

FIELD NOTES

Compiled by ALAN BRADY

1958 was a year of both high and low points in field birding. Although several interesting species continued to show proof of their expanding breeding areas, there was a noticeable decline of certain migrants here in the East as observed by some of our members.

On the positive side: we know that the Glossy Ibis has established a sizable colony in New Jersey as shown by the high count of 152 individuals at the Stone Harbor heronry on August 14th by Mills. Cattle Egrets also continue to increase in the area, with thirty birds seen at Worker's Farm in Cape May on September 24th by McDonald, Wonderly and Brown. And the first confirmed breeding record of this species for New Jersey was made official on July 4th when Russell Fowler and others found and recorded photographically the nesting and raising of young of the Cattle Egret in a heronry west of Wildwood.

Another first breeding record for a State was that of a pair of Black Terns at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware early in July.

House Finches, occasionally seen in previous years, showed an increase in at least one locality, twenty-one being banded by Dr. Marshall in Ardmore up to the first of March. This is the first significant number of these finches recorded in the Delaware Valley area. Club members should be alert to the possibility of further increase and spread of this locally new species.

The year was notable for the number of Saw-whet Owl reports, and the large flock of Short-eared Owls wintering at the Tinicum Wildlife Sanctuary. Tinicum also produced some excellent shore birds, including the Western Willet, Long-billed Dowitcher, Hudsonian Godwit and Ruff. The latter foreign visitor has occurred regularly here for the last several years.

The annual Spring Round-up was held on May 11th, and although disappointing to some groups because of the poor visibility during much of the day, the totals show 222 species observed, with sixteen groups participating. The most interesting record of the day was a Common Eider at Indian River, Delaware.

D.V.O.C. field trips during the year ranged from Massachusetts to Maryland. Records from the more distant trips are not included in the notes which follow these paragraphs.

Worth noting, however, are the Eared Grebe, a number of Dovekies, and a large flight of Black-legged Kittiwakes at Cape Ann, Massachusetts, in January. On a trip to the Pokemoke Swamp area in Maryland at the end of April, the song of the Swainson's Warbler was tape-recorded with excellent results by the Drs. George Reynard and Robert Stein.

Members of the D.V.O.C. participated in seven Christmas Counts. Mt. Holly, N. J. produced eight observers who counted 45 birds, while Bucks County, Pa., with fourteen watchers, totalled 66 species. Gloucester County, N. J. followed with forty people in the field and 80 species. Delaware County, Pa., running up a count of 95 birds by eighteen observers, added a Long-billed Dowitcher, a Glaucous Gull, and Brewer's Blackbird to their list. Rehoboth, Del. totaled 99 species with but six men in the field, while the Brigantine Refuge count by sixteen observers was 100. Eighteen participants in the Bombay Hook count listed the Peregrine Falcon, Barn Swallow and Virginia Rail among their 111 birds, the lowest total at this place in five years. The Cape May census, attracting forty-three observers, reported the largest number of species seen, 128. Although this high total was exceeded in the five years preceding, 1958 did produce the greatest number of individual birds ever seen on a Cape May count.

Much of the field activity of the Club members centered about certain areas, and the unusual lists submitted demonstrate what can be done when a given locality is visited regularly and consistently by competent observers.

TINICUM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY. The year's records at this productive area are mainly the observations of George Lamb, John Miller and Charles Price. Their initials follow the respective species seen.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), November 26 (M); Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*), July 29-30 (L,M,P); Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), August 15, immature (L,M,P); Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), May 17, July 23 (L,M,P); Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*), March 22 (L,M); Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea*), November 20, (3), (L,M,P); Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), March 16 (L,M); Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*), April 1, (500), (L,M,P); Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), April 1, (250), (L,M,P); Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); October 15, (M); Bobwhite, (*Colinus virginianus*), September 3, (L,M,P); King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), on the ice, December 12 (L); Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*), April 13 (L,M); American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*), September 3 (3); October 2 (1), (L,M,P); Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), May 14, (L,M,P); August 22, (M); Western Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*), August 13 (M); Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*), March 23, (3), (L,M); White-rumped Sandpiper (*Erolia fuscicollis*), October 29, (50), (L,M,P).

