-half, you are likely to be nearer the truth than you would be in accepting the popular ideas on the subject.

The Christmas Census

It is hard to account for the fact that we have only eight censuses as compared with twelve last year. Most of the absent ones are in the East, which gives us a shortage of water-fowl and shore birds. Weather for the census period was good until Christmas Day but rainy or foggy from then on, with many reports giving low visibility. Total species reported is 96 as against 128 last year: this shortage is partly due to lack of eastern observers, and particularly Pea Island, which accounted for 20 or more species last year. Rocky Mount leads with 73 species, which is their best census yet. Chapel Hill is next with 71 species, which is 4 below their best year, but they lead with 2,960 individuals as against Rocky Mount's 2,673.

It is difficult to make any generalization on the basis of only eight reports but we note that Woodpeckers are well represented, that Bluebirds are not as numerous as last year, and that Meadowlarks do not appear to be as abundant as a year ago. It is puzzling why Horned Larks should be reported only from Red Springs and Rocky Mount, and Chipping Sparrows from Chapel Hill and Arden.

There were no reports of Purple Grackle, Eagles, Catbirds, White-crowned Sparrows, Red-breasted Merganser, Barn Owl, Blue-headed Vireo, or Redpoll. Scarce species were Pied-billed Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cowbirds, and Savannah Sparrows.

Localities which were the only ones to report certain species are: Winston-Salem with Canada Geese and Canvas-back; Rocky Mount with Wood Duck, Pigeon Hawk (which is amazing in winter) and Vesper Sparrows; Chapel Hill with Redhead Duck, Wild Turkey, and Yellowthroat; Raleigh had Golden-eye; Smoky Mountains with Duck Hawk, Raven, and Pine Siskin; Arden with Black-and-white Warbler (which is astonishing but has been previously reported from the mountains in winter); and Red Springs with both the Yellow and the Western Palm Warbler.

Durham, N. C. (Duke University Campus as base, Erwin and Rigsbee Roads west to Hollow Rock [5 miles], 5 miles northwest to Eno River and Crystal Lake, 7 miles northeast to Little River, and Durham Bird Sanctuary.) December 22: 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Clear, slight northwest wind; temperature 26°-62°. Two parties on foot and in car. Total hours for all participants 22 hrs.; 54 miles by car; 12 miles on foot.

Turkey Vulture, 10; Black Vulture, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Flicker, 9; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 14; Crow, 14; Chickadee, 21; Tufted Titmouse, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 8; Mockingbird, 1; Bluebird, 15; Golden Crowned Kinglet, 4; Ruby Crowned Kinglet, 2; Starling, 6;

Myrtle Warbler, 6; Pine Warbler, 5; English Sparrow, 15; Meadowlark, 2; Cardinal, 24; Goldfinch, 90; Towhee, 6; Junco, 88; Field Sparrow, 12; White-throated Sparrow, 28; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 11. Total, 36 species; 427 individuals. Paul J. Kramer, Thomas J. Jones, and Mr. and Mrs. Mychyle W. Johnson; members Duke-Durham Bird Club.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee (same area as in past three years—circle of 7½ miles radius centering on Bullhead of Mt. LeConte, and including a section of the Tennessee-North Carolina divide from Silers Bald to the Sawteeth; also the towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee). Dec. 22, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear; ground frozen, thawing at low altitudes; wind light, variable, temperature 25° to 62° in lowlands, colder in uplands. Altitude range 1,200 to 6,600 feet. Five parties, 40 party-hours, 54 party-miles on foot and 69 party-miles in car. Turkey Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Duck Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 10 (1 heard drumming repeatedly); Bob-white, 9 (1 covey); Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 11; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Blue Jay, 1; Raven, 5; Crow, 220 (est.); Chickadee (both Black-capped and Carolina observed), 145; Tufted Titmouse, 31; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 46; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 10; Mockingbird, 1; Robin, 3; Hermit Thrush, 13; Bluebird, 19; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 18; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 5; Cedar Waxwing, 4; Migrant Shrike, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 2; English Sparrow, 30; Cardinal, 65; Purple Finch, 11; Pine Siskin, 400 (est.); Goldfinch, 53; Towhee, 8; Savannah Sparrow, 2; Junco (both Slate-colored and Carolina observed), 220 (est.); Field Sparrow, 180 (est.); White-throated Sparrow, 59; Song Sparrow, 64. Total, 42 species; approximately 1,667 individuals. A good seed crop on fir probably accounts for numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins present. Sparrow Hawk, Turkey, Phoebe, and Red Crossbill observed between Dec. 18-22. Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist, William F. Alston, and 26 members and guests of East Tennessee Ornithological Society.

Chapel Hill, N. C.—Dec. 23; 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear, temperature 37°-54° F. Same territory as covered in former years with addition of Eastwood Lake, a new artificial lake. Total of 5 parties in morning, 3 in afternoon, 1-3 persons per party. Total miles on foot 29, by car 25. Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Great Blue Heron, 3; Mallard, 11; Black Duck, 14; Red-head, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 40; Scaup, 20; Buffle-head, 3; Ruddy Duck, 3; American Merganser, 2; Turkey Vulture, 17; Black Vulture, 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bobwhite, 24; Turkey, 3; Coot, 3; Killdeer, 16; Woodcock, 3; Wilson Snipe, 2; Mourning Dove, 63; Great Horned Owl, 3; Barred Owl, 1; Flicker, 28; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 11; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker,

5; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 12; Phoebe, 4; Blue Jay, 25; Crow, 72; Carolina Chickadee, 66; Tufted Titmouse, 29; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 11; Winter Wren, 20; Carolina Wren, 51; Mockingbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 2; Robin, 6; Hermit Thrush, 13; Bluebird, 103; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 27; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 5; American Pipit, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 153; Starling, 61; Myrtle Warbler, 60; Pine Warbler, 9; Yellow-throat, 1; English Sparrow, 74; Meadowlark, 62; Red-winged Blackbird, 16; Rusty Blackbird, 26; Cardinal, 36; Purple Finch, 26; Goldfinch, 55; Towhee, 13; Savannah Sparrow, 9; Junco, 625; Chipping Sparrow, 1; Field Sparrow, 213; White-throated Sparrow, 211; Fox Sparrow, 12; Swamp Sparrow, 139; Song Sparrow, 211. Total species, 71; total individuals, 2,966. The Yellow-throat (E. P. Odum), an immature or female, was seen and heard in the same place on Dec. 22.—Eugene Odum, Coit Coker, Fremont Shepherd, Thomas Odum, Edmund Taylor, Arnold Breckenridge, M. S. Breckenridge, Martha Odum, Bill Thomas.

Red Springs, N. C. (Flora Macdonald College Campus; Raft Swamp; north to Antioch Mill-pond, Hoke County; south to Philadelphus Mill-pond, Robeson County; golf links; savannahs; cotton fields; pine and open oak woods).—Dec. 24; 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., one hour out for meals. Sun shining through clouds; ground dry; light southeast wind; temperature 38° at start, 58° at finish. Observers together. Total party-hours afield, 8½ (7 afoot, 1½ by car); total party miles, 35 (8 afoot, 27 by car). Turkey Vulture, 1; Black Vulture, 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Mourning Dove, 10; Flicker, 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Phoebe, 2; Horned Lark, 150 (subsp. ?); Blue Jay, 13; Crow, 14; Tufted Titmouse, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 12; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 5; Carolina Wren, 12; Mockingbird, 3; Brown Thrasher, 2; Robin, 212; Hermit Thrush, 2; Bluebird, 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 11; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 5; Cedar Waxwing, 2; Shrike, 4; Starling, 42; Myrtle Warbler, 7; Western Palm Warbler, 5; Yellow Palm Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 23; Meadowlark, 28; Rusty Blackbird, 43; Cardinal, 18; Goldfinch, 1; Towhee, 12; Savannah Sparrow, 3; Junco, 10; Field Sparrow, 17; White-throated Sparrow, 218; Fox Sparrow, 57; Song Sparrow, 17. Total, 46 species; 1,017 individuals. The Palm Warblers were observed at close range in bright sunlight, 5 of them having no yellow except on tail coverts, the other being very yellow. Dickson Vardell Murray, Jane Murray, Jimmy Murray, J. J. Murray.

Arden (Buncombe County): Three-mile radius in Rosscraggen Wood and Royal Pines, including a trail up Brown Mountain. Dec. 26, 9:30-5:00. Partly clear, 50° to 58°. One party afoot in morning 3 miles, 5 miles by car in afternoon. Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1;

Ruffed Grouse, 1; Bob-white, 12; Dove, 4; Screech Owl, 1; Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 10; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 4; Crow, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 6; Carolina Chickadee, 10; Tufted Titmouse, 15; White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Brown Creeper, 3; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 6; Mockingbird, 1; Robin, 2; Hermit Thrush, 2; Bluebird, 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Starling, 10; Black-and-white Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 2; English Sparrow, 10; Meadowlark, 4; Cowbird, 2; Cardinal, 4; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 2; Towhee, 6; Junco, 25; Chipping Sparrow, small flock; Field Sparrow, 6; White-throated Sparrow, 10; Fox Sparrow, 7; Song Sparrow, 1. Total, 44 species; 231 individuals. Two Tree Sparrows seen December 9th. Dodette Westfeldt Grinnell.

Rocky Mount, N. C. (Triangular territory, including all local types of habitat, running 12 miles east and 14 miles north from city.) Dec. 27; 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dark, cloudy, no wind; temperature 60° min., 64° max. Seven observers working in 2 parties. Total party-hours afield, 20; total party miles, 126 (12 afoot, 3 by boat, 111 by car). Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 9; Black Duck, 9; Wood Duck, 46; Ring-necked Duck, 1; Lesser Scaup Duck, 5; Hooded Merganser, 5; Turkey Vulture, 34; Black Vulture, 19; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 5; Marsh Hawk, 9; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 18; Bob-white, 13; Killdeer, 3; Woodcock, 2; Wilson's Snipe, 8; Mourning Dove, 271; Screech Owl, 1; Great Horned Owl, 2 (female flushed from nest); Barred Owl, 3; Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 49; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 10; Red-headed Woodpecker, 8; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 40; Phoebe, 3; Horned Lark, 30; Blue Jay, 27; Crow, 268; Carolina Chickadee, 50; Tufted Titmouse, 28; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 31; Mockingbird, 4; Brown Thrasher, 2; Robin, 16; Hermit Thrush, 7; Bluebird, 44; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; American Pipit, 45; Cedar Waxwing, 90; Migrant Shrike, 19; Starling, 110; Myrtle Warbler, 45; Pine Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 235; Meadowlark, 135; Red-wing, 220; Cowbird, 40; Cardinal, 28; Purple Finch, 38; Goldfinch, 35; Towhee, 18; Savannah Sparrow, 7; Vesper Sparrow, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 235; Chipping Sparrow, 7; Field Sparrow, 45; White-throated Sparrow, 62; Fox Sparrow, 19; Swamp Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 60. Total, 73 species, 2,673 individuals.—Albert Corinth, Richmond Corinth, Neverson Lewis, F. H. Craighill, Frank Williams, Randolph Butler, Davis Bulluck.

Raleigh, N. C. (Triangular area, 5-mile base, east and west, 3 miles north, including Cameron Woods, Pullen Park, Boneyard Lake, Lake Raleigh, Lake Johnson, Boone's Pond.) Dec. 27, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Heavy fog early, heavy clouds rest of day, light southwest wind, temperature about 60°-65°. Three parties in morning, two in afternoon on foot and in cars, 15 miles on foot, 25 miles by car. Great Blue Heron, 2; Black Duck, 6; Ringneck, 3; Lesser Scaup, 39; Goldeneye, 1; Buffle-head, 1; Hooded Merganser, 9; American Merganser, 24; Turkey Vulture, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Killdeer, 35; Dove, 69; Screech Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 3; Flicker, 11; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Phoebe, 3; Blue Jay, 6; Crow, 26; Carolina Chickadee, 43; Tufted Titmouse, 20; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 12; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 13; Mockingbird, 3; Hermit Thrush, 4; Bluebird, 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 25; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Pipit, 100; Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Starling, 31; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 25; English Sparrow, 50; Meadow Lark, 51; Redwing, 100; Cardinal, 28; Purple Finch, 30; Goldfinch, 13; Towhee, 1; Savannah Sparrow, 2; Junco, 180; Field Sparrow, 85; White-throated Sparrow, 60; Fox Sparrow, 5; Swamp Sparrow, 33; Song Sparrow, 185. Total, 52 species; 1,369 individuals. The fog, and heavy clouds made determinations unusually difficult.—Mrs. R. C. Simpson, John Grey, E. W. Winkler, Dan Martin, Bill Collie, C. S. Brimley, C. H. Bostian, G. M. Garren, and George Maddrey, the latter two in the morning only (all members Raleigh Bird Club).

Winston-Salem, N. C. (Within an approximate fifteen-mile diameter, including city lake reservation, along Salem Creek, Children's Home Grounds, Hanes' Park, Reynolda, Lasater's Lake, and several estates—covering evergreen and deciduous forest, open country, and water.) Dec. 28; 6:40 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mostly cloudy with frequent showers and occasional sunshine; unusually warm; temperature, high 66°, low 57°. Seven parties. Total miles by auto, 40; total miles afoot, 25; total hours, 21. Canada Goose, 44; Mallard, 400; Black Duck, 10; Ring-necked Duck, 1; Canvas-back, 1; Lesser Scaup, 2; Ruddy Duck, 1; Hooded Merganser, 2; Black Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Bob-white, 22; Coot, 1; Woodcock, 1; Mourning Dove, 31; Screech Owl, 1; Flicker, 23; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Blue Jay, 5; Crow, 110; Carolina Chickadee, 24; Tufted Titmouse, 19; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 4; Carolina Wren, 19; Mockingbird, 11; Robin, 14; Bluebird, 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 70; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Starling, 40; Myrtle Warbler, 9; English Sparrow, 43; Meadowlark, 29; Cardinal, 69; Purple Finch, 45; Goldfinch, 32; Towhee, 8; Junco, 152; Field Sparrow, 79; White-throated Sparrow, 106; Fox Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 103. Total, 45 species; approximately 1,566 individuals. Sharp-shinned Hawk seen Dec. 23 and Winter Wren recently, but missed on census day.—William F. Ashby, Charles Babcock, Charles Babcock, Jr., William H. Chance, Jr., Fred Hill, Jr., Andrew Mickle, James L. Stephenson, William L. Anderson, Jr.

