

FIELD NOTES FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1,  
1943 TO DECEMBER 31, 1944

COMPILED BY C. CHANDLER ROSS

It was decided by the Publication Committee that it would be advisable to publish field notes on an annual basis, therefore this year we have brought the notes up-to-date and records for October, November and December for both years will be found.

War conditions still existing have of course greatly reduced the number of observers who were able to get into the field, and the limited use of binoculars in certain areas has been a factor which continued to hold down the number of records reported, nevertheless some very interesting notes are included in this issue.

The Annual Round-up was held on May 14, 1944, with fourteen groups participating, among which was one from J. Fletcher Street, who reported from his bed at the Temple University Hospital. This was the last report sent in by this beloved member of our Club. One hundred and seventy-one species were reported by all groups. Conditions were spotty throughout the day, some common species were missed by several groups and no wave of warblers appeared at any time during the day. Generally speaking, the entire spring migration was fairly well represented by the conditions existing on May 14, although several observers did report substantial lists for the week following, at no time were great concentrations of warblers seen.

The Cape May Census was conducted on December 26, 1943, with nineteen observers in nine parties participating; weather conditions were clear, moderately cold with a light southwest wind; one hundred species were recorded. On December 30, 1944, twenty-three observers in ten parties recorded one hundred and two species on a rainy day with a light southwest wind, which was considered a very satisfactory list. Three records of especially great interest were the American Egret, Osprey and Black Skimmer.

This compiler is again greatly indebted to James Bond for help in making the selections for publication.

*Colymbus auritus*. HORNE GREBE. Wildwood, N. J. June 11, 1944 (breeding plumage) (Kramer).

*Oceanites oceanicus*. WILSON'S PETREL. Tucker's Beach, N. J., July 2, 1944 (Miller).

*Casmerodius albus egretta*. AMERICAN EGRET. Cape May Census, December 30, 1944 (Potter, Wayne Marshall, and E. W. Marshall).

*Branta bernicla hrota*. AMERICAN BRANT. Pennypack Creek at Delaware River, Pa., June 8, 1944 (6) (Miller).

*Chaulelasmus streperus*. GADWALL. Aronomink, Pa. January and February 1944 (Colwell); Penn Manor, Pa., March 25, 1944 (8) (Finkel).

*Aix sponsa*. WOOD DUCK. Springton, Pa., January 6, 1944 (Rigby brothers).

*Nyroca americana*. REDHEAD. Penn Manor, Pa., March 12, 1944 (J. Cadbury); Springton, Pa., October 12, 1944 (2) (Rigby brothers).

*Charitonetta albeola*. BUFFLEHEAD. Haverford, Pa., February 20, 1944 (Baily); Tinicum, Pa., March 6, 1944 and Springton, October 12, 1944 (Rigby brothers).

*Clangula hyemalis*. OLD-SQUAW. Gustine Lake, Fairmount Park, Phila., Pa., April 28, 1944 (J. Cadbury); Tucker's Island, N. J., August 20, 1944 (Kramer).

*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*. GOLDEN EAGLE. Hawk Mountain, Pa., November 8, 1944 (2) (Potter); November 18 and 29, 1944 (17) (J. Cadbury), November 22, 1944 (Kramer).

*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*. OSPREY. Cape May Census, December 30, 1944 (Harry Brown).

*Falco columbarius columbarius*. EASTERN PIGEON HAWK. Beach Haven, N. J., February 6, 1944 (Kramer).

*Rallus elegans elegans*. KING RAIL. Beverly, N. J., December 26, 1943 (Street).

*Haemantopus palliatus palliatus*. AMERICAN OYSTER CATCHER. Tucker's Island, N. J., August 20, 1944 (Kramer).

*Pluvialis dominica dominica*. AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. Westville, N. J., September 16-19, 1944 (Manners); Wildwood Crest, N. J., September 20, 1944 (Manners).

*Capella delicata*. WILSON'S SNIBE. Beverly, N. J., January 2, 1944 (Street).

*Limosa fedoa*. MARBLED GODWIT. Holgate, N. J., September 17, 1944 (Miller); Stone Harbor, N. J., August 21, 1944 (Mohr).

*Philomachus pugnax*. RUFF. Holgate, N. J., July 2, 1944 (Kramer, Miller et al) Mr. Kramer's letter describing this bird is included in full.

"It was among Knot and Dowitchers and merely standing, not feeding or preening. Its legs were longer than its companions', and as we approached him we noticed its bill—about 1½ inches long—thin and pointed. It resembled an Upland Plover in size and general shape, but (we thought) its plumage was disheveled. Later research showed this appearance was due to ruffs, though they were not too pronounced. The back was a mottled buffy-brown and the tail seemed to be finely barred horizontally. Underparts were mainly heavily streaked black. When it flew, quietly and rapidly, we saw white axillar and what appeared to be a white half-tail. Since it flew profile to us at eye level we did not see its entire back in flight. Although we waited in the vicinity, the bird did not return to the spot as some shore birds do. Later discussion and investigation (books of Taverner, Peterson, Chapman, and Forbush; and Academy specimens) indicated the bird to have been a Ruff (male). The photo in Forbush might have been our bird, they look so much alike (except ours had a lighter throat)."

*Larus hyperboreus*. GLAUCOUS GULL. Fish House, N. J., March 12, 1944 (Potter).

*Larus marinus*. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL. Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pa., January 24, 1944 (Hebard).