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*), November 4, (3), (M,P); Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*), September 22, (2); October 2, (5), (M); Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*), October 29, (1); November 4, (2), (L,M,P); Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), August 11 to November 20, one male (M); November 25, (2), (L); Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), November 19, (1), (L,M,P); February, about 50, (M); Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*), 3 wintering; April 15, (1), (L,M); Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*), May 16, (L,M,P); Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), May 12, (L,M,P); Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonata*), April 26, (5), (Schwalbe); Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris*), December 4, (M); Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*), September 26, (1), (L,M,P); Prothonotary Warbler (*Pro-*

tonotaria citrea), May 19-20, (1), (L,M,P); Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), May 7, (Paul DeAoun); Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*), September 30, (1), (M); Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*), September 29, (L,M,P); Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), male singing, December 26, (Devlin); Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), March 7, male, (P,M); Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*), March 23, (40), (L,M).

LAKE ONTELAUNEE and vicinity. Reported by Dr. Earl Poole or R. Cooke. Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*), Moselem, April 7, (1); Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*), April 22, (100); White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*), April 22, (11); Baird's Sandpiper (*Erolia bairdii*), September 13-15; Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*), September 15 to 24, (2); Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*), September 6, (R. Cooke); Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*), September 15; Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*), September 5; Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*), September 7 to 21; Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), September 29.

BRIGANTINE WILDLIFE REFUGE. Some of the more interesting records of the year at this federal refuge follow: Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*), April 20 (Van Metz); American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*), September 15 (J. Miller, Price); Baird's Sandpiper (*Erolia bairdii*), September 13, (3), (Price, J. Miller); Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*), September 15, (1), (Price, J. Miller); Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*), October 12, (1), (Connor, O'Brien); American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*), September 13 (Wright, O'Brien, Cotton); September 15, (2), (Price, J. Miller); Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*), September 13, (2), (Wright, Loveland); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*), November 23, (1), (D.V.O.C. field trip); Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*), October 12, (1), (O'Brien, Connor).

OTHER RECORDS

RED-NECKED GREBE, *Podiceps grisegena*. Manasquan Inlet, N.J., January 1 (Jay and Mulligan); Point Pleasant, N.J., February 23 (D.V.O.C. field trip).

CATTLE EGRET, *Bubulcus ibis*. Rio Grande, N.J., April 2 (5) (McDonald); Cape May, N.J., September 17 (2) (Price and J. Miller); September 24 (30) (McDonald, Brown, Wonderly).

SNOWY EGRET, *Leucophoyx thula*. Green Lane Reservoir, Pa., May 10 (R. Miller and Reimann).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, *Nyctanassa violacea*. Darby Creek, Marple Township, Pa., May 11 (Van Metz).

GLOSSY IBIS, *Plegadis falcinellus*. Stone Harbor, N.J., August 14 (152) (Mills); September 6 (129) (Wright and Loveland); September 14 (58) (Price, J. Miller).

WHITE IBIS, *Eudocimus albus*. Stone Harbor, N.J., immature bird flying to heronry at dusk (down-curved bill, manner of flight, and light underparts

were diagnostic), September 13 (C. Ross and Dr. W. E. Parker); September 14 (1) (Price, J. Miller); September 23, one adult, one immature (McDonald, Brown, Wonderly).

BRANT, *Branta bernicla*. Cape May Point to Corson's Inlet, N.J., November 30, 250,000 to 300,000 in Inland Waterway (Dr. J. R. Moore).

SNOW GOOSE, *Chen hyperborea*. Rancocas Woods, N.J., November 16 (150) (Harty); Egg Island Point, N.J., November 28, count from airplane in afternoon: "100,000 plus", flight from NNW, 3 miles long by quarter mile wide (Dr. J. R. Moore).

OLDSQUAW, *Clangula hyemalis*. Barnegat Inlet, N.J., February 23 (1500) (D.V.O.C. field trip); Penn Manor, Pa., April 20 (24) (Reynolds, Sehl, Kronschnabel, Sterner); Crum Creek, Pa., April 28 (Wing).

HARLEQUIN DUCK, *Histrionicus histrionicus*. Barnegat Inlet, N.J., January 26 (1) (Abramson, D. Cutler); October 14 (1) (D. Cutler); Wildwood, N.J., December 28 (1) in drainage ditch, (J. and D. Cadbury).

COMMON EIDER, *Somateria mollissima*. Indian River, Md., May 11 (D. and H. Cutler, Abramson, Frazier, Matthews).

KING EIDER, *Somateria spectabilis*. Barnegat Inlet, N.J., January 26, immature male (D. Cutler, Abramson).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, *Melanitta deglandi*. Penn Manor, Pa., April 20 (1) (Sehl, Reynolds, Kronschnabel, Sterner).

