

1979 FIELD TRIPS

Compiled by Richard C. Bell

JANUARY 20, 21—Phillips B. Street led about a dozen club members to the Poconos for the weekend. Member Jack Padalino, director of the Pocono Environmental Education Center at Dingman's Ferry hosted the group at the center for the night of the 20th. Species seen included many Rough-legged Hawks, seven Turkeys, Evening Grosbeaks, and a Cooper's Hawk.

FEBRUARY 4—Members and friends made the usual winter tour of the Shark River, New Jersey area. Interesting birds observed included the Red-throated Loon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Laughing Gull and Bonaparte's Gull.

FEBRUARY 17, 18, 19—Members and friends participated in the annual field trip to New England. Birds seen included the following: Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, Horned Lark and Lapland Longspur at Salisbury Beach, Massachusetts; Ruffed Grouse and Great Gray Owl at Skowhegan, Maine; Boreal Chickadee, Raven, Pine Grosbeak, and Gray Jay at East Franklin, Maine; Barrow's Goldeneye, Northern Shrike and Harlequin Duck at Cape Ann, Massachusetts.

MARCH 10—Many club members and friends drove to Amherst Island, Ontario, to view the great owl invasion. Boreal Owl, Snowy Owl, Great Gray Owl, Hawk Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Shrike, and Rough-Legged Hawks were seen to good advantage. The Gray Partridge was observed on nearby Wolfe Island, Ontario.

APRIL 7 through 15—About 10 club members and friends birded during this period in Costa Rica. Many beautiful and interesting tropical species were seen. Outstanding sightings include these: Resplendent Quetzal, Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel, and Scarlet Macaw.

APRIL 20, 21, 22—On this annual trip to the Delmarva Peninsula the following birds were seen: 27 Avocets in breeding plumage, many species of waterfowl at the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge; American Bittern and Black-necked Stilt at Pt. Mahon; Pine Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow at Elliot, Md.; Bald Eagle at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge; Gannet, Royal Tern, Caspian Tern, Screech Owl at Ocean City, Md.; Woodcock, many species of warblers including Prothonotary, Swainson's, Worm-eating, and Yellow-throated at Pocomoke Swamp; Red-headed Woodpecker at Massey Landing, Del.

MAY 5 through 20—Eight parties of observers submitted Spring Round-up reports for this period. Total species equaled 218.

JUNE 22 through JULY 1—Ten members birded in Southeast Arizona. Rick Mellon and Barry Sauppe served as leaders. Many outstanding views of such birds as Gray Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Pygmy Owl, Magnificent Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Elegant Trogon, Rose-throated Becard, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Thick-billed Kingbird, Bendire's Thrasher, Olive Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, and Abert's Towhee were obtained. 141 species were recorded.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2, 3—A field trip to Cape Hatteras, N.C., including a pelagic trip yielded a Magnificent Frigatebird, White-tailed Tropicbird, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern and Wilson's Plover.

OCTOBER 6, 7—Dr. Ernest Choate and Alan Brady hosted the club at Cape May Point following a day of birding along the New Jersey Coast which included the Barnegat Light area, Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, and the Tuckerton Marshes. Many species of waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines were observed. Highlights included a large flight of raptors (Peregrine Falcons, Ospreys, and Merlins in particular at Cape May), Lincoln's Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow at Stone Harbor, and Lark Sparrow at Tuckerton.

NOVEMBER 4—The annual field trip to Bake Oven Knob, Pa., to look for raptors along the ridge was a success with many species seen to good advantage. Highlights included Cooper's Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, and Golden Eagles.

DECEMBER 15 through 30—Many members and friends participated in the annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts. Highlights from these counts were Saw-whet Owl at Horsham, Pa., Lesser Black-backed Gull at Pigeon Point, Del., Sedge Wren at Brigantine Island, Lesser Black-backed Gull and King Eider at Barnegat Light, N.J.