CHANGES IN THE STATUS OF CERTAIN BIRDS IN THE NEW YORK CITY REGION.

BY LUDLOW GRISCOM.

To anyone who specializes in the birds of a limited area or "local region," the first stage almost invariably consists in intensive effort to find locally as many of the recorded species as possible—in the technical jargon of the day to acquire as large a local list as possible. This very natural interest tends to stress unduly the importance of very rare, casual or accidental visitants, but has its value in affording an incentive to steady field work, which might perhaps otherwise be lacking. After about twenty years the inevitable law of diminishing returns tends to remove this incentive. It is at this stage that the student may suddenly realize that he has seen very little of a certain species in recent years, or that he is finding some other species far more often than he used to. These changes in the status of various local birds are of far greater importance and interest than records of casual visitants. They cannot be authenticated without a background of many years' field experience, without carefully kept records of numbers seen and heard in all those years, and without availing oneself of the experience of as many others as possible, to eliminate the element of coincidence or luck. Some of the factors which must be discounted before definitely predicating the increase of any given species would seem to be as follows:

1. As the beginner acquires experience and field ability he constantly sees more species and greater numbers.
2. An increase of field activity must be discounted.
3. An increase in the total number of observers must be discounted.
4. More frequent visits to new localities, which afford more favorable habitats for a rare bird.
5. Temporary fluctuations in numbers as against a genuine increase.
6. Bias in favor of personal experience, at variance with that of more active observers.

7. Another point of psychology affects commoner species, in which the observer is less interested, and to which he pays less attention. A slight increase or decrease is not noted until after a considerable lapse of time.

8. Absence of definite information as to the status of a bird in the past.

Assuming, however, that every possible factor has been allowed for, there is no greater satisfaction in local bird-study than seeing some rare or partly extirpated species return in increasing numbers to its former haunts or to find some other bird, formerly regarded as casual, establish itself as a regular member of the avifauna. This has been the happy fortune of bird-lovers in the New York City Region. I positively rub my eyes with astonishment as I look back over my many years of field experience in this region and realize that since 1912 fifty species have completely altered their status, and that more than fifty percent of this change has taken place *in the last five years*, since the data for my 'Handbook' of the birds of this region were compiled.

Naturally no inquiry such as this would be complete without some attempt at defining the causes for so interesting a change. It is just here that we approach a problem of far greater scope than any local region, as all available external as well as internal evidence must be consulted, and our inquiry gradually broadens over the whole eastern United States and Canada. It is for this reason that this article is submitted to 'The Auk.' The reason why the Egret is now a regular summer visitor is in part because it has increased on its breeding grounds in the Southern States, and the reason why the Tennessee Warbler has ceased to be excessively rare is in part because of its increase as a summer resident in the northeastern part of its breeding range in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. It is apparent that local protection is of far less importance than general protection. No matter how attractive the Newark Meadows may be for Golden Plover, there would be none there unless there were Plover to come, and there could be no real increase in Plover unless they had increased in the "somewhere" from which they do come.

1. The international protection now accorded all migratory birds is undoubtedly the factor of primary importance, explaining the increase in Gulls, Terns, Anseres and Limicolae.

2. The special protection accorded certain species of these groups on their breeding grounds in federal or Audubon reservations.

3. The abolition of the millinery trade in native birds, and the illegality of possessing native song-birds as pets.

4. The adaptation on the part of certain species to an environment more or less changed for the worse, such as the Pileated Woodpecker.

5. Local extension of breeding range within the region, without any factors of adaptation or protection.

6. The increase of certain transients is due to an extension of their breeding range outside the region, without the factor of protection.

7. The increase of certain transients is due to a general increase of the species throughout its range, in spite of the fact that local conditions suited to its requirements may have steadily deteriorated. Thus certain shore-birds have markedly increased on the beaches near the City, in spite of the great deterioration of these beaches. It is commonly held that the increase of a transient locally is due to the development or extension of conditions suited to its requirements. This explanation does not apply to any bird in this region, so far as I know.

8. Change in migration route without any definitely assignable cause. (Evening Grosbeak; and see Ring-necked Duck beyond.)

The following list of species merely aims to summarize the change in status of each one of them, and when possible, a probable cause is suggested. Detailed records are not given where they have already been published either in 'The Auk,' 'Bird-Lore,' or 'The Proceedings' of the Linnaean Society of New York. I am greatly indebted to all the gentlemen mentioned by name for permission to use their records. It is hoped that this paper will prove of value and promote discussion or the publication of similar changes in other areas. The bird-life of adjoining areas may reasonably expect to benefit in time from some of the changes here recorded, if indeed it has not already done so. Similarly the New York City Region has already benefitted by the discovery of the Cerulean Warbler as a nesting species in Dutchess County, N. Y., as related beyond.