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The index to the mimeographed volumes is printed instead of being mimeographed that it may have more permanent form and perhaps wider distribution. First issues were not page numbered throughout the year, but by issues, which necessitated the issue number being inserted in parentheses.

We have on hand extra copies of all issues if you wish to complete your files and have them bound. Complete volumes will some day be valuable. Single issues can be furnished at 20c each, and a full volume for \$1.00.

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New Monthly Check List

E. E. BROWN, Davidson

With this issue of *The Chat* each member is receiving a copy of the new Monthly Check List. The prime purpose of this list is to induce more bird observers to keep accurate continuous records of species observed in their localities. As has often been emphasized by Dr. Brimley, what we need is not scattered observations from special field trips or particular periods of the year but, *rather*, more continuous year-round series of observations, especially from unreported localities in the State.

The accompanying check list greatly simplifies the matter of keeping continuous records. Results of every day's observations, or of every field trip, should be placed on this sheet. Dates may simply be placed at the heads of columns, and checks made opposite the proper species names. (To avoid mistakes in following down columns, it will be found helpful to make about every fifth vertical line serve as a guide-line by ruling it heavier than the adjacent ones.)

The average observer would probably not use up more than a couple of the "Monthly Lists" during the year. Additional copies, as needed, may be obtained from Dr. John H. Grey, 2718 Vanderbilt Avenue, Raleigh, by enclosing a stamped envelope. It is suggested that every member who may not keep records turn over his blank sheet to his local secretary, so that it may be used by others.

Announcements

FIELD TRIP to Mattamuskeet Lake, February 1, 1941.

ANNUAL MEETING to be held in Statesville, early in May.

LOCAL CLUBS have a great opportunity to help get out the bird book, by getting pre-publication orders. One thousand such subscriptions to the *Birds of North Carolina* will assure us of getting the book right away.

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The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB



VOL. V.

MARCH, 1941

No. 2

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB
At State College Station
Raleigh, N. C.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

JOHN GREY, JR., *Editor*

THOMAS L. QUAY, *Associate Editor*

State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.

Application for entry as second-class matter is pending.

Published five times a year on the fifteenth of January, March, May, September, and November as the official organ of the North Carolina Bird Club. Articles for publication should reach the Editor by the first of the month in which the issue is published. Notification of change of address or of lost copies should also be sent to the Editor.

Price of the bulletin, \$1.00 per annum, included in all memberships.

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00. Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer. Present officers:

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Adventures With Hummingbirds

A. M. LAW, Tryon

While I have an intense interest in all birds, I would probably be classed as a specialist in Hummingbirds. Of the known five hundred species we have but one, the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), to visit this section of the country. The readers of THE CHAT may be interested in my experiences and share with me the resultant pleasures.

First, I would say that I have no extensive flower garden to attract these birds. Our home is located on a small point of hilly land overlooking the Pacolet Valley, with high mountains close in the background, near the village of Tryon.

Nature has generously supplied the setting with quantities of early Rhododendron, Kalmia and other evergreens usually found in the mountain country. But none of these have any particular attraction for Hummingbirds, except in so far as their branches furnish hangers for the little tubes of vari-colored glass in which the food is placed.

Purely as an experiment several years ago, I ordered a few feeders and hung them on a Kalmia bush just off our terrace and quite near the house where a good view could be had of the results. These tubes were filled with a sugar and water solution, a half-and-half syrup, hastily mixed without boiling, and almost immediately they were discovered and used by a few birds. Later in the season, especially late in the afternoons, there were so many birds coming in for their supper that many more tubes became necessary. Now, during mid-summer we have literally swarms of Hummers at feeding time, fighting and squeaking, jockeying for position at the dozen or more tubes, and drinking them dry in a very short while. My experience proves them to be gluttons for this sweetened water; drinking their fill, then sitting around on nearby branches until they are ready to come back for a re-fill.

Regular and continuous feeding is, of course, necessary in obtaining good results with these as well as with all other birds. For they are certainly creatures of habit, and I believe that the same birds come back to the bushes year after year. This is known to be the case in many other birds. As stated, we have no attractive flower garden as an invitation to visit our place, yet my first sight of Hummers in the spring is that of a single bird sitting near the feeding post. When this occurred last year, I immediately



FEEDERS
From Massachusetts Audubon Society, 66 Newbury St., Boston Mass.
Five for \$1.00.



Courtesy Audubon Magazine.

Photo by Allan D. Cruikshank.

THE RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD
Will visit your garden, if invited.

mixed some syrup and placed a few tubes. Within five minutes this little migrant was drinking. He was followed in a few days by many of his comrades from their winter home in Central America. My regular feeding time is upon returning from business around five o'clock. When I appear at the front door they fly towards me and begin drinking while I am pouring the food; so close to my hands that I can feel the breeze created by their fast-moving wings. So tame do they become that I am sure they would, with a little encouragement, eat from my hands. But I have purposely kept this thrill in reserve until the day comes when I have more spare time to "play" with them. On Saturdays and Sundays I do not strictly adhere to the usual week-day "cocktail hour" but feed them more bountifully and find that they, like the Scotchman, will drink any "given quantity."

I have mentioned the ease with which I have been able to attract these little birds, and the pleasure they have given me. There are, however, the usual pests that attend the bringing of birds in for close observation; not cats in this instance, but ants and yellow jackets. Ants immediately locate the tubes, but generous use of tree tanglefoot will stop their depredations. The birds will not come near their food if ants are in it. I have not found an antidote for yellow jackets, but am hoping to overcome them during the coming summer.

Even if you have a garden full of flowers and some Hummingbirds, put out some tubes and see what pets they become.

Annual Winter Field Trip

E. E. BROWN, Davidson

More than thirty stalwarts answered the rallying call of the Mattamuskeet wildfowl. In partial return for their heroic expenditure of time and energy, the faithful were treated to a sight of sixty species of birds. Included were some twenty-nine thousand Canada Geese, twenty-seven hundred Whistling Swans, and thousands of ducks of eleven different kinds, principally Pintail, Black, Baldpate, and Mallard. To further prove that Mattamuskeet is the land of quantity, tremendous flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds, numbering many thousands of individuals, disported themselves everywhere for all to see.

Many of the field trippers spent Friday night at the very attractive Mattamuskeet Lodge, located on the central canal outlet of the lake. At sunrise Saturday morning, Dr. M. S. Johnson, Refuge Manager, led us up the spiral stairway to the top of the 120-foot observation tower to get an eagle's-eye view of the bird life along the near side of the lake. Grain had been scattered over part of a field in the foreground and several hundred geese had already congregated here to feed. Farther out and to the left, flocks of geese, swans and ducks were gathering in a small inlet. Still farther away and along the lake shore to the right, a wonderful picture was painted by long ranks of snow-white swans against shimmering sapphire-blue water in the early morning sunlight. A Bald Eagle soared over the scene, one of many seen in the course of the day.

After breakfast a more leisurely examination was made of the large groups of waterfowl along the lake side. Ample advantage was taken of Dr. Johnson's 36-power "spotting scope" for close-up views. Toward the end of the morning Tom Odum and Wade Fox came in with a swan, picked up helpless along the lake shore. A victim, perhaps, of lead poisoning, the bird furnished excellent material for examination in the hand.

Following lunch the party split up. Smaller groups were taken, in turn, by the patrol boat far out into Swanquarter Bay to spot some of the diving ducks. Huge rafts of Scaup and smaller flocks of Buffle-head, Golden-eye and Scoter were observed. Persons not on the boat drove around Mattamuskeet Lake, identifying additional small birds or examining the occasional large flocks of geese found feeding in the fields.

The North Carolina Bird Club is greatly indebted to Dr. Johnson for the great deal of time he devoted to the field trip and for the many courtesies extended to the participants. No novice with waterfowl should miss another chance to visit Mattamuskeet in mid-winter. Most of those on the field trip will probably agree that the experience with swans and geese alone was worth the trip.

The list of birds observed on the Mattamuskeet trip is as follows: Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-

winged Teal, Shoveller, Canvas-back, Scaup, American Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey and Black Vultures, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Marsh Hawks, Bald Eagle, Bob-white, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Kingfisher, Flicker, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Tree Swallow, Crow, Chickadee, Titmouse, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren (the Tree Swallow and Short-billed Marsh Wren records are not unusual for our coast in winter), Mockingbird, Catbird, Robin, Bluebird, American Pipit, Starling, Myrtle Warbler, Yellowthroat, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Redwing, Purple Grackle, Cowbird, Cardinal, Towhee, Junco, Savannah, Field, White-throated, Swamp, and Song Sparrows.

Club members present for the trip were Mrs. J. D. Harris of Belhaven, Mrs. E. M. Brown of Washington, Dr. M. S. Johnson of New Holland, M. W. Haynes of Tarboro, Katherine Fletcher, Leonora H. Watts, Fannie Sutton, and Hannah Turnage of Kinston, Charlotte Hilton Green, Mrs. Frank Smethurst, Wood Smethurst, and E. W. Winkler of Raleigh, Claudia Hunter of Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Jensen, G. F. Shepherd, Jr., Thomas Odum and Wade Fox of Chapel Hill, Bertha B. Hopkins, Thos. J. Jones, Thos. B. Daniel, and H. K. Myers of Durham, Edith Settan, Hilda Yoder, Margaret Y. Wall, and Etta Schiffman of Greensboro, Gabriel Cannon of Spartanburg, Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Clarkson, Dorothy Knox, Mrs. R. A. Myers, and Charles Sellers, Jr., of Charlotte, and E. E. Brown of Davidson.

A Wild Duck Spends The Week-End In Town

MARY AKERS, Charlotte

(12 years old)

After three days of hard driving rain, Friday afternoon, November 15th, the sun peeped from the gray clouds. It was an invitation for a walk. I put on my coat and overshoes and started out. Down the long wooded drive I went. Being suddenly startled by a flapping of wings, I paused and saw what seemed to be a quail at first glance but as I got closer I saw to my great surprise that it was a duck. It fought nobly as I tried to catch it. Flapping its wings and hissing at me, it was finally exhausted and then I gently picked it up. It seemed content to lie in my arms but I knew it was frightened. I felt its heart beating very fast. I carried it back to the house, stroking its feathers all the way. It seemed to like that. Once in the warm house, I examined it but found no broken wings. The duck seemed only very tired. Knowing it must be hungry, I offered it corn, sardines, and even oysters but all to no avail. It ate nothing. Then it occurred to me that ducks like water. I filled a bowl of cool

water, picked the duck up, and held it so it could drink. To my amazement it jumped with a splash into the bowl. From then on I knew it would only be content when near water.

Saturday morning I took the duck to a veterinarian. He said it was a Spoon Bill Teal flying South from New York and Canada. (There is no duck by this name, but it may have been the Shoveller.—ED.) It must have fresh sea food, such as shrimp, to eat. When I brought the duck home it was very thirsty, so I got a big pan and put several shrimp on the bottom. The duck would dive down to the bottom of the pan for the shrimp.

Sunday dawned bright and warm. I put the duck on the sunny terrace thinking that it was too weak to fly away as yet. While I was at church, the bright sun and the falling brown leaves must have brought back memories of the other Spoon Bills flying South. With one great pull of the wings, the duck was once more in the great blue sky. After seeing his box empty I looked South and said, "I hope you have had a pleasant week-end."

Annual Meeting At Statesville, May 2-3, 1941

The fifth annual meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club will be held in the Statesville Community House, Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3, 1941. Hosts for the meeting will be the Statesville Audubon Club. The meeting will open at 2:00 o'clock Friday afternoon for the reading of papers and transaction of business. The annual banquet will be held at 6:00 o'clock at the Vance Hotel at \$1.00 per plate. Reservations should be made with the hotel and must be paid for unless canceled before noon Friday. Toastmaster for the banquet will be Colonel Joseph Hyde Pratt, of Chapel Hill; and the Presidential address will be delivered by Miss Claudia Hunter, of Henderson.

The main event will be the evening meeting at 8:30 o'clock at Mitchell College, at which Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, will speak on "Birds of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park." Those of us who have heard Mr. Stupka and seen his color pictures know what a treat is in store for the club.

Saturday's field trip will begin with coffee at 6:30 a.m. at the Community House, followed by the field trip led by competent observers and will close with the Statesville Audubon Club playing host to breakfast at the Grace Hotel at 10:30 a.m.

Those who will read papers at the Friday afternoon meeting are asked to send the title to Miss Grace Anderson, Statesville, N. C., before April 15. All papers will be limited to fifteen minutes.

Prairie Horned Lark Extends Breeding Range

C. S. BRIMLEY, Raleigh



PRAIRIE HORNED LARK

On June 17, Miss Grace Anderson wrote me that Maurice Stimson had notified her that there was a nest with young of the Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*), on J. C. Crawford's farm in Iredell County, not far from Statesville, and on the 18th she went out, saw the nest and young and also the adults and confirmed the determination.

Later, on July 12, D. L. Wray saw another nest, also with young, on the farm of R. W. Johnson, near Union Grove, in the same county but about twenty miles farther north. I wrote Miss Anderson about this and she went out to see it on the 18th, and reported that Mr. Johnson had had a pair of these "curious birds" on his farm for two years, peculiar because of their "straight-up" flight. He had heard no singing, only "funny little cries." He had identified the birds as Prairie Horned Larks by Miss Anderson's description in the local paper.

At Rocky Mount, although no nest was found, these birds were detected in the breeding season by F. H. Craighill. Two specimens, one apparently a young bird, were seen on June 29, in a field in which specimens had been observed in May of the same year.

This species is rapidly extending its breeding range southward, for the 4th A. O. U. check-list, issued in 1931, gives the southern limits of the breeding range as West Virginia and Maryland. A few years back they were recorded as nesting along the Blue Ridge in Virginia at Lexington, Lynchburg, and Naruna. On April 13, 1937, Nelson G. Hairston observed a nest and fledgling with an adult female on the golf course at Lexington, N. C., and on August 17, 1937, J. J. Murray at Blowing Rock observed 8 birds, 7 of which he took to be young, and on August 13, 1936, he had seen one bird fly over this region. These records indicate that the species is pushing southward along the Atlantic seaboard and is not confined to the Piedmont or the mountain region, as is evidenced by the record at Rocky Mount.

