

FIELD NOTES FOR 1947

COMPILED BY C. CHANDLER ROSS

Highlights contained in the following notes are quite numerous. While the total number of records selected for publication is less than in some former years we believe that the selections as a whole are more interesting than any we have printed in the last ten years.

A great increase in the numbers of Ruddy Ducks observed on the Delaware is encouraging at a time when the reports on most ducks by the Government Departments are quite the other way. The return of the Oystercatcher as a known breeding bird to the New Jersey Coast is enough to delight any ornithologist in the region, as is the return of the Herring Gull to the same locality at which it bred last year. The appearances of a Curlew Sandpiper and of Avocets at several locations have sent our members on hurried trips to South Jersey and Lake Ontelaunee. Then for the third time in four years we had a visit from a Ruff, which put in an appearance at Bridgeport, New Jersey to be observed and photographed by members of our club. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found to be nesting in the Philadelphia city limits for the first time.

The Annual Roundup was held May 11, 1947 with eighteen groups and fifty-three individuals participating; the weather was ideal and good lists were compiled by all. The combined lists gave a total of two hundred and eight species observed. An interesting fact to those of us who spend most of our time in the Philadelphia and South Jersey Region is that Potter, Coman, Corn and Jacobs, who covered points in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland and Cape May Counties recorded one hundred and forty-two species. The other group to reach this number travelled all the way to Chincoteague, Virginia and back.

The Cape May Christmas Census was held on December 28, 1947, under clear skies and a strong northwest wind with about three inches of snow on the ground. Sixty-three men participated, reporting one hundred and twelve species and forty-three thousand individuals, which was a new high record as far as individuals were concerned. No new species were added to the list this year.

Having completed ten years of writing local notes this compiler has asked to be relieved with this issue. I wish to thank the members of the club for the records turned in and their cooperation in furnishing additional information where it was required. The standards which I have endeavored to maintain in the selections for publication are in a very large measure due to the close editing of minutes of our meetings with James Bond. Where questions arose as to whether a particular report should be included and agreement could not be reached, exclusion was always the result. My thanks to him must again be publicly expressed.

Leucophoyx t. thula. SNOWY EGRET. Moslem, Pa., July 26 to September 7, (3) (Poole).

Plegadis f. falcinellus. EASTERN GLOSSY IBIS. Bombay Hook, Delaware, May 3 to 10 (Manners).

Mareca penelope. EUROPEAN WIDGEON. Lake Ontelaunee, Pa., January 4 to 18 and also September 23 (early record) (Poole); North Seaside Heights N. J., February 2 (Schiff); Lilly Lake, Cape May, N. J., March 29 (Choate).

Oxyura jamaicensis rubida. RUDDY DUCK. This year has seen a remarkable increase in the numbers of this species which have been observed in this area. The most notable day was November 16 when Coman reported 3600 along the Delaware River.

Coragyps atratus. BLACK VULTURE. Bombay Hook, Delaware, May 9 (Manners); November 9 and 18 (H. Cutler); November 8 (Lukens, Street and Ross).

Laterallus jamaicensis pygmaeus. BLACK RAIL. Holgate, N. J., June 15, nest and 9 eggs (Lukens, Street and Kramer).

Haematopus p. palliatus. AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHER. Little Beach Island, N. J., July 26, two pairs were seen and a nest with 3 eggs was found. This is the first nest of this species to be found on the New Jersey beaches for many years. (Lukens, E. and Q. Kramer). Tuckerton, N. J., August 10 (H. Cutler).

Pluvialis d. dominica. AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. Cape May, N. J., September 7 and 14 (Choate); Bombay Hook, Delaware, October 26 (Lamplugh).

Totanus melanoleucus. GREATER YELLOW-LEGS. Bombay Hook, Delaware, January 30 (Zaid).

Erolia ferruginea. CURLEW SANDPIPER. Anglesea, N. J., July 9 to 11 (Choate).

Micropalama himantopus. STILT SANDPIPER. Stone Harbor, N. J., September 21 (E. and Q. Kramer).