Finally another reason for putting these facts on record at the present time is as an act of justice. The increase of most of the species in the list below is fundamentally due to the men and organizations who are responsible for the aroused interest in conserving our birds, and for the legislation which has effectively protected them. It is the irony of fate that just at the time when their labors and vision are beginning to bear very definite fruit, they are being attacked, largely by perfectly sincere people whose field experience is so recent or so local that their relative incompetence and bias is patent. It is high time, therefore, that those who have definite and scientifically determined evidence of the effects of the conservation work in this country of the last fifty years came forward with that evidence. The great majority of them will have to be students of birds, not conservationists, and, like the writer, they may have no connection whatever with any organization or party in American conservation, nor any direct personal interest in it. I have already suggested certain requirements which would seem to be prerequisite for predicating the increase or decrease of any bird even locally. They are relatively severe, and it would seem to be apparent that only a specialist in bird-study could possibly fulfill them. In the last analysis definite information on the relative increase or decrease of any North American bird will rest, not on the *ex cathedra* statements of "lovers of wild life," but on the field work of the little army of field ornithologists in a multitude of "local regions," concerned solely with recording what they see. To those who would claim that this article is a biased and one-sided picture in that nothing is said about decreasing birds in the New York City Region, I would state that this phase of the question was fully treated in a special chapter of my 'Handbook,' and that no new evidence has accumulated since.

An abstract of this paper was presented at the 1925 meeting of the A. O. U. in New York City. Its publication was deferred on the chance that confirmatory data would become available, and this delay would seem to have been worthwhile.

Larus hyperboreus. GLAUCOUS GULL.—Now an uncommon but regular winter visitor to the salt waters of the region, no longer rare on the Sound, and frequently remaining until late May.

Larus leucopterus. ICELAND GULL.—Now a regular winter visitant, sometimes actually common, distinctly outnumbering the Glaucous Gull. It is also much more frequent than that species away from the ocean, and is frequently noticed in the Harbor, the Hudson River up to Dyckman Street and Newark Bay. Both these Gulls now occur almost every winter as far south as Barnegat Bay, N. J. Not only have these two Gulls greatly increased in the last twenty years, but half this increase has taken place in the past five years. The Iceland Gull was formerly much the rarer of the two, but is now decidedly the commoner and more generally distributed.

Larus atricilla. LAUGHING GULL.—The rapid increase of this species has been positively astounding in the last six years, and has been correlated with marked changes in habits and migration. One hundred years ago it was a common summer resident on the south shore of Long Island, last nesting in 1888. Twenty years ago it was a very rare spring transient, but regular in fall from July to early September in Long Island waters. It is now a common spring transient, and exceedingly abundant in fall, remaining in numbers until the middle of November, and stragglers lingering until Christmas. It is a common Harbor bird, swarming up the River as far as Haverstraw Bay, and even ascending as far as Dutchess County. In the Sound it is nothing to see 1000–1500 in the course of a day. Oddly enough it is now less common on the south shore of Long Island than anywhere else in the region.

Sterna caspia. CASPIAN TERN.—The discovery of a flourishing colony of this splendid Tern in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the protection afforded it, undoubtedly account for its sudden reappearance as a transient in this region. In the last few years it has been noted every fall on Barnegat Bay (Urner and others). On May 30, 1925, one was seen flying east at Jones Beach, L. I. (Eaton, Johnson and Griscom), officially the second spring record for Long Island. In the fall of 1926 there was a marked flight of this species in August and early September along the south shore of Long Island. The number of individuals seen exceeded the sum total of all the previous records. No less than fourteen were seen on August 16 at Jones Beach (R. Friedmann), I saw three at the same place on September 4, and there were other records from Oak Island and Long Beach, L. I., and Barnegat Bay, N. J.

Sterna hirundo. COMMON TERN.—Now a common spring and abundant fall transient, remaining until early November. It is now of regular occurrence on the Sound, the Hudson River and Newark Bay. The breeding colony near Orient has grown to 5000 pairs (Latham and Leroy Wilcox).