You Can Help With The North Carolina Bird Book

HARRY T. DAVIS, State Museum, Raleigh

We need the revised edition of *The Birds of North Carolina*. We have three things in our favor and one thing against us. The favorable things are: The original authors are willing to contribute their services and knowledge; original plates which can be used for illustrations; and State agencies which are willing to work with us on a non-profit basis.

Our chance of getting an excellent volume at low cost is held back by only one thing. The State agencies are asking if the book can be sold right away so that their investment will not be tied up in the volume for a long time. They point to the fact that in the past most State publications never sold in sufficient quantities to clear much of the funds invested.

Therefore we can help get the book published if we can prove it will sell. Here is your chance to help. There are more than a thousand people in North Carolina who would like to buy a copy of this revised edition of the book, and there are nearly as many outside the State who will need copies. There are also more than a thousand school libraries that should have copies for reference. All these should be told of the book and given the opportunity of securing a copy. The present plan is to issue only 2,000 copies, which will probably be sold within a year. The publication price will be \$3.00 for a book of more than 400 pages, which is cheaper than the rate for novels.

That we may prove the book will sell like hot cakes we are offering it for a limited time at the prepublication price of \$2.25, which is the actual cost of printing. One thousand prepublication orders will insure us of the book. The 700 subscriptions we now have are a good start. A little application by every member of the North Carolina Bird Club should easily quadruple this. Every local bird club should take up the matter of securing these subscriptions and rush them in. Send no money but simply send a statement that you will take one or more copies. All subscriptions should be sent to the N. C. State Museum, Raleigh.

Boone Audubon Club

MRS. EDNA T. ROBERTSON

Another chapter of the North Carolina Bird Club, the Boone Audubon Club, was organized at Boone on February 12, 1941. The following officers were elected: president, Dr. Maude E. Cathcart; vice-president, Mrs. Edna T. Robertson; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. J. A. Davis. Mr. Robert R. King, Jr., is serving as general representative of the club.

Dr. Cathcart brings a rich supply of bird-lore to the group, having studied under Dr. Shaver, of Peabody College, and taught ornithology in the Appalachian College summer school.

Aids To Amateurs

What Common Land Birds Are Blue?

C. S. BRIMLEY



INDIGO BUNTING



BLUE GROSBEEK

Four. The male and female of the Bluebird and Blue Jay, and the male only of the Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeak.

The *Blue Jay* is larger than a robin, crested, blue above with black and white markings on wings and tail, a black crescent across the breast, otherwise white beneath. The *Bluebird* is the size of the English Sparrow, blue above, throat and breast reddish brown, belly white; female duller. Both this and the Jay are with us the year around. The *Blue Grosbeak* is the same size as the Bluebird. The adult male is entirely blue except for the chestnut wing bars; immature birds with less blue; females brown, sometimes with more or less blue. The bill is light colored, very large and heavy; much like a cardinal. The *Indigo Bunting* is a small edition of the Blue Grosbeak (sometimes called the Big Indigo) but blue on the wings as well as on the rest of the body, and with a much smaller bill. The females and young males are brown. I do not remember ever having seen a partly blue specimen. Both indigo birds are with us from late April to September.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Brimley has consented to make this column, "Aids to Amateurs," a regular feature of THE CHAT.]

Information Please

T. L. QUAY

Many letters are received by the editors each month from club members asking for information about bird houses, establishing local refuges, attracting birds, etc. Below is a list of some of the United States Department of Agriculture's Farmers' Bulletins, which answer many of the questions much better than can be done in any other way. Any member desiring some one or all of these informative bulletins may address his request to Mr. L. C. Whitehead, District Agent, Fish and Wildlife Service, State College Station, Raleigh, North Carolina. Also copies of these and other related bulletins are on sale at five cents each by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

Some Common Game, Aquatic, and Rapacious Birds in Relation to Man.

No. 497. The practical value of nineteen species of common large birds. 28 pages.

Common Birds of Southeastern United States in Relation to Agriculture.

No. 755. The twenty-three birds discussed are all common in North Carolina, and form an excellent nucleus, especially for beginners. 43 pages.

Homes for Birds. No. 1456. Includes dimensions and diagrams of nest boxes and roosting shelters for all the forty-eight birds that will use houses, as well as suggestions for placement and protection. Everyone interested in having birds around his home will want to make use of this invaluable information. 21 pages.

Local Bird Refuges. No. 1644. Deals with the establishment of local refuges as a means of attracting birds, on farms, wood lots, roadsides, rights of way, community parkings, municipal parks, school grounds, cemeteries, reservoirs, and golf courses. 14 pages.

Organization Of The Mecklenburg Audubon Club

CLARA B. SLATON, Charlotte

For a year or more, spurred on by the enthusiasm of Miss Sarah Nooe and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, the desire for an organization of bird lovers in Mecklenburg County has led step by step to the first meeting of the Mecklenburg Audubon Club on November 6, 1940. This meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarkson, which is likewise the habitat of Tommie Bluebird Clarkson.

Last spring, after a most successful field trip by the North Carolina Club at Henderson, Charles Sellers, of Charlotte, suggested that the time

was right for the people of our county to take a more active part in bird conservation. The suggestion led to talk of a club, and to the gathering of a small group of interested people at the Clarkson home. It was decided that the approach of summer and the probable scattering of the group would make it wise to delay until fall. The fall meeting of the State Club in Charlotte provided a final spur and the club was launched on its first year.

With a Constitution much like that of the State organization, the Mecklenburg Club elected Miss Clara Slaton, president; Miss Sarah Nooe, vice-president; Mrs. G. C. Potter, secretary; and Charles Sellers, treasurer.

A membership and hospitality committee, headed by Miss Sarah Nooe, was assigned the task of discovering other bird lovers who would be interested in the club, establishing junior clubs throughout the schools of the county, and seeing that all members were made to feel at home during the social hour which follows each meeting. A committee on bird education was asked to plan ways of interesting and educating the Mecklenburg public in an understanding of birds and their habits and in problems of conservation. A committee on field trips, headed by Mrs. G. C. Potter, was asked to plan two trips a month, and to notify members of good field trip areas for individual study. A circulating library committee was asked to suggest appropriate books, through the editor, to see that books loaned or contributed by members were circulated properly and that each member had his turn at *Bird-Lore* (now the *Audubon Bulletin*).

Mrs. Clarkson is editor and head of the program committee, and Mr. Clarkson is chairman of ways and means. The club already has had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Ely Springs and Mr. James Carson, owners of some of the original Audubon prints, discuss their bird interests, and has had the rare privilege of bringing Dr. Arthur A. Allen, of Cornell University, to a Charlotte audience.

Dues for the local club were set at a dollar a couple, so that by a combination membership, a family could more easily belong to both the State and local organizations. There are now about twenty paid members and a number of interested associates. The Mecklenburg Club, through its affiliation with the State Bird Club, the National Audubon Society, and the North Carolina Academy of Science, hopes to contribute much of educational value to its community.

Hickory Bird Club

MRS. GEORGE E. BISANAR, Hickory

The organization meeting of the Hickory Bird Club was held Friday afternoon, November 15, 1940, in the assembly room of the Duke Power Company. J. Weston Clinard was elected president; Reverend Harry O.

Althouse, vice-president; and Mrs. George E. Bisanar, secretary-treasurer. Miss Grace Anderson, president of the Statesville Club, was in charge of the program. A short field trip was taken after the meeting.

The new club meets on the second Thursday evening of each month, in the Brotherhood Room of the Corinth Reformed Church. Several projects are already under way, such as adding to our knowledge of the birds of Western North Carolina and developing a campaign in Catawba County for membership in the State Club.

Mrs. Clinard, who is principal of the Brookford School, a part of the Hickory system, held her annual exhibit of bird projects on February 28. Due to Mrs. Clinard's many years of work with the school children, there is widespread interest in birds in Brookford. The indications are that Brookford village will soon be added to our growing list of municipal sanctuaries.

In Memoriam

DR. JOHN THOMAS JOHNSON BATTLE, born at Wake Forest 1859, died in Greensboro September, 1940, where he had been practicing medicine since 1898, and had been Medical Examiner of the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company since 1918. He organized one of Greensboro's first Boy Scout troops, was a leader in the religious life of the city, and was active in organizing Greensboro's Piedmont Bird Club and served as its President. He was general chairman of arrangements for the first fall meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club held in Greensboro in November, 1939, and the success of the meeting was due largely to his perfect handling of arrangements.

MERRIAM GARRETSON LEWIS, charter member of the North Carolina Bird Club, died at Salem, Virginia, January 5, 1941. Born in 1893, educated at the University of Kentucky; one of the founders and presidents of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. His service as farm agent in Scott, Rockbridge, and Roanoke counties brought him many positions of responsibility, particularly in connection with the Apple Growers' Association. He was a naturalist, and leader in church, civic, and welfare activities.

Membership List, North Carolina Bird Club

March 20, 1941

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Chatham, Richard T., Jr., 112 Stratford Road, Winston-Salem. Chatham, Thurmond, Elkin.

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Anderson, Miss Grace, 528 Walnut St., Statesville. Craighill, Rev. Francis H., 225 N. Church St., Rocky Mount.
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- Cooper, J. C., Henderson.
- Cooper, J. D., Henderson.
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- Davis, Mrs. Earl, 619 Davie Ave., Statesville.
- Davis, Mrs. Harry T., 102 Logan, Raleigh.
- Davis, Harry T., Esq., State Museum, Raleigh.
- Davis, Mrs. J. A. W., Boone.
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Announcements

ANNUAL MEETING Statesville Community House 2:00 p.m., Friday, May 2, 1941. Send titles of papers to Miss Grace Anderson, Statesville; and reservations for the banquet (\$1.00) to the Vance Hotel, Statesville. Field trip, 6:30 a.m., Saturday, May 3rd.

INDEX TO THE CHAT suitable for binding with your mimeograph copies may be had from the Editor for 1½c stamp to cover mailing.

GET A NEW MEMBER before the annual meeting. Dr. Shaftesbury, chairman of the membership committee, suggests that you secure the dues and send in the names of new members to Dr. C. H. Bostian, State College Station, Raleigh.

VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY invites members of the North Carolina Bird Club to their eleventh annual meeting at Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, Va., at 1:30 p.m., Friday, May 9, 1941, and to their annual banquet at 6:30 p.m., and the field trip next day.

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY meets in Atlanta, April 19, 1941. For information, write Wm. W. Griffin, 135 Peachtreeway, Atlanta, Georgia.

NO MORE JANUARY CHATS as the rapid increase of membership has exhausted our supply. If you have finished with your copy and are willing to pass it on to some new member, simply write the name and address of the Editor on the back, put on a 1½c stamp and drop it in the mail.

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Greensboro	38	Other localities	153
Henderson	30	Out of State.....	46
Kinston	14		
Raleigh	216	Total.....	700

NORTH CAROLINA STATE MUSEUM
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB



VOL. V.

MAY, 1941

No. 3

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB
At State College Station
Raleigh, N. C.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

JOHN GREY, JR., *Editor*

THOMAS L. QUAY, *Associate Editor*

State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.

Application for entry as second-class matter is pending.

Published five times a year on the fifteenth of January, March, May, September, and November as the official organ of the North Carolina Bird Club. Articles for publication should reach the Editor by the first of the month in which the issue is published. Notification of change of address or of lost copies should also be sent to the Editor.

Price of the bulletin, \$0.50 per annum, included in all memberships.

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MAY, 1941

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00. Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer. Present officers:

President: Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury, W. C. U. N. C.; First Vice-President: Miss Grace Anderson, Statesville; Second Vice-President: Mrs. D. W. Grimmell, Arden; Third Vice-President: Dr. Ben F. Royal, Morehead City; Secretary: Mrs. N. D. Tyner, Greensboro; Treasurer: Dr. C. H. Bostian, Raleigh; Editor: Rev. John Grey, Jr., State College Station, Raleigh.

The Statesville Meeting

II. II. BRIMLEY

That was a really great meeting in every way and those Statesville bird lovers gave us the glad hand in a manner that will be long remembered. There were so many highlights to the gathering that it is difficult to do justice to all of them in a restricted paper that attempts to give to those unfortunates not able to attend a general idea of what we saw, heard and experienced.

Starting at two o'clock p.m. on Friday, May 2, the meeting was in almost continuous session up to ten that night, though this period covered the reception at the Anderson home and the time necessary for the absorption of physical nourishment at the evening banquet, which, by the way, was quite a meal.

Our new officers for the coming year are as follows: President, Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury, of the Biology Department of the Woman's College, U. N. C., Greensboro; First Vice-President, Miss Grace Anderson, Statesville; Second Vice-President, Mrs. D. W. Grinnell, Arden; Third Vice-President, Dr. Ben F. Royal, Morehead City; Secretary, Mrs. N. D. Tyner, Greensboro; Treasurer, Dr. C. H. Bostian, Raleigh. The Reverend John H. Grey, Jr., was re-elected as Editor of *THE CHAT* and Miss Claudia Hunter, of Henderson, and Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, of Charlotte, were elected to membership on the executive committee.



DR. A. D. SHAFTESBURY

There being no nominations from the floor, the election of the names as presented by C. S. Brimley, for the nominating committee, was made by a motion for the adoption of the Committee's report.

The Club now has an enrollment of 531 members spread over 57 counties in the State, with 26 local units.

The Statesville Audubon Club has the largest membership, totaling 71. I am by no means a nut on the subject of statistics, but I feel that the foregoing figures may prove a stimulus for further effort.

There were so many interesting features on the program that it is difficult to mention any as being of outstanding merit where the character of all was so good. From the short but most friendly welcome by Mayor

J. Wesley Jones, of Statesville, to the curfew bell that night, there was mighty little waste time available for extra-limited activities. It was a Bird Meeting all right, permeated by an "At Home" atmosphere.

I am not going to attempt to give the program in detail, but a few remarks on various features thereof should prove of interest.

The elaborate annual report of our retiring president, Miss Claudia Hunter, of Henderson, fully described the activities and growth of the Club for the past twelve months. Miss Hunter was given a rousing vote of thanks for the able manner in which she has handled a very difficult line of effort during her incumbency and we all know with what energy and tirelessness she has carried the organization to new heights. A synopsis of the report appears in a separate article in this issue.

