

## FIELD NOTES

JANUARY 1, 1945 TO DECEMBER 31, 1945

COMPILED BY C. CHANDLER ROSS

Wartime restrictions on the use of binoculars and gasoline rationing for the first eight months of this year have been factors which continued to limit the number of reports turned in by our members. In spite of these handicaps some very interesting records are included below, among which are a Ruff by Richard Miller, Parasitic Jaeger by Edward Rigby, Long-tailed Jaeger by Quentin Kramer, and a Clay-colored Sparrow by Austin.

The spring migration was not marked by any great waves of warblers this year, but most of the regular migrants were seen by those observers who were frequently in the field.

The Annual Spring Roundup was held on May 13 with eighteen groups in the field. Due to restrictions mentioned above only two groups reached the shore, in spite of this fact and the conditions which were generally conceded to be spotty a good variety of species was seen.

Reports coming in during the early winter indicate an invasion of our northern species this year, many Snowy Owls have been reported not only from the Delaware Valley but also from other parts of the state which were not included in these notes.

The Cape May Christmas Census was held on December 23, thirty-one observers reported one hundred and seven species, which was considered a very satisfactory list under very difficult weather conditions. The thermometer registered between ten and fifteen degrees all day, there were four inches of snow on the ground, and a very strong northwest wind added to the discomfort. Among the more interesting species seen were the Virginia Rail, Razor-billed Auk, Dovekie, and Red-bellied Woodpecker.

J. P. and E. H. Rigby have been continuing their observations at the Springton Reservoir and vicinity. They have turned in a summary of the fall migration of water birds which we have included at the end of these notes.

It continues to be difficult to select records for publication from the many turned in by our members and the writer is again indebted to James Bond for help in the current list.

*Egretta thula thula*. SNOWY EGRET. Marshes between Cape May and Stone Harbor, N. J., June 25 (60), Coman.

*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*. LOUISIANA HERON. Marshes between Cape May and Stone Harbor, N. J., June 25 (4), Coman.

*Florida caerulea caerulea*. LITTLE BLUE HERON. Stone Harbor, N. J., August 10 (eggs and newly hatched young), MacIntosh.

- Chen caerulescens*. BLUE GOOSE. Fortescue, N. J., April 1 (7), Finkel.
- Chaulelasmus streperus*. GADWALL. Brielle, N. J., March 4, Kramer.
- Nyroca americana*. REDHEAD. Brielle, N. J., March 4, Kramer.
- Charitonetta albeola*. BUFFLE-HEAD. Springton Reservoir, Pa., March 25, Rigby Brothers.
- Melanitta deglandi*. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. Haverford College Pond, Pa., October 12, Baily for Jacob Abbott.
- Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*. GOLDEN EAGLE. Moorestown, N. J., April 22, Haines.
- Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*. OSPREY. Cape May, N. J., January 18, MacDonald.
- Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi*. BLACK RAIL. Goshen, N. J., June 23 (nest with 4 eggs and several downy young), Coman; Holgate, N. J., August 16, Wright.
- Rallus limicola limicola*. VIRGINIA RAIL. Cape May, N. J., December 23, McDonald, Livingston and Robinson.
- Ionornis martinica*. PURPLE GALLINULE. Tinicum, Pa., July 18, Fryburger.
- Pagolla wilsonia wilsonia*. WILSON'S PLOVER. Holgate, N. J., September 16, Conway and E. Rigby.
- Pluvialis dominica dominica*. AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. Holgate, N. J., September 16, Conway and E. Rigby.
- Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*. EASTERN WILLET. Reed's Beach to Fortescue, N. J., June 23, Coman—15,000 to 20,000 estimated nesting, this estimate compares with one made for the same territory in June 1942 by Julian K. Potter when 10,000 were counted.
- Totanus flavipes*. LESSER YELLOW-LEGS. Tinicum, Pa., February 25, J. Rigby.
- Pisobia fuscicollis*. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. Delair, N. J., October 7, Haines and Ward.
- Pelidna alpina sakhalina*. RED-BACKED SANDPIPER. Ocean City, N. J., July 27, J. Rigby.
- Micropalama himantopus*. STILT SANDPIPER. Westville, N. J., September 30 (15), Manners and Middleton; Port Richmond, Pa., September 4, Miller; Delair, N. J., October 7, Haines and Ward.
- Limosa fedoa*. MARBLED GODWIT. Holgate, N. J., August 16 (2), Wright.
- Philomachus pugnax*. RUFF. Stone Harbor, N. J., June 24, Miller—A description of the bird written by Mr. Miller follows, "When detected it was squatted on its belly in the sand, within several feet of several adult Laughing Gulls, its clumsy appearance and prominent profile attracted my attention. It let me approach to within thirty yards before it flew off rapidly and was observed for about five minutes through 10 by 50 binoculars. The bird was probably a female as there was no sign of a ruff. The top of the head and neck