Limosa haemastica. HUDSONIAN GODWIT. Bombay Hook, Delaware, October 3 to 9 (Conway).

Philomachus pugnax. RUFF. Bridgeport, N. J., May 3 to 8 (Kramer, Lukens, Potter, and others).

Recurvirostra americana. AVOCET. Lake Ontelaunee, Pa. The first record for Eastern Pennsylvania was reported first on September 21 by Poole; the bird remained through September, October and November. Bombay Hook, Delaware, October 3 to November 18 by many observers. This bird was seen flying about with the Teal and frequently standing alone rather than associating with the Yellow-legs which were there in good numbers. Salem, N. J., November 26 (Bishop).

Steganopus tricolor. WILSON'S PHALAROPE. Eastwick, Pa., October 8 (Mathews); Bombay Hook, Delaware, October 5 and November 9 (Conway).

Stercorarius longicaudus. LONG-TAILED JAEGER. Cape May Point, N. J. September 28, immature observed at very close range (Groskin and E. Kramer).

Larus h. hyperboreus. GLAUCOUS GULL. Island Beach, N. J., November 30 (Robinson).

Larus argentatus smithsonianus. HERRING GULL. Stone Harbor, N. J. In July of this year Turner McMullin found a nest in the same place that he discovered it last year.

Rissa t. tridactyla. ATLANTIC KITTIWAKE. Bay Head, N. J., February 12, one found dead (Kramer).

Hydroprogne caspia. CASPIAN TERN. Delair, N. J., July 10 (Haines).

Aegolius a. acadica. SAW-WHET OWL. Newtown Square, Pa., November 18 (Crawford).

Tyrannus verticalis. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD. Cape May, N. J., September 14 (Choate).

Empidonax virescens. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. Near Birdsboro, Pa., June 1 to 21 (first definite nesting record in many years) (Poole).

Thryomanes b. bewicki. BEWICK'S WREN. Hawk Mountain, Pa., April 12 and 13 (Choate for Broun).

Poliophtila c. caerulea. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Hawk Mountain, Pa., May 1 (3) (Choate for Broun); Media, Pa., May 1, nesting (Rigby); Bridgeton, N. J., May 1, nesting (Debes); Morris Arboretum, Chestnut Hill, Pa., April 16 (J. M. Cadbury); Pennypack Valley, Philadelphia, Pa., May 11, a nest found at this time is the first record for the City (Reimann); Birdsboro, Pa., June 15, nest with young (Poole).

Protonotaria citrea. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. Carpenter's Woods, Philadelphia, Pa., May 20 (J. M. Cadbury); Pennypack Park, Philadelphia, Pa., May 24 (Reynolds).

Oporornis philadelphia. MOURNING WARBLER. Reading, Pa., October 12 (a late date!) (Poole).

Sturnella m. magna. EASTERN MEADOWLARK. Between Lehighton and Stroudsburg, Pa., February 9 (W. R. Middleton).

Hesperiphona v. vespertina. EASTERN EVENING GROSBEAK. Fox Chase, Pa., January 4 (Reiman, Street, and Collopy); Popton, Pa., January 4 (Zaid for du Bois); Mount Holly, N. J. until May 4 (Pumyea).

Pinicola enucleator leucura. CANADIAN PINE GROSBEAK. Rosemont, Pa., February 28, at feeding station of Mrs. Spahr (W. L. Baily). Note:—This is the last note reported by Mr. Baily as he died very shortly after making it.

Acanthis flammea. REDPOLL. Walnut Hill, Penna., January 5 (Miller and Collopy); Hawk Mountain, Pa., all winter (Poole); Pocono Lake, Pa., February 1 and 2 (500) (Street and Lukens); Pemberton, N. J., February 9 (30) (Kramer); Chestnut Hill, Pa., February 23 (20) (Ross).

Chondestes g. grammacus. EASTERN LARK SPARROW. Cape May Point, N. J., August 30 (E. Kramer and Reigner).

Plectrophenax n. nivalis. EASTERN SNOW BUNTING. Birmingham, Chester County, Pa., November 28 (Conway for Huff).