Reports from bird clubs of the State were presented at the opening business session at the Community House on Friday afternoon. Outstanding among these were reports of the Statesville Audubon Club and Sanctuary, given by Miss Grace Anderson; the Greensboro Piedmont Club; the Raleigh Bird Club; the Henderson Bird Club and Sanctuary; the Durham Bird Club; the Farmville Boys' Audubon Club and Sanctuary; the Hickory Bird Club; the Boone Audubon Club.

The resolutions committee's report had as a principal item a recommendation that the North Carolina Bird Club become affiliated with the National Audubon Society in order to receive all possible aid in the protection of birds. This recommendation was unanimously adopted. Other recommendations of the committee included a vote of thanks to the Statesville Audubon Club and the city of Statesville for their graceful hospitality, and one of appreciation to the members of the retiring executive board of the State organization for their diligence and perseverance. All adopted.

Leading the program at the Community House was a very interesting description of experiences in bird-banding by Mrs. O. F. Jensen, of Chapel Hill, a licensed bird-bander. Various types of the traps she used at her feeding station were shown. The traps were operated from her living room. Just press the button—and there is your bird all ready for the banding operation. Mrs. Jensen banded 86 Purple Finches this spring and could have banded many more had not her supply of bands of the proper size become exhausted. She also told of her Junior Audubon Club in Chapel Hill.

Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green, of Raleigh, told of the advantages (and also of the reverse) of the Audubon Nature Camp on the Maine Coast. Ideal for the dyed-in-the-wool bird student, said Mrs. Green, but no place for rest or recreation. Which reminds me of the man just back from a trip for a change and a rest, who stated that "The waiters got the change and the landlord got the rest!" From what I have read of the Maine Camp, I can fully endorse the statements made by Mrs. Green.

The librarian of the Henderson Public Library, Mrs. H. Leslie Perry, talked on "What a Public Library can Do to Create Interest in Birds and

Their Protection." Mrs. Perry showed how interest in birds and their habits had been aroused among both children and adults through the efforts of the Library, both by colored illustrations and by making the bird books more readily accessible.

At the banquet Friday night Mr. W. H. Chance, of the Winston-Salem Bird Club, announced that the 1,100-acre Reynolds estate had been made a bird sanctuary. This statement met, of course, with unqualified approval, and a further statement was made by Mr. J. C. Darsie, of the State Department of Conservation and Development, that provided for a five-year plan for developing the sanctuary.

Mr. Maurice Stimson, of the Statesville Club, had as his subject, "Interesting Facts About Well-known Birds," confining his talk mainly to the Chimney Swift.

The afternoon session was concluded by Dr. C. H. Bostian showing a series of lantern slides of North Carolina Birds that had been presented to the North Carolina Academy of Science by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, of Charlotte. The collection contains 63 beautifully colored slides and is available for showing at schools and other public gatherings. Information regarding this series may be obtained from the North Carolina Academy of Science in Durham.

On the first floor of the Community House was an exhibit of bird boxes arranged under the direction of Mrs. H. G. Sherrill, of the Statesville Club, and a very interesting exhibit of wild flowers arranged by Miss Sarah Nooe, of the faculty of Queen's College, Charlotte, who is a member of the local bird club.

On the upper floor was quite a large exhibit of birds' nests, including the first *nest* of the Prairie Horned Lark ever found in the State, taken near Statesville last year. The State Museum, at Raleigh, made a small exhibit of mounted specimens that called attention to a few species seldom seen by bird observers, particularly in the Piedmont section of the State. This included a very large Loon in full spring plumage, a Least Bittern, a baby Turkey Vulture in the downy stage of plumage and a pair of Prairie Horned Larks mounted in conjunction with the nest and three eggs of the parent birds, these being the first *eggs* of the Prairie Horned Lark ever recorded from North Carolina, this nest and eggs having been discovered by Dr. Francis H. Craighill, of Rocky Mount, on April 19, 1941, at the local airport.

The crowd then turned its attention to the beautiful sanctuary-garden of Miss Grace Anderson and was hospitably received by Miss Anderson, her mother, Mrs. Thomas E. Anderson, and her sister, Miss Ina Anderson, together with several members of the local Audubon Club. Bird boxes, feeding places, bathing facilities, swings, nesting material racks, humming-bird feeders—and what would you? A birds' drugstore and ready-to-wear shop seemed to be about the only features not provided for a bird's needs and luxuries. And the garden was so lovely. An enormous and beauti-

fully proportioned Willow Oak dominated one end and added a touch of dignity to the surroundings, which was in no way lessened by the fact that refreshments were served beneath its widespreading branches. Everyone was made to feel so thoroughly at home and all seemed to be having such a good time. To avoid exposing an abysmal ignorance in matters pertaining to flowers the writer refrains from saying anything in detail about the species and varieties seen and admired, except that on leaving he had a small bunch of English daisies pinned on the lapel of his coat.

Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, of Chapel Hill, presided at the banquet and the subsequent proceedings of the evening in his usual easy but effective manner. That Pratt man knows how to preside. During the proceedings he submitted some interesting matter relating to the first issues of the book, *Birds of North Carolina*, explaining the destruction by fire of the whole of the first issue in 1913, which was followed by the edition of 1918 that happily escaped destruction.

The status of the proposed new revised edition was presented by Mr. Harry T. Davis, Director of the State Museum, who submitted a synopsis of the trials and tribulations that had to be overcome before its publication became assured, which now seems to be an accomplished fact. Exactly when it will be ready for distribution cannot yet be stated, but the pre-publication promises of prospective purchasers have already reached a most gratifying figure, the total of such as presented by Mr. Davis being 904, with more coming in by every mail. So it would appear that those desiring copies at the pre-publication price had better be getting busy if they wish to come in under the less expensive plan of purchase.

The report of the Committee on Records was presented by Dr. C. S. Brimley, of Raleigh; on Field Trips, by Dr. Elmer Brown, of Davidson; Membership, by Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury, of the Woman's College, Greensboro; THE CHAT'S Proposed Poll for a State Bird, by Mr. T. L. Quay, of Raleigh. Dr. Brown called attention to the proposed trip to Orton Plantation, on May 24, urging all members to take the trip. Sub-committee reports on membership were given by Mr. E. W. Winkler, of State College, and Miss Grace Anderson. Dr. Pratt also called attention to the movement, sponsored by the North Carolina Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, to restore the home of the late Governor Aycock, and requested the North Carolina Bird Club's interest in the movement by reason of Governor Aycock's interest in the conservation of bird life.

Dr. Ben F. Royal, of Morehead City, presented an interesting paper on the old-time campaigns against the gulls and terns that came mighty close to exterminating the Least Tern. Following this, he made a plea for the protection of the heron and egret colony that has for several years been situated among the thick cedars of an island between Morehead City and Beaufort. Some local people seem to like egret squabs for food down there; but once, on Cape Hatteras, the writer of this was informed that "one ole fish duck will make 9 gallons of soup," and since then he has never cared for any fish-eating bird as a preferred article of diet.

Dr. Francis H. Craighill offered the invocation at the banquet and a gracious and cordial welcome was given by Miss Grace Anderson, to which a reply was made by Mrs. Margaret Wall, of the Greensboro Club. Various prizes were presented to the fortunate holders of the correct numbers, the first prize being a gift copy of the forthcoming new edition of the *Birds of North Carolina*.

The high point of the meeting was reached at the evening session, when some three hundred people crowded into the Vance Hotel ballroom to hear Mr. Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, who gave an exceedingly interesting and instructive lecture on the Smokies. Mr. Stupka showed a series of slides, most of them in color, illustrating the rich plant and animal life of the park. A few words on each slide left us desiring to know more about this great recreational area. Especially interesting to the ecologists was the discussion of the different birds to be found in each plant community, from the low valleys to the top of Clingman's Dome.

Mr. Stupka was introduced by Mr. John R. McLaughlin, whose father, R. B. McLaughlin, was one of the outstanding ornithologists of the State a generation ago, and well known to this writer.

It would seem, after about 8 hours of more or less continuous meetings, that when the last one closed about 10 p.m., everybody would be ready to hit the hay! But bird folks love to talk and when curfew finally rang and the last chatterer played out, the midnight hour was close at hand.

One note in a sadder strain. Neither the Edwin Clarksons, of Charlotte, nor John Grey, of Raleigh, were able to attend, the former by reason of Mrs. Clarkson's illness and the latter because Dr. Grey has not yet fully recovered from a recent accident. Our sympathies to all of them.

The writer did not participate in the field trip on the following morning, but he has been given to understand that there were about forty-five enthusiasts that did. It was windy and cold, however, and no new records were made on number of species observed. But under the general leadership of Mr. Maurice Stimson, of the Statesville Club, about 70 species of birds were identified on the McLaughlin farm. Two nests of Louisiana Waterthrush, one of Hooded Warbler and one of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were found, and the writer takes it for granted that a good time was had by all, nothing to the contrary having come to his knowledge.

The party breakfasted at the Grace Hotel at 10:30, and I'm willing to bet that those boys and gals kept the waiters busy. They had been out in an appetite-producing wind, from by-point of view!

This late in the day the writer has discovered that he failed to mention the lovely table decorations at the banquet. He does not remember having ever seen anything to surpass them on any similar occasion. On motion of Mrs. Jensen, the organization extended a note of appreciation to Mrs. Pegram A. Bryant and the members of her flower committee from the Statesville Club, Mrs. Earl Davis also contributing. May Day was the

motif, with miniature Maypoles arranged along all four of the banquet tables with the proper streamers attached—but words fail. No mere male hand can do justice to the beautiful effect produced.

Following is the list of birds seen on the Saturday morning field trip: Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Pigeon Hawk, Bob-white, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Peewee, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Oven-bird, Louisiana Water-Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Purple Grackle, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

The North Carolina Bird Club, 1940-1941

CLAUDIA HUNTER

At the last annual meeting the president presented a Five-Year Plan, which she had been requested to formulate, and in which ten objectives were listed for the first year, the year 1940-41. Of these, six have been attained, as follows:

1. The three constitutional changes proposed have been made.
2. THE CHAT has been enriched, enlarged, and has become a printed journal.
3. State-wide and regional field trips have been conducted.
4. Garden and municipal sanctuaries have been encouraged.
5. Weekly syndicated articles have been released to between forty and fifty State newspapers since December, one of the club's members, Mr. J. L. Horne, of Rocky Mount, encouraging the idea and contributing the postage. These brief bird portraits, bearing the title *Carolina Bird-Lore*, and the club's signature have been written by a dozen or more different members of the club and checked for accuracy by Mr. H. H. or Dr. C. S. Brimley. (We pause at this time to express to the press of the State the North Carolina Bird Club's sincere appreciation. The North Carolina Press has been more than generous to this young organization.)

6. Monthly Check Lists, prepared by Dr. Elmer E. Brown and Dr. Brimley, have been printed and supplied to members in order to encourage the accumulation and systematic filing of accurate records from all parts of the State. A Nest Record Card, a Migration Record Card, a membership card, and a comprehensive leaflet covering the club's activities and issued by the membership committee have also been printed and are now in use.

Three of the ten objectives have been only partially attained.

First: Instead of the 1,000 members, we have to date 531. This, however, is an increase over last year of about 80 per cent and nearly 300 per cent increase over a two-year period. Probably it should be said in this connection that those who read the Five-Year Plan before it was presented to the last year's meeting and endorsed the membership goal of 5,000 in five years did so because they know that a small club cannot crystallize the interest that is to be found throughout the State in birds, and that this State-wide influence is necessary to bring about the adequate protection of birds which members of the club want and have a right to expect from their State Club.

Secondly: The 1,000 advance orders for *Birds of North Carolina* which we set as our goal, associated groups working along with us, have not all been secured. We lack about 90 orders for this book, which Dr. Grey persuaded the original authors to revise and rewrite, and arranged with a State agency to publish.

Thirdly: No study has been made of the relationship between the State Club and the local units, nor of the club's relationship to other groups interested in bird life. There has, however, been co-operation between the club and other State organizations on several occasions:

1. The Garden Clubs of North Carolina gave us, on two occasions, through its Bird Conservation Chairman, the assistance we sought.
2. We responded to the North Carolina Forestry Association's request for the names and addresses of our local club presidents and others.
3. We offered the Department of Conservation and Development, through its Division of Game and Inland Fisheries, our support in opposing county provided bounties on owls and hawks and in turn asked the Division to investigate the wholesale destruction of owls and hawks and their display on two or more of the highways of the State.
4. We transmitted to the Department of Conservation and Development, the U. S. Biological Survey, and the National Audubon Society data submitted on two occasions by Dr. Ben F. Royal in regard to the destruction of egrets on the Newport River island and secured their promise to investigate. Since we have become by this afternoon's vote an affiliate of the Audubon Society, we have more right to expect aid from this national agency for bird protection, and we shall probably receive it.

5. In February your Executive Board unanimously agreed to offer its support to the National Audubon Society in its efforts to bring about complete and permanent cessation of the feather traffic, and last week, at the Executive Director's request, sent a letter to Governor Lehman of New York asking him to sign the bill then before him prohibiting the feather traffic in New York State.
6. The North Carolina Academy of Science last October appealed to the North Carolina Bird Club for \$50 for a set of 50 bird slides to be made available to high schools, and through our efforts a set of 63 slides of resident birds of the State was given to the Academy of Science by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson.

The one objective neither wholly nor partially realized is the employment of a field secretary, but since we have learned of the Florida Club and National Audubon Society plan, we believe that an Educational Representative may be within our reach at the present time.

In addition to these ten objectives, an eleventh was suggested at the last annual meeting by Mr. Harold S. Peters, Flyway Biologist, U. S. Biological Survey. "Why don't you band some birds in North Carolina that nest in large colonies?" he asked, and added, "You might contribute much to ornithology." So five North Carolina Bird Club leaders, under the general direction of Dr. Grey and Mr. S. W. Walker of the Pea Island Refuge, accepted the challenge, went to Pea Island in July and in two days banded nearly 1,000 birds of ten species. North Carolina has, by the way, 18 licensed bird-banding stations.

Regarding The New "Birds Of North Carolina"

T. GILBERT PEARSON

In reporting the progress of the rewritten edition of *Birds of North Carolina*, first let us recall that the original volume was published in 1919. The preparation of that book was virtually completed in 1912, but delays by the printers, and an intervening fire, had held up the publication all that time. During the twenty-nine years that have elapsed, much additional data has become available about the birds of North Carolina. These the authors have sought diligently to find, and have found it necessary to spend a great deal of time in tracing down many of the records to find which should be accepted and which should be deleted because of lack of convincing evidence.