were brownish, the breast buffy streaked with black, the back brownish black, the belly white, the wings brownish black with two narrow longitudinal stripes, and in flight the tail showed white on the side of a median band of brownish black."

*Steganopus tricolor*. WILSON'S PHALAROPE. Westville, N. J., September 30, Manners and W. Middleton.

*Stercorarius parasiticus*. PARASITIC JAEGER. Cape May, N. J., September 29 (2), E. Rigby.

*Stercorarius longicaudus*. LONG-TAILED JAEGER. Island Beach, N. J., January 1, Kramer—"This bird was freshly killed and almost disemboweled by gulls, it was the size of a slim crow, and an immature bird as indicated by its two central tail feathers which were a scant inch longer than the rest of the tail. We collected the feet which were later identified by James Bond at the Academy."

*Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*. GULL-BILLED TERN. Corson's Inlet, N. J., July 29, J. Rigby.

*Sterna dougalli dougalli*. ROSEATE TERN. Ocean City, N. J., July 8, J. Rigby.

*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*. CASPIAN TERN. Corson's Inlet, N. J., September 27, E. Rigby.

*Alca torda*. RAZOR-BILLED AUK. Island Beach, N. J., January 21 (dead), Kramer; Cape May, N. J., December 23, Potter.

*Alle alle*. DOVEKIE. Island Beach, N. J., January 21 (36 dead), Kramer; Brigantine, N. J., February 3 and 4, Finkel; Cape May, N. J., December 23, Potter.

*Nyctea nyctea*. SNOWY OWL. Plymouth Meeting, Pa., January 1, J. Cadbury for J. H. Price; Miquon, Pa., mid-January, Arnett; Paoli, Pa., February 20, McCann; Winonah, N. J., November 1 to 7, Manners; Beach Haven, N. J., November 25, McDonald; Tinicum, Pa., week of November 18, one killed and another seen, McDonald for Robinson.

*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*. SAW-WHET OWL. Camden, N. J., January 14, Potter; Ambler, Pa., April 5, Gillin. Found feathers, bird was apparently the victim of a Screech Owl; Pennypack Park, Pa., December 2, Miller for Yoder.

*Chaetura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT. Ardmore, Pa., the following notes were all made by Horace Groskin. On May 2, 2700 birds entered the chimney; on June 25, 164 entered, no nests could be seen, three individuals were collected and upon examination by Dr. Stabler proved to be non-breeding females with undeveloped eggs in the ovaries; on October 22 the last birds were seen to enter the chimney.

*Centurus carolinus*. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. Glenolden, Pa., May 9, Freyburger; West Chester, Pa., Nested in May, Martin.

*Nuttallornis mesoleucus*. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. Glenolden, Pa., May 31 to July 4, Gillespie.

*Hirundo erythrogaster*. BARN SWALLOW. Ambler, Pa., March 27, Gillin.  
*Dumetella carolinensis*. CATBIRD. Mount Holly, N. J., December 18,  
 Pumyea.

*Hyllocichla guttata faxoni*. HERMIT THRUSH. Ambler, Pa., Ten days  
 during February, Gillin.

