

FIELD NOTES — 1960

Compiled by PAUL W. SCHWALBE

The year of 1960 opened with a winter that was very mild until March arrived and produced an average temperature much below normal. March also brought most of the snow storms of the winter.

Redpolls were undoubtedly the outstanding birds of the winter. Common Redpolls were recorded at twenty-eight different localities from January 6 through April 6, with as many as 650 being seen at one time. The Hoary Redpoll was seen at five different places from February 3 through April 6, two birds being the largest number seen at any one time.

The House Finch, still on the increase, was reported from more localities than last year. The Baltimore Oriole was found in January and the following December at several feeding stations; two birds were seen together at Pitman, N. J. The status of the Bald Eagle is still receiving deserved attention. Four adults and three immatures were observed at Brigantine on January 20. The number of immatures is slightly encouraging.

"Worst migration in years" describes the attitude of the birders during spring migration weeks. The heaviest waves as far as most transients were concerned did not arrive until after May 15. The twenty-eighth annual Spring Round-up was held on May 15th with thirteen groups participating and recording a total of 232 species. The highest single group list was 190 species. This same group also listed the highest warbler count, 31 species. Some of the more interesting species observed were the Snow Goose, Blue Goose, Ruffed Grouse, Baird's Sandpiper, Roseate Tern, Raven and Philadelphia Vireo.

A bird which has been extending its range locally and should be receiving more attention is the Red-bellied Woodpecker. The extension of range is illustrated by at least six reports made during the year.

D.V.O.C. members again participated in many Christmas counts. The Mount Holly, N. J. count with five observers found 44 species of birds. Bucks County, Pa. found the Goshawk and House Finch among the 61 species seen by their fifteen observers, although they were outclassed by the fifty-three people in the field for West Chester, Pa. who produced 67 species, including the Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike and Baltimore Oriole. In Moorestown, N. J. seventy-one observers brought their list up to 71 species with the aid of a Short-eared Owl and a Loggerhead Shrike. Forty observers in Gloucester County, N. J. counted 72 species with two Pigeon Hawks, 246 Bobwhites and 335 Snow Buntings helping them out. Bridgeton, N. J. with eleven participants also produced 72 species, including six White-crowned Sparrows. Delaware County, Pa., again topping the inland areas with 98 species seen by ten participants, added the Red-necked Grebe, American Bittern, White-winged Scoter, Eastern Phoebe, House Wren and Common Redpoll.

Brigantine Wildlife Refuge, Oceanville, N. J., the first to break a hundred, tallied 107 species. Their thirty-eight observers counted such species

as a Golden Eagle, Marbled Godwit, Snowy Owl and 25 Lapland Longspurs. With sixteen people in the field, Rehoboth, Del. found 116 species with such highlights as the European Widgeon, Harlequin Duck, Pigeon Hawk, Black Skimmer, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Tree Swallow. At Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Del., 117 species were listed by the twenty-seven participants. A Virginia Rail, 10 Brewer's Blackbirds and 10 Boat-tailed Grackles made this possible. Cape May, N. J. once again came out on top in the Delaware Valley. Fifty-one observers saw 134 species, with a Broad-winged Hawk, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, and eight Ipswich Sparrows making the day worthwhile.

During the year, most of the significant reports were from observations in four areas. These are listed below, and are followed by other general records.

LAKE ONTELAUNEE, Berks County, Pa. and vicinity. All of the following records were reported by Dr. Earl Poole. Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata*, April 5; Double-crested Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus*, April 15; American Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*, April 8; Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*, February 5 (2); Whistling Swan, *Olor columbianus*, March 30 (5), April 3 (32); Snow Goose, *Chen hyperborea atlantica*, January 10 to March 30; Gadwall, *Anas strepera*, January 16 (4); Lesser Scaup, *Aythya affinis*, January 24 (1); Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*, January 10; Oldsquaw, *Clangula hyemalis*, January 16; Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*, January 24 (7); Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*, March 30; Sora, *Porzana carolina*, April 17; Upland Plover, *Bartramia longicauda*, April 20; Evening Grosbeak, *Hesperiphona vespertina*, January 10; Common Redpoll, *Acanthis flammea*, January 19 (10), January 24 (8).

BRIGANTINE WILDLIFE REFUGE, N. J. Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*, May 1, one in breeding plumage (Sawyer); Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*, November 30 (1), immature (Haines); Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, January 20, four adults, three immature (F. Poole, J. Potter); November 30, two adults, two immature (Haines); Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, January 31 (1) (Meritt); Yellow Rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*, January 2 (Harty, Reynard); Stilt Sandpiper, *Micropalama himantopus*, May 21, adult entering spring plumage (Price, Russell); July 26 (350+) (D. and H. Cutler); Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*, April 3 (Ulmer); Red Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius*, July 10, female (D. Cutler); Northern Phalarope, *Lobipes lobatus*, May 21, female in spring plumage (Price, Russell); Snowy Owl, *Nyctea scandiaca*, December 31 (1) (Mason); Common Redpoll, *Acanthis flammea*, March 12 (10) (McNeill); Lapland Longspur, *Calcarius lapponicus*, December 3 (16) (Harty, Sawyer).