A very large amount of correspondence has been necessary, and the observations of 227 men and women are included in this new volume. In the discussions of the habits and activities of species, dates of their occurrence, etc., the new book will probably contain at least fifty per cent more material than the original. The keys will be eliminated, which will save some fifteen or twenty pages.

Much time has been spent in going over the manuscript; not only adding new material but also scrutinizing the English with great care, attempting to avoid repetition and striving for clarity of expression. During the past ten months we have changed or rewritten at least ninety per cent of the pages, prepared in 1938 and 1939.

The question of illustrations has given us much concern. Personally, I earnestly hoped to find an angel who would supply \$5,000 to pay for producing twenty-five more original paintings, having these made into four-color blocks, and take care of the expense for printing these, as a gift to the Department of Agriculture for use in this book. But thus far I have failed to discover such a celestial being. However, the chances are very good that we will be able decidedly to enrich the book with some illustrations from another source, and will be able to provide some new black-and-white drawings which in a measure will take the place of a number of blocks used in the old book which have been lost, or which will take the place of some of the illustrations in the former volume which we do not regard as possessing the proper standard of excellence.

While to some there has seemed to be a considerable delay in the bringing out of this book, it really has been a big task. Perhaps I should mention the fact that this is almost entirely a new book. There are very few sentences or paragraphs in it that stand as they did in the old volume.

Today, I feel sure that we can promise that if this volume is published in as good form as the first edition, there will be produced a book on the birds of North Carolina that will be of great value and will stand as the authoritative work on the birds of the State over a period of very many years.

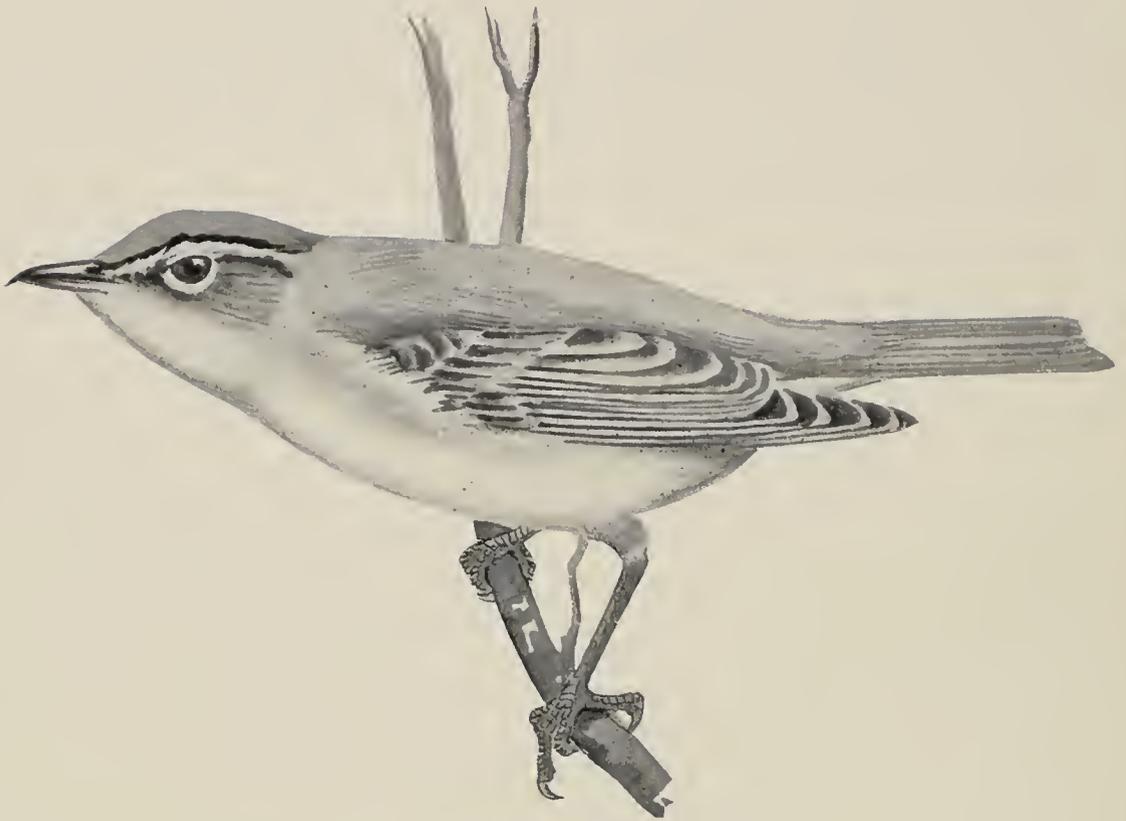
The editors hope to be able to place all material in the hands of the Department of Agriculture for publication during the early days of July.

Aids To Amateurs

II. The Vireos

C. S. BRIMLEY

Vireos are small, plain-colored birds much like warblers in size and general appearance, but with the bill distinctly hooked at the tip. They are more deliberate in their actions than the latter and usually look upward when seeking their insect food. All are good singers, the White-eye being the poorest, and all sing more or less all day, even in the sultry heat of high



RED-EYED VIREO

noon. All suspend their nests from the terminal fork of a limb, whence they derive the local names of "Hangers" and "Swinging-birds." Four species are common in the State, while two others occur.

RED-EYED VIREO. The largest species, olive-green above, white below, a dark line through the eye, a light stripe above it, the latter edged above by the black border of the ashy crown. No wing-bars. Length about 6 inches. A slim, retiring bird, and one of the commonest birds in summer in woodlands and shade trees. The iris is red.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. A slightly smaller but stouter bird. Brighter olive-green, the top of head same color as back, a stripe from bill to and around eye, the eye-ring not quite complete in front, the throat and whole breast yellow, two white wing-bars. Common in woods and shade trees all over the State in summer.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO. Size and shape of preceding, top of head ashy, under parts white, the sides washed with yellow, wing-bars and eye-ring also white. A common bird in the mountains in summer (Mountain Vireo), eastward mostly a transient, but breeds sparingly as far as Rocky Mount.

WHITE-EYED VIREO. A small species found in damp thickets, not in woods. Much like the two preceding but smaller and slimmer with a shorter tail. Bright olive-green above, white below, the sides washed with yellowish. Eye-ring yellow, wing-bars yellowish. Years ago, this bird's song was interpreted as "Fish-ing-in-the-creek, put-your-cork-a-little-deep-er."

Two other species occur. The Warbling Vireo, one of the commonest species in the North, here is only a rare summer bird in parts of the mountains. It is practically a duplicate of the Red-eye, but is smaller and the crown has no black edging. The other is the Philadelphia Vireo, the smallest of all our vireos, which resembles the preceding but the under parts are pale yellowish, but of this we have only one undated record from Buncombe County.

In The Life Of A Bird

MRS. EDWIN O. CLARKSON

By far the best way to study bird life is to take a sheltered seat and become a part of the background. Nature reveals few secrets to those who scurry through leaves and undergrowth in search of them. But for those who quietly and patiently wait on her, she withdraws a portion of her veil for their contemplation.

Never let a bird pass you with something in its mouth without at least following him with your eyes to see where he goes. It may be nesting material or food for young. In either case, you will find the nest. It not only gives you an opportunity to watch the process, but also to protect the nest from natural enemies.

Birds go through cycles of physiological development just as plants do, and the average bird, if it is migratory, migrates, mates, builds its nest, lays its eggs, incubates, rears its young, molts and migrates back to winter quarters. Some birds rear more than one brood, especially in this climate, and some have more than one molt, but they follow a definite series of events.

Most of our birds are monogamous, but take a new mate for each nesting season. Some birds, such as geese, hawks and owls, are mated for long periods, perhaps for life. The Wild Turkey is polygamous and the Red-winged Blackbirds are suspected, and the Cowbirds practice, a promiscuous polygamy.

During the nesting season high winds, heavy rains, prolonged wet or cool periods and hailstorms threaten the young. Crows, jays, grackles, cats, squirrels, snakes and men are fatal to eggs and young. In the country the opossum, mink, weasel and skunk are also enemies. We certainly don't advocate exterminating all of the natural enemies, including man, but where birds are attracted and protected some method of control can be worked out.

During courtship the male is usually the one who makes an exhibition of himself and different species use different methods of attracting the female. English Sparrows squabble and strut. Flickers are comical. Usually more than one male courts at the same time and they bow and scrape before her good-naturedly and talk constantly while doing so. It is a sort of "May the best man win" proposition. Bluebirds, mild-mannered though they

are, if there is more than one male, will fight until one or the other is injured and leaves, but to the female they gracefully wave first one blue wing and then the other and talk in the softest and most irresistibly flattering way until she succumbs.

The general character of the nest, as to size, shape, materials, etc., is the same for any one species, but the material varies according to what is available at each nesting site. However, if a bird is accustomed to building with small sticks, he will not build with fine straw anywhere in his range, but will gather whatever is nearest to the general character of nesting material for the species. We found a Black and White Warbler nest, which is usually lined with hair, lined with the finest copper filament out of telephone cable. One could scarcely tell the difference between the fine copper wire and real hair. The use of rags, paper, horse-hair, etc., illustrates the influence of civilization on the birds' selection of material.

Praecocial birds (birds whose babies run around as fluffy chicks as soon as they are hatched), such as Bobwhites, usually build simply constructed nests, while altricial birds (that is, birds who rear the helpless young in the nest), like Robins, build a more substantial structure in which to feed and brood their young until they are able to leave the nest. Most authorities agree that nest building is instinctive and not learned by watching other birds.

Different birds lay different numbers of eggs, full sets of different species varying from one to twenty eggs. Birds of the same family usually lay approximately the same number of eggs. Praecocial birds, whose young require less care, often have large broods. However, some praecocial birds, such as the Snipe and Plover, are too small to cover more than four of their large eggs, while Bobwhites can easily cover a dozen or more of their small ones. So the size of the bird in relation to size of its egg also has something to do with the number of eggs in a set.

Usually the female incubates the eggs, but males of some species share in the incubation and some cover the eggs during the female's absence. Most birds turn their eggs at intervals while sitting and carry the shell some distance away after it has hatched before dropping it. Praecocial birds are brooded only at night and when tired they come and snuggle under the mother, but altricial birds are brooded more or less constantly until their feathers have grown out to protect them, and even then the parent usually protects them from rain or direct sun. The young of praecocial birds feed themselves, but the young of altricial birds, such as Bluebirds and most of our songbirds, are fed while in the nest and for several weeks after leaving it. The young are fed every few minutes throughout the most of the day, and the food is placed far down the throat. If it does not immediately swallow, the parent takes the food out of the throat and feeds it to another bird or eats it herself.

When ready to leave the nest, some species can fly beautifully, Swallows for instance. Bluebirds fly well also, but cannot direct their flight accu-

rately and often miss the limb they intend to light upon and have to scramble to catch the next one. Robins fly poorly and spend the first few days like little chicks on the ground. For a day or so before young birds are ready to leave the nest, the parents are extremely nervous and do a great deal of excited talking and fussing at the slightest intrusion on the privacy of the nest. The day the babies leave they spend the entire day in a hysterical state, and you usually know a day or so ahead that the babies are about ready to leave by the state of the parents' blood pressure.

North Carolina Bird Banders

HARRY T. DAVIS, Raleigh

Some time back an appeal was made for the names of all holding banding permits for North Carolina. Through the Eastern Bird Banding Association, and the Distribution and Migration of Birds (former Biological Survey), I have gathered the data below. Names marked with an asterisk are members of the Eastern Bird Banding Association.

Ballard, Allen, Kinston; Beal, John L., 706 S. York St., Gastonia; Bell, F. D., Camp Mondamin, Tuxedo; *Boggs, Miss Marion A., Waynesville; Bunn, Charles I., Garner; *Chatham, Thurmond, 112 Stratford Rd., Winston-Salem; Coker, Coit McLean, Box 950, Chapel Hill; Connell, James B., S. Garnett St., Henderson; *Davis, Harry T., N. C. State Museum, Raleigh; Finster, Ethel B., Asheville Normal School, Asheville; Green, Mrs. Charlotte Hilton, White Oak Rd., Raleigh; Hook, Alexander B., P. O. Box 1426, High Point; Jamison, W. W., Jr., Hendersonville; Johnson, Jack, Lexington; *Johnson, Maynard S., New Holland; Kistler, J. W., Polk Street, Raleigh; Knight, W. B., Jr., Garner; Lawrence, Harley C., New Holland; Majure, Wallace J., Game and Inland Fisheries, Raleigh; Phillips, Rev. C. E., Dallas; Primrose, J. L., 1025 Vance Street, Raleigh; Quinn, Grover C., Buxton; Ruff, Frederick J., c/o U. S. Forest Service, Pisgah Forest; Shaftesbury, Archie D., 806 McGee Street, Greensboro; Sullivan, Charles S., Game and Inland Fisheries, Raleigh; Taylor, Mark H., 2104 Woodland Ave., Raleigh; Walker, S. A., Manteo; Wormley, James W., Bennet College, Greensboro.

Some Statistics

C. S. BRIMLEY

To avoid the charge of plagiarism it may be stated that the figures of densities per acre are taken from an article by Roger T. Peterson in the March-April number of the Audubon Magazine, so now we can get started.

North Carolina has an area of 33,552,640 acres. At an estimate of one

and a half pairs of birds per acre, this would give us 100,657,920 breeding birds in our State. Of course, in certain places the breeding bird population would be much greater. For instance, on my three-quarter acre garden there are about a dozen pairs of breeding birds or around 25 birds to the acre. To show the contrast, in Kansas, according to Peterson, some of the heaviest bird populations in the whole country have been found in lots around farm houses with plenty of fruit and shade trees, while in fields of cultivated crops the population in the same state has run as low as less than one bird to every five acres. Now each of our hundred million birds will presumably pair off and according again to Peterson should have by the end of summer an additional two young per pair, or another hundred millions. If all lived through till next year and kept on multiplying at the same rate, in only fifteen years we would have a bird population of about 6,553,800,000,000 plus, which would mean around 65,000 times as many birds as the country could feed, and they would all be starving to death.

Now an increase of two additional young birds per pair does not seem very unreasonable. A Bob-white lays a dozen eggs to the set, and a Carolina Wren lays five eggs to the set and raises not infrequently three broods. So the survival of two young for each breeding pair does not seem so preposterous until we see what it would lead to mathematically in the way of over-population.

