

FIELD NOTES FOR 1948

COMPILED BY WILLIAM W. LUKENS, JR.

The year was characterized by an exceedingly cold and snowy winter, a cool and wet spring migration season and a very mild fall. Unusual records were not as frequent as in many years past, and there were disappointments as well as pleasant surprises. The rough winter did not produce any hoped for flight of northern finches. A few Pine Siskins and Purple Finches appeared, but in no such numbers as a year before. Unusually heavy, however, was the flight of Holboell's Grebes, not only on the coast but extending inland as well.

The Spring Roundup was held May 9, and seventeen groups recorded two hundred and nine species. Recorded for the first time was a Purple Gallinule at the Wilmington, Delaware, marsh, where it was first observed on May 1. The bird obligingly remained until the Roundup and was not being seen thereafter.

A first nesting record for New Jersey was that of a Louisiana Heron at the Stone Harbor heronry, discovered by W. B. Wright on June 12. The heronry had its most successful season, and the thanks of the Club to the city of Stone Harbor for their interest and cooperation in acquiring the area for a sanctuary cannot be too strongly expressed.

Highlights of the fall season were the unprecedented heron flight northward after the breeding season, the great Broad-winged Hawk flight of September 16 at Hawk Mountain when more than 11,000 hawks passed overhead, most of them within one hour, and the heavy Bobolink migration of September. The fall warbler flight was punctuated by the catastrophe of the night of September 10-11, reported in detail in General Notes. Ducks appeared to be more numerous, and notable was the continued increase in Ruddy Ducks. Pied-billed Grebes were still present at the close of the year at Cape May, Delaware City and Springton. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins appeared in small numbers during the fall but did not stay, and once again the Evening Grosbeaks and other boreal visitants were missing up to the year's end.

The Annual Christmas Census did not take place until January 2, 1949, and is not, therefore, included in these notes.

Colymbus grisegena holboelli. HOLBOELL'S GREBE. Westville, N. J., March 18 (Manners); Port Richmond, Philadelphia County, Pa., March 18 (Miller); Springton Reservoir, Delaware Co., Pa., October 18 (Groskin).

Colymbus nigricollis californicus. EARED GREBE. Manasquan Inlet, N. J., February 14 (Bond, Street and Lukens). Discovered January 14 by Lee Edwards of the Urner Club. First record for the state. Seen by many observers for five weeks.

Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis. LOUISIANA HERON. Stone Harbor, N. J., June 12 (Potter for Wright). First nest record for New Jersey. Young banded.

Plegadis f. falcinellus. GLOSSY IBIS. Holgate, N. J., May 23 (Conway).
Branta bernicla hrota. AMERICAN BRANT. Delaware River at Essington, Pa., November 15, immature male shot (reported by Hoy).

Mareca penelope. EUROPEAN WIDGEON. Bay Head, N. J., November 7, four (Price).

Coragyps atratus. BLACK VULTURE. Phoenixville, Pa., June 6, two (Kramer).

Rallus e. elegans. KING RAIL. Tinicum, Delaware Co., Pa., June 3, nest photographed (Hoy). An interesting record in view of the decimation of this marsh by filling from river dredging.

Ionornis martinica. PURPLE GALLINULE. Wilmington, Del., May 1, 2, and 9 (Mrs. Quintin Kramer).

Pluvialis d. dominica. GOLDEN PLOVER. Beach Haven, N. J., August 26, five (McLaughlin); Penn Manor, Pa., September 6, one (Miller).

Erolia maritima. PURPLE SANDPIPER. Indian River, Del., May 15 (J. Cadbury).

Erolia melanotos. PECTORAL SANDPIPER. National Park, N. J., March 26, four (Coman); Bombay Hook, Del., March 28, two (Street).

Limosa fedoa. MARBLED GODWIT. Holgate, N. J., May 23, 24 (Cutler). Spring records scarce for this species.

Philomachus pugnax. RUFF. Cape May, N. J., August 28 (Choate).

Steganopus tricolor. WILSON'S PHALAROPE. Brigantine, N. J., July 25 (Kramer); Haddon Heights, N. J., September 16 (McLaughlin).

Lobipes lobatus. NORTHERN PHALAROPE. Seaside Heights, N. J., November 7 (Kramer).

Larus marinus. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL. Tinicum, Pa., February 29 (Cutler).

Melanerpes e. erythrocephalus. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. National Park, N. J., May 23 (McLaughlin); Salem Co., N. J., March 14 (McMullin); New Hope, Pa., May 15 (Ross for Dallas).

Sayornis phoebe. EASTERN PHOEBE. Bryn Mawr, Pa., January 8 (Livingston); Wenonah, N. J., January 11 (W. Middleton); Tinicum, Pa., January 30 (Zaid).

Empidonax t. traillii. ALDER FLYCATCHER. Ambler, Pa., June, nest and three eggs. Possibly first nesting record for Montgomery County (Gillin).

Dumetella carolinensis. CATBIRD. Germantown, Pa., February 5 (J. Cadbury).

Poliophtila c. caerulea. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Media, Pa., May 8, nesting for third year (Rigby). Other reports indicate recent northward extension of range.

Vireo philadelphicus. PHILADELPHIA VIREO. Ardmore, Pa., October 2, caught in a water trap and banded (Groskin).

Protonotaria citrea. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. Media, Pa., May 15 (Rigby); Trenton, N. J., July 5, nest and three eggs (Potter for Bloor).

Vermivora leucobronchialis. BREWSTER'S WARBLER. Media, Pa., May 9 (Street); Germantown, Pa., May 15 (Cadbury).

Dendroica cerulea. CERULEAN WARBLER. Treasure Island, N. J., July 4, three (Potter for McNeill, Jr.).

Dendroica d. dominica. YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. Cape May Point, N. J., May 2 (Regensburg and McLaughlin).

Guiraca c. caerulea. BLUE GROSBEEK. Pennypack Park, Philadelphia, Pa., May 16 (Yoder); Haddonfield, N. J., July 8 to end of month (Erickson, Potter, and many observers).

Hesperiphona v. vespertina. EVENING GROSBEEK. Lima, Pa., November 21, one (Gillespie).

Acanthis flammea. REDPOLL. Darby Creek, Pa., January 11 (Beyer and Stone).

Zonotrichia l. leucophrys. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. Churchville, Pa., January 9 (Thomas).

Plectrophenax n. nivalis. SNOW BUNTING. Pocono Lake, Pa., October 29 (Street for Cary).