Sterna forsteri. FORSTER'S TERN.—This species was put among the extinct and extirpated species in my 'Handbook,' as there were only five records for Long Island, and none for the preceding forty years. The statement that it is indistinguishable in life from the Common Tern in

the fall proves to be entirely incorrect, and will be discussed in another connection. With the general increase in Terns, thanks to protection, this species has now "come back," and must be classed as a late summer and fall visitor from the south. Mr. J. T. Nichols deserves the credit for working out the identification of this species in life. He positively identified one among Common Terns on the beach at Mastic, L. I., on September 3, 1923, saw another there on August 23, 1924, and three on August 23, 1925. By this time every active member of the Linnaean Society was on the lookout for it. Dr. W. T. Helmuth, Jr. independently detected it at Easthampton, L. I., and collected a specimen, which I have examined. Mr. Chas. A. Urner, fortified by careful study of the bird on its breeding grounds at Cobbs Island, Va., with me in 1924, discovered its presence early in August at both Barnegat Bay and Newark Bay, N. J., and it became common at both localities. Almost everybody went to one place or the other to see it, and promptly discovered its presence in their own locality. On Newark Bay it was first noted on August 9, last October 25, a maximum of 62 on September 19 and a specimen was collected, now in the American Museum. At Point Pleasant the maximum was 75 on August 30, and a specimen was collected near Manasquan Inlet on August 29. The species was also recorded from Dyker Heights, Brooklyn, Staten Island, and various localities on the Sound in Westchester County. A straggler at Manhattan Beach on December 26 (Hix and Nathan) ended this remarkable flight. In 1926 no examples were detected in this region except on Barnegat Bay (Urner). At the present writing (August 10, 1927) the first reports of the bird locally are beginning to come in. It is a reasonable inference that like the Egret a few birds occur every year, and that there are occasional flights, as in 1925, when far greater numbers are present. It is, however, not nearly so conspicuous as the Egret which can scarcely be overlooked, while the Forster's Tern is very easily overlooked, so that in poor years there may be no records at all.

Sterna dougalli. ROSEATE TERN.—This species has steadily increased, and is now a regular transient even at the western end of Long Island, sometimes positively common in fall. I have seen as many as forty in one day at Jones Beach and fifty at Montauk Point.

Sterna antillarum. LEAST TERN.—This Tern has also become a regular transient along the whole south shore of Long Island in the past five years. While its numbers have never been as large as those of the Roseate Tern, it has reëstablished itself as a summer resident, after an interval of forty-four years. In 1926 four pairs nested at Long Beach (discovered independently by several observers), and this year there were eight pairs in two separate colonies.

Chlidonias nigra surinamensis. BLACK TERN.—Formerly casual in spring, now recorded annually in spring as well as in fall. Inland records have also multiplied in the past few years.

Lophodytes cucullatus. HOODED MERGANSER.—Listed as a very

rare transient in my 'Handbook.' Now regular in spring and fall, with a scattering of early winter records every year. In the spring of 1926, there were numerous records from February 16 (L. N. Nichols) to May 16 at Boonton, N. J. (Carter).

Chaulelasmus streperus. GADWALL.—Listed as casual in my 'Handbook,' and recorded from Long Island only. Now a rare transient, but recorded in the region every year. Recorded almost every spring and fall on the Hudson in Dutchess County (Crosby and others), where it was previously unknown. On August 26, 1923, a drake in eclipse plumage was found on the "Pond" at Jones Beach with other Anatinae, and on September 2, two were present (Griscom and several others). This shows that the Gadwall has the same early migration of the Baldpate, Teal and Pintail. On September 27, 1925, I saw a drake at Overpeck Creek with other Ducks, the first record for northern New Jersey, and in April of this year Mr. Urner found a drake in the Newark Meadows.

Nettion carolinense. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—Ten years ago almost unknown in this region near the city. Now a common transient at all favorable places throughout, remaining from the middle of March into early May, the number of individuals steadily increasing annually.

Querquedula discors. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—In my 'Handbook' I was unable to report the slightest sign of any increase in this rare species. This situation has now completely altered. It is definitely common on Long Island, and Mr. Roy Latham secured breeding evidence near Orient, Long Island (Auk, 1924, p. 338). In spring it now lingers later (Jones Beach, May 30, 1926, Eaton and Friedmann), and arrives regularly in early August, or even in late July (Jones Beach, July 24, 1927, Griscom and Watson). In favorable spots along the Hudson River it is now a common transient, and it occurs regularly in a few places in northern New Jersey. In all inland localities, however, the number of individuals is very much less than for the Green-winged Teal.