Since the bird population stays about stationary from year to year, we know that a number of birds about equal to the number of raised young must perish before the next breeding season comes. This loss comes from all sorts of causes, storms, predators, parasites, diseases, and so on, but most of all probably from pressure of population making it hard for the excess, particularly the weaker individuals, to get enough to eat. And so when the next year runs around again all the old and weak have gone and only the more robust are left to take up the old routine. So do not be too unhappy when Tom the Cat, or Bill the Boy destroys a bird. In all probability if Tom or Bill had failed to get him, something else would. The bird population can stand the normal disasters, but what really hurts the birds is the destruction of their breeding or feeding grounds. For instance, my lot has nearly a dozen trees around the edges, a number of bushes, an Eleagnus hedge, and so on, to furnish nesting places for its birds. But if I cut down the trees, grubbed up the hedge, and cleaned out the bushes, instead of ten or a dozen nesting pairs, there would very probably be left only the pair of English Sparrows under the eaves. My place, I might say, is infested with cats, dogs and wharf rats, yet the birds survive and seem to live happily there, for they can find places to nest and raise their young.

Glossy Ibis Nests Near Southport

C. S. BRIMLEY, Raleigh

Churchill Bragaw, of Orton, wrote my brother, H. H. Brimley, that he had seen a pair of Eastern Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus*), in the heron rookery on Battery Island near Southport on May 17, 1940. They were seen the next day at the same place by Waters Thompson and Alex West. Bragaw suggested they might be intending to breed.

No further news came in about them until on July 19 Thompson wrote H. T. Davis, of the State Museum, that he had seen the young birds in the rookery some time previous; one of these young birds being twice as large as the other. On July 15 he returned to the rookery and found the smaller bird dead, and the larger one about ready to fly. He took some photographs of this bird, and also made water-color sketches of it with the adult. These sketches were sent to the State Museum and were displayed at the fall meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club.

Bragaw pointed out that this nest was unusual in its location in being near nests of other birds. Howell, in *Florida Bird Life*, p. 117, quotes Oscar E. Baynard: "Glossy Ibises are pugnacious in their relation with other species, and will drive away any White Ibises or herons that attempt to nest within a distance of 10 feet of their own nests, and gradually dismantle the deserted nests." The Southport nest was located in a tree over 20 feet from the ground, and in the midst of so many heron nests that Bragaw had to search carefully to distinguish the ibis nest from those of the herons.

The Southport record appears to be the first case of these birds breeding north of central Florida, as the 4th A. O. U. check-list gives the breeding range of this bird as "rarely and locally in central Florida and probably Louisiana and Mexico," and also other southern countries.

We have only three other records of this bird being found within the State. In July or August, 1926, one was taken out of a flock of five near Pea Island; one taken at Atlantic near Beaufort February 9, 1940; and S. A. Walker observed one on the Pea Island refuge April 20, 27, 1940. The check-list states that these birds range casually northward to Nova Scotia and Colorado.

New Members, March 20-May 19, 1941

- Allee, Mrs. George, 84 National Ave., New Bern.
 Anderson, Mrs. H. C., Henderson.
 Armstrong, Tommy, Park St., Parkersburg, West Va.
 Austin, Miss Rene, 640 Cherry St., Statesville.
 Bernard, Mrs. J. B., 301 Beall St., Lenoir.
 Brewer, Mrs. C. S., Henderson.
 Burton, Miss Carrie, Henderson.
 Burton, Mrs. K. L., Henderson.
 Butler, Randolph, 324 Western Ave., Rocky Mount.
 Carlton, Mrs. Luther M., Lamar St., Roxboro.
 Carter, Miss Ruth, Henderson.
 Church, Mrs. C. B., Henderson.
 Cobb, Miss Hazel, 809 Jackson St., Roanoke Rapids.
 Corpening, Clifton L., Vance Hotel, Statesville.
 Deloplane, Mrs. Walter H., 214 Swift St., Durham.
 Dermid, Jack, 520 E. Worthington Ave., Charlotte.
 Eppes, Mrs. Victor, Henderson.
 Everitt, Mrs. E. G., Henderson.
 Fox, Miss Elizabeth, Henderson.
 Garlick, Miss Sallie, Henderson.
 Gill, Mrs. T. C., Route 1, Kittrell.
 Glover, Miss Viola, S. Rosemary Station, Roanoke Rapids.
 Grady, Cleburne, 443 Euclid Terrace, N. E., Atlanta, Ga.
 Grady, Mrs. James B., Clinton.
 Hancock, Mrs. Gaylord, 511 Queens Court, Statesville.
 Harris, Miss Mildred, 5 Springdale Court, Greensboro.
 Hicks, Miss Mary Elizabeth, 536 Hamilton St., Roanoke Rapids.
 Hopkins, Miss Bertha Barr, No. 11 Trinity Apts, Durham.
 Hufham, Miss Mary, c/o Mrs. J. R. Singleton, Washington.
 Johnson, Mrs. G. R., Nutbush Road, Hamilton Lakes, Greensboro.
 Johnson, Miss Mabel Esther, St. Pauls.
 Johnson, Miss Mary Katherine, St. Pauls.
 Kelly, Miss Sue, Henderson.
 Kelly, Virgil, 212 Maple Ave., Fayetteville.
 Kimbrough, Miss Eunice, Coltrane Hall, Roanoke Rapids.
 Lackey, Mrs. Dent, 504 West End Ave., Statesville.
 Lauders, E. F., Newland.
 Leonard, Mrs. Henry S., 107 Pinecrest Rd., Durham.
 Lesley, Miss Sarah, 521 Stirling St., Greensboro.
 Logan, Miss Dorothy, Yadkinville.
 Long, McK. R., 406 Davie Ave., Statesville.
 Magie, Henry, Reynolds Bldg., Winston-Salem.
 Massenburg, Miss Lillian, Henderson.
 Morrison, Mrs. J. R., Brookdale, Statesville.
 Mulberry Street School Library, Miss Sara Rutledge, Principal, Statesville.
 Myers, Miss Garnet, Henderson.
 Pegram, Miss Agnes, Henderson.
 Phillips, L. B., 2809 O'Berry St., Raleigh.
 Plott, Mrs. W. Roy, Walnut St., Statesville.
 Pumyea, Nelson D. W., 20 Union St., Mount Holly, N. J.
 Rickert, R. M., 739 N. Center St., Statesville.
 Rigby, Mrs. Dan W., 308 W. End Ave., Statesville.
 Robertson, Miss Mary R., Coltrane Hall, Roanoke Rapids.
 Russell, Mrs. Lucy Phillips, Rockingham.
 Rux, Mrs. L. C., Henderson.
 Sharpe, Mrs. Robert B., 505 Pittsboro St., Chapel Hill.
 Singleton, Mrs. J. R., Washington.
 Slaughter, J. H., 525 N. Bloodworth St., Raleigh.
 Smethurst, Mrs. Frank, 1605 St. Mary's St., Raleigh.
 Smethurst, Wood, 1605 St. Mary's St., Raleigh.
 Stewart, Miss Mary M., 1203 Arsenal Ave., Fayetteville.
 Thomas, Bill, Chapel Hill.
 Towe, Robert Leslie, 511 Roanoke Ave., Roanoke Rapids.
 Upehurch, Mrs. R. T., Henderson.
 Walters, Mrs. Harold, 208 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill.
 Williams, Ellison A., 27 Limehouse St., Charleston, S. C.
 Williams, Rev. J. S., 101 Woodward Ave., Norwood Pk., Asheville.
 Wooten, Miss Miriam, Box 884, Statesville.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP MAY 19, 1941: 531

CHANGES IN ADDRESS OF MEMBERS

- Coker, Dr. Coit M., Virginia Fisheries Laboratory, Yorktown.
 Davidson, Miss Azile, 635 W. Sharpe St., Statesville.
 Orr, Mark Taylor, Box 568, Chapel Hill.
 Robertson, Mrs. Edna T., Box 229, Boone.
 Tyner, Mrs. N. D., 1802 Rolling Road, Greensboro.
 Williams, Frank, Box 4169, State College Station, Raleigh.

Announcements

VIRGINIA NATURAL HISTORY INSTITUTE announces its Second Annual Training Course for nature leaders, June 23-August 2, at the Swift Creek Recreational and Demonstration Area. Address the V. N. H. I., 907 Grace Securities Bldg., Richmond, Virginia.

AUDUBON NATURE CAMP for adult leaders will be conducted for five two-week sessions, beginning June 13. Located on an island in Muscongus Bay, Maine. Write to the National Audubon Society for illustrated Camp Folder.

FILL OUT and send in your Nest Record cards and Monthly Check Lists.

A pair of Snow Buntings was observed on February 4, 1941, at Clarkton, N. C., by Mrs. Grace L. Meares. This is the most southern record for the State of this rare winter visitor.

The record of the Caracara from Alleghany County, North Carolina (see CHAT, November-December, 1938, p. 73), should be thrown out. The observer, Clyde J. Smith, later sent me a list of birds of the county, which included such impossibilities as Whooping Crane, Sandhill Crane, Greenland Wheatear, Fish Crow, and Boat-tailed Grackle, thereby showing that his determinations could not be relied on.—C. S. BRIMLEY.

Publication Of The New

Birds Of North Carolina

Is Assured!

See account by T. Gilbert Pearson, in this issue.

There is still time to send in your prepublication order to the
State Museum, Raleigh.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB



VOL. V.

SEPTEMBER, 1941

No. 4

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB **#5 NOT PUBLISHED**
At State College Station
Raleigh, N. C.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

JOHN GREY, JR., *Editor*

THOMAS L. QUAY, *Associate Editor*

State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.

Application for entry as second-class matter is pending.

Published five times a year on the fifteenth of January, March, May, September, and November as the official organ of the North Carolina Bird Club. Articles for publication should reach the Editor by the first of the month in which the issue is published. Notification of change of address or of lost copies should also be sent to the Editor.

Price of the bulletin, fifty cents per annum. Fifty cents of the annual membership dues is paid as a year's subscription to THE CHAT.

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00. Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer. Present officers:

President: Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury, W. C. U. N. C.; First Vice-President: Miss Grace Anderson, Statesville; Second Vice-President: Mrs. D. W. Grinnell, Arden; Third Vice-President: Dr. Ben F. Royal, Morehead City; Secretary: Mrs. N. D. Tyner, Greensboro; Treasurer: Dr. C. H. Bostian, Raleigh; Editor: Rev. John Grey, Jr., State College Station, Raleigh.

In Memoriam

Francis Hopkinson Craighill

1875-1941

In the passing of the Rev. Francis H. Craighill, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd of Rocky Mount, on October 14, 1941, the North Carolina Bird Club lost a valuable and beloved member. He was not only a charter member of the Club and its second President, but has been one who carried many of the burdens in connection with its beginning and its growth. For the first two years of the Club's existence he wrote a large number of the articles published in *The Chat*, and also stimulated groups throughout the State in their own study of birds and in the organization of clubs. He was in the habit of taking a daily field trip around Rocky Mount in the early morning and made a number of remarkable observations in a territory which is not particularly suitable for the varied life which he discovered. He discovered the Florida Red-shouldered Hawk being in North Carolina, and sent to the Museum the first specimen of this bird taken north of Florida. Other important records are the breeding of Yellow-crowned Night Heron and the Prairie Horned Lark at Rocky Mount; also the presence of Lawrence's and Brewster's Warblers, and the Northern Phalarope, and Golden Plover at Rocky Mount. Through his frequent trips to Nags Head he unearthed the first records of the Glossy Ibis in North Carolina; and the breeding of Cowbirds on Roanoke Island, which is apparently the only place within the State east of the mountains where they breed.

Always interested in young people, he gave much of his time to work with them, serving the Boy Scouts as Chairman of the Court of Honor and as District Chairman. He often took some of his Scouts on his field trips and trained several into competent field observers. He is also one of the few ministers who needed two sessions of his Sunday School to accommodate the crowd. The local Kiwanis Club made him its President, and the Church appointed him to membership on the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Council of Churches.

He was born in Suffolk, Va., in 1875, of a long line of Episcopal clergymen; received his A.B. at the University of the South and his B.D. at the Sewanee Divinity School. He came to Rocky Mount in 1921.

When such a life is transferred from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant it is truly the advent of a conqueror.

—JOHN GREY.

The Breeding Birds of Pea Island

JOHN II. GREY, JR.

Pea Island is that part of the North Carolina banks extending from Oregon Inlet south to Hatteras Inlet, a distance of fifty miles. For this article the name is restricted to the northern part of the island, to the Migratory Waterfowl Refuge which is controlled by the United States Department of the Interior through the Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuge extends from Oregon Inlet to North Rhodanthe, which is fifteen miles, including 5,700 acres of land and marsh, and also out into Albemarle Sound to include 30,000 acres of water and small islands. Sam A. Walker, of Manteo, is the refuge manager.

The part of the Island in the refuge is quite narrow, rarely stretching more than a quarter mile from the ocean beach to the waters of the sound. The area is protected from the Atlantic Ocean by low dunes, which are being built up as the wind piles the sand over the brush fences installed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Most of the refuge is covered with low vegetation, with an occasional bush. In a few places many acres are bare of any covering, due partly to over-grazing in past years and the effect of wind and salt spray whipping across the narrow strip of land. The only trees are a few small clumps of myrtles near the refuge camp at New Inlet.

The carrying capacity of the refuge as a wintering ground for waterfowl has been increased through work done by the C. C. C. In addition to the brush fences which they have built to prevent the wind wearing down the dunes and the sea breaking through, the boys have planted grass (*Spartina patens*) in some of the bare spaces, and behind the dunes to anchor the sand and prevent further erosion, thus giving the flora a better chance to recover the whole area. An artificial pond has been created by throwing up a twelve-foot dike on part of the Island, thus impounding the rain-water and any natural seepage. Sand for the dike is dug out of a pit on the inside of the dike, the pit thus serving as a moat around the edge of the pond and giving deep water for the growth of fresh-water plants liked by waterfowl.

Although the refuge was established for the sake of the wintering birds, it has become an important migration station for shorebirds and also many land birds, including the Flicker and some warblers. Its importance as a nesting area is evident from the list of breeding birds in this article.