OCEAN CITY, MD. The reports for this area were made by Henry Armistead, Fred Mears and William Russell. Their initials follow the respective species seen. Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata*, April 10 (86) (R); Gannet, *Morus bassanus*, April 10 (177) (R); Snow Goose, *Chen hyperborea*, April 10 (350) (R); Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus*, February 19 (3), March 11 (1) (A., R.). April 10 (2) (R); Common Eider, *Somateria mollissima*, January 16 (11) (M., et al), February 27 (3) (A., R.); King Eider, *Somateria spectabilis*, January 16 (2) (M. et al), February 19 (9), March 11 (1) (A., R.), April 10, perfect plumaged male (R); American

Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*, March 20 (M), April 10 (11) (R); Glaucous Gull, *Larus hyperboreus*, March 11 (1) (A., R.), April 10 (2) (R); Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*, February 19, 27 (1), March 11 (A., R.); Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*, February 19 (1) (A., R.).

HOLGATE PENINSULA SANCTUARY, N. J. From this new refuge we have the following reports: Greater Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis*, August 6 (2), 3.5 miles at sea (Sawyer); Wilson's Petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus*, August 6, many, 3.5 miles at sea (Sawyer); Blue Goose, *Chen caerulescens*, January 23 (5) (Sawyer); American Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*, May 19 (5) (Quickmire); Wilson's Plover, *Charadrius wilsonia*, May 19 (1) (Quickmire); Curlew Sandpiper, *Erolia ferruginea*, July 16 (2), spring and winter plumages (Hetzl, et al); Red Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius*, July 10, female (Harty, Quickmire, et al); Snowy Owl, *Nyctea scandiaca*, December 10 (Sawyer); Common Redpoll, *Acanthis flammea*, January 23 (3) (Sawyer).

OTHER RECORDS

GANNET, *Morus bassanus*. Cape May Point, N. J., April 18 (33), diving in surf on the bay shore (Livingston).

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Barnegat Light, N. J., January 9 (French, R. J. Miller, Price).

CATTLE EGRET, *Bubulcus ibis*. Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., April 1-2 (1) (Lamb); Bombay Hook, Del., April 10 to May 15 (7) (D. Cutler, Russell); Hancock's Bridge, N. J., May 7 (9) (Jacobs).

COMMON EGRET, *Casmerodius albus*. Dorchester County, Md., February 20 (1) (Armistead, Russell).

RED-BREASTED GOOSE, *Branta ruficollis*. Westtown, Pa., April 1, probably an escaped captive (Hannum, Way).

SNOW GOOSE, *Chen hyperborea*. Fortescue, N. J., April 2 (1,000 est.) (Hetzl, Saunders).

BLUE GOOSE, *Chen caerulescens*. Fortescue, N. J., April 2 (7) (Hetzl, Saunders); Kempton, Pa., October 28 (Hannum).

COMMON TEAL, *Anas crecca*. Dorchester County, Md., February 27 (1) (Armistead, Russell); Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., November 26 (Lipski for Devlin & Lamb).

BAIKAL TEAL. *Anas formosa*. Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., January 30, 31, probably an escaped captive (Lamb, et al).

EUROPEAN WIDGEON, *Mareca penelope*. Dorchester County, Md., February 20, 27 (1) (Armistead, Russell).

WOOD DUCK. *Aix sponsa*. Reading, Pa., January 5 (2); Green Hills Lake, Pa., January 29 (E. Poole); Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge, Del., September 15 (500) (D. Cutler).

HARLEQUIN DUCK, *Histrionicus histrionicus*. Barnegat Light, N. J., January 3 (2) (Hetzl, Saunders, et al); January 9 (2) (French, R. J. Miller, Price).

COMMON EIDER, *Somateria mollissima*. Barnegat Light, N. J., January 3 (3) (Hetzl, Saunders, et al); January 9 (3) (French, R. J. Miller, Price).

TURKEY VULTURE, *Cathartes aura*. Vincentown, N. J., March 28, light brown in color, no evidence of red on the head (J. M. Cadbury).