*Poliophtila caerulea caerulea*. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Bryn Mawr  
 Ave. and Darby Creek, Pa., May 20, Register; Woodstown, N. J., July 24,  
 Middleton.

*Vireo philadelphicus*. PHILADELPHIA VIREO. Cape May, N. J., Septem-  
 ber 22, Kramer; Centerton, N. J., September 22, Miller; Haverford, Pa.,  
 September 22, Hastings; Norristown, Pa., September 19, Middleton.

*Dendroica tigrina*. CAPE MAY WARBLER. West Philadelphia, Pa.,  
 October 28, Zaid.

*Dendroica caerulea*. CERULEAN WARBLER. Morris Park, Pa., May 13,  
 Mohr.

*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*. YELLOW PALM WARBLER. Mount  
 Holly, N. J., December 23, Pumyea.

*Quiscalus quiscula quiscula*. PURPLE GRACKLE. Ardmore, Pa., Horace  
 Groskin reported a return on a bird which he had banded eight years ago.

*Guiraca caerulea caerulea*. EASTERN BLUE GROSBK. Cape May  
 Point, N. J., September 22, Gillespie.

*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*. EASTERN EVENING GROSBK.  
 Chester, Pa., March 10, Dr. Palmer; Haddonfield, N. J., November 12 and 13  
 (3), Gillespie for Peters; Germantown, Pa., November 13 (20), J. M. Cadbury;  
 Kennett Square, Pa., November 24, Conway; Morristown, N. J., December 25,  
 Linton; Mount Holly, N. J., December 23, Pumyea.

*Spizella pallida*. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW. Cobb's Creek Park, Phila-  
 delphia, Pa., October 13, Austin—Seen at twenty-five yards range for five  
 minutes with eight power binoculars. Identifying field marks: chestnut ear  
 patches, no wing bars, rufous at bend of wing, yellowish tinge on breast and  
 throat, no yellow before the eye, and no streaking below.

*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*. LAPLAND LONGSPUR. Rhawn St. and  
 Loretta Ave., Philadelphia, Pa., March 15, Morrison for Sivel.

WATERFOWL RECORDS FOR SPRINGTON RESERVOIR AND VICINITY  
FALL MIGRATION 1945

By J. P. RIGBY AND E. H. RIGBY

<i>Species</i>	<i>Number Seen</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Common Loon*	2	Nov. 4	Still in breeding plumage
Horned Grebe*	9	Nov. 4	All in one flock—Early date Oct. 21
Pied-billed Grebe*	6	Oct. 21	All in one flock
Whistling Swan	5	Nov. 10	Rare 3 adult, 2 young, heard call
Canada Goose*	25	Oct. 2	Flying over Media
Canada Goose*	9	Nov. 4	Flock at Reservoir—30 seen Nov. 10
Mallard*	150	Nov. 10	First birds seen early October
Black Duck*	200	Nov. 10	First birds seen late September
Baldpate*	30	Oct. 6	Steady population
Pintail*	6	Oct. 13	Occasional birds in October and November
Wood Duck	3	Oct. 20	Occasional birds in October and November
Redhead	2 males	Oct. 13	Two birds seen October 27
Canvasback*	12	Oct. 21	Two birds seen October 13
Scaup	8	Nov. 10	Occasional birds in late October and Nov.
Ring-necked Duck*	12	Oct. 21	Fairly steady population
American Golden-eye*	6	Nov. 4	Fairly regular in November
Bufflehead*	7	Nov. 4	Two birds seen October 21
Old Squaw*	16	Nov. 4	One male November 3
White-winged Scoter*	1	Nov. 4	Rare
Ruddy Duck*	14	Oct. 13	Population increased to 60 November 10
American Merganser	1	Oct. 28	Very early date
Red-breasted Merganser*	6	Oct. 21	Occasional birds in October and November
Coot*	40	Oct. 27	Steady population

\* Big day November 4, seventeen species.