As a nesting area Pea Island is a specialized habitat, due to the low vegetation and the absence of trees. It is admirably suited for terns, gulls, skimmers and other ground nesters, and also for species accustomed to nest near the ground, such as sparrows, wrens, Nighthawks, and Least Bitterns.

I spent the week of June 9-13, 1941, at the camp on the Island with James R. Sydnor, of Richmond, and as the guest of Sam Walker. Some day the Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to have a more spacious camp, which will be available to many nature students. On May 28, 1941, I spent the day on the refuge with Walker, and others, making an estimate

of the nesting population, but found we were a little early. The week in June was at about the height of the nesting season. July 16-17, 1940, were spent on the Island banding a thousand birds of eleven species. Data for this article was gathered on these trips, and is combined with data gathered by Walker since his arrival in 1937 at the opening of the refuge. This recent data has been compared with information gathered by Louis B. Bishop in his numerous trips to the Island in the early years of this century. In determining the status of some birds much help has been received from studies made by Thomas B. Burleigh at Kitty Hawk (*Auk* 54:454-460, 1937), and by the work on the Cape Henry and Back Bay region in Virginia done by Mrs. A. C. Reed, of Norfolk.

As the nesting season was at its height during June 9-13, 1941, I have taken that period as basic, indicating the status of the bird as of that period unless otherwise stated. At this time only a few stragglers were left over from the wintering birds, and most of the transients had passed through on the way to their nesting grounds, and the southward migration had not yet set in. As a matter of fact, some species are beginning to return southward before all transients have passed through on their way north, so that there is probably no time when all birds seen on the refuge could be classed as breeding birds.

In this June period we found 86 species. These are divided into: stragglers from the winter visitors, 14; breeders, including summer visitors and residents, 32; transients, 18; and 22 species found breeding near Manteo, on Roanoke Island.

EASTERN GREEN HERON. Fairly common along the borrow pit or moat around edge of pond. One nest, with four downy young, found in myrtles near the camp, June 12, 1941.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. A group of thirty nests was discovered on June 12 in the myrtles near the camp; one nest had eggs, one eggs and newly hatched young, but most of the young were well-feathered and climbing about the branches. Only twenty-eight adults were counted as they arose at our approach. August 6, 1941, there were about fifteen adults and forty-five immature birds at the pond. Walker had noted a few adults at the pond in past years but had not suspected a heronry.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. On June 12 four adults were flushed in the marsh near the myrtles and flew toward the heronry mentioned above. This is the first record of these birds on the refuge, and they may not breed there. However, their nests are not easily distinguishable from the above.

EASTERN LEAST BITTERN. Abundant along edge of borrow pit and in the marsh and many nests found. Recorded May 12 through August 15, and need records for later dates. Young in nest May 31, and one young bird seen August 3, 1939.

COMMON BLACK DUCK. Resident. In the June period we found four broods, two of these were just hatched and two appeared about two weeks old; also nest with eggs. At the same time there were an estimated 100 birds on the refuge.

GADWALL. Adult and four young June 9, and nest with eleven eggs on 12th. August 15, 1941, there were forty-five birds on the pond, many of which were young. Walker established the breeding of these birds in North Carolina on June 12, 1939, when he saw an adult and young. In 1940 he saw forty young birds at one time.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. June 9 we saw twenty-five adults on the pond and one brood of young, and on August 8, 1941, there were about twenty young, which probably were three broods. Walker records them March 2-December 28.

KING RAIL. One seen May 28, 1941, at the camp by Mrs. Charles Barefield, and Mrs. A. C. Reed, of Norfolk. Walker had a nest near his home at Manteo, June 9, from which two young were hatched. A few of these birds winter, as Bishop lists them February 9, 1901, and Walker on December 27, 1940.

NORTHERN CLAPPER RAIL. One bird heard calling June 12. The dryness of the marshes may have accounted for their scarcity as they are tolerably common breeders. Four young banded July 17, 1940, and Walker found nest and eggs May 31, 1940, at the pond.

FLORIDA GALLINULE. Six adults seen at the pond, June 13, and one nest with two eggs found same day. August 16, 1941, we saw two young birds. August 26, 1939, Walker saw eleven young, seven of which could fly fairly well. September 19, 1939, he saw fifty birds on the refuge, and records them May 16 through November 6.

WILSON'S PLOVER. Fifty or more adults on the refuge near New Inlet. Two young, newly hatched, May 28, 1941, which is earliest date for young birds. Recorded March 27-August 31.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. One bird seen June 12, whereas May 15 and July 16, 1940, they were tolerably common. Recorded May 3-September 8.

EASTERN WILLET. Four adults at New Inlet June 12 which appeared to be nesting. This form is not common at any time, though in fall many of the western form migrate along the coast. A small flock at the pond December 27-28, 1939.

LAUGHING GULL. Abundant breeder on the islands in the sound; we estimated 2,000 adults. Earliest nests May 18, and young June 20. Recorded March 28-December 1.

GULL-BILLED TERN. Twelve nests seen June 11 on sandy upland just beyond New Inlet. The State had only one nesting record of these birds, and one fall record, before Walker observed their breeding on the refuge May 30, 1938. In 1939 he counted 20 nests; in 1940 about a dozen nests, and banded 3 young July 16, 1940. Recorded May 1-August 26.

COMMON TERN. Tolerably common breeder on islands in the sound and on high ground beyond New Inlet, counting 100 nests on June 12 on the small island just off New Inlet, few of which had a full clutch of eggs. July 16, 1940, banded 134 fledglings, though most young were on the wing. I estimate 200 nests on the refuge in 1941.

LEAST TERN. About 100 birds nesting on the refuge, most of them near Oregon Inlet. Earliest nests May 18, and by mid-July the birds have become uncommon. April 22 to September 8.

ROYAL TERN. Only 25 adults were noted during our week in June, and only 7 eggs on the island off New Inlet. In 1940, Walker estimated 1,000 eggs and on July 16, 1940, we banded 323 young. In 1939 there were 16 eggs on June 16. April 2-December 1.

BLACK SKIMMER. Estimated 300 adults on the refuge and located fifty nests with eggs June 12, also many nests hollowed out, but birds had not yet laid. May 28, 1940, earliest date for eggs. Banded 193 fledglings July 17, 1940. November 13, 1940, Walker estimated 2,000 on the sound shores. May 6-November 13 and probably later.

NIGHTHAWK (sp. ?). Six birds near old Pea Island Coast Guard Station June 10. Walker found a nest near his camp after mid-June. Earliest nest May 20 and recorded April 30 to August 18. This is probably *chapmani*, the Florida form, but we have no specimens.

BARN SWALLOW. Common during the June period, nests around old houses on the refuge; nest with young at Sand Ridge June 11. Earliest for eggs June 1, and recorded March 28-November 10. H. H. Brimley found young in nest at Nags Head August 3, 1937. Why do we have these birds nesting in the mountains and on the coast, but not in between?

CAROLINA WREN. One bird singing June 9.

WAYNE'S MARSH WREN. This Long-billed form is an abundant breeder, with young on the wing June 12. June 16, 1940, banded four young. Bishop listed them as resident, but I have not observed them on the few winter trips.

ATHENS YELLOW-THROAT. A few heard singing near the camp, July 16-17, 1940. None were noted on the refuge.

ENGLISH SPARROW. A few at North Rhodanthe.

SOUTHERN MEADOWLARK. Abundant breeder, with young on the wing June 9. Burleigh took a male at Currituck Light May 30, 1932, and the male I took near Cape Henry, Va., May 18, 1940, was referred by Alexander Wetmore to the Eastern form. The Museum needs a good collection of breeding specimens from this area.

EASTERN RED-WING. Fairly common breeder among the cattails. Nest with one egg, one young, and one egg in act of hatching, June 12. Resident.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE. About 20 nests in myrtles near camp. Resident, but more common in migrations.

TOWHEE (sp. ?). Uncommon breeder on the refuge, but more common near Manteo. Lacking a good collection of skins from this area, we do not list this as either Alabama or the White-eyed form.

MACGILLIVRAY'S SEASIDE SPARROW. Common breeder throughout the marshes, young in nest May 28, 1941.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW. Two males seen and heard near the camp June 12.

ATLANTIC SONG SPARROW. Common breeder over the area. June 11, one adult followed by 4 hungry young worked for an hour around the camp. July 16-17, 1940, we did not record them on the refuge. Bishop lists them as resident with a few winter records.

Records From All Over The State

C. S. BRIMLEY

These came to me as Chairman of the Committee on Records and in getting up the Carolina Region part of the "Season" for the Audubon Magazine, but the credit for them is due to the different observers, not to me.

Arden (Mrs. D. W. Grinnell). Twenty-two species of warblers observed in the spring, May 2 being an especially good day, when fifteen kinds were noted, including Golden-winged, Blackburnian, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, and Blackpoll. Myrtle Warblers were present up to May 15, the latest day in the State this year. A Blue Grosbeak was seen on April 22.

Chapel Hill. Twenty-eight species of warblers noted in the spring migration; some noteworthy dates, Nashville Warbler, April 27; Golden-wing, April 23, 24; Bay-breasted Warbler, May 10, 14; Blackburnian Warbler, May 6; Bob-white's nest with three eggs on April 1; Swamp Sparrow, May 24, latest date for State. (Tom Odum *et al.*)

Church's Island. American Bittern's nest on May 19. J. C. Rabb. Further details on another page.

Charlotte (E. E. Brown *et al.*). Barn Swallows in unprecedented numbers during the spring migration, and Bobolinks also in unusual numbers, the latter were few or missing at other places except Rocky Mount. Twenty-one species of warblers reported. King Rails with downy young on May 15.

Greensboro. L. L. McAllister reported a nest of the Blue-headed Vireo in thin pine woods on May 4, adding another locality to its breeding range in North Carolina, the previous localities being Statesville, Raleigh, and Chapel Hill.

Henderson. Miss Hunter reports more Blue Grosbeaks than usual, and gives us the latest spring date this year for Blackpoll Warbler, May 30.

Miss Fox reports seeing two Horned Larks on May 28, which adds another summer locality for this species.

Morganton. Rev. C. E. Gregory reports two Upland Plovers as seen April 6-12.

Orton. Dr. E. E. Brown saw the first Yellow-throated Warbler and Black-throated Green Warbler on April first, not April 21 as given in the Audubon Magazine.

Pea Island. Sam Walker and John Grey give some interesting notes. Only twenty pairs Royal Terns nesting as opposed to 500 last year; most likely they shifted to some other nearby locality as did those on the Cape Romain Refuge in South Carolina. A Black Rail was noted in the spring and an Avocet in the summer. A Northern Phalarope and a Glaucous Gull in second-year plumage on May 28. A small breeding colony of both species of Night Herons was found in June.

Raleigh. Certain kinds of warblers were present in larger numbers than usual from May 10-17. These were Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Wilson's, and Canada. The latter had only two previous records to its credit, May 13, 1892, and May 18, 1912. On each occasion only a single bird was observed, while this year it was observed on both May 10 and 12, and several birds seen each time. (It will be noted it skips about twenty years between records here and may be expected again in 1961!)

Rocky Mount. Craighill reports Nashville Warbler on May 12, and Bobolinks unusually common. Four more nests of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found but not in the same localities as last year. Forty Wood Ducks were seen on August 1, presumably mostly young birds raised in the neighborhood.

Statesville. A very nice lot of nesting records was received from Maurice Stimson, while Grace Anderson reports a House Wren so overcome by the hot weather in July that it hung by one leg out of its nesting box in a vain effort to keep cool. Both she and Sarah Nooe report that a pair of Veeries nested on J. C. Crawford's farm this spring.

Tryon. A Cerulean Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow noted in late April by A. M. Law and E. A. Williams, and a Swainson's Warbler by G. H. Holmes on May 9, the latter is the third record for the species from Tryon.

Washington. Joe Biggs reports an Orchard Oriole building in a bunch of Spanish Moss, which seems unusual though the nest itself was composed of grass.

Winston-Salem. Bill Anderson notes Song Sparrows remaining throughout the summer for the first time and presumably breeding, although he could not find their nests. He also notes House Wrens breeding, which is also a first record, though he thinks they have bred there for several years. He also saw Pigeon Hawk, April 14, Baltimore Oriole, Bay-breasted and Wilson's Warblers on May 10.

Smoky Mountain Birds

T. L. QUAY

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a vast wilderness area still relatively unknown to ornithologists. Arthur Stupka, park naturalist, has been studying the birds of the region for the past six years, and will soon bring out the first annotated list.

Two hundred and two kinds of birds have been identified so far. Possibly one hundred twenty-five species nest there, and for purposes of study may be arranged in their respective habitats. Only two groups can be discussed here: (1) certain birds of large size that are now rarer in many parts of the country than formerly, and (2) some of those found nesting only in the high-mountain evergreen forests.

Many people have heard of Ravens, few have seen them. These storied birds frequent the higher ridges of the Smokies. Most any day one or more individuals can be found soaring and calling overhead.

Ruffed Grouse are quite common. At any time above the middle elevations a covey may burst into flight from along the trailside. The Wild Turkeys, however, are rarely seen. For they are of the purest native strain, and among the wariest of all wild animals. The best chance is on a grassy bald at sun-up. One day in early July I saw a hen and eight bedraggled chicks struggling through thick, water-soaked grass along the Appalachian Trail.

The Pileated Woodpecker, or log-cock, occurs rather plentifully at the middle elevations. In such deep woods they are not readily visible, but the slow, flicker-like calls give them away.

As opposed to other birds, the Chimney Swifts are neither large, rare, nor difficult to see. But they are found over the higher forests many miles from chimneys. The conclusion is that here they are still nesting in hollow trees.

The magnificent Duck Hawk is all too rare even in this wild sanctuary. A few pairs are known. One pair has nested for several years on Duck Hawk Ridge, by Alum Cave Bluffs. With a little patience one of these noble predators may be added to your list.

Above five thousand feet the bird life of the Smoky Mountains is more like that of northern New England and southern Canada than like that of the middle and southern states. Around Raleigh, and throughout the Piedmont of North Carolina, the following conditions obtain: the Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Junco are common winter residents; Winter Wrens are uncommon winter residents; Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins are rare and irregular winter visitors; Red Crossbills and Black-capped Chickadees never occur. In the spruce and balsam forests of the high Smokies all these birds are nesting species. The Siskins and Crossbills are not common. The others are so common that they can all be recorded on any short walk, any summer day. To have winter in summer, then, ornithologically speaking, take the short trip to the southern highlands.

The Inside Story of The Bird Book

JOHN H. GREY, JR.

Copy for the revised edition of *The Birds of North Carolina* has been turned over to the Bynum Printing Company, of Raleigh, and type is being set. The book should appear early in 1942.

So many people have asked about progress of the book that we are giving here the human interest story and the latest information. It was definitely decided that the book would be issued this past summer when Governor J. Melville Broughton became interested in the book and gave his enthusiastic approval to the project. This approval would hardly have been given so readily had not the North Carolina Bird Club secured some 1,500 pre-publication orders for the book. Prior to the securing of these orders the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, through Commissioner Kerr Scott, had agreed to underwrite an edition of 3,000 provided the Budget Bureau would approve such an expenditure. The Budget Bureau would not approve and said that no book issued by the State had ever sold enough copies to pay for itself, and this was no time to risk the State's money.

The next step was to secure proof of all black and white cuts used in the first edition, and to check the 24 color plates which T. Gilbert Pearson had in his office in New York and was guarding with his life. The check-up showed that we needed a number of additional illustrations, so Pearson got Roger Tory Peterson to make 18 drawings which will appear in the book as black and white cuts. The superiority of these new cuts is



MARSH HAWK—MALE
one of the new illustrations



Snake Bird—Female



Migrant Shirike (Loggerhead)



WHITE IBIS



LONG-EARED OWL

shown by the accompanying illustrations. They are the finest cuts of birds that have appeared in any work on ornithology. Arrangements were also made with Pearson and with Houghton Mifflin Company to use some of the color plates which appeared in Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds*.

Then came the tragedy! When Bynum Printing Company started to run proof on the 24 color plates they discovered that 12 of the plates were missing. In their place were 12 plates on birds of Hawaii. It looked as though Pearson had locked the stable door after the horse was gone. The cuts were evidently boxed up in 1919 when the first book was published, and had been kept in the vault of the firm in New York which did the color work. This firm went out of business in the 1920's, and their equipment was taken over by another firm, which also failed. It was then that Pearson took possession of the box and started his constant vigil.

However, the story is not as bad as it sounds, for it had already been decided not to use two of the cuts and these were among the lost, which left only 10 to be accounted for. Although we have made a thorough search of printing firms, museums, Audubon societies, and prominent organizations, we can find no trace of these 10 cuts or their ever having been reproduced since 1919. Sufficient color plates are being borrowed from various firms to complete the book so that it will appear actually with more colored pictures than did the first edition. The only disadvantage will be that there will not be the same uniformity in the plates as in the first edition.

Then came another snag. The printer found that the glossy-finished paper which is needed to reproduce the various cuts could not be obtained anywhere in the country before December 16, 1941. The defense program has taken the major portion of the wood pulp used in this paper and is now using it in a new process to make explosives from wood pulp rather than from cotton. So the paper is to be on hand in December, and in the meantime type is being set and plates made so that the book will be printed immediately upon receipt of the paper.

Birds of The Iliad and Odyssey

EDDIE W. WILSON, Cary

The bird-loving reader of the Homeric legends, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, finds numerous references to birds. Not only birds in general are mentioned in connection with the exploits and wanderings of the characters, but allusions are frequently made to the following individual birds: the eagle, dove, owl, vulture, comorant, goose, crane, swan, falcon, daw, hawk, starling, heron, thrush, swallow, sea-gull, and the "halcyon-bird" or kingfisher.

According to these epics, gods and goddesses, warriors and those "of the lower sort," in moments of extreme doubt and peril, had great faith in

omens, and certain birds were "birds of fate." Therefore, it is not surprising that Odysseus, though repeatedly hindered from reaching his native land, "had birds of good omen," birds that cheered and encouraged him amid his various adventures. Meanwhile, when Penelope was beginning to fear that she would never see him again, Zeus or Jupiter sent forth two eagles to convince her that Odysseus would finally return home.

Birds served as food, in fact, flesh was the principal food in Homeric times. So when hunger preyed upon Odysseus and his companions, they went "in quest of game, as needs they must, fishes and fowls."

Birds were scavengers. For instance, at the siege of Troy, the bodies of many heroes became "a prey to dogs and all winged fowls."

The Homeric bard used birds in reckoning distance. In the *Odyssey*, Menelaus, the selfsame "Menelaus of the loud war-cry," crossed "a strange sea" so "wide" that "not even the birds can make their way in the space of one year."

However, it is perhaps through the use of the word *like* that the references to birds in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* are most pleasing. Both of these epics are rich in simile. "Like sea-gulls the crew were borne hither and thither on the waves." "The Trojans marched with clamour and with shouting like birds." The ships of the Phoenicians were "swift as the flight of a bird, or as a thought." Hector swooped upon Achilles "like a soaring eagle." "So the goddesses went their way with step like unto turtle-doves." Before Odysseus began the contest with the boisterous and insolent suitors he "proved his bow-string, which rang sweetly at the touch, in tone like a swallow."

Nesting of The Yellow-crowned Night Heron Near Rocky Mount, N. C.

F. H. CRAIGHILL

We (Randolph Butler, the Corinth boys and I) found all of the nests on May 19th. The first two were in Halifax County, just across the line from Nash. We got in a boat and went up the creek that feeds Bellamy Lake as far as the logs would let us and then got out and walked. Both nests were in pine trees about thirty-five feet from the ground, and like all the nests we have found were built quite far out on slender limbs. That makes them very hard to reach or inspect, so we did not discover their contents.

The second pair of nests was in the woods behind the Frank Phillips pasture in Nash County, near Battleboro. Of these, one was thirty-five feet high, the other perhaps forty-five. They were also in pine trees and out on limbs. There were fresh eggshells on the ground, indicating the

presence of newly hatched nestlings. All four of these nests were very difficult to reach and we have not visited them since.

Although the four nests we found last year were robbed by the Cooper's Hawks that built nearby, Yellow-crowns seem more plentiful than usual this year. Battleboro seems to be about the center of their territory and though they nest singly or in small groups there must be in the aggregate quite a substantial number of them. Their nests are built in thick woods so that you have to get right under them to see them and it is rather good luck than good management that we have found the ten which is our total for the last three years. The nests are more substantial than most other heron nests I have seen, but nothing to brag on at that.

Nesting of The American Bittern in Currituck County, North Carolina

Early this summer Mr. J. C. Rabb brought to the State Museum the fragments of the shell of a hatched egg to be identified. The fragments were sufficiently large to determine both the size of the egg and its color, and in connection with the description of the nest by Mr. Rabb, given below, were sufficient for H. H. Brimley and Mrs. Simpson to determine that the egg was that of an American Bittern. This gave proof for the first time that the species did breed in North Carolina.

The nest was found after the young had hatched and left.

"A nest was found on Church's Island on May 19, 1941, in a clump of rush (*Juncus roemerianus*), and was four to five inches high, eight to ten wide, and flat on top. The nest material consisted of dead rush and grass stems and leaves. The vegetation in which the nest was found consisted of rush, marsh hay (*Distichlis spicata*), pennywort (*Hydrocotyle* sp.), and spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.). The nest was 15-20 yards from the nearest cattail clump and open water. This marsh is periodically subject to floodings by wind tides."—JOE C. RABB.

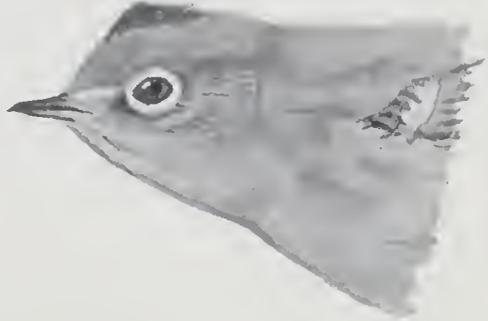
Hints For Amateurs

Winter Birds—Kinglets

C. S. BRIMLEY



GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET



RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

In the winter when the warblers, except Pine, Myrtle and an occasional Palm, are all gone, their place is taken to some extent by two kinds of Kinglets. These are olive-gray birds with whitish underparts and are smaller than any of our warblers.

The two species are the Golden-crowned Kinglet and the Ruby-crowned. The former has the top of the head yellow bordered with black in both sexes, and in the male the yellow patch has an orange center; the sides of the head are whitish with a darkish stripe through the eye. This species is the smaller of the two. It occurs from mid-October to early April, mostly in pine woods, and usually in loose flocks or troops of 25 or more.

The Ruby-crowned is slightly larger, has no yellow or black on the crown, the sides of the head are not perceptibly different in color from the crown, and there is a distinct white ring around the eye. In the male there is a concealed crown patch which is ordinarily red but very occasionally orange. This species may be known by the white eye ring, the uniform dull color, and by its habit of fluttering its wings when searching for insects. It usually occurs singly but often in mixed flocks. It frequents thickets more than does the other species. It arrives about the same time in the fall but stays later in the spring.

Blowing Rock Bird Club

LENA C. REEVES

A branch of the North Carolina Bird Club was formed at Blowing Rock on June 19, 1941. The following officers were elected. Miss Lena C. Reeves, president; Mrs. J. H. Winkler, vice-president; and Mrs. A. S. Burns, secretary. Most of the sixteen members have also joined the State Club; their names are given in this issue in the list of new members. Grace

Anderson and Maurice Stimson, of Statesville, spoke at the organizational meeting.

At our July 2 meeting we were fortunate in having Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Supervisor of the Southern Audubon Sanctuaries, give us a lecture. At the same meeting Albert Burns showed us his color pictures of our mountains and wildflowers.

A FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BIRDS, by Roger Tory Peterson.
(Houghton Mifflin Company, 1941; 240 pages, 46 plates; \$2.75.)

This is a companion volume to Peterson's famous *Field Guide*, which covers the bird life east of the Rockies. This new volume covers the birds of the Rockies and the west coast. It follows the same pattern as his earlier volume in describing the field marks which differentiate one bird from another, and in pointing out the marks for which one should look in observing birds in the field. It also includes a brief description of the song, nest and eggs, and the usual territory through which the bird ranges.

There are certain improvements, particularly in connection with some of the illustrations, and in the inclusion of the signs for male and female in connection with the drawings. This book will be helpful to members of the N. C. Bird Club in connection with western birds that occasionally straggle into our area, and North Carolina has many of these. It will also be indispensable to anyone making a trip to the west.

New Members, October 28, 1941

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| <p>Beck, Mrs. Charles, Blowing Rock.
Burns, Mrs. Albert S., Blowing Rock.
Von Cannon, Fred, Banner Elk.
Carpenter, Miss Mary, Tryon.
Carlsson, Miss Victoria, 130 Tate Street, Greensboro.
Carrick, Dr. D. B., 806 N. Main Street, High Point.
Carrier, Henry, Rockbrook Camp, Brevard.
Clark, Mrs. Ernest, Blowing Rock.
Coffee, Miss Ellen, Blowing Rock.
Cone, Mrs. Moses, Blowing Rock.
Eaton, Mrs. D. M., Newton.
Edgerton, Mrs. N. E., Jr., Tatton Hall, Raleigh.
Farmville Garden Club, Miss Tabitha M. DeVisconti, 213 S. Main St., Farmville.
Gaskin, J. A., Box 1197, Wilson.
Gower, Mrs. Perrin, 1913 Reid St., Raleigh.
Isenhour, Charles J., Blowing Rock.</p> | <p>Lassiter, Miss Elizabeth, 213 Chestnut St., Henderson.
Lindau, Miss Sophie, Blowing Rock.
Matthews, Mrs. C. E., 227 Jackson St., Roanoke Rapids.
Oxford Orphanage Library, Oxford Orphanage, Oxford.
Moody, Mrs. A. C., Sr., Blowing Rock.
Prette, Mrs. C. S., Blowing Rock.
Reeves, Miss Lena C., Blowing Rock.
Sperling, Miss Nancy B., 312 Jackson St., Roanoke Rapids.
Statesville Audubon Club, Statesville.
Stirling, Miss Alison B., Banner Elk.
Story, Mrs. E. F., Blowing Rock.
Warfield, Dr. Mary, Blowing Rock.
Winkler, Mrs. J. H., Blowing Rock.
Wroe, Mrs. E. H., Blowing Rock.
Young, Fred H. and Douglas, 215 Lantz Avenue, Salisbury.</p> |
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CHANGES IN ADDRESS OF MEMBERS

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| <p>Akers, Mrs. J. J., 309 Wilder Building, Charlotte.
Cone, Edward T., 1030 Summit Avenue, Greensboro.
Cox, George A., 1109 Taylor Avenue, Drexel Hill, Penna.
Crawford, Lt. W. R., Company F, 65th Infantry, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.
Davis, Mrs. M. A., 4512 Reno Road, Washington, D. C.</p> | <p>Funderburke, Miss Fannie, Gny, Ga.
Kuerzi, Richard G., Riverview Hotel, St. Mary's, Ga.
McNairy, Mrs. Evelyn, Route 2, Box 367, Greensboro.
Robertson, Miss Mary R., E. C. T. C. Infirmary, Greenville.
Yoder, Mrs. Hilda, c/o R. H. Bowles, Hickory.</p> |
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NOTE OF EXPLANATION

The September CHAT has been delayed by circumstances beyond the control of the editors. As the membership knows, the editor was in an automobile accident, and upon returning to his church this fall, the press of long-delayed duties did not allow time for birds. Not until after November 1 was there time to write the several articles planned for this issue. Dr. Grey has fully recovered and is now working overtime on his campaign to build a new West Raleigh Presbyterian Church.

We hope to publish the November number early in December, and expect to be back on schedule with the first bulletin of the new year. Members are urged to send in their bird observations and experiences, however great or small.

—T. L. Q.

UPLAND PLOVERS were noted on Upper Creek, three miles north of Morganton, on April 16 and 19, 1928, on the Spainhour farm. The Spainhour boys say they have been noted almost every spring since then. Two were seen on May 6, 1940, just outside Morganton, and one the next day. I think they may breed in the bluegrass country of Ashe and Alleghany counties. This is the first record of them west of Rocky Mount since 1894.—REV. C. E. GREGORY.

A RAVEN with a wingspread of fifty-one inches was shot at Green Mountain, Yancey County, December 26, 1940.—JAMES HUTCHINS, Windom.

The New
Birds of North Carolina

Has Gone To Press!

See account by John Grey, in this issue.

There is still time to send in your Christmas gift order to the
State Museum, Raleigh.