Spatula clypeata. SHOVELLER.—Next to the Ring-necked Duck, the sudden change in status of the Shoveller is the most remarkable of any of the Ducks. It is now a regular transient, but is more of a fresh water and marsh Duck than any other, and consequently is reported in the Newark Meadows, the Overpeck Creek marshes and the coves of the Hudson River, and practically nowhere else. In good duck years, as in the springs of 1925 and 1926, it could almost be called common, remaining from late March until early May. The height of the migration is late, not until after April 15, and on occasion in a list of Ducks of fifteen species, it has been third or fourth in point of numbers. On the basis of the records of the past few years it is as common a Duck inland as the Blue-winged Teal, and should be transferred to the class of regular transients.

Marila valisineria. CANVASBACK.—Now a regular transient to Newark Bay, Overpeck Creek and favorable places on the Hudson River,

instead of very rare or casual. Also this species has suddenly become a common winter visitor to certain sections of the Sound, and flocks exceeding one thousand birds can be seen off Hunt's Point in February.

Marila collaris. RING-NECKED DUCK.—Listed as casual in my 'Handbook,' with only three known records from Long Island. Since 1922 a most dramatic change has taken place, and this species must be classed as a regular transient, occasionally lingering into the winter. There is not space to cite all the records here, totalling over fifty, as these can be found in the 'Proceedings' of the Linnaean Society and the 'Bird-Lore' season reports. Suffice it here to say that like the Teal and Shoveller it is an inland species primarily, and occurs on the reservoirs in northern New Jersey and Westchester County, N. Y., the Overpeck Marshes and the coves of the Hudson River. I have no evidence of any similar increase on Long Island waters. In the spring the species is present from the end of March to the middle of April, and in the fall from November to January.

Casmerodius egretta. AMERICAN EGRET.—Thanks to adequate protection in the south this lovely bird is now a regular summer visitor to the coastal marshes, and in years when there is a marked flight of southern Herons, as in 1925, it is recorded in numbers throughout the region. While much more irregular inland, it is no longer casual, and indeed occurs now away from the coast far more frequently than it used to occur on the coast ten years ago. In the past two years it has been recorded in spring from Barnegat Bay, N. J. (Urner).

Florida caerulea. LITTLE BLUE HERON.—Even this species has markedly incresaed, and is now a regular summer visitor to our coastal marshes, often locally common in flocks of six to twenty. Inland it is rarer than the Egret, and there are few or no records except in flight years. Formerly very rare in spring, it is now recorded annually in the Region at this season.

Nyctanassa violacea. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Formerly regarded as accidental or casual, now visiting this Region every year as a spring and summer visitor. While in part the increase of records may be due to the fact that numerous students have now learned to differentiate the two Night Herons in immature plumage, this does not account for the records of the unmistakable adults. The recent discovery that this species now nests in southern New Jersey fully explains its change in status locally. Spring records of adults are Baldwin, L. I., May 3, 1925, (K. Baasch) and Central Park, New York City, April 23, 1926 (over thirty observers). In the summer of 1925 there were several records from Barnegat Bay and Newark Bay, N. J. (Urner) and many others. This year four adults were found at Southold, L. I., on July 17 and remained at least until Aug. 1 (Mrs. W. F. Atkinson), and Urner and Eaton found the first bird at Barnegat Bay on Aug. 6.

Limosa haemastica. HUDSONIAN GODWIT.—A few years ago this splendid shore-bird was regarded by many as perhaps on the verge of

extinction. It would seem to have been saved at the eleventh hour, and reports from various parts of North America show conclusively that it is increasing. It has occurred regularly in this region the past three years. Two records are particularly notable. An adult in breeding plumage, May 23, 1925, at Long Beach (J. Kuerzi and others) is the only spring record for the region. Mr. Urner observed an adult in breeding plumage on July 3, 1925, on Newark Bay, which is a much earlier date than any of the old records. This year in mid-July there were a few Godwits in a large flight of Curlew at Barnegat Bay (Urner).

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus. WILLET.—This species is now reported every spring on the south shore of Long Island, and the fall records are steadily increasing in number, while the number of individuals is also increasing. It has ceased to be a rare shore-bird, and is noted occasionally on the Sound and on Staten Island.

Numenius americanus. LONG-BILLED CURLEW.—Listed among the extirpated species in my 'Handbook,' it should be transferred to the list of casual visitants. Dr. Helmuth has already recorded one seen at Mecox Bay, Long Island, Aug. 26, 1910, and another Aug. 24, 1923 (Auk, 1924, p. 352). On July 10, 1927, Mr. F. E. Watson, one of our most active and experienced local students, observed a Long-billed Curlew at Quogue, L. I., for two and a half hours, writing a most careful account of his observation in his note-book at the time, and even taking the precaution to measure the bird's tracks after it had flown away!

Numenius hudsonicus. HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—Another species which has shown a most marked increase. Every fall since 1923 the July "flight" of the Curlew has been increasingly heavy, and there are now days when it is locally positively abundant. It can now be seen every spring and fall near the City, and occurs rarely along the Sound.

Charadrius dominicus. GOLDEN PLOVER.—Another case of a fine species apparently saved at the eleventh hour. Mr. J. T. Nichols has already discussed the "come-back" of the Golden Plover on several occasions in recent 'Bird-Lore' season reports. Suffice it here to say that it now occurs every fall in this region in increasing numbers. In 1924 Dr. Helmuth saw as many as fifty in a flock at Easthampton. In 1926 the species was present for over six weeks on the Newark Meadows, a maximum of 36 birds (Urner). Single birds now drop in to more unfavorable spots, such as Dyker Heights Park, Brooklyn and along the Sound in Westchester County, N. Y.

Phasianus colchicus × torquatus. PHEASANT.—The Pheasant prospered marvellously in this region in the past few years, and is now a well established member of our avifauna. It is now a common resident throughout northern New Jersey and Westchester County, N. Y.

Picoides arcticus. ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER.—This Woodpecker can no longer be regarded as an accidental visitant, but must be transferred to the group of irregular winter visitants. Even this change

is conservative, as the bird has occurred in this Region every year but one since the remarkable flight of 1923. The majority of the records come from the hemlock grove in the Bronx Botanical Garden, where individuals have remained several weeks or more at a time. Others, however, have been reported from Montclair and Englewood, N. J., West Point, Mt. Kisco and New Rochelle, N. Y. (See Abstract Proc. Linnaean Society, N. Y., Nos. 37 and 38, 1927). I am at a loss for an explanation in this case. The Bronx Botanical Garden has been worked by numerous observers since 1908, and it is out of the question to allege that the increase in records merely reflects an increase in observers. There would seem to be, however, an increase of winter records in New England, and perhaps the species is less sedentary than it was formerly supposed to be.

Phlœotomus pileatus abieticola. NORTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER.—The general "come-back" of this fine Woodpecker in many parts of the northeast where it was formerly extirpated is now well known. Known from only two localities in northern New Jersey in 1922, it has now been recorded from numerous spots in the wilder parts of Warren, Sussex, and Bergen Counties. There is also some evidence of winter wandering, as the bird has been seen, or traces of its work found, near Blairstown, Boonton and the hills back of Morristown. In certain localities like the Wawayanda Plateau it could almost be called common. I incline to the view that the increase in this Woodpecker is not so much due to conservation, as to its adaptation to less primeval conditions. The generation that regarded this species as a game-bird died off in this Region years before it returned.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. BOBOLINK.—Has shown distinct signs of increase as a summer resident in the suburban area near New York in the last few years. Mr. Crosby reports a notable increase in Dutchess County.

Vireosylva philadelphia. PHILADELPHIA VIREO.—In 'The Auk' for April 1924, p. 347, I recorded four observations of this species in the fall of 1923, an unprecedented occurrence. In the past few years other fall records have come to hand. It is now time to put on record data regarding its presence in spring. In the first place the recently published 'Abstract of the Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York,' Nos. 37 and 38, p. 105, gives two recent spring records for the Bronx, which Mr. Kuerzi, after thorough inquiry, regarded as reliable. The spring of 1927 will long live in the annals of Central Park ornithology as a notable one for the variety and abundance of transients. A great wave on May 11 brought 66 species to the Ramble. In the late afternoon I paid the Park a second visit, and came upon a group of seven beginners in bird study staring into a hawthorn bush. They asked me to identify a bird which was feeding in it, and I exclaimed with surprise at seeing a Philadelphia Vireo about six feet above the ground some fifteen feet away. It was obvious that some of these people had never even heard of the bird, but a pleased smile overspread the countenance of one man, who flourished

a Reed's 'Bird Guide' in my face, which was open at the colored picture of this species. He had been studying the bird carefully for some time and had obviously identified it correctly. I give this incident in detail, as illustrating the possible disadvantages of the ordinary rules of conservatism. All the more experienced observers had "done" the Ramble in the morning without finding one of the most notable birds of the day. