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THE HERON



ANNUAL
OF THE
WOODMERE ACADEMY
BIRD CLUB

1930

THE HERON

AN ANNUAL DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO THE NATURAL HISTORY
OF SOUTHERN NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK.

Contents 1930

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THE WOODMERE ACADEMY BIRD CLUB

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FOREWORD

An activity which gratifies a boy's inherent desire for exercise out-of-doors as well as his love for the chase, which stimulates a keen and sporting spirit of competition, which develops his social and coöperative instincts, increases his powers of observation and arouses fresh appreciation of the importance of accuracy, which adds to the sum of knowledge, and with all this meets his educational requirements, is not only to be commended but warmly encouraged. It seems to me, after reading the following pages, that the members of the Woodmere Academy Bird Club have found and made admirable use of such an activity.

FRANK M. CHAPMAN

The American Museum
of Natural History
April 23, 1931



NEST OF THE PIPING PLOVER

THE HERON

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WOODMERE ACADEMY BIRD CLUB

No. 1

WOODMERE, NEW YORK

1930

THE BIRD LIFE OF THE LIDO FLATS

By BENJAMIN C. BERLINER

NEAR the eastern end of Long Beach on the south shore of Long Island is a small tidal flat bordered by dunes. It is notable as a favorite stopping-place for shorebirds and for the colony of Least Terns which breeds there each year. The three zones in the vicinity afford a varied picture of bird life. In the marshes nest Clapper Rails, Sparrows, and perhaps Bitterns and Short-eared Owls; the sand dunes offer an extensive ground for Least Terns and Piping Plovers; while the mud-flats, with their abundance of small invertebrates, in the spring and early fall are almost invariably dotted with the active forms of various shorebirds. To the east lies a mile or two of dunes, pampas grass, and scattered patches of bayberry. To the west is the Lido golf course which extends for nearly a mile, and along the edge of which we have rarely observed Pectoral Sandpipers. Though automobiles pass by frequently on the highway just to the south, they disturb the birds but little. By far the most interesting part of the territory is the expanse of soft mud, covered by water at high tide, that lies between the dunes and the salt marshes. This is dotted with patches of prickly-wort and salt-wort. It is here and in the vicinity of thoroughfares that thread the marsh that most of the shorebirds are seen.

It was quite by chance, while looking for *cecropia* and *polyphemus* cocoons, that we discovered the place. On that day it seemed that although it was a good place for cocoons, there were few birds. On the next day, that of March 26, a visit to this spot proved far more fruitful. The day began warm and clear, but by ten o'clock the sky had become overcast and a strong, cold north wind had begun to blow. It was about this time that Mr. Harrower flushed an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron at the edge of the marsh. This will be discussed in more detail elsewhere in this Annual. In the afternoon we accompanied Mr. Harrower to the flats in an endeavor to see the bird. As we made our way along the shore of the inlet, a flock of Black Ducks passed overhead. Far out near the shore of the inlet a Horned Grebe

was diving. Suddenly we noticed a flock of Canada Geese coming in over the marshes. They were flying in perfect formation less than two hundred feet above the ground. They made a beautiful sight skimming over dunes and bushes and finally were lost against the blue of the sea. Close to the spot where Mr. Harrower saw the Night Heron in the morning, we flushed it, and there it hung, poised above the pampas grass, held by the heavy wind. Our view of it was perfect. As a light, wet snow had begun to fall, we made our way back to the car.

During April, few birds worthy of note were seen, but the first part of May, with the early migration of shorebirds, brought a decided change in the birding. On May 10 when Mr. Harrower paid a visit to Lido, birds were present in large numbers. The mud flats were fairly covered with shorebirds, the majority of which were Semipalmated Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plovers. There were also Piping Plovers, which had arrived a week or two before, running here and there over the dunes. Standing apart from the smaller sandpipers, knee deep in the water, were five Dowitchers; while scattered among the flocks of "peep" were a few of the larger Sanderlings. However, the most important feature of the day was the appearance of the first Least Terns, a pair of which dainty species was seen flying up and down the channel. The next day birds were present in even greater abundance, especially Semipalmated Plovers, which numbered in the thousands. Along with these were seen two Red-backed Sandpipers. The Red-backs did not mingle with the other species, but fed off by themselves. By this time the Least Terns were arriving in numbers and already fifteen or twenty could be seen.

On the afternoon of May 24, we left our car at the road and directed our steps towards the mud flats. It was a cold, blustering day, and the sky was filled with heavy clouds. As we crossed the sand, we found ourselves in the centre of an excited group of Least Terns. They seemed unusually agitated, and we soon discovered the reason. In various places holes had been scooped and shells had been scattered about. These we suspected had been made in order to hold the eggs which were soon to be laid. We looked about but were unable to find any eggs, so we continued on our way to the mud flats. As we approached we could see that there were hundreds of shorebirds distributed over the open spaces. We crept down within one hundred feet of the birds and hid behind a clump of marsh grass. From this point we had a good view of all the birds on the flats. The most numerous were the Black-bellied Plovers. These were in all stages of plumage from immatures almost without any black, to beautiful adult males, with snowy heads contrasted with black throats, breasts, and bellies. As we were watching these closely, a flock of Ruddy Turnstones came winging in and landed on the mud. Small groups of Semipalmated Sandpipers and Plovers were scattered over the flats, while here and there a Yellowlegs stood out among its smaller companions. In these flocks we found many Least Sandpipers but they were not so abundant as the Semipalmated species. After having satisfied ourselves that there was nothing else on

the flats we continued on our way. A few Common Terns were fishing in the channel and some Turnstones were trotting along the shore, but otherwise the birding was poor, so after a short time we left.

My next trip was on June 5 when I went there with Roy Barnett. As we started across the sands we heard the note of a Piping Plover close at hand. The bird was about ten yards ahead of us and seemed rather anxious to draw us away. We immediately suspected it had a nest, nor were we mistaken, for before we had taken many steps we discovered its treasures. A hollow in the sand, lined with pieces of shell, held four cream-colored, pear-shaped eggs, finely speckled with violet and brown. They lay so that all the small ends touched in the centre of the nest, as may be seen by the frontispiece. After carefully marking the spot we left, for we did not wish the eggs to become cold.

All the while the air was full of very excited and angry Least Terns and we knew that there were nests close by, for the birds were screaming and darting down on our heads. However, we did not wish to look for them just yet and hurried on to the mud flats. Here was the usual abundance of Semipalmated Sandpipers and Plovers, and several Turnstones. Least Sandpipers were generally distributed among the flocks of "peep" as on the preceding visit. Sanderlings were still abundant, but the majority of the Black-bellies seemed to have left, for only one of them was observed, standing in a large but shallow pool of water near the centre of the marsh. With this group were two birds whose mottled backs, and orange-brown underparts proved to us that they were Knots. As before, there were Yellowlegs present in moderate numbers. After careful inspection of all birds to make sure that we had not missed any species, we decided to look for the nests of the Terns. As we walked along the sand we saw a Tern run along the ground ahead of us and then fly up. When we neared the spot it began to *kack* excitedly and to dive down towards us till within a few inches of our heads. Each time as it neared us it gave voice to a peculiar *yip*, which we heard only when the bird dived at us. Its cries aroused the others and the air was soon full of very agitated and angry birds. In the midst of all this excitement we discovered the nest. In a depression in the sand *surrounded* by shells, not *lined* as in the Plovers', were three whitish eggs very heavily marked with black. After that we found five more nests, two of them with three eggs, two with only two, and one that contained a single egg. In the last case the bird had not finished laying. The nests were difficult to find as the eggs blended perfectly with their surroundings.

The afternoon of June 8 found me again at Lido, in company with three friends. The place was covered by a thick mist which later turned to a light rain. As on the last visit we found many nests of Terns and one of a Piping Plover. On the mud flats the Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers were not so common as on June 5, while there was but one Semipalmated Plover. Sanderlings were still common. In the pool in the centre of the marsh there were three Black-bellied Plovers and a Yellowlegs. As we

approached the flats two Dowitchers arose, circled us, and landed in the marsh. Suddenly we noticed a Piping Plover that seemed to be trying to draw us away from the spot by feigning a broken wing. We soon discovered the cause of its worries, for up ahead a baby bird about four or five days old hopped to its feet and ran off in the opposite direction. As we approached, it flattened itself against the sand and lay motionless, so that it resembled a small shell lying on the ground. We came closer and attempted to take a picture, but just as everything was set, the tiny bird jumped up and ran off. We chased it all about and finally secured a picture. Later we approached a clump of reeds and a Seaside Sparrow flew up. Close inspection of the reeds revealed a finished nest which, however, was empty. It was well hidden by a maze of tangled blades which covered the entrance. We then left and looked about for other birds.

June 11 was the day of our next trip to Lido. We found two more Terns' nests containing two and three eggs respectively. There was very little difference in the numbers of shorebirds on the flats except for eight Dowitchers. When we reached the nest of the Seaside Sparrow we found in it three white eggs spotted with brown.

On June 14, we paid another visit to the beach. Although we found a few nests of Terns none of them contained young birds. When we reached the mud flat we saw that there was a medium-sized flock of Sanderlings, while apart from this flock was a group of Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers. We noticed also that there were thirteen Dowitchers as compared to eight on the previous visit. We then crossed the flats and headed towards the edge of the marsh. When we arrived at the nest of the Seaside Sparrow we found that the clutch had been completed by the addition of another egg. We then turned our attention to a pair of Spotted Sandpipers which acted as though they might have a nest. After searching for the greater part of an hour we became discouraged and went home.

June 19 might be called a Red-letter day at Lido. We had heard at the Museum that a Wilson's Phalarope had been seen there on the preceding day, and we hoped we might see the bird. It was a misty morning and about noon-time it rained heavily. As we approached the flats we could make out the forms of shorebirds running here and there on the mud. In one group we noticed a bird which was acting very queerly, trotting about in circles and then reversing his direction. When we focused our glasses upon it, we saw that it was unmistakably the Phalarope. It allowed us to approach within a distance of ten yards. It was our second experience with Phalaropes, for in 1929 we saw the rare Red Phalarope at Atlantic Beach. We studied the Wilson's Phalarope for about twenty minutes, then continued about the flats. The species of shorebirds observed were about the same as on the previous visit, with the addition of two Red-backed Sandpipers.

It was on this day that we found our first young Terns. In one nest

there were an egg and a young bird still damp from its shell. Another bird was a day or two old and acted very much like a young Piping Plover.

On June 27 there were no shorebirds at the place except for the thirteen Dowitchers and one Yellowlegs. As we drew near the site of the Seaside Sparrow's nest we did not see the bird fly up. When we reached the spot we found the nest empty and three birds, about a day or two old, lay dead in the grass. The cause of the tragedy we never knew.

As I conclude, a picture of Lido comes to my mind. The sun, a scarlet orb, is slowly sinking beyond the vast expanse of waving marsh grass. A Clapper Rail calls from the marsh and a mate's answer drifts over the rustling reeds. Great flocks of shorebirds come wheeling in and settle on the flats. As the twilight deepens, the bird life becomes restless, while the Wrens and Sparrows fly about the marsh chipping incessantly. Then, as the sun slowly disappears in the darkening west, the bird-notes are gradually stilled,—and finally,—silence.

THE MONTAUK TRIP

By ROBERT ARBIB

SOON after our arrival at Montauk on the morning of the 14th of February, the drizzle of rain which had continued since the early hours of the morning changed to a driving sleet. As we had heard from all sources that it was an exceedingly poor winter for ducks and other water birds at Montauk, and because of the discouraging aspect of the weather, our outlook was not bright.

The first birds to greet us were three stately Mute Swans, which were swimming close to the shore of Fort Pond. All our efforts to scare them into flight were futile. Near the edge of the ice at the south end of the pond swam two Golden Eyes, quite oblivious to the biting wind and the frigid water. On our way to the Point, which is about five miles from Montauk village by the winding road, we passed a flock of Cowbirds. About thirty of them, mingled with some Starlings, were flying low over an empty field. Northern Shrikes and Myrtle Warblers were also seen.

The country around the Point was very impressive. The road wound in and out among rolling hills and fields, covered with dry ochre-colored grass. Here and there were patches of bayberry, low shrubs, and briars. Occasionally, in a sheltered hollow, groups of gnarled and stunted trees, thickly bunched and tangled, stood stark against the leaden sky. Near the Point, great sandy bluffs rose out of the beach to a height of perhaps a hundred feet. From these bluffs we commanded an excellent view of the sea and the beach. Although it had stopped snowing, an icy wind was blowing, and our eyes smarted as we looked down at the surf below.

The first ducks we saw were a few Surf Scoters, which were riding the waves close to the shore in a small cove. Within a short time both the American and the White-Winged species had been seen in small numbers. Herring Gulls and a few Black-backed Gulls were constantly present. We soon found that we were insufficiently clothed, and unanimously decided to return to Montauk village. On the way back we stopped at Great Pond, which, as its name implies, is the largest lake in the vicinity. Here a Red-breasted Merganser was seen, and shortly afterwards a Rough-legged Hawk beating low over the nearby slopes. More common birds, as Marsh Hawks and Tree Sparrows, were seen in various places.

That afternoon, properly dressed this time, we started out again towards the Point. Close to the lighthouse we left the car and started to climb along the top of the cliffs. Down below the same Surf Scoters were

riding the swells. Farther out we discovered a pair of Old Squaws swimming parallel to the shore; these we watched until they rose from the water and flew out of sight.

We proceeded along the ridge until we came to a niche in the cliff where we crouched, sheltered from the blast. From this spot we watched a solitary Ruddy Duck and a few Scoters bobbing in and out of the hollows of the waves. Going farther along, we saw a Loon down in the waters directly in front of the lighthouse.

Here in a series of slopes the cliffs fell away until they reached the level of the sea. We walked along the stony, boulder-strewn beach. Occasionally small flocks of Golden Eyes and Scoters passed offshore. Suddenly one of us stooped over and picked up a dead bird. It was a Dovekie whose wings were covered with tar; he evidently had been unable to fly, and had been driven on shore to die from lack of food. Seeing nothing ahead we turned back, walking this time along the beach below the cliffs. Four more tarred Dovekies were picked up, and several other dead birds were seen. After leaving the Point we went along the edge of Great Pond to Little Reed Pond, where two Black Ducks were scared up from the ice-locked reeds. Darkness was approaching, so we returned to Montauk.

When we awoke the next morning the sunlight was streaming in, and there was not a cloud in the sky. We were at the windows, looking out over Fort Pond, when six Canada Geese flew over. We took this as a good omen and hurried to get out into the field. A strong north wind was blowing, and although the sun was out, we were almost as cold as we were the day before. During the night there had been a storm, and we hoped that some rarer species had been driven in to land.

There was nothing new at the Point although one Horned Grebe was picked up dead on the beach. Golden Eyes were the most common ducks, but no species was abundant.

We went back to Great Pond, where a Hooded Merganser flew out from among a few Golden Eyes, and where we again saw the Rough-legged Hawk. We searched up and among the hills, stopping now and then at a likely clump of oaks trying to scare up owls which we had heard were present. While thus engaged, one member startled a Brown Thrasher from a thicket, but when the others came up it was gone.

We left the car again near Oyster Pond, but we could not see anything on the water there, so we hiked over the hills and along the paths to Reed Pond. This attractive body of water was in the shape of a broad C, protected on the south by unusually tall trees. The rest of the lake was bordered by a wide margin of rushes and cat-tails, whose golden stalks bent in the winds which swept in from the north. It was ice-covered except for the northeastern end, which we did not know existed at the time, for we could not see it owing to the shape of the pond.

We started back to the car. Just as we approached a low hill we were startled by a bird which flew from a clump of shrubs in front of us, and winging its way with slow, noiseless beats, disappeared over the top. We rushed up, but no bird was in sight. From the shape of the wings, the coloring, the great size, the type of flight, and the environment of the bird, we concluded that it was a Great Horned Owl. Near this spot we saw also a Flicker, a Downy Woodpecker, ten Black Ducks, and about a hundred Myrtle Warblers.

We went on, and were nearing the car, when we saw two members of our party, who had separated from the rest, waving their arms and running towards us. They urged us to hurry for they had seen a Bufflehead and a Canvasback on a pond below. We followed them, and on the pond, which turned out to be the continuation of Reed Pond, we saw the Bufflehead. His white glistening body and black and white head made a striking picture in the brilliant winter sunshine. The Canvasback had gone. We watched for some time, and when we left the Bufflehead was still feeding.

We returned to Montauk and made ready to leave. On the way back to Woodmere several interesting birds were observed; among them a Kingfisher, a Great Blue Heron, eighteen Mourning Doves, and six Black-crowned Night Herons.

We considered the trip a success, though the actual number of birds seen was not great. Fifty species were recorded, including nineteen different ducks and geese.

THE ROSEDALE POND

By ROBERT W. BERLINER

APRIL 26, the day on which we first visited Rosedale, was warm and clear. We had heard from a friend about the birds which were found around the pond, and decided to make a trip there with him. It was early in the morning with the sun just rising over the tree-tops, when we made our way along the path to the pond. As we walked slowly through the tangles, from far across the fields drifted the mellow whistle of a Bob-white, mingling with the clear calls of the Meadowlarks. The shrill cry of a Killdeer greeted us as we parted the bushes and found ourselves on the southern shore of the pond. Opposite us, across the water, was a small grove of ancient oaks, towering far above the marshy borders of the pool. To our right the head of the pond was bordered by an old railway embankment, which we later utilized as an observation post from which to watch the birds. Far to our left the sluggish stream that drains the pool wound lazily westward through the clumps of budding maples and elderberries and then lost itself in the brackish marshes beyond. Fringing both the northern and southern edges of the pond was a dense growth of cat-tails, and here and there the lily-pad-covered surface was broken by a clump of reeds. Just below the railroad tracks was a small stretch of mud, through which the inlet flowed.

Twittering Barn Swallows were skimming about over the pool, while from the brush behind us came the peeps and chips of sparrows scratching in the leaves. At our right, on the edge of a small stream stood a Green Heron, its body hunched and the head drawn down on its shoulders. As we watched, out from the reeds across the water swam a pair of Florida Gallinules. Their gray heads with yellow bills and red frontal plates jerked back and forth with each stroke of the feet as if the heads were levers by which the legs were moved. While these birds continued to swim about slowly, displaying their white wings and tails, we noticed in the center of the pond a small grayish-brown bird whose head barely showed above the vegetation which nearly covered the surface of the water. Its inconspicuous plumage and the peculiar markings of its head and bill proved it to be a Pied-billed Grebe. As we watched this water-witch swimming and diving in the pond, suddenly there was a loud clucking and out from the cat-tails, like a frightened hen, scrambled a Florida Gallinule. It skittered clumsily over the water and alit on a small mud-bar. For a short time it stood there, flirting its tail excitedly, before disappearing into the wall of reeds behind it. A Kingfisher rattled harshly as it hovered over the pond a few seconds

before flying on. We moved quietly along the path to the railroad tracks and departed.

On May 3, the day of our next visit, the first wave of warblers had arrived. The number of individuals was comparatively small, but several new species were present. We sat down close to the outlet to observe the Gallinules. In the treetops a spritely Yellow Warbler was singing, while in the bed of the stream near us a Louisiana Water Thrush was walking slowly, its tail bobbing up and down. A Gallinule swam out of the cat-tails, and as it moved slowly towards a patch of reeds near the center of the pond, there was a strident clatter and another appeared, soon followed by a third. For a while we watched the Gallinule nearest us as he now and then put his head beneath the surface in search of food and poked about in a small clump of reeds, and then our attention was attracted by a loud clucking at the far end of the water. The Gallinule which had gone off by himself had been joined by three others which made a total of six in sight. The group of four was very excited and seemed to be engaged in some sort of nuptial demonstration. With a great splashing and clattering, they flew at each other again and again, till at last they seemed to tire of action, and swam off by themselves to feed. After watching these birds for some time, we made our way slowly along the cat-tail-fringed shore of the pond, to search for birds elsewhere.

During the next few weeks, we found that the same birds remained about the pond and very few new species were observed. The trip of June 15, on which Benjamin Berliner and Daniel Berolzheimer saw the Least Bittern, is described in the paper on herons.

Within the following week the same observers again visited Rosedale. On this trip they saw a Gallinule with two newly hatched young. When these swam into the cat-tails, Dan plunged into the reeds in order to flush the birds, but instead of a Gallinule, a Least Bittern flew up and settled again a few rods away.

Several days later, on June 22, we stopped at Rosedale for a few minutes. As we came in sight of the pond, we could see a Gallinule in the center. It was surrounded by a group of tiny, fluffy balls of down, a brood of nine black chicks. As soon as we came into view the adult began to cluck excitedly and to hurry the young ones into the reeds, accompanying her actions with a nervous flirting of the white tail. We noticed that whenever a Gallinule is agitated it always bobs its tail up and down, flashing the white of the undertail-coverts.

Our trips to Rosedale during the summer were rather scattered, and we did not see much of interest there, except of course the Florida Gallinules. On the afternoon of August 22 we again set out across the marshes towards Rosedale. As we neared the pool, from the depths of a thicket came the raucous calls of a Crested Flycatcher. We sat down at the western end beneath a tree in whose tops were sitting several Cedar

Waxwings. There were about fifteen of these birds which continually flew back and forth, all the while wheezing their lispings notes. There were a few adults, but the majority were streak-breasted immatures. To our right across the water were four Gallinules which were joined by two others. There was one adult with five young of the same year. The appearance of the immatures was quite different from that of the older ones. The young did not have the bright red and yellow bill, but a gray one and a small frontal plate of the same color. The body instead of being a solid, slaty gray, was largely whitish on the breast, and there was more white in the wing than in that of the parent. After these birds had disappeared into the reeds, we noticed that there was an unusually large number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds flying around over the pond. Suddenly we saw a flock of eight of them darting across the water to the end at which we were sitting. Upon reaching the wall of trees they rose straight up in the air for several hundred feet, before heading off to the south-west. We presumed that they were starting off on a migratory flight. In a nearby tree a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was busily engaged in tearing apart a tent-caterpillars' nest and devouring the hairy larvae. We then walked slowly around the pool to the railway tracks and set out across the salt marsh near the pond.

On the cloudy but very hot afternoon of September 14, we once more made a trip to this locality. In the reeds the Red-wings chattered noisily, while overhead passed large flocks of Tree Swallows. Across the pond in the very top of a giant oak, sat a majestic Osprey, the light glistening on its snowy crown and breast. It left its perch and slowly circled off out of sight. On one side of the pond were five Gallinules, and on the other shore there were five more. Eight of them were in the immature plumage, and there were two adults. The birds swam about slowly, now and then giving vent to an abrupt clack. Then close to the Gallinules, we noticed a female Blue-winged Teal, very inconspicuous against the cat-tail stalks which were now turning brown. It paddled quietly through the shallow water, occasionally tipping up to feed on the bottom of the pool. Suddenly it gave a start and sat erect, frightened by some motion. Then it sprang from the water and on rapidly beating wings, headed off over the trees towards the marshes beyond.

Griscom in his *Birds of the New York City Region* writes concerning the Florida Gallinule: "Bred formerly in the marshes of Long Island in several places; these localities now destroyed. At the present time no definite breeding colony known." In the light of the status of these birds as outlined by Griscom, it is interesting to find such an apparently successful colony holding its own in a locality almost completely surrounded by houses.

A HISTORY OF THE CLUB

By RICHARD WEIL

AT THIS time, with the first publication of the Woodmere Academy Bird Club going to press, it seems fitting that a brief history of the origin and development of the Club be given. During the last five years it has changed from a group of children mildly interested in birds and with scant knowledge, to an enthusiastic organization continually in the field and rapidly adding to its data on the ornithology and entomology of this region. This steady progress has been brought about through several factors, but is due principally to the unvarying help and encouragement extended to us by Mr. Harrower, and it is to him that the credit for the present prestige of the Club should be given.

It was in the spring of 1926, when several of us took up the study of birds in the First Form science class at the Academy, that our interest was first aroused. It was then that a small group of us, consisting of Henry Stern, Richard Weil, Robert Berliner, and his younger brother Benjamin, began to take trips into the field, and it was from this nucleus that the Club developed. One of our most vivid memories of that season is of an early morning trip taken with Mr. Harrower, on which we saw our first Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

In 1927 the membership was increased by the addition of Roy Barnett and Howard Vogel. These boys were particularly interested in butterflies, and soon we were seldom in the field during spring or summer without our nets. In November of this year the Club secured permanent quarters in Dr. Barnett's cellar, a comfortable room which has been our headquarters ever since.

The following year, 1928, we were more than ever in the woods and on the marshes. We began to spend much time at the beaches and in our enthusiasm for the water fowl were in danger of somewhat neglecting the other birds. Finlay Berolzheimer and Thomas Vogel were admitted to the Club and Henry Stern was lost to us, as he left for Texas. On the last day of the year we took a trip to Suffern, New York. Disappointing as it was in regard to species observed, it nevertheless was worth while in familiarizing us with new territory.

In the spring of 1929 Daniel Berolzheimer became a member. Our first trip to the South was taken in June, when we spent a day in the Crum Creek valley near Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Here we added several new species to our list, including the Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, and Kentucky Warbler.

The past year, 1930, has been a wonderful one for the Club. Trips were made to Oakwood Beach, Southampton, Jones Beach, Lakehurst, N. J., and various other localities. We were continuously in the field and by the end of the year had recorded well over two hundred birds from this region. Four members worked on certain days during the summer at the American Museum of Natural History. The closing days of 1930 found us hard at work on this Annual.

GREEN LEDGE CRUISES

By DANIEL BEROLZHEIMER

IN Northern Penobscot Bay, off the horn of Cape Rosier, lies a narrow ledge. Its grassy top and rocky shelves serve as a nesting place for the Arctic and Common Terns. Here and there on the nearby islands are the bulky nests of the Osprey; some in the tops of spruces; others placed upon rocky points; while the protected coves and harbours with their sandy beaches afford shelter from the sea for the weaker and more delicate wanderers of the shore.

The morning of July 17 found us rowing from Western Island, where we were camped, to the tern colony on Green Ledge. The many spruce-covered islands with their smooth, clean beaches and surf-beaten rocks were reflected in the clear, blue water as the morning sun came up over the distant hills. Gulls were winging their way across the cloudless sky to their high island farther down the bay and on the netted weir poles some of the black-capped sentinels of the tern rookery were sitting, watching our approach.

As we neared them they lightly took to the air and with noisy cries were off to spread the news of our arrival. After a short row we approached the peaceful nesting grounds of our red-billed friends. Already a number of the more timid were rising and their incessant screaming filled the air. Another pull of the oars and our boat touched the pebbled shore. Suddenly the sky was full of half-maddened birds, screeching their threats as we slowly hauled our boat beyond the water. A step or two more took us among the nests and then bedlam reigned. Crazy and frightened birds were filling the air, diving and darting at us with the mad desire to rid the island of our unwelcome presence.

We then decided to make a survey of the island and its nests. The low ledge capped with the juniper-like sward was some eighty feet long and thirty feet across. A gigantic boulder on the southern point proved to be an excellent lookout and from it we obtained a panorama of the colony.

A few steps from the beach found us within the nesting area and we at once commenced to examine the nests and their contents. For the most part, the terns had placed the eggs in rudely made structures, although some were laid on the bare rock. The nests, consisting of a few sticks and lined with seaweed and grass, contained the average clutch of two eggs, less commonly three, and rarely four. These varied greatly, not only in colour but also in size and shape, and in no case did we find two clutches

identical. The eggs ranged in colour from a dusky white to a light buff, the most common type being a dirty white, blotched with heavy and obscure brown markings. We proceeded along the ledge with the greatest alertness, in order to avoid stepping upon the eggs, which were almost invisible. After examining all the nests we estimated that there were about one hundred and fifty, a large number, considering the size of the island.

We approached the young and they at once, thru instinct, concealed themselves. The immatures of two to five days' growth attempted to hide by pushing their bodies into crevices in the rock or by running pell-mell into the grass, and there they stayed until we had departed. The birds which were one to two weeks old took to the water and immediately made off and on all sides of the island they could be seen swimming about like so many small ducks. While we were inspecting the nests we counted as many as threescore dead young, strewn about the rocks and on the grass. Whether they had been killed by the gulls or by a disastrous storm we did not know, but there they lay, birds but three or four days old, flattened, crushed, and pressed into the soil.

Retracing our steps to the beach we turned about and looked overhead to view a magnificent sight. Hundreds of silvery birds, the bright-billed Arctics and the shorter-tailed Commons, wheeled and hovered about us as the boat was shoved into the water. As we withdrew from the ledge the deafening cries subsided and some of the snowy-winged birds alighted to resume their interrupted incubation.

With the aid of the incoming tide our boat soon reached the shore close to camp. We then tramped across the island to the Ospreys' nest, which was situated on a rugged promontory. As we approached the aerie, the female rose into the air and with cries of defiance circled above us. Her piercing screeches soon brought the male and together they attempted to drive us from their home. As we neared the nest the fearless birds swooped down upon us with arrow-like speed, then gracefully wheeled about and again came diving down at our heads, their beating wings and clutching talons barely missing us. During our observance of these majestic Ospreys we heard but two distinctive cries. One was a high pitched double whistle uttered continuously when the birds were hovering over the water waiting to plunge in after some fish, while the other was a screeching, raspy, and querulous cry which we heard as we approached their nest.

We then peered into the massive pile of accumulated sticks and twigs, which rested on an immense glacier-worn rock. There on the flat top lay two ungainly and ill-proportioned young, which quivered with fear as we examined them and the nest. These birds, which we judged to be four or five days old, had evidently just been fed, for in the nest lay the remains of a freshly caught fish. This, together with bits of rope, decayed leaves, and a few soft feathers, formed the lining of their weather-beaten abode. The adults by now were thoroughly irritated and continued to fly at us in a reckless manner, their screams ringing out in the crystal-clear air.

The sun was now at its height and we slowly trudged along the shore back to our camp. After a hasty meal we visited another fish hawks' nest located on the north side of nearby Pond Island. As we were rowing across the thoroughfare which separates Pond from Western Island, we discovered two small gulls sitting on the rotted and unused weir poles. At once we headed the boat in their direction and they then flew from the stakes and landed daintily in the water a stone's throw away. We slowly sculled nearer, and after watching the light-winged birds for some time, continued across the channel to the white and pebbled beach on the western shore. These birds were immature Bonaparte's Gulls, our first record of the year. From that date on we saw this species regularly; none, however, with the conspicuous black hood.

We bent to our oars, soon reached Pond Island, and after hauling our boat beyond the high tide mark we proceeded on foot across a large field to the hawks' nest on the northern side. We inspected this nest and found that the awkward and homely fledgelings, with their bulging eyes and immense beaks were almost as large as chickens. All this time the adult birds had been diving and plunging near us and continued their bold efforts until we left their aerie.

We then tramped along the shore to the south side and after digging and scraping about in the Indian shell heap for most of the afternoon, we left the island and headed for Western. As we crossed the channel, we saw only Herring Gulls; some perched on the broken weir poles, preening their feathers; others pecked and dug about in the nearby mussel beds, while scores were swooping and gliding lazily across the azure sky.

We reached the camp in a short while and at once set to work hauling driftwood from the shore, for a strong wind had come up the bay and we knew that a roaring fire would be welcome, especially after the sun had sunk behind the forested hills. After finishing our work we hiked thru a field of thorny raspberry bush and needle-like thistle to a prominent point of land facing the sea.

Here we stayed until dusk, scanning the glistening and rippling water of the bay, hoping to see some delicate Guillemots or perhaps a few incoming sea ducks. As we were casting a searching eye towards Spruce Head we perceived a flock of scoter-like ducks flying low over the water and heading towards this island. They rapidly drew near and landed in the water off our point. These birds, American Eiders, we had seen near Spruce Head on a previous trip down the bay; however, then their number had been greater and included eight young ducklings.

On that day, July fifth, we were sailing off Spruce Head in a schooner. We saw, in the calm water, a flock of about twenty-five eiders so we at once slowed the engine and approached them cautiously. Almost immediately the males rose from the water and with powerful wing-beats flew a considerable distance from our craft and then settled down again. The females,

however, remained with their helpless young and when we came nearer they swam away, commencing to flop their heavy bodies in the water and to splash about with their outspread wings. The little ducklings, as they were unable to fly, swam away as fast as they could, continually diving under the water in an effort to hide themselves from us. After watching the birds for a short time we headed out into the ship-channel and continued down the bay. On May twenty-fifth, four well-concealed nests of these eiders had been found on the upper Barred Islands by Mr. E. F. Collins of Harborside, Maine. Other nests of the eiders were found on Compass Island, which is situated a little southwest of Spruce Head.

We watched the seven eiders, which had just dropped in off the point, until the glowing sun slowly sank beyond the distant Camden hills; then we trudged back across the island to our camp. After a short meal we set the well-seasoned logs afire and climbed upon a nearby boulder to survey the bay in all its evening splendor. Pink-tinted, low-lying clouds floated lightly above the western hills; lights twinkled from the mainland and the majestic pines swayed gracefully before the whispering wind. Gulls were slowly flying down the bay to rest for the night and the cries of the ever-restless terns could be heard in the distance. The sparkling water, breaking over the rocks and pebbles, showed its glistening phosphorescent light in the cool dusk, and the hissing and crackling fire, with its dancing and leaping flames, made queer shadows against the rocks on the shore. Far above us great, wavy fingers of the northern lights formed white, flittering shafts across the starry heavens. Night upon us, we crept into our cots, weary and contented, and, watching the glowing embers fade, soon sank into sleep.

THE HERONS

By RICHARD WEIL

THE 1930 season has been marked by the fact that all the herons ever recorded in the state of New York have been observed by members of the Club. Several of these species were seen at Woodmere and others on trips made in our immediate region.

The Black-crowned Night Herons are by far the most common of the family in this vicinity. They usually arrive in numbers late in March and during mild winters a few are likely to remain here. We have records of their presence on December 26, 1930 and on January 31, 1931 at Woodmere, and several were observed February 15, 1931 near Amityville, Long Island. Formerly the birds occupied a part of the woods which was rather open and quite accessible, but roads were cut through this tract and the herons sought a new home in a more secluded spot a half mile to the east. Occasionally a few of the birds are to be seen roosting about the original heronry, but within recent years not a pair has nested there. Late in the evening one often hears a harsh *quonk* and, on looking up, observes a black form slowly winging its way across the darkening sky to the salt marshes where food abounds. These birds build their loosely constructed nests high up in the slender red maples that make up the greater part of the swampy woodland in which the heronry is situated. We estimate that the colony now consists of about twenty-five pairs.

The Green Herons, neighbors of the Night Herons, are fairly common in this locality. Along the margins of the woods we have found several nests of this species. One of these was placed fifteen feet from the ground in a small red maple at the edge of a swamp. It was very frail in structure and contained three pale green eggs. I have never seen a nest of the Green Heron over twenty feet up and on one occasion I was able to touch the nest while standing on the ground. It is not uncommon to see these birds flying to their feeding grounds at dusk but unlike the Night Herons, they are usually silent as they pass overhead in ones or twos. This species, as well as the Black-crown, is often to be seen during the day feeding on the salt marshes. The Green Herons usually arrive in Woodmere in the middle of April.

Though it is small in comparison with the Great Blue Heron, and though it does not possess the elegance of the Egrets, I shall long remember my first close view of a Little Green Heron. We were following the bank of a lovely woodland stream and as we rounded a bend we stopped suddenly,

for there, not more than thirty feet ahead of us, was a heron wading. As it stalked slowly about in the shallows, the upper parts of its yellow-green tarsi showing above the surface, we were able to see perfectly its iridescent blue-green back, greenish-black bill, and chestnut colored neck. We stood perfectly still for a few minutes enjoying a wonderful view of the bird and then a movement by one of us sent the heron up the stream in startled flight.

The Great Blue Heron is seen regularly in Woodmere each year, but so far we have no evidence that it nests here. Migrating birds ordinarily arrive about April 20 and, as is the case with the Night Heron, a few winter here. One was seen at Hewlett Bay on the evening of January 21, 1931, and a pair on the banks of a river near the Moriches, on the south shore of Long Island. A single bird was observed flying overhead east of Patchogue late on the afternoon of February 15, 1931. In 1930 some of the Club members saw a flock of ten Blue Herons on April 17. They were travelling in a northerly direction at a height of several hundred feet and were evidently migrating. The Great Blue Heron becomes scarce after early May and does not reappear in numbers until late in summer.

For the past few years we have seen the American Bittern regularly at Woodmere and the indications are that it breeds here. During the nesting season we have found it in a small swamp surrounded by woods and in the great stretches of salt marsh extending down to the bay. Here in May I have often heard it booming away as late as eight-thirty in the evening. In the spring of 1930 the Bittern first appeared on March 26. This seems to be an extraordinarily early date, since hitherto we had not seen it until the end of the first week in April.

It was several years ago that we first heard the booming of the Bittern. What the author of these remarkable noises could be we did not know, but later learned that it was probably a Bittern. We were then eager to see the bird and the next time we heard the booming we sent a shower of missiles into the reeds in the hope of scaring the heron. Although we kept up our fire for fifteen minutes, there was no sign of the bird and we finally gave up.

Our first sight of the American Bittern came the following spring. We were making our way along the edge of a swamp, when suddenly we became aware of a bird standing motionless in a pool about thirty feet from us. It observed us at once and with a startled *squawk* it took flight, neck outstretched and green legs dangling beneath it. Our latest fall date is October 20.

The Least Bittern is recorded as being a casual visitant on Long Island by Griscom in his "Birds of the New York City Region." This heron was seen for the first time on June 15, 1930 at Rosedale Pond by two Club members. They were wading among the cat-tails looking for Gallinules and Rails, when the Least Bittern flushed close to them. The next day another party went to the pond and again observed the bird. As this was

in the height of the breeding season, and as the cat-tail marsh bordering the pond is an ideal place for the bird to nest, it is probable that it can safely be recorded as a breeder here.

On the morning of March 26, 1930, Mr. Harrower and his son took a trip to the Lido flats, near the eastern end of Long Beach. This is a region of dunes, pampas grass, and patches of bayberry, bordered by salt marshes. On their return they reported that a Yellow-crowned Night Heron was present, and Mr. Harrower offered to take several of us over there in the afternoon.

The morning had been warm and sunny, but by the time we arrived at the beach the sky was overcast and a cold north wind was blowing. We made our way across the dunes towards the area of pampas grass and bayberry and were soon close to the spot where the heron had been last seen. Tense and expectant, we cautiously pushed our way through the tall grass and stopped in a sandy place clear of vegetation. Suddenly, from not more than twenty yards in front of us, came a distinctive *qua-qua-qua* closely resembling that of a Mallard and a second later the bird flushed. There it hung above the swaying pampas grass, held almost motionless in the strong wind, while we had a perfect opportunity to observe every feature of its plumage. Its short, thick bill and beautiful flowing plumes, its peculiar mottled gray back, and black and buff face-markings, all stood out unmistakably. It flew a short distance and then settled behind the wall of grass. We left it undisturbed, for some of the Club members had been unable to accompany us, and we hoped that they might see it on a later trip.

On September 2, 1930, Robert and Benjamin Berliner observed an immature Yellow-crown in Central Park, New York City. It remained sitting in a large, dead tree during all the time it was under observation. Another bird in almost full plumage was seen on September 11 at Oakwood Beach, Staten Island, by the same members.

Authorities writing as late as 1923 list the Yellow-crowned Night Heron as either accidental or casual in this region. Griscom, in "Birds of the New York City Region," gives no records for Long Beach. It would appear either that the species is increasing in numbers in this vicinity or that the numerous records of recent years are due to more intensive field study.

The only American Egrets of the year were seen at Oakwood Beach by Roy Barnett and myself on August 2, 1930. We went there in company with Mr. Frank Watson of the American Museum in order to locate a Louisiana Heron which had been recently reported.

When we arrived at the beach we walked out a mile or so until we reached a point where the beach was skirted by a cat-tail swamp. Here, at a distance of five hundred yards, we discerned three Egrets, and immediately brought them closer by means of our 8X binoculars. They stood motionless, with only their necks and heads visible above the vegetation. It was not until later, as we were retracing our steps, that we were fortunate

enough to see one of these beautiful birds in flight. As it glided over the swamp with only an occasional flap of its wings, a bird of immaculate white plumage against a deep blue sky, the picture it afforded us was one of utter beauty. In my opinion this is the most beautiful of the herons of the eastern states.

The most successful trip of the year was taken to Jones Beach on August 22, 1930. The beach is bordered on one side by the ocean and on the other by a channel, beyond which stretch miles of salt marshes. Here we can recognize three distinct regions or zones. The first consists of the ocean beach proper and the dunes behind it; the second includes Guggenheim Pond, a small body of semi-fresh water, and the thickets of bayberry and grass along its northern shore; the third embraces the vast sweep of mud flats and marsh extending away towards the mainland. This last zone offers a wonderful feeding ground for herons and rails.

On this day we observed six species of herons, three of which were new to us, besides recording many other interesting birds. Among these were Black-bellied Plovers, Knots, White-rumped Sandpipers, Dowitchers, and a single Migrant Shrike.

Our first Little Blue Heron we saw flying near Guggenheim Pond, and soon afterwards we came upon one at the edge of the channel east of the pond. This bird was moving sedately about in the shallow water in search of food and presented a lovely picture against the background of water and marsh grass. The Little Blues that we observed throughout the day, and there were many of them, were, with but one exception, immature birds. Most of them were entirely white, but a few were pied, which means that they had patches of blue feathers mixed with the white.

We continued along the waterway until we saw ahead of us a group which at first seemed to be composed entirely of Little Blue Herons. Some of these were standing on a small sandy island, while others were wading about slowly in the water. Almost at once we noticed that one of the standing birds had his head drawn down, in marked contrast to the others, which stood upright. We had no sooner made this discovery than the bird began to move away, exhibiting at every step his strikingly yellow feet. His feet looked as though they were covered by a pair of yellow socks and this characteristic identified him at once as a Snowy Egret. We lingered for some time watching this bird and his companions and then continued along the channel, while at frequent intervals Little Blue Herons passed overhead.

Some time later, as we were wading through a particularly muddy place, our attention was drawn to a group of six herons about a hundred yards away. We approached and noticed that one of the birds was a mature Little Blue. It was a very striking bird with uniformly blue plumage, although there was a faint suggestion of reddish on the neck. But in the group was another bird that quickly claimed all our interest. This was a

brownish heron, and from a distance of seventy feet we could observe the bird perfectly and took the following notes:

"Neck with ventral white stripe, otherwise reddish above, below, and on breast; underparts white; legs greenish; wings bluish with warm tone, particularly at bend; bill dark, basal part yellowish, seemingly longer than that of Little Blue; white at shoulders and rump; white spot on back."

On our return we looked up the bird and identified it as an immature Louisiana Heron. This decision was corroborated by Mr. Frank Watson, our companion on this trip, after an examination of skins at the American Museum of Natural History. While this is not the only record of the Louisiana Heron in this region within recent years, it may be of interest to learn what its status was in 1923, the year Griscom published his "Birds of the New York City Region" and from which I quote for the last time:

"This southern species has occurred accidentally on one occasion on Long Island, a single specimen shot near Patchogue in the summer of 1836, as reported by Giraud."

So closed our most memorable field trip of the year, and many pictures of these stately and elegant birds are clear in our minds today and will long remain as beautiful memories.

THE BUTTERFLY SEASON OF 1930

By ROY BARNETT

BEFORE taking up the actual collecting in this season, I think a brief survey of the local topography would be relevant. Woodmere is situated in absolutely flat country, barely above sea-level. The fields are dry and with few flowers, almost worthless for collecting. Our favorite hunting-ground, in our terminology "back of Heller's," is an open woods, about ten acres in area, cut by several dirt roads, and covered by tall oaks and sparse underbrush. Here in spring *Vanessids*, *Polygonias*, and *Thanaos* bask beside the roads; later other *Hesperids* skip along the borders. *Phyciodes tharos** wanders along the trails, and *Papilios* fly strongly on shining wings; while in the summer *Catocalas* rest on the tree trunks. Other favorite haunts are the "privet-house," a deserted yard surrounded by a privet hedge whose white blossoms attract many species; the "sphagnum bog," where patches of moss interspersed with clumps of cat-tails and enclosed by dying trees furnish a haven for the elusive *Satyrodes canthus* and certain *Hesperids*; the patch of dog-bane whose small sprays of flowers feed many species and occasionally trap the unwary *numitor*; these are our principal collecting grounds. However, in a dry season such as 1930, even the best of these becomes withered and sterile, and mid-summer collecting is usually discouraging.

With our brief experience we have little basis for a comparison of this season with any except that of 1929. In general we find that our first dates for 1930 were appreciably later than those of last year and most species were observed in smaller numbers. The tardiness of their appearance was probably due to the unfavorable weather conditions of early spring; the decrease in numbers to the use of many waste lots for building purposes, the burning over of fields in late winter, and the early mowing.

Also, we have noticed a great increase in the number of praying-mantids during the past few years. Since they are voracious, predatory insects, it seems probable that they destroy many butterfly larvae. Fungus diseases and parasites naturally take their toll as well.

MARCH

The season opened on March 13, when a warm spring day brought the first Mourning Cloaks, *Vanessa antiopa*, from their hiding places and our Saturnid cocoons produced their first moth, *Samia cecropia*. The Mourning

* Scientific terminology follows Holland's "The Butterfly Book"

Cloak was the only species of butterfly to appear during March, although in the corresponding month of 1929 seven species were taken. This may be accounted for by the fact that there was no period of warm weather lasting even three days throughout the entire month.

APRIL

In April several long periods of rain were just as effective in keeping the butterflies under cover or in their pupas. Five more species appeared in the vanguard of the summer swarms which were soon to dance over the early flowers. The first Cabbage Butterfly, *Pieris rapae*, was seen on April 5. From then until April 20 repeated expeditions produced nothing; on that day a third species was seen, a *Thanaos*, probably Horace's Dusky-wing, *T. horatius*. The twenty-seventh of the month, a warm beautiful day, found two more species, the Red Admiral, *Pyrameis atalanta*, and the Common Blue, *Lycaena pseudargiolus*, on the wing. The former species is one that varies greatly in abundance. Although common in 1927, only two were taken in 1928; in 1929 it was abundant particularly in the summer brood when it fairly swarmed on privet blossoms. This year it was uncommon, in fact, almost a rarity. The Common Blue is notable because it occurred nearly a month later than the year before. The next day, April 28, two more species were taken, the Common Sulphur, *Colias philodice*, and Horace's Dusky-wing. This was our first record for the spring brood of *horatius*, as we had formerly almost neglected the Hesperids. From this date on butterflies of the genus *Thanaos* were always present in the sparse woods back of Heller's.

MAY

May, when Spring was at its height, with its long spells of balmy perfect weather, proved to be the premier month for first dates. Representatives of six families were on the wing during the month. Of these the one bringing the surest sign of approaching summer was the *Papilionidae*. The first specimens of this family, two Tiger Swallowtails, *Papilio turnus*, appeared on the second, both in poor condition. After these two stragglers, no other *turnus* was seen until the second half of the month. The Spicebush Swallowtail, *Papilio troilus*, a common species here, was first recorded May 5 and was observed in this brood until the middle of June. The Pipevine Swallowtail, *Papilio philenor*, usually very rare here, was taken on May seventh; after this about fifteen more specimens were seen or collected during the month. Only four of this species, poor specimens of the second brood, were captured in 1929, and none was reported previously. The species most abundant throughout the summer was the Common Eastern Swallowtail, *Papilio asterias*, which appeared May twenty-third. The larvae of this group were among those we raised; we soon became familiar with the hammock of *turnus* on the upper side of the wild cherry leaf, the rolled-

over nest of *troilus* on the foliage of sassafras, and the bold caterpillar of *asterias*, protected only by its coloration and skunk-like attributes.

Among the genera of the large family *Nymphalidae*, the Graptas were highly interesting and frequented sunny spots on dry roads, often darting off at the approach of an intruder, to return almost immediately if unmolested. The common, large Question-sign, *Grapta interrogationis*, rather rare this year; its ally the Comma, *Grapta comma*; and the Progne, *Grapta progne*, a most interesting catch, were the three species recorded. One specimen of *progne* was taken March 28, 1929; I took this year's specimen in very poor condition on May 10. Other Nymphalids, the Silver-bordered Fritillary, *Brenthis myrina*, the Pearl Crescent, *Phyciodes tharos*, and Hunter's Butterfly, *Pyrameis huntera*, were common species present in May. In the *Satyrinae* the Little Wood-satyr, *Neonympha eurytus*, appeared the last day of the month in its accustomed haunts along a shady brook in the woods, flitting low through the groves.

Among the *Pierinae* several interesting forms were taken. On the twelfth I collected the vernal nymotypical form *eurytheme* of the Orange Sulphur, *Colias eurytheme*. This was pronounced to be the first authenticated record for the New York region by Frank Watson of the American Museum of Natural History. The species itself was common as usual, though it did not approach the abundance of 1928. Other Pierids of note were the albino form of the female Common Sulphur, *Colias philodice*, and the spring form *immaculata* of the Cabbage Butterfly, *Pieris rapae*.

Several species were collected in the two remaining families, the *Lycaenidae* and the *Hesperiidae*. In the former family, the American Copper, *Chrysophanus hypophleas*, and the Eastern Tailed Blue, *Lycaena comyntas*, appeared early in the month, both in advance of their 1929 dates. Among the Hesperids, which we have recently collected rather thoroughly, three more species of the genus *Thanaos* were taken. Juvenal's Dusky-wing, *Thanaos juvenalis*, was common until late in the month; of the Dreamy Dusky-wing, *Thanaos icelus*, we secured one specimen in May and a few more in early June; while only a single specimen of the Sleepy Dusky-wing, *Thanaos brizo*, was found. On the twenty-third, two species of the *Pamphilinae* hatched out, Peck's Skipper, *Polites peckius*, and the Hobomok, *Atrytone hobomok*. The former was commoner in the second brood; the latter was present everywhere along deserted roads and in the fields until the middle of June. One other species of skipper, the Silver-spotted, *Epargyreus tityrus*, common in several broods during the summer, was seen the last day of the month. The larvae of this species may be found in their leaf houses on almost any wisteria vine.

JUNE

The June weather was typically warm and beautiful, an interim between the freshness of spring and the drowsy, deadening heat of midsummer.

Despite the good weather we collected only spasmodically because of the time spent in examinations, Commencement activities, and observing the shorebird movement along the beaches. An important addition to our collectors was Sidney Hessel, who returned from college June 2, and who was active continuously during the remainder of the season. It was about this time that three members of the Club commenced work in entomology at the Natural History Museum in New York.

Early in the month several common Hesperids appeared at flower patches and in the clover fields. Among these the new species observed were the Volcanic Skipper, *Thymelicus aetna*; the Numitor, *Ancyloxypha numitor*; the Southern Dusky-wing, *Thorybes bathyllus*; the Little Glass-wing, *Euphyes verna*; the Tawny-edged Skipper, *Limochores taumus*; and the Sooty-wing, *Pholisora catullus*. A rarer skipper was the Hoary-edge, *Achalarus lycidas*, which was rather common in July, 1929, at Westport, Connecticut, and of which we took two specimens in 1929 in Woodmere and two more in 1930. On June first one specimen of the dimorphic female *pocahontas* of *Atrytone hobomok* was collected and soon afterwards we secured another.

Among the *Nymphalidae* the Argynnids, those typically summer forms whose wings seem to be burnt by the hot sun, first appeared late in the month. The Great Spangled Fritillary, *Argynnis cybele*, and Aphrodite, *Argynnis aphrodite*, which is not very common here, came out on the twenty-eighth. The other local species, the Regal Fritillary, *Argynnis idalia*, of which six specimens were taken in 1929, was totally absent this year. A form closely related to the Argynnids, the Baltimore, *Melitea phaeton*, was not uncommon in the early part of the month, in contrast to last year, when only one was caught. The Viceroy, *Basilarchia disippus*, and the Red-spotted Purple, *Basilarchia astyanax*, appeared on the fourth and eleventh respectively. The former was much reduced in numbers this year, and only three or four were observed the whole season, while *astyanax*, as usual, was not uncommon in its favorite grove where it could be found basking on the leaves of oak and sassafras. A last Nymphalid, the Buck-eye, *Junonia coenia*, which swarmed in 1927 and 1928, and was common in 1929, was rare this year and not more than four or five were observed.

A few species belonging to the *Lycaenidae* made their appearance during June. The large and striking Bronze Copper, *Chrysophanus thoë*, a most interesting form not rare in this locality, was taken in the first brood on June 12, and several others, chiefly males, were caught soon afterwards. They were rarer in the second brood, a condition exactly opposite to that existing in former seasons. The other copper taken was the variety *fasciatus* of *Chrysophanus hypophleas*, a form with elongated black markings on the fore wings. The species varies greatly, and we have collected many specimens of the different varieties and aberrations. In 1929 I collected the rare aberration *fulliolus*, in which yellow replaces the coppery red. Sidney Hessel has in his collection another form, *obsoletus*, with only two

black dots on each fore wing. However, the commonest variety is *fasciatus*, of which we each have several specimens. One specimen of the Common Hair-streak, *Thecla melinus*, was observed on June 6 and continued uncommon until the latter half of August, when numbers were seen in the fields near Woodmere and at Lido Beach.

JULY

In July the heat and dryness withered the flowers in the fields and the great amount of pollen in the air kept us sneezing continually while we were collecting there. Because of this we confined most of our field work to the swamps and moist woodlands, where several interesting forms were present.

Of the butterflies found in these localities, the most typical was the Grass-nymph, *Satyrodes canthus*, omnipresent in the sphagnum bog. Some of the skippers were almost as abundant as *canthus* in the swamps. The commonest species was Pontiac, *Limochores pontiac*, whose bright reddish wings flashed throughout July. A much rarer species was the Mulberry-wing, *Poanes massasoit*, of which about ten were taken, the first on July 12. The Dun Skipper, *Euphyes metacomet*, also occurs here, but is more common in the open fields. The Broad-winged Skipper, *Phycanassa viator*, is one of the largest of the *Pamphilinae* and a very interesting catch. We first discovered it July 4, 1929, at a patch of thistle, but this year the field where the thistle grew was cut early and we were obliged to seek our *viators* on Pickerel-weed, *Pontederia cordata*, at the edge of a large marsh.

A few species were taken in other places than the swamp. The Coral Hair-streak, *Thecla titus*, was first seen on July 2, while we were on a trip to Roslyn, Long Island. About forty specimens were netted on a dry hillside covered with scrub wild cherry, the food plant of the slug-like larvae. The species was later found in Woodmere, where about ten were collected, in contrast to the single specimen secured in 1929. The Common Wood-nymph, *Satyrus alope*, was present from July 7 to early September. In the grassy plot surrounded by the tall privet hedge, a flock of these butterflies containing as many as thirty individuals would suddenly spring up at the approach of an intruder and burst into many darting fragments. Other smaller flocks were also about, each occupying its own special domain. One specimen of the dimorphic form *nephele* of *Satyrus alope* was taken on July 31 by Alan Nathan. Another species, the Little Sulphur, *Terias lisa*, was first secured on July 7. It was not common this year or last, but in September, 1928, a great number suddenly swarmed over all the fields.

In July we took three long collecting trips in Sidney Hessel's car. The first was to Lakehurst, New Jersey, in order to obtain specimens of the Least Copper, *Chrysophanus expixanthe*, a small butterfly which inhabits cranberry bogs. We arrived about noon and looked for suitable hunting-

grounds. We soon discovered a large bog, cut by narrow ditches and filled with small blossoming cranberry plants. Here *expixanthe* was quite common. They are weak flyers, resembling *Lycaena comyntas* when on the wing, and frequently alight on the leaves or flowers. We took about sixty specimens, among which males predominated in the ratio of approximately two to one. We collected also one Striped Hair-streak, *Thecla liparops*, in poor condition; one Cross-line Skipper, *Limochores manataaqua*; and four *Thanaos horatius*. On the way home we stopped in an open woodland where we netted about a dozen Coral Hair-streaks, *Thecla titus*.

On July 15 a few of us left New York early in the morning for northern New Jersey and made the trip to the Greenwood Lake Glens in an hour and a half. The region is beautiful, a pleasant contrast to the flat plains of Woodmere. There are large flower-spangled meadows and rolling hills covered with open woods of hickory, beech, and other hardwoods. Here we collected all the morning and netted several new species. In a small wet meadow we found five Acadian Hair-Streaks, *Thecla acadica*, in good condition, and along a road nearby we took a Banded Hair-Streak, *Thecla calanus*. In a field close to a stream, the Meadow Fritillary, *Brenthis bellona*, fairly swarmed, mingling with its larger relatives, *Argynnis aphrodite* and *cybele*. On patches of Butterfly-weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, many Hesperids were feeding, and among them we observed *Limochores manataaqua*, *Limochores taumus*, and *Thymelicus aetna*.

Farther up the road five more *acadicas* were secured on two tiger-lily blossoms. After this we continued on to Tuxedo, stopping once on the way at a cedar grove to try for some Olive Hair-streaks, *Thecla damon*. We found none, but Sidney Hessel caught a battered Edward's Hair-Streak, *Thecla edwardsi*, an excellent record of a species which has been rare of recent years.

At Tuxedo we commenced collecting on a little used wood road and it was here that we netted a specimen of the exceedingly rare Pearly Eye, *Debis portlandia*. In addition we took another *Thecla calanus*. After crossing the railroad tracks we came to an open field and began searching for the Delaware, *Atrytone delaware*. The species has a highly disconcerting habit of dropping into the grass when under the net, and several were lost in this manner; nevertheless we caught three or four. In this field Mr. Heineman took the last species of the day, *Argynnis idalia*, to end a very successful trip. Altogether thirty-three different butterflies were recorded.

While working at the Museum on July 28, we heard that a number of *Thecla damon* had been taken at Noyac, Long Island. Acting on this information some of us took the long trip from Woodmere on July 30. At Noyac we found open groves of cedar here and there in the grassy, dried-up fields. Many *damons* were flitting about the tops or resting on the needles of the larger trees. When the trunks were hit sharply the butter-

flies were frightened off and might be secured, but often they remained too high up for capture. The butterflies were abundant, especially considering that they were of the second brood; in all we took about seventy and missed as many more.

AUGUST

August, although not as hot as usual, was dry and dead. The only important event of the month in Woodmere was the taking of the Snout-butterfly, *Libythea bachmanni*. On August 2 and 3 Sidney Hessel took two, in widely separated localities; another was caught early in September. One was taken in Woodmere a few years ago and four in Westport, Connecticut, in 1928, by Howard Vogel. One other species appeared for the first time in August; this was the Fiery Skipper, *Hylephila phylaeus*. It was rare this year, but not uncommon in 1929.

On August 19 we took a trip to New Brunswick, New Jersey, our last expedition of the year. Our object was to collect specimens of the Zabulon, *Atrytone zabulon*. (This is not the *zabulon* of Holland, which should be *hobomok*. The true *zabulon* is not included in Holland's Butterfly Book). Most of our collecting was done in a large field along the Raritan River, where the vegetation was parched and seared from the long drought. Here we collected two specimens of *zabulon* and found the Regal Fritillary quite common, though most of them were in poor condition. While making my way up a dry stream-bed I noticed what at first glance seemed to be a dry leaf lying on the ground but a closer examination showed it to be a butterfly. I netted it and was delighted to find it was the Hackberry Butterfly, *Chlorippe celtis*. Frank Watson believes this to be the first authenticated record for New Jersey or the New York City region. In 1928 and 1929 Howard Vogel took its congenitor, the Tawny Emperor, *Chlorippe clyton*, at Westport, Connecticut; these are excellent records also. Three specimens of the American Copper, *Chrysophanus hypophleas* variety *fasciatus*, and one female Bronze Copper, *Chrysophanus thoë*, completed our list for the trip.

SEPTEMBER

During the early part of September I was in Maine and the reports that reached me indicated that the collecting at Woodmere continued to be poor. A few migrating members of the genus *Catopsilia* were seen, among them one *argante* at Point Lookout, Long Beach. No Cloudless Sulphurs, *Catopsilia eubule*, were secured this year, but one was captured in 1929. The Monarch, *Anosia plexippus*, was abundant, travelling South; it had been common throughout the latter part of the summer, when its larvae or eggs could be found on every milkweed leaf. We bred many, and discovered that their strikingly beautiful green pupae repaid us for our contact with the unpleasant food-plant.

The last important record of the year, although not that of a butterfly, was of a specimen of the great tropical moth, *Erebus odora*, which was found dead October 6, by a student at school, and which is now in the Berliners' collection.

In conclusion, I believe that, although the unusually dry climatic conditions reduced the number of individuals considerably, the number of species was representative.

Advance notice of 1931:—*Vanessa antiopa* common, first seen February 28; a single *Anosia plexippus*, seen March 25! (R. Berliner and R. Barnett).

THE BIRD SEASON OF 1930

By ROBERT W. BERLINER

ALTHOUGH we have but little basis for a comparison between 1930 and other years, we have, nevertheless, found many striking features. Our records represent the results of an intensive series of field observations. Though the membership of the Club is small, on nearly every day of the year at least one observer was in the field, and therefore our records show fairly accurately the occurrence of birds in the Woodmere region.

The migrants in the spring of 1930 were rather late in arriving from the South, and the number of birds was unusually small. There were no pronounced waves, and though many new species often arrived on the same day, there was never the usual abundance of birds found with a real wave.

Among the noteworthy features of the season was the unusual abundance of Holboell's Grebes during February, when as many as twelve could be seen in the same place. A large invasion of herons of all species was also notable. There are three records of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, and records of both Snowy and Little Blue Herons, Louisiana Heron, and American Egret. There was a surprising dearth, in the spring, of both Woodcock and Wilson Snipe. The Woodcock was far rarer than in 1929, although it became fairly common in the fall. Bobwhites were commoner than in the past. Perhaps one of the most notable peculiarities of the year was the almost complete absence of all flycatchers except the Crested and Kingbird. A few Phoebes were seen and one Least Flycatcher, but otherwise the smaller flycatchers were entirely missing. Some other birds which were exceptionally scarce or entirely absent were: Cedar Waxwing (in spring), Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos, and Cape May, Pine and Wilson's Warblers. The Yellow-throated Vireo, several years ago, was a fairly common summer resident, but has now entirely disappeared. The Cape May and Pine Warblers were not observed in spring, but only in the fall, while the Wilson's Warbler was observed once in the spring and commonly in the fall. The Golden-winged Warbler which has been seen regularly, if uncommonly, up to this year was not found during 1930. One of the most striking facts concerning the bird-life was the total absence of the Bluebird. No individuals of this species were observed, although a thorough search was made for them.

A bird which has shown a marked increase in the last few years is the Carolina Wren. This bird was never seen in Woodmere until 1928, when a single pair was observed. In 1929, another pair had made their home

in Woodmere, and in 1930 there were several pairs. It seems that these birds are moving northward. A peculiar occurrence is the absence of all Winter Wrens during the winter months and the appearance of these birds during the migration on May 4.

The first large wave of migrants arrived between April 20 and April 27, the second and largest of the year on May 3. The biggest wave of migrant shorebirds was on May 10 and 11. Some of the birds late in arriving were: Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo and Hermit Thrush, while among the few birds which arrived earlier than usual were the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Canadian Warbler. The Canadian Warbler arrived five days early. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird also arrived five days early, but the record is especially notable because of the cold weather during which it was first observed.

SPECIAL RECORDS OF THE BIRDS OF THE WOODMERE REGION

Including Exceptionally Early Spring Dates for 1929 and the Latest Fall Records of Species Listed in the 1930 Migration Report. Dates are for 1930 and Localities are in New York Unless Otherwise Indicated.

- Colymbus holboelli*, Holboell's Grebe. Nov. 4 and 9, 1929 (Atlantic Beach); Feb. 1 and Nov. 1 (Atlantic Beach); Dec. 31 (Jones Beach); March 14, 1931 (Jones Beach).
- Colymbus auritus*, Horned Grebe. Dec. 27 and 31, 1929 (Atlantic Beach); Jan. 2 (Atlantic Beach); May 4 (Point Lookout—full plumage); Nov. 2 (Jones Beach); Dec. 26 (Atlantic Beach); Feb. 14, 1931 (Montauk).
- Podilymbus podiceps*, Pied-billed Grebe. Oct. 13, 1929 (Woodmere Bay); Oct. 11 (Valley Stream—3); Sept. 20 (Jones Beach).
- Gavia immer*, Loon. Dec. 24 (Atlantic Beach); Jan. 2 to May 8 (Atlantic Beach); Feb. 14, 1931 (Montauk Point—pair).
- Gavia stellata*, Red-throated Loon. Nov. 11 and 29, 1929 (Atlantic Beach); Nov. 22 and Dec. 30 (Atlantic Beach).
- Alle alle*, Dovekie. Feb. 14, 1931 (Montauk Point—6 dead on beach; possibly 2 flying); March 9, 1931 (Woodmere—one picked up alive in woods after heavy north-easter).
- Stercorarius parasiticus*, Parasitic Jaeger. Sept. 10 (Oakwood Beach); Nov. 2 (Jones Beach—one chasing gulls).
- Larus hyperboreus*, Glaucous Gull. March 28, 1929 (Valley Stream—on salt marshes).
- Larus marinus*, Great Black-backed Gull. From Oct. 4 (1930) to June 7 (1929) (Atlantic Beach).
- Larus argentatus*, Herring Gull. Occurs commonly throughout the year; exceedingly abundant in winter.
- Larus delawarensis*, Ring-billed Gull. Aug. 20 and Sept. 27 (Jones Beach).
- Larus philadelphia*, Bonaparte's Gull. Dec. 30, 1929 (Atlantic Beach); July 8 (Elizabeth, N. J.).
- Sterna forsteri*, Forster's Tern. Aug. 4 (Oakwood Beach—one, identified by Frank E. Watson, of the American Museum of Natural History); Aug. 22 (Atlantic Beach—one immature).
- Sterna hirundo*, Common Tern. May 22, 1929 (Atlantic Beach—200); July 24 (Atlantic Beach—10). Aug. 20 (Jones Beach); Aug. 22 (Atlantic Beach—200).
- Sterna dougalli*, Roseate Tern. Aug. 22 (Atlantic Beach). Sept. 12 (Atlantic Beach).
- Sterna antillarum*, Least Tern. May 27 to June 8 (Lido Flats—several nests with eggs).
- Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*, Black Tern. Sept. 4 to Sept. 26 (Atlantic Beach); Sept. 8 (Oakwood Beach).
- Sula bassana*, Gannet. Nov. 16 to 23, 1929 (Atlantic Beach); Oct. 26 to Nov. 1 (Atlantic Beach).
- Phalacrocorax auritus*, Double-crested Cormorant. May 17 (Woodmere—eleven, flying overhead); July 24 (Atlantic Beach—three).
- Mergus americanus*, American Merganser. Many records: Feb. 12 (Point Lookout) to March 23 (Hempstead Reservoir).
- Mergus serrator*, Red-breasted Merganser. Many records: Dec. 20 (Jones Beach) to Mar. 14, 1931 (Hempstead Reservoir).

- Lophodytes cucullatus*, Hooded Merganser. Jan. 25 (Woodmere Bay); Feb. 14, 1931 (Shinnecock); Feb. 15, 1931 (Montauk—one male); Feb. 15, 1931 (Brookhaven—several).
- Anas platyrhynchos*, Mallard. Many records: Aug. 20 (Jones Beach) to April 25 (Hempstead Reservoir), Jan. 2, 1931 to March 9, 1931 (Hempstead Reservoir).
- Anas rubripes rubripes*, Red-legged Black Duck. Many records: Sept. 20, 1929 to April 25, 1930 (Hempstead Reservoir).
- Anas rubripes tristis*, Black Duck. Records for every month in the year; most abundant in winter and early spring, particularly at Hempstead Reservoir.
- Chauleasmus streperus*, Gadwall. March 12 (Hempstead Reservoir—two).
- Mareca americana*, Baldpate. Sept. 20 (Jones Beach) to March 7, 1931 (Hempstead Reservoir).
- Nettion carolinense*, Green-winged Teal. Nov. 2 to Nov. 30 (Jones Beach).
- Querquedula discors*, Blue-winged Teal. May 7, 1929 (Woodmere—one, with three Black Ducks); Sept. 20 to Oct. 26 (Jones Beach—up to seventy-five in one flock); Sept. 14 Rosedale).
- Spatula clypeata*, Shoveller. Nov. 2 (Jones Beach—one male).
- Dafila acuta*, Pintail. Regular between Sept. 20 (Jones Beach) and April 21 (Hempstead Reservoir).
- Aix sponsa*, Wood Duck. May 21 (Van Cortlandt Park, New York City).
- Marila americana*, Redhead. Oct. 10 to Oct. 26 (Jones Beach).
- Marila valisineria*, Canvasback. Dec. 22, 1929 (Woodmere); Jan. 20 (Woodmere); Oct. 26 and Dec. 26 (Jones Beach); Feb. 15, 1931 (Montauk).
- Marila marila*, Scaup Duck. Abundant, Oct. 10 to April 21 (Woodmere, Hempstead, Jones Beach, etc.).
- Clangula clangula americana*, Golden-eye. Jan. 29 (Woodmere) to Mar. 29 (Bayshore); Feb. 14-15, 1931 (Montauk—common).
- Charitonetta albeola*, Bufflehead. Feb. 12, 1931 (Lido—a pair); Feb. 15, 1931 (Montauk).
- Herelda hyemalis*, Old-squaw. Feb. 1 (Atlantic Beach); Dec. 20 (Jones Beach); Feb. 14-15, 1931 (Montauk).
- Oidemia americana*, American Scoter. Regular in winter, Sept. 20 (Jones Beach) to Feb. 15, 1931 (Montauk).
- Oidemia deglandi*, White-winged Scoter. Sept. 20 (Jones Beach) to March 10, 1931 (Atlantic Beach).
- Oidemia perspicillata*, Surf Scoter. Oct. 26 (Atlantic Beach); Feb. 14-15, 1931 (Montauk).
- Erismatura jamaicensis*, Ruddy Duck. Oct. 20 to Dec. 31 (Jones Beach); Feb. 14, 1931 (Montauk).
- Branta canadensis*, Canada Goose. Dec. 24, 1929 (Atlantic Beach); Nov. 26 (Atlantic Beach); Feb. 15, 1931 (Montauk).
- Branta bernicla glaucogastra*, Brant. Nov. 26 (Atlantic Beach—seven).
- Botaurus lentiginosus*, American Bittern. Oct. 10 (Woodmere).
- Ixobrychus exilis*, Least Bittern. June 15 (Rosedale).
- Ardea herodias herodias*, Great Blue Heron. Fairly common, especially in fall. Sept. 20 (Jones Beach) to Oct. 11 (Woodmere); Jan. 28, 1931 (Woodmere); Feb. 14 (Patchogue); Feb. 15 (Brookhaven).
- Herodias egretta*, American Egret. Aug. 4 (Oakwood Beach—3).
- Egretta candidissima*, Snowy Egret. Aug. 20 (Jones Beach—1).
- Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*, Louisiana Heron. Aug. 20 (Jones Beach—1).
- Florida caerulea*, Little Blue Heron. Aug. 20 (Jones Beach—20 white immatures, 2 pied individuals, 1 adult).
- Butoroides virescens*, Green Heron, April 14, 1929 (Woodmere) to Sept. 11 (Oakwood Beach).
- Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*, Black-crowned Night Heron. Summer resident. Wintering 1930-31; Dec. 26 (Woodmere); Jan. 31, 1931 (Woodmere); Feb. 15 (Massapequa).
- Nyctanassa violacea*, Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Mar. 26 (Lido—1), Sept. 2 (Central Park—1), Sept. 11 (Oakwood Beach—1).
- Rallus elegans*, King Rail. May 21 (Van Cortlandt Park).
- Rallus crepitans*, Clapper Rail. May 11 (Lido) to Oct. 10 (Woodmere).
- Rallus virginianus*, Virginia Rail. Apr. 30, 1929 (Woodmere); May 21 (Van Cortlandt Park).
- Porzana carolina*, Sora. Sept. 11 (Oakwood Beach).
- Gallinula galeata*, Florida Gallinule. Apr. 26—Sept. 14 (Rosedale). Nesting on small pond. With young on June 22.
- Fulica americana*, American Coot. Sept. 20 (Jones Beach) to Feb. 15, 1931 (Brookhaven). Uncommon.
- Phalaropus fulicarius*, Red Phalarope. June 16 (Atlantic Beach—Full-plumaged female).
- Steganopus tricolor*, Wilson's Phalarope. June 19 (Lido—Immature female).
- Philohela minor*, Woodcock. Mar. 9, 1929 (Woodmere); Nov. 8 (Woodmere); Nov. 28 (Atlantic Beach—1, and Hempstead—1); Dec. 10 (Woodmere—1).
- Gallinago delicata*, Wilson's Snipe. Apr. 8, 1929 (Woodmere); Apr. 20, 1929 (Woodmere); Apr. 20 (Norwalk, Conn.—7).
- Macrorhamphus griseus griseus*, Dowitcher. Regular continuously, May 10 to Aug. 20 (Lido and Jones Beach).

Tringa canutus, Knot. Aug. 12 (Point Lookout); Aug. 20 (Jones Beach).
Pisobia fuscicollis, White-rumped Sandpiper. Aug. 20 (Jones Beach).
Pisobia minutilla, Least Sandpiper. Last record, Sept. 20 (Jones Beach).
Pelidna alpina sakhalina, Red-backed Sandpiper. June 19 (Lido—one).
Ereunetes pusillus, Semipalmated Sandpiper. Last record, Oct. 20 (Jones Beach).
Ereunetes mauri, Western Sandpiper. Sept. 20 (Jones Beach).
Calidris leucophaea, Sanderling. Last date, Nov. 1 (Atlantic Beach).
Totanus melanoleucus, Greater Yellow-legs. Apr. 20, 1929 (Woodmere) to Oct. 11 (Woodmere).
Totanus flavipes, Lesser Yellow-legs. Aug. 20 to Oct. 26 (Jones Beach).
Actitis macularia, Spotted Sandpiper. Apr. 8, 1929 (Woodmere) to Aug. 22 (Atlantic Beach).
Squatarola squatarola, Black-bellied Plover. Last record, Sept. 11 (Oakwood Beach).
Oxyechus vociferus, Killdeer. Several records: Dec. 26 (Valley Stream) to Feb. 2, 1931 (Hempstead).
Aegialitis semipalmata, Semipalmated Plover. Last record, Sept. 20 (Jones Beach).
Aegialitis meloda, Piping Plover. Last record, Aug. 22 (Atlantic Beach). Several nests with eggs, May 27 to June 19 (Lido).
Arenaria interpres morinella, Ruddy Turnstone. Last record, Sept. 11 (Oakwood Beach).
Colinus virginianus, Bobwhite. June 19, 1929; Apr. 26 (Rosedale); Dec. 9 (Woodmere).
Phasianus torquatus, Ring-necked Pheasant. June 9, 1929 (Philadelphia).
Zenaidura macroura carolinensis, Mourning Dove. Nov. 1 (Atlantic Beach); Feb. 15, 1931 (Patchogue); Feb. 28, 1931 (Woodmere—2).
Cathartes aura septentrionalis, Turkey Vulture. Apr. 7, 1929 (Woodmere); July 8 (Lake-wood); Sept. 4 (Woodmere—one).
Circus hudsonius, Marsh Hawk. March 31, 1929 (Woodmere); Jan. 31, 1931 (Jones Beach); Feb. 14 and 15, 1931 (Montauk).
Accipiter velox, Sharp-shinned Hawk. May 2, 1929 (Woodmere); Aug. 30 and Oct. 4 (Woodmere); Jan. 17, 1931 (Woodmere—one).
Accipiter cooperi, Cooper Hawk. Dec. 17, 1929 (Woodmere); Jan. 15 (Woodmere); Mar. 17, 1931 (Woodmere).
Buteo borealis, Red-tailed Hawk. Mar. 28 (Woodmere); Oct. 11 (Woodmere); Nov. 23 (Woodmere).
Buteo lineatus, Red-shouldered Hawk. Dec. 7, 1929 (Woodmere); Apr. 13 (Woodmere).
Buteo platypterus, Broad-winged Hawk. July 8 (Lakewood).
Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis, Rough-legged Hawk. Dec. 26 (Jones Beach—2); Dec. 31 (Jones Beach—1); Feb. 14 and 15, 1931 (Montauk); Mar. 4, 1931 (Woodmere).
Falco peregrinus anatum, Duck Hawk. Sept. 20 (Jones Beach—one); Sept. 27 (Jones Beach); Oct. 6 (Woodmere).
Falco columbarius, Pigeon Hawk. Feb. 2 (Jones Beach); Sept. 20 (Jones Beach—2); Sept. 27 (Jones Beach—one); Oct. 12 (Woodmere—4); Oct. 20 (Woodmere—one); Nov. 2 (Jones Beach—one); Nov. 12 (Woodmere—one).
Falco sparverius, Sparrow Hawk. Common throughout year. Feb. 13—Dec. 24, 1929 (Woodmere); Jan. 2—Dec. 26 (Woodmere).
Pandion haliaetus carolinensis, Osprey. Apr. 14, 1929 (Woodmere).
Aluco pratincola, Barn Owl. May 3 (Woodmere).
Asio wilsonianus, Long-eared Owl. Feb. 24, 1929 (Woodmere—one picked up dead); Dec. 9 (Woodmere—2); Jan. 1, 1931 (Valley Stream State Park—one); Jan. 11, 1931 (probably same bird as last; found dead).
Asio flammeus, Short-eared Owl. Oct. 26 (Jones Beach—one); Jan. 4, 1931 (Lido).
Cryptoglaux acadica, Saw-whet Owl. Nov. 9, 1929 (Woodmere—one); Mar. 6 (Far Rock-away—1).
Otus asio, Screech Owl. June 13, 1929; Feb. 6 (Woodmere—1); Mar. 3 (Woodmere).
Bubo virginianus, Great-horned Owl. Feb. 15, 1931 (Montauk—one).
Coccyzus americanus, Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Last record, Oct. 11 (Woodmere).
Coccyzus erythrophthalmus, Black-billed Cuckoo. May 19, 1929 (Woodmere); Aug. 28 (Woodmere).
Ceryle alcyon, Belted Kingfisher. Feb. 1 (Oceanside); Jan. 8, 1931 (Woodmere); Feb. 15, 1931 (Shinnecock).
Dryobates villosus, Hairy Woodpecker. Jan. 12, 1929 (Woodmere).
Dryobates pubescens medianus, Downy Woodpecker. Occurs commonly throughout year.
Sphyrapicus varius, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Last record, Oct. 1 (Woodmere).
Melanerpes erythrocephalus, Red-headed Woodpecker. Sept. 16, 1929 (Woodmere).
Colaptes auratus luteus, Flicker. Dec. 26 (Lawrence Beach); Jan. 29, 1931 (Lawrence Beach); Feb. 15, 1931 (Montauk).
Antrostomus vociferus, Whippoorwill. Aug. 28 (Woodmere—one).
Chordeiles virginianus, Nighthawk. Last record, Nov. 12 (Woodmere).
Chaetura pelagica, Chimney Swift. Apr. 27, 1929 (Woodmere); Last record, Sept. 4 (Woodmere).

- Archilochus colubris*, Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Last record, Sept. 26 (Woodmere).
Tyrannus tyrannus, Kingbird. Last record, Aug. 30 (Woodmere).
Myiarchus crinitus, Crested Flycatcher. Apr. 21, 1929 (Woodmere); Last record, Aug. 28 (Woodmere).
Sayornis phoebe, Phoebe. Mar. 22, 1929 (Woodmere); Oct. 11 (Woodmere).
Empidonax flaviventris, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. May 9 (Woodmere).
Empidonax virescens, Acadian Flycatcher. June 9, 1929 (Philadelphia).
Empidonax traillii alborum, Alder Flycatcher. Sept. 10 (Central Park).
Otocoris alpestris alpestris, Horned Lark. Common in winter. Nov. 1 (Atlantic Beach) to Feb. 12 (Lido) and March 4, 1931 (Woodmere).
Cyanocitta cristata, Blue Jay. Very common throughout year.
Corvus brachyrhynchos, Crow. Very common throughout year.
Corvus ossifragus, Fish Crow. Fairly common in summer. Mar. 12, 1929 (Woodmere).
Dolichonyx oryzivorus, Bobolink. May, 1929 (Woodmere); July 2 (Oyster Bay).
Molothrus ater, Cowbird. Dec. 28, 1929 (Woodmere); Feb. 14 and 15, 1931 (Montauk—one hundred and fifty).
Agelaius phoeniceus, Red-winged Blackbird. Jan. 2, 1929 (Woodmere); Jan. 10, 1931 (Rose-dale).
Sturnella magna, Meadowlark. Common throughout year.
Icterus galbula, Baltimore Oriole. May 5, 1929 (Woodmere).
Euphagus carolinus, Rusty Blackbird. Apr. 21, 1929 (Woodmere).
Carpodacus purpureus, Purple Finch. Last record, Nov. 8 (Central Park).
Loxia curvirostra minor, American Crossbill. April 21, 1929 to May 8, 1929 (Woodmere); several pairs remaining in small conifer grove).
Loxia leucoptera, White-winged Crossbill. Jan. 15, 1923 (Cedarhurst—a pair).
Acanthis linaria linaria, Redpoll. Feb. 12, 1929 (Woodmere—large flock).
Astragalinus tristis, Goldfinch. Fairly common throughout year. Jan. 2 to Dec. 26 (Woodmere).
Plectrophenax nivalis, Snowflake. Fairly common on beaches in winter. Nov. 1 (Atlantic Beach) to Feb. 22, 1931 (Lido—five hundred).
Poocetes gramineus, Vesper Sparrow. Jan 8, 1931 (Woodmere).
Passerculus princeps, Ipswich Sparrow. Feb. 1 (Pt. Lookout—one bird in song).
Passerculus sandwichensis savanna, Savanna Sparrow. Feb. 2 (Pt. Lookout—five).
Ammodramus savannarum australis, Grasshopper Sparrow. May 16, 1929 (Woodmere); June 20 (Woodmere—nest with five eggs).
Passerherbulus nelsoni nelsoni, Nelson's Sparrow. Oct. 10 (Woodmere—one).
Zonotrichia leucophrys, White-crowned Sparrow. May 15 (Woodmere).
Zonotrichia albicollis, White-throated Sparrow. Common winter resident; abundant transient, Sept. 26 (Woodmere) to May 16 (Woodmere).
Spizella monticola, Tree Sparrow. Common winter resident. Nov. 1 (Atlantic Beach) to Apr. 6 (Woodmere).
Spizella passerina, Chipping Sparrow. Mar. 26, 1929 (Woodmere).
Spizella pusilla, Field Sparrow. Jan. 1, 1931 (Woodmere).
Junco hyemalis, Slate-colored Junco. Common winter resident. Oct. 1 (Woodmere) to Apr. 26 (Woodmere).
Melospiza melodia, Song Sparrow. Very common throughout year. Jan. 1 to Dec. 26 (Woodmere).
Melospiza lincolni, Lincoln's Sparrow. May 3, 1929 (Woodmere).
Melospiza georgiana, Swamp Sparrow. Jan. 1, 1931 (Valley Stream State Park).
Passerella iliaca, Fox Sparrow. Jan. 8, 1931 (Woodmere).
Pipilo erythrophthalmus, Towhee. Jan. 2 (Woodmere).
Cardinalis cardinalis, Cardinal. June 9, 1929 (Philadelphia).
Passerina cyanea, Indigo Bunting. May 20, 1929 (Woodmere).
Piranga erythromelas, Scarlet Tanager. Last record, Oct. 2 (Woodmere).
Piranga rubra, Summer Tanager. Sept. 10 (Central Park—one).
Progne subis, Purple Martin. June 29 (Smithtown, L. I.).
Petrochelidon lunifrons, Cliff Swallow. July 8 (Lakewood, N. J.).
Hirundo erythrogastra, Barn Swallow. April 20, 1929 (Woodmere).
Iridoprocne bicolor, Tree Swallow. Nov. 1 (Atlantic Beach).
Riparia riparia, Bank Swallow. May 10, 1929; Aug. 12 (Lido).
Stelgidopteryx serripennis, Rough-winged Swallow. June 25 (Van Cortlandt Park—several with young).
Bombycilla cedrorum, Cedar Waxwings. Mar. 4, 1929 (Woodmere); Last record, Oct. 2 (Woodmere).
Lanius borealis, Northern Shrike. No 1929 records. Many records winter of 1930-31: Dec. 26 (Jones Beach—one, and Massapequa—one); Jan. 1, 1931 (Woodmere); Jan. 2, 1931 (Jones Beach); Jan. 10 (Rosedale); Mar. 15 (Woodmere); Nov. 2, 1930 (Jones Beach).

- Lanius ludovicianus migrans*, Migrant Shrike. Apr. 20 (Norwalk, Conn.); Aug. 20 (Jones Beach); Sept. 11 (Oakwood Beach).
- Vireosylva olivacea*, Red-eyed Vireo. May 7, 1929 (Woodmere); last record, Sept. 26 (Woodmere).
- Vireosylva philadelphia*, Philadelphia Vireo. Aug. 29 (Central Park—one); Sept. 12 (Central Park—one).
- Vireosylva gilva*, Warbling Vireo. May 21 (Van Cortlandt Park).
- Lanius flavifrons*, Yellow-throated Vireo. June 9, 1929 (Philadelphia).
- Lanius solitarius*, Blue-headed Vireo. Apr. 21, 1929 (Woodmere).
- Vireo griseus*, White-eyed Vireo. Apr. 21, 1929 (Woodmere); last record, Sept. 18 (Woodmere).
- Mniotilta varia*, Black and White Warbler. April 21, 1929 (Woodmere); last record, Oct. 2 (Woodmere).
- Helmitheros vermivorus*, Worm-eating Warbler. June 9, 1929 (Philadelphia).
- Vermivora chrysoptera*, Golden-winged Warbler. May 4, 1929 (Woodmere—two); several other records in May, 1929.
- Vermivora rubricapilla*, Nashville Warbler. May 8, 1929 (Woodmere).
- Vermivora celata*, Orange-crowned Warbler. Sept. 15 (Central Park—one).
- Compothlypis americana usnae*, Northern Parula Warbler. Last record, Sept. 17 (Central Park) and Oct 2 (Woodmere).
- Dendroica tigrina*, Cape May Warbler. Aug. 25 (Central Park); Sept. 4 (Woodmere).
- Dendroica caerulescens*, Black-throated Blue Warbler. Last record, Sept. 26 (Woodmere).
- Dendroica coronata*, Myrtle Warbler. Common throughout year except between May 17 and Oct. 5, when its was entirely absent.
- Dendroica magnolia*, Magnolia Warbler. Last date, Oct. 5 (Woodmere).
- Dendroica castanea*, Bay-breasted Warbler. May 12, 1929 (Woodmere); last date, Sept. 18 (Woodmere).
- Dendroica virens*, Black-throated Green Warbler. Last record, Oct. 11 (Woodmere).
- Dendroica vigorsii*, Pine Warbler. Apr. 7, 1929 (Woodmere); Aug. 29 (Central Park).
- Dendroica palmarum palmarum*, Palm Warbler. Sept. 10 (Central Park); Oct. 10 (Rosedale).
- Seiurus aurocapillus*, Ovenbird. Apr. 28, 1929 (Woodmere); Oct. 2 (Woodmere).
- Seiurus motacilla*, Louisiana Water Thrush. Aug. 9 (Woodmere).
- Oporornis formosus*, Kentucky Warbler. June 9, 1929 (Philadelphia).
- Oporornis philadelphia*, Mourning Warbler. Oct. 2 (Woodmere—one found dead).
- Geothlypis trichas*, Maryland Yellowthroat. Apr. 25, 1929 (Woodmere).
- Icteria virens*, Yellow-breasted Chat. June 9, 1929 (Philadelphia).
- Wilsonia citrina*, Hooded Warbler. May 11, 1928 (Woodmere).
- Wilsonia pusilla*, Wilson's Warbler. Aug. 25 (Central Park).
- Wilsonia canadensis*, Canada Warbler. Last date, Sept. 12 (Central Park).
- Anthus rubescens*, Pipit. Dec. 26, 1930 (Woodmere).
- Dumetella carolinensis*, Catbird. Apr. 30, 1929 (Woodmere); Dec. 16-31 (Woodmere); Feb. 22, 1931 (Hempstead).
- Toxostoma rufum*, Brown Thrasher. Apr. 21, 1929 (Woodmere); Feb. 12, 1931 (Woodmere); also seen during the following week; Feb. 14, 1931 (Montauk).
- Thryothorus ludovicianus*, Carolina Wren. Feb. 9, 1929 (Woodmere); Nov. 30 (Woodmere—one singing).
- Troglodytes aedon*, House Wren. Apr. 21, 1929 (Woodmere).
- Nannus hyemalis*, Winter Wren. May 4 (Woodmere); Dec. 26 (Woodmere); Jan. 8, 1931 (Woodmere).
- Cistothorus stellaris*, Short-billed Marsh Wren. Oct. 3 (Woodmere—one observed in a perfectly dry field and apparently migrating, for there is no breeding colony in the vicinity).
- Telmodytes palustris*, Long-billed Marsh Wren. June 29, 1929 (Woodmere).
- Certhia familiaris americana*, Brown Creeper. Jan. 12, 1929 (Woodmere); Feb. 22 (Woodmere); Mar. 23 (Norwalk, Conn.).
- Sitta carolinensis*, White-breasted Nuthatch. Jan. 2, 1929 (Woodmere); Feb. 12 (Woodmere); Dec. 26 (Woodmere); Jan. 14, 1931 (Woodmere).
- Sitta canadensis*, Red-breasted Nuthatch. Apr. 29, 1929 (Woodmere); Aug. 10 (Central Park); Dec. 26 (Massapequa).
- Baculophus bicolor*, Tufted Titmouse. June 9, 1929 (Philadelphia).
- Parus atricapillus*, Chickadee. Common permanent resident. Jan. 1 (Woodmere) and Dec. 26 (Woodmere).
- Regulus satrapa*, Golden-crowned Kinglet. Common chiefly as a fall transient, but present throughout winter; arrives in fall on Oct. 2 (Woodmere).
- Planesticus migratorius*, Robin. Jan. 2 (Atlantic Beach); Jan. 13 (Woodmere); Jan. 27, 1931 (Woodmere).
- Sialis sialis*, Bluebird. Mar. 25, 1930 (Norwalk, Conn.); Mar. 26, 1929 (Oyster Bay); June 25 (Van Cortlandt Park).

REPORT OF THE SPRING MIGRATION 1930.
WOODMERE AND THE VICINITY.

Name of Species	Date First Observed	Name of Species	Date First Observed
Pied-billed Grebe	April 26	Savannah Sparrow	April 7
Laughing Gull	April 26	Grasshopper Sparrow	May 17
Bonaparte's Gull	May 17	Sharp-tailed Sparrow	April 27
Common Tern	May 22	Seaside Sparrow	April 27
Least Tern	May 10	White-crowned Sparrow	May 15
Double-crested Cormorant	May 17	Chipping Sparrow	April 9
Baldpate	May 4	Field Sparrow	March 17
Canada Goose	March 26	Swamp Sparrow	March 28
American Bittern	March 26	Fox Sparrow	March 1
Green Heron	April 22	Towhee	April 29
Great Blue Heron	April 10	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	May 6
Black-crowned Night Heron	March 27	Indigo Bunting	June 18
Clapper Rail	May 11	Scarlet Tanager	May 8
Virginia Rail	May 11	Barn Swallow	April 24
Florida Gallinule	April 26	Tree Swallow	April 27
Woodcock	March 19	Bank Swallow	May 18
Wilson's Snipe	April 27	Cedar Waxwing	March 19
Dowitcher	May 10	Red-eyed Vireo	May 11
Knot	June 1	Blue-headed Vireo	May 3
Least Sandpiper	May 2	White-eyed Vireo	May 4
Pectoral Sandpiper	May 10	Black and White Warbler	April 27
Red-backed Sandpiper	May 11	Blue-winged Warbler	May 3
Semipalmated Sandpiper	May 10	Nashville Warbler	May 5
Sanderling	May 10	Tennessee Warbler	May 16
Greater Yellowlegs	April 26	Northern Parula Warbler	May 3
Solitary Sandpiper	May 20	Yellow Warbler	May 3
Spotted Sandpiper	April 29	Black-throated Blue Warbler	May 3
Black-bellied Plover	May 10	Magnolia Warbler	May 6
Killdeer	March 26	Chestnut-sided Warbler	May 4
Semipalmated Plover	May 10	Bay-breasted Warbler	May 15
Piping Plover	May 2	Blackpoll Warbler	May 15
Ruddy Turnstone	May 8	Blackburnian Warbler	May 5
Mourning Dove	March 21	Black-throated Green Warbler	April 27
Osprey	March 29	Yellow Palm Warbler	April 20
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	May 16	Prairie Warbler	May 3
Black-billed Cuckoo	May 26	Ovenbird	April 30
Kingfisher	March 22	Water-Thrush	May 3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	April 19	Louisiana Water-Thrush	April 20
Flicker	March 17	Maryland Yellow-throat	April 21
Nighthawk	May 17	Yellow-breasted Chat	May 8
Chimney Swift	May 1	Wilson's Warbler	May 5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	April 25	Canadian Warbler	May 3
Kingbird	May 1	Redstart	May 8
Crested Flycatcher	May 8	Pipit	March 12
Phoebe	April 5	Catbird	May 3
Wood Pewee	May 22	Brown Thrasher	April 26
Least Flycatcher	May 16	Carolina Wren	March 8
Fish Crow	February 22	House Wren	April 30
Cowbird	March 24	Long-billed Marsh Wren	May 17
Red-winged Blackbird	March 1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	April 21
Baltimore Oriole	May 7	Wood Thrush	May 1
Rusty Blackbird	April 29	Veery	May 3
Purple Grackle	March 1	Gray-cheeked Thrush	May 26
Purple Finch	March 26	Olive-backed Thrush	May 17
Vesper Sparrow	April 5	Hermit Thrush	April 13
		Robin	March 7

SHORT ARTICLES

ABNORMAL WINTER RECORDS. A large number of birds, which are usually found only as summer residents or as transients, spent the winter of 1930 in this vicinity. Among the interesting species we have found wintering are: Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Kingfisher, Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Grackle, Vesper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Catbird, and Brown Thrasher. A Catbird spent a large part of the winter in Mr. Harrower's back-yard, while another of this species was observed at the Hempstead Reservoir on February 22. The sparrows, which were in one flock together with a large number of Tree Sparrows, appeared in Woodmere only during the colder weather. Killdeers have been observed in several localities on different occasions. They have been seen at Valley Stream State Park, Hempstead State Park, and at Woodmere Bay. Several Black-crowned Night Herons appeared to be spending the winter in Woodmere but near the end of January they disappeared and did not return during the remainder of the winter. Others were later observed near Amityville on February 15. Many of the wintering birds were seen on a trip to Montauk Point on February 14 and 15. Some of these were: Great Blue Heron, Mourning Dove, Kingfisher, Cowbird, and Grackle. A flock of about one hundred and fifty Cowbirds was seen at Montauk. The Great Blue Herons and Mourning Doves were seen near Patchogue and a Kingfisher and a Grackle near Shinnecock. A Brown Thrasher, first observed in Woodmere on February 12, was joined by another on February 20 and remained until March 19.—*Robert Berliner.*

RED PHALAROPE AT ATLANTIC BEACH. The morning of June 16, 1929 found us tramping along the level shore of Atlantic Beach. The day was fair and clear with light winds. Soft, white clouds floated lightly in the blue sky, while overhead graceful gulls wheeled and glided about. Small "peeps" ran along the water's edge and as the glistening waves rolled up the beach they pecked and jabbed about in the wet sand, searching for insects.

While we were walking along the shore we discovered a larger shore-bird feeding near a small tidal pool. We approached this snipe cautiously and were surprised to find that, instead of flying or even running away, it calmly continued probing in the sand. It was a full plumaged female Red Phalarope, its whitish cheeks, mottled back, and russet breast showing clearly in the sparkling sunlight. This species, although not so graceful nor so delicate as either the Northern or Wilson's, was equally as beautiful. In the afternoon of the same day this rare phalarope became exceedingly wary, while in the morning the bird came within twenty-five feet of us and showed no signs of fear.—*Daniel Berolzheimer.*

SAW WHET OWL AT FAR ROCKAWAY. On coming back from Long Beach on March 6, 1930, Dad thought we might look in a grove of cedars for some kind of owl. He stopped the car and we got out and walked slowly towards the grove. Just as we were entering, there, on a stump about six feet high, sat a tiny owl. Dad called it a Saw Whet and when we got back to the house we looked at our bird plates and made sure. I wanted to have it for a pet, so we took the butterfly net back with

us. The owl had flown from the post into the bushes. Dad went around to the other side and caught it in the net. He did not try to bite or scratch us, but clicked his bill as though to warn us not to hurt him.—*David D. Harrower.*

A TRIP TO VAN CORTLANDT PARK. On May 21, 1930 the Bird Club made a trip to Van Cortlandt Park in New York City. We arrived at the park at about five in the afternoon, and, although the weather was bad and it was raining almost all the time, we remained until about eight in the evening. The results of the day were good, since we observed thirty-six species, several of which were new to us.

Van Cortlandt Park is well-wooded and includes areas of marshland, as is shown by the birds we found there. We had come to the Park especially to see the Wood Ducks, which had been reported from that place recently and we were more than gratified to observe from ten to twenty of them.

As we reached the park, a pair of these rare and beautiful ducks flushed from a large marsh on our right and, after flying rapidly for a short distance, they landed. During our walk through the woods to the swamp, we noticed several more Wood Ducks flying overhead, silhouetted against the dark grey of the sky. Throughout the afternoon we saw them many times, and our last memory of the trip is of a single duck flying high over the athletic fields near the station. We made our way into the woods and soon after entering, we heard a peculiar call, as if someone were knocking on an iron pipe, the characteristic *kingt, kingt, kingt*, of the King Rail. We listened for several minutes and then, as the rain began to fall heavily, we took shelter in the railroad station.

When the storm had slightly abated, we walked down the railroad tracks that ran the length of the Park. The swamp, which was on both sides of the tracks, was a wonderful place for birds and I believe we would have seen many more species if the rain had stopped.

Another good record on that day was that of the Rough-winged Swallow. We observed several of these birds flying over a small pond, on one side of the tracks, together with Barn Swallows, Chimney Swifts, and one or two Tree Swallows.

On that day we also learned the beautiful songs of the Veery and of the Warbling Vireo, as well as the call of the Virginia Rail, which came loudly from the marshlands nearby.

Sora Rails, Yellow-throated Vireos, and a Least Bittern had been reported from the Park before our visit, but we missed these species on our trip. However, beside the birds already mentioned, we observed the following: Black Duck, Mallard, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Bobwhite, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Kingbird, Chimney Swift, Blue Jay, American Crow, Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Purple Grackle, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Maryland Yellowthroat, Northern Water Thrush, Catbird, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Wood Thrush, Robin, and House Sparrow.

Although this list may seem small for the twenty-first of May, it is noteworthy that such birds, including some very rare species, can be observed in the center of the largest city of the world.—*Howard Vogel, Jr.*

REDPOLLS. Redpolls have been seen by us on only two occasions in Woodmere. These were observed on two successive days, February 12 and 13, 1929.

It was a cold blustery afternoon as Roy Barnett and I set out for the woods the first day. We came to a path which is lined on both sides by long rows of stately White Birches, while on one side a stream mirrors the forms of these graceful trees. We had not followed the path for more than a minute before we saw that the birches

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on the right side were literally covered with small rosy birds. They were busily eating the seeds from the catkins, and were not in the least disturbed by our presence.

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We lay down on the ground to watch these rare birds, and estimated that there were a hundred birds in the three trees in which they fed. They would flit about the trees selecting choice catkins and occasionally uttering sharp notes. As they maneuvered about the catkins they would perform spritely acrobatics resembling those of the Chickadee. At frequent intervals some would circle away, but would soon return.

As the afternoon progressed the Redpolls became accustomed to our presence, and we were thus able to approach within three feet of some of them.

As the winter evening came on, we were forced to leave on account of darkness, but on the following day another party returned and saw the birds. No positive record of these wanderers has been secured here since that date.—*Richard Weil*.

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A SHRIKE WAVE. During the past winter a large number of Northern Shrikes have appeared. Except for a few observed in the winter of 1922, no Shrikes had been seen in this vicinity until this winter. This year, however, we have recorded them repeatedly and have observed as many as ten on a single trip. Scarcely a day in the field has passed without our seeing one or more Northern Shrikes. The majority of the birds have been in the immature plumage, with a dark brownish wash over the feathers and with the black mask almost obscured. Their numbers have been so great as to practically wipe out a colony of wintering Myrtle Warblers at Long Beach. On December 28, Mr. Harrower went to Point Lookout where he found a large number of Myrtles in the bayberry patches. On February 22 we again visited Point Lookout and found only two Myrtle Warblers alive. Several were found dead, impaled upon twigs of the bayberry bushes, mute evidence of the slaughter performed by the Shrikes.—*Robert Berliner*.

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NORTHERN PHALAROPES IN MAINE. On August 21, 1930 we observed several Northern Phalaropes from the schooner "Grayling" while on a trip among the islands of Penobscot Bay. On that day we were sailing off Spruce Head when we saw, thru the fore rigging, four small plover-like birds bobbing about near a bunch of seaweed some distance ahead. We guided the boat near them and after slowing the engine we studied the light-winged birds with our glasses. These snipe were male Northern Phalaropes, a species not observed previously this far up the bay. As we approached, one of the delicate birds opened its wings as if to fly, but then closed them and continued pecking at the seaweed, which evidently contained food of some sort. While we watched these lovely shorebirds, an immature Bonaparte's Gull flew by the schooner and landed in the water next to them. We studied the dainty swimmers for a little while and then headed the boat out into the channel and continued down the bay towards Vinal Haven. We saw two other Phalaropes, also males, near Mullens Head, North Haven.—*Daniel Berolzheimer*.

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NELSON'S SPARROW IN WOODMERE. On October 10, 1930, while we were watching a Redhead Duck on Woodmere Bay, our attention was attracted by a sparrow running over the close-cropped grass of the golf course which skirts the water. It was exceedingly tame and approached within five yards of us. It moved about on the matted sea-weed at the edge of the water and then flew up the shore. We followed and watched it for about ten minutes. The bright orange markings on the side of the head and the obscure streaks on the breast proved it to be unmistakably a Nelson's Sparrow. All the observers were well acquainted with the Sharp-tailed Sparrow, a bird that the Nelson's closely resembles.—*Benjamin Berliner*.

THE CLUB'S CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

(Reprinted from *Bird Lore*, Jan.-Feb., 1931)

Southeastern Nassau County, Long Island, N. Y. (Jones Beach and Wantagh to Long Beach and Valley Stream).—Dec. 26, 7 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Heavy clouds and intermittent rains all day; wind light, if any; temperature, maximum 36 degrees, minimum, 34 degrees. Holboell's Grebe, 4; Horned Grebe, 1; Common Loon, 2; Black-backed Gull, 95; Herring Gull, 9500; Red-breasted Merganser, 5; Mallard, 3; Black Duck, 150; Baldpate, 8; Pintail, 5; Canvasback, 1; Scaup Duck, 37; White-winged Scoter, 500; Ruddy Duck, 1; Canada Goose, 10; Black-crowned Night Heron, 2; Coot, 1; Killdeer, 3; Marsh Hawk, 1; Buteo (species?), 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Flicker, 3; Horned Lark, 110; Blue Jay, 21; Crow, 70; Starling, 180; Meadowlark, 10; Goldfinch, 3; Snowflake, 150; Savannah Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 40; Tree Sparrow, 50; Field Sparrow, 1; Junco, 26; Song Sparrow, 30; Swamp Sparrow, 26; Fox Sparrow, 1; Northern Shrike, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 70; Pipit, 1; Catbird, 1; Winter Wren, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Chickadee, 12; Robin, 1. Also House Sparrow.

Total, 48 species; 11,243 individuals.

The rough-legged Hawks were observed at distances of fifty yards and one hundred yards respectively, with 12X binoculars. They were both to be seen at the same time, when flying and when perched. The Catbird has remained about the house of one of the observers for about three weeks.—D. D. BEROLZHEIMER, D. D. and D. E. HARROWER, T. and H. H. VOGEL, R. N. BARNETT, R. WEIL, R. ARBIB, B. C. and R. W. BERLINER (Bird Club of Woodmere Academy).

CLUB NOTES

The Club wishes to express its deep appreciation of the generosity of the Parents' and Teachers' Association of the Woodmere Academy, which has made the publication of this annual possible.

Four members of the Club: Roy Barnett, Robert Berliner, Richard Weil, and Benjamin Berliner, worked at the American Museum of Natural History during the summer.

Henry M. Stern, a former member of the Club, has sent several interesting communications concerning birds and butterflies in Texas, California, and Florida.

The Club has held nineteen meetings in the year 1930. The attendance at the majority of these meetings has been one-hundred per cent.

Daniel and A. Finlay Berolzheimer spent their vacation at Penobscot Bay on the Maine Coast. They had an excellent opportunity to observe the waterfowl of this most interesting region. Howard and Thomas Vogel were at Westport, Connecticut.

An interesting excerpt from the minutes of the Club: "March 25. One Harlequin Duck, Woodmere Bay. *Not seen.*" (The observer was *not* a Club member, and the "duck" was a highly painted wooden decoy).

Mr. Harrower and his family were in northern New Hampshire during July and August, and toured through Maine in September. They recorded many birds, including Pileated Woodpeckers, Ravens, Canada Jays, Olive-sided, Alder, and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers.

There was much excitement when one of the members arrived on his bicycle with a huge goose, after a laborious trip from Atlantic Beach. Unfortunately, it was of the domestic variety.

The Club room in Dr. Barnett's cellar has proved to be most comfortable, and has been well decorated with pictures of birds, and provided with books and magazines on the subject of ornithology. The oil-burner makes an excellent neighbor, particularly in winter.

"Iggy," a pet Herring Gull, picked up almost dying on the beach, and fed on bacon filched from the larders of various parents, eventually became too expensive a luxury. He was therefore traded to a gullible young naturalist for two dollars, a pair of Guinea pigs, and Studer's "Birds of North America." The Guinea pigs died, Studer was added to the Club library, but the editor does not know what became of the two dollars.

On several occasions this past summer members of the Club have accompanied Mr. Frank E. Watson, of the American Museum of Natural History, on trips in the field. From him they have received much instruction and real inspiration.

Finally, the Club wishes to thank Mr. Winston B. Stephens, Headmaster of the Woodmere Academy, for his unflinching support.



ROSEDALE POND

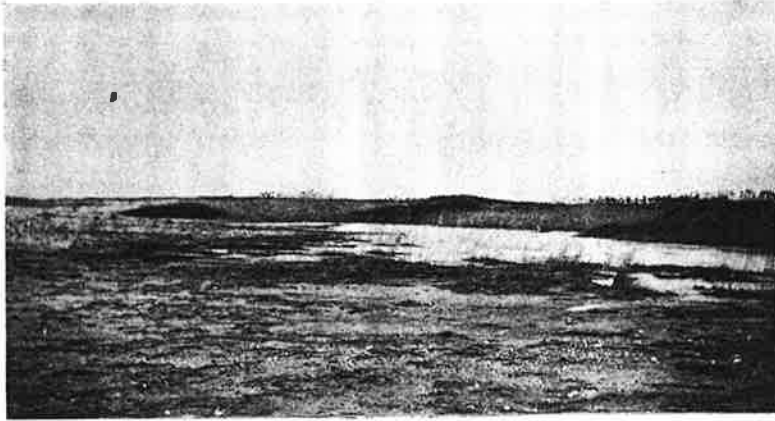


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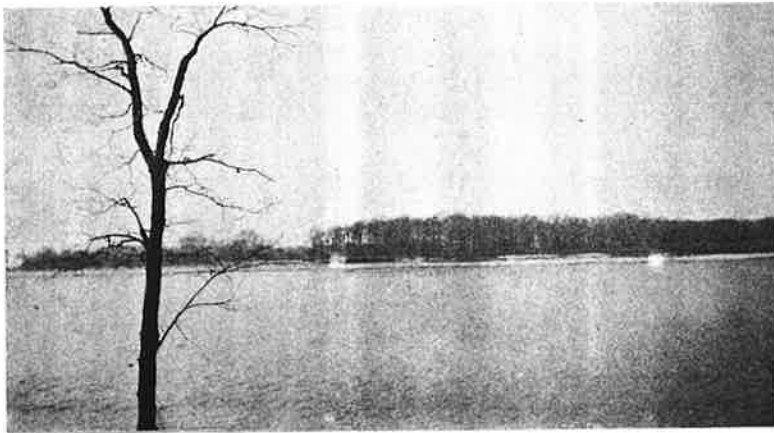


"TEAL STREAM"
WOODMERE

Photos by DANIEL BEROLZHEIMER



THE LIDO FLATS



DUCKS ON HEMPSTEAD RESERVOIR



GAME SANCTUARY AT BROOKHAVEN

Photos by DAVID D. HARROWER