- GOLDEN EAGLE**, *Aquila chrysaetos*. Bake Oven Knob, Pa., November 13 (Harty, et al).
- PIGEON HAWK**, *Falco columbarius*. Barnegat Light, N. J., January 10 (Brady, Meritt).
- KING RAIL**, *Rallus elegans*. Hartford Marsh, N. J., February 9 to 18, heard calling continuously day and night; visits were made every day. Call was recorded by Dr. Reynard (Harty).
- PIPING PLOVER**, *Charadrius melodus*. Stone Harbor, N. J., November 27 (Sawyer).
- COMMON SNIPE**, *Capella gallinago*. Cedarville, N. J., December 27 (23) (Quickmire).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE**, *Steganopus tricolor*. Delaware City, Del., May 28, female in spring plumage (H. & D. Cutler).
- JAEGER**, *Stercorarius sp?*. Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, Pa., May 22 (Devlin, Lamb).
- GLAUCOUS GULL**, *Larus hyperboreus*. Penn Manor, Pa., February 12 (Brady).
- ICELAND GULL**, *Larus glaucoides*. Barnegat Light, N. J., January 3 (1) (Hetzl, Saunders, et al).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**, *Larus fuscus*. Penn Manor, Pa., February 7, 28, adult plumage, all marks, standing with Herring Gulls with which it was compared (Bloor, Brady, et al).
- ROYAL TERN**, *Thalasseus maximus*. Indian River Inlet, Del., April 10 (2) (Russell).
- RAZORBILL**, *Alca torda*. Indian River Inlet, Del., April 10, dead (Russell).
- SNOWY OWL**, *Nyctea scandiaca*. Norristown, Pa., February 19 to 23 (Mohr for R. Middleton).
- SAW-WHET OWL**, *Aegolius acadicus*. Bridgeport, N. J., February 27 (3) (F. Poole, Potter); 7th and Sansom St., Philadelphia, Pa., October 26 (1), found dead (Hoy); Philadelphia, Pa., November 5, one captured alive sitting in the street among the bodies of six others (Ulmer); Langhorne, Pa., November 16 (Brady).
- PILEATED WOODPECKER**, *Dryocopus pileatus*. Tyler Arboretum, Pa., November 24 (Saxon).
- RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**, *Centurus carolinus*. Swiss Pines Park, Pa., February 2 (Mohr); Princeton, N. J., March 13 (1) (Meritt); Fortescue, N. J., April 2 (Hetzl, Saunders); Cape May Point, N. J., May 3 to 4 (Choate for Bailey); Devon, Pa., November 15 (1), banded (Crawford); Devon, Pa., during December (McCoy).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER**, *Empidonax flaviventris*. University of Penna. campus, Phila., bird well observed as it sang (Devlin).
- BOREAL CHICKADEE**, *Parus hudsonicus*. Stony Creek Mills, Pa., January 5 to 12 (E. Poole).
- BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH**, *Sitta pusilla*. Easton, Md., March 26 (2) (Jenkins).
- HOUSE WREN**, *Troglodytes aedon*. Radnor, Pa., November 11 (Hetzl).
- BROWN THRASHER**, *Toxostoma rufum*. Aldan, Pa., February 7 (1), found dead (Hoy).

- NORTHERN SHRIKE, *Lanius excubitor*. Wenonah, N. J., January 30 (Batezel).
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, *Lanius ludovicianus*. Bucks County, Pa., February 12 to 14 (3) (Brady).
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, *Protonotaria citrea*. Carpenter's Woods, Philadelphia, Pa., May 3 (J. M. Cadbury); Shawmont, Pa., (date ?) (Armistead, D. Cutler, Russell).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, *Vermivora celata*. Flourtown, Pa., January 24 to February 21 (Brodey).
- BLACKED-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, *Dendroica virens*. Tinicum, Pa., April 17 (Lamplugh, et al).
- BALTIMORE ORIOLE, *Icterus galbula*. Pitman, N. J., January 2 (2), one banded (Hitchner); Ardmore, Pa., January 9, banded and photographed in color, immature or female (Hetzel, Marshall, Saunders); Flourtown, Pa., January 17, female (Brodey); West Chester, Pa., December 4-14, female (Moody); Devon, Pa., December 25-31 (1), female at feeding station (Crawford for M. T. Wright).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. West Chester, Pa., December 20, adult male few feet away, in excellent light, all marks (A. Conway for J. Conway).
- BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE, *Cassidix mexicanus*. Fortescue, N. J., April 2 (Hetzel, Saunders).
- COMMON GRACKLE, *Quiscalus quiscula*. Marshalltown, N. J., November 30 (40,000) (F. Poole, Potter).
- BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD, *Molothrus ater*. Bryn Mawr, Pa., September 14, partial albino male, captured and brought to Philadelphia Zoo. Died October 24 of a mold disease, skin now in D.V.O.C. collection (Ulmer).
- WESTERN Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana*. Westtown, Pa., February 3 (Potter for Archer).
- SCARLET Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*. Haddonfield, N. J., April 21, adult male with the normally red areas replaced by an orange-gold color (O'Brien).
- BLUE GROSBEEK, *Guiraca caerulea*. Ridley Creek Valley, Delaware County, Pa., May 21, singing male (Price, et al); Langhorne, Pa., June 13, adult male (McIlvain).
- DICKCISSEL, *Spiza americana*. Devon, Pa., December 7-29, immature male (Crawford).
- EVENING GROSBEEK, *Hesperiphona vespertina*. Lansdowne, Pa., January 1-2 (5) (Roberts); Chestnut Hill, Pa., January 1 (18) (Armistead); Pitman, N. J., March 26 (400) (W. R. Middleton); Devon, Pa., December 7-31 (Crawford).
- HOUSE FINCH, *Carpodacus mexicanus*. Yardley, Pa., January 9 (10), at feeding station (Darby, Thomas); Cresheim Valley, Pa., January 23 (2) (Hebard); King of Prussia, Pa., January 24 (7), banded (D. Cutler); Gladwyne, Pa., April 7, 1 pair (West); Wyndmoor, Pa., December 6, 13, 31 (25) (Brodey).
- HOARY REDPOLL, *Acanthis hornemanni*. McKeansburg, Pa., February 3-4 (2) (Potter for Broun); Fleetwood, Pa., February 26 (1) (E. Poole); Devon, Pa., March 20, (Street, et al); North Hills, Pa., March 20 (2) (Hebard); Chestnut Hill, Pa., April 6 (Hebard).

COMMON REDPOLL, *Acanthis flammea*. Pitman, N. J., January 6-9 (5) (Hitchner); Penn Manor, Pa., January 8, 15, 31 (60) (Sehl, et al); Woodbury, N. J., January 15 (7), feeding on birch catkins (F. Poole); Holgate, N. J., January 23 (3) (Sawyer); Lake Ontelaunce, Pa., January 24 (8), 19 (10) (E. Poole); McKeesburg, Pa., February 3-4 (175) (Potter for Broun); Oreland, Pa., February 4, dead (J. M. Cadbury); Barnegat Light, N. J., February 7 (3) (Brooke); Beach Haven, N. J., February 7 (10) (Brooke); Reading, Pa., February 23 (30); Fleetwood, Pa., February 26 (40); Berks County, Pa., February 28 (6) (E. Poole); King of Prussia, Pa., March 1-14 (200) (D. Cutler); Swiss Pines, Pa., March 5-17 (20) (Mohr); Wenonah, N. J., March 5 - April 3 (30) (W. Middleton); Churchville, Pa., March 6 (650) (Brady); Cowan, Union County, Pa., March 11 (120); Williamsport, Pa., March 12 (1) (E. Poole); Brigantine, N. J., March 12 (10) (McNeill); Mt. Laurel, N. J., March 12 (200) (Sawyer); Dorchester County, Md., March 12 (Armistead, Russell); Roxborough, Philadelphia, Pa., March 12-17 (Ulmer); Newtown, Pa., March 13 (300) (Brady); Drexel Hill, Pa., March 14 (2) (Saxon); Pennsauken, N. J., March 14-17 (5) (Jacobs); North Hills, Pa., March 20 (50) (Hebard); Devon, Pa., March 20 (Street); Chestnut Hill, Pa., March 26, Redpoll with a golden forehead (J. M. Cadbury for Pepper); April 6 (Hebard).

PINE SISKIN, *Spinus pinus*. Penn Manor, Pa., January 10 (4) (Sehl, et al); Flourtown, Pa., February 14, 16 (20) (Brodey); Reading, Pa., February 18, March 2 (30) (E. Poole); Devon, Pa., March 28 (McCoy).

RED CROSSBILL, *Loxia curvirostra*. Lionville, Pa., November 8 (10) (Street); Hawk Mt., Pa., November 11, several small flocks (Street).

OREGON JUNCO, *Junco oreganus*. Upper Providence, Delaware County, Pa., January 1, 6 (1), adult male at feeder (Schwalbe); Roxborough, Philadelphia, Pa., February 14, at feeding station (Ulmer).

CHIPPING SPARROW, *Spizella passerina*. Rancocas Woods, N. J., January 20 (2) (Harty).

HARRIS' SPARROW, *Zonotrichia querula*. Center Bridge, Pa., December 21, caught and banded (Brady, McIlvain, Thomas for D. Hartman).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. Philadelphia, Pa., May 27 (Wonderly); Moorestown, N. J., November 20 - December 1 (12) (Reynard).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR, *Calcarius lapponicus*. Moselem Springs, Pa., February 26 (E. Poole).

SNOW BUNTING, *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Newtown, Pa., March 7 (500) (Brady).