*Larus fuscus*. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. Fish House, N. J., February 5, 1944 (Coman). A letter from Dr. Coman follows:

"In the midst of a large flock of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls was a gull with a dark mantle, very dark yet not so black as a Great Black-backed Gull, bill—light lemon yellow, size—if anything a bit *smaller* than the Herring Gulls, small white spots near wing tips as in Herring Gull. Beyond doubt a Lesser Black-backed Gull, but of which subspecies I could not be certain."

*Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*. GULL-BILLED TERN. Wildwood Crest, N. J., September 27, 1944 (Kramer for Eikelberry).

*Sterna dougalli dougalli*. ROSEATE TERN. Tucker's Beach, N. J., July 2, 1944. Nest with two eggs (Miller).

*Thalasseus maximus maximus*. ROYAL TERN. Warren Grove, N. J., September 17, 1944 (Potter); Point Pleasant, N. J., September 22, 1944 (Potter); Bay Head, N. J., September 22, 1944 (Potter); Holgate, N. J., September 17, 1944 (dead) (Miller).

*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*. CASPIAN TERN. Point Pleasant, N. J., September 22, 1944 (Potter); Holgate, N. J., September 17, 1944 (6) (Miller).

*Rynchops nigra nigra*. BLACK SKIMMER. Cape May Census, December 30, 1944 (Potter, Wayne Marshall, and E. W. Marshall).

*Alca torda*. RAZOR-BILLED AUK. Island Beach, N. J., January 23, 1944 (dead) (Kramer).

*Alle alle*. DOVEKIE. Island Beach, N. J., January 23, 1944 (3 dead) (Kramer); Cape May Census, December 30, 1944 (live-swimming) (Potter).

*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*. SAW-WHET OWL. Tuckerton, N. J., January 26, 1944 (dead) (Kramer).

*Chaetura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT. Ardmore, Pa. Notes by H. Groskin of fall roosting: from August 21 to October 11, 1944. During twenty evening observations 5,000 Swifts were counted entering the chimney each evening, on seven evenings more than 10,000, the greatest number was September 24 when 12,600 birds entered the chimney.

*Ceophloeus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER. Wissahickon Creek, Philadelphia, Pa., June 8, 1944 (J. Cadbury).

*Centurus carolinus*. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. Wissahickon Creek, Philadelphia, Pa., February 13, 1944 (Kramer); Haverford, Pa., October 6, 1944 (Hastings).

*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. Juniata Park, Pa., June 29, 1944 (Miller); Swarthmore, Pa., June, 1944 (breeding) (Harper); Norristown, Pa., September 25, 1944 (Middleton).

*Tyrannus verticalis*. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD. Cape May, N. J., November 12, 1944 (Kramer).

*Corvus corax principalis*. NORTHERN RAVEN. Hawk Mountain, Pa., November 8, 1944 (Potter); November 28, 1944 (J. Cadbury).

*Polioptila caerulea caerulea*. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Frankford, Pa., May 4, 1944 (Miller); Cape May, N. J., September 23 to 26, 1944 (Gillespie); Norristown, Pa., April 28, 1944 (Middleton).

*Vireo philadelphicus*. PHILADELPHIA VIREO. Pennypack Park, Philadelphia, Pa., May 11, 1944 (McNiel); Allenwood, N. J., September 17, 1944 (Miller).

*Prothonotaria citrea*. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. May's Landing, N. J., May 14, 1944 (3) (Stokes).

*Vermivora celata celata*. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER. Haverford, Pa., October 5, 1944 (Baily for Wm. Hutt).

*Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla*. NASHVILLE WARBLER. Frankford, Pa., August 19, 1944 (15) (Miller).

*Dendroica dominica dominica*. YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. Ockamilton, N. J., May 11, 1944 (Manners); Princeton Junction, N. J., November 12, 1944 (C. Rogers).

*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*. YELLOW PALM WARBLER. Beverly, N. J., January 2, 1944 (Street).

*Geothlypis trichas*. YELLOW-THROAT. Beverly, N. J., December 26, 1943 (Street).

*Euphagus carolinus*. RUSTY BLACKBIRD. Tinicum, Pa., December 26, 1943 (Albino) (Debes).

*Molothrus ater*. EASTERN COWBIRD. Philadelphia, Pa., February 13, 1944 (3) (Daly).

*Guiraca caerulea caerulea*. EASTERN BLUE GROSBEAK. Cape May, N. J., September 23, 1944 (Gillespie and Gillespie, Jr.).

*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*. EASTERN EVENING GROSBEAK. Ambler, Pa., January 15, 1944 (Gillen); Medford, N. J., wintering 1944 (30) (Evans); Sharon Hill, Pa., October 15, 1944 (Burke).

*Spinus tristis tristis*. EASTERN GOLDFINCH. One banded at Ardmore, April 1942, found dead at St. Andrews, N. B., July, 1943 (Groskin).

*Chondestes grammacus grammacus*. EASTERN LARK SPARROW. Cape May, N. J., September 7, 1944 (Choate). Dr. Choate's letter follows:

"I noticed this bird among a group of English Sparrows on my lawn. The bird was about eight feet from me. In size it was a bit smaller and the head pattern was distinctly different. When it flirited its tail I noticed the white in the outer edges of his tail. This was not a straight line of white as in the Junco or Vesper Sparrow, but irregular and in the characteristic pattern of the Lark Sparrow. This in addition to chestnut ear patch clinched the identification."

ERRATUM: The record of the Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora tyrannus*) at Rothsville, Lancaster County, Pa., November 22, 1942, published in the 1943 issue of *Cassinia* was in error. The bird was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*).