TURKEY VULTURE, *Cathartes aura*. Higbee's Beach, N.J., November 22, (250-300) soaring high (Dr. J. R. Moore).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, *Buteo lagopus*. Bombay Hook, Del., March 1 (1) (T. Talarowski).

GOLDEN EAGLE, *Aquila chrysaetos*. Hawk Mountain, Pa., September 9 (1 adult) (Brodey); Cape May, N.J., October 12 (1 immature) (Choate, et al).

BALD EAGLE, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. Salem County, N.J., March 23, 3 occupied nests (D.V.O.C. field trip).

SANDHILL CRANE, *Grus canadensis*. Cape May Point, N.J., October 1 (2) (Nicholson); October 6 (2) (Nicholson and Wright).

CLAPPER RAIL, *Rallus longirostris*. One captured on 61st St., Philadelphia, August 23; one at Strafford, Pa., August 31; one on 7th St., Philadelphia, September 15 (Ulmer for Griswold).

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER, *Pluvialis dominica*. New Jersey: Cape May Point, September 6 (2) (Loveland, Wright); September 17 (20) (D. Cutler); Island Beach, September 10 (5) (J. Miller); Mt. Holly, September 14 (25) (Brady); Bridgeton, September 20 (53) (Loveland, Wright); Stone Harbor, September 27 (1) (Wright); Moorestown, October 5-16 (75) (Reynard).

UPLAND PLOVER, *Bartramia longicauda*. Island Beach, N.J., September 8 (4) (J. Miller).

KNOT, *Calidris canutus*. Philadelphia Zoo., May 22, one in spring plumage with part of left wing missing, on shore of "bird lake"; captured and placed in Bird House (Ulmer).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER, *Erolia melanotos*. Bombay Hook, Del., March 30 (40) (Abramson, D. Cutler).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, *Limnodromus scolopaceus*. Bombay Hook, Del., March 30 (6) (Abramson, D. Cutler).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, *Tryngites subruficollis*. Cape May, N. J., September 1 (1) (D. Cutler).

RUFF, *Philomachus pugnax*. Bombay Hook, Del., March 30, male beginning nuptial plumage (Abramson, D. Cutler).

AMERICAN AVOCET, *Recurvirostra americana*. Stone Harbor, N. J., September 17 (1) (J. Miller, Price); Cape May, N. J., September 17 (3) (D. Cutler).

RED PHALAROPE, *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Crum Creek, Media, Pa., April 28 (Wing for Frank Corbett). (No details given).

POMARINE JAEGER, *Stercorarius pomarinus*. Island Beach, N. J., September (2) (Frazier).

PARASITIC JAEGER, *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Island Beach, N. J., September (6) (Frazier).

GLAUCOUS GULL, *Larus hyperboreus*. Cooper River Parkway, N. J., January 24, February 6 (Wright); Ben. Franklin Bridge, February 6 (O'Brien); one adult in each of the three sightings.

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucoides*. Barnegat Inlet, N. J., February 23 (2) (D.V.O.C. field trip); Spring Lake, N. J., March 2, one adult (Abramson); Slaughter Beach, Del., June 1, one immature (Barlow, Abraitys, Drinkwater).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL, *Larus marinus*. Stone Harbor, N. J., September 6 (300 plus) (Wright, Loveland).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, *Rissa tridactyla*. Rancocas, N. J., one adult, February 5 (R. Miller).

BLACK TERN, *Chlidonias niger*. Bombay Hook, Del., July 17, nest with 3 eggs, "first nesting record for Delaware" (D. Cutler for Refuge Manager).

BLACK SKIMMER, *Rynchops niger*. Brigantine, N. J., December 3 (1) (Haines).

DOVEKIE, *Plautus alle*. Barnegat Inlet, N. J., January 26 (2) (Abramson, D. Cutler).

GREAT HORNED OWL, *Bubo virginianus*. Rhoadstown, N. J., February 15, nest with two eggs (J. Cadbury).

BARRED OWL, *Strix varia*. Holicong, Pa., January 7 (Felix); Jericho Mt., Bucks Co., Pa., January 12 (1) (Brady).

SHORT-EARED OWL, *Asio flammeus*. Feasterville, Pa., February 12 and 25 (1) (Brady).

SAW-WHET OWL, *Aegolius acadicus*. Bridgeport, N. J., January 24, 25, February 1 (1) (Wright); March 23 (1) (D.V.O.C. field trip); Pickering Beach, Del., December 14 (1) (Mears, Price, J. Miller); Elverson, Pa., November 11, one taken to Philadelphia Zoo. (Ulmer); Parker's Creek, N. J., November 11, one killed by car (Harty).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW, *Caprimulgus carolinensis*. Cape May, N. J., April 21 (McDonald); Hainesport Township, N. J., May 12 (Corn).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, *Centurus carolinus*. Carpenter's Woods, Phila., Pa., April 17 (Brodey); Wissahickon, Pa., May 18 (Wonderly); Hancock Bridge, N. J., September 20 (Loveland, Wright); Roxborough, Pa., December 14 (Ulmer).

EASTERN PHOEBE, *Sayornis phoebe*. Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pa., March 2 (F. Hebard for J. M. Hebard, Jr.).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, *Nuttallornis borealis*. Langhorne, Pa., May 13, one calling; Newtown, Pa., May 14 (1) (Brady); Island Beach, N. J., September 6 (3) (Price, J. Miller).

COMMON RAVEN, *Corvus corax*. Hawk Mountain, Pa., September 28 (Poole).

TUFTED TITMOUSE, *Parus bicolor*. Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pa., first noted 1956-1957, now fairly common (F. Hebard for J. M. Hebard, Jr.).

CATBIRD, *Dumetella carolinensis*. Philadelphia Zoo., January 3-16, one, feeding with Robin on Hawthorn berries (Ulmer).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO, *Vireo philadelphicus*. Cape May Point, N. J., September 27 (1) (Price, J. Miller); Langhorne, Pa., September 22 (1) (Brady).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, *Vermivora celata*. Bridgeport, N. J., January 24 (Wright); Laverock, Chestnut Hill, Pa., one, feeding from suet stick for three days, April 9-12 (Jenkins); Broad St. Park, Trenton, N. J., April 20 (Sehl, Reynolds, Kronschnabel, Sterner); Paradise Point, N. J., September 20 (Wright, Loveland).

CERULEAN WARBLER, *Dendroica cerulea*. Birdsboro Reservoir, Pa., a finished nest, May 12 (E. Poole).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. Bombay Hook, Del., November 29 (6) (Price, J. Miller).

SUMMER TANAGER, *Piranga rubra*. Swarthmore Woods, Pa., May 10 (1 male) (E. H. Rigby, E. H. Rigby III, J. Miller, Price); Island Beach, N. J., September (2) (Frazier).

BLUE GROSBK, *Guiraca caerulea*. Island Beach, N. J., September (2) (Frazier).

PAINTED BUNTING, *Passerina ciris*. Cape May, N. J., May 4, one male, feeding on dandelion heads with Indigo Bunting and Goldfinch (J. Cadbury).

DICKCISSEL, *Spiza americana*. Reading, Pa., March 4 to April 16, one, at feeder (E. Poole); Island Beach, N. J., September 11 (2) (J. Miller); Cape May Point, N. J., September 27 (1) (Wright, O'Brien, Loveland).

HOUSE FINCH, *Carpodacus mexicanus*. Audubon, N. J., February 16 (one male) (Stasz); Ardmore, Pa., 21 banded between December 29, 1957 and March 1, 1958, birds last seen March 20 (E. W. Marshall, Jr.).

COMMON REDPOLL, *Acanthis flammea*. Barnegat Inlet, N. J., January 26 (one male) (Abramson, D. Cutler).

RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. Wissahickon, Pa., January 5, male and female, calling (Ulmer).

LARK SPARROW, *Chondestes grammacus*. Island Beach, N. J., September 8 (1); September 10 (2) (J. Miller).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, *Spizella pallida*. Island Beach, N. J., September 5 to 21 (3) (Frazier).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. Penn Manor, Pa., April 20 (8 plus) (Sehl, Reynolds, Kronschnabel, Sterner); Salem County, N. J., March 23 (50) (D.V.O.C. field trip).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR, *Calcarius lapponicus*. Somer's Point, N. J., December 3 (6) (Haines).

SNOW BUNTING, *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Scranton, Pa., February 19 (100) (Kronschnabel); Somer's Point, N. J., December 3 (25) (Haines).

Frederick Ulmer reports a male Brown Creeper, *Certhia familiaris*, found entangled in a band of "tanglefoot" around a cherry tree. The bird's feathers were so completely matted with the gluey stuff that it had to be destroyed; date, April 14.

Dr. Robert F. Brodey reports a Brewster's Warbler, *Vermivora pinus x chrysoptera*, along the upper Wissahickon Creek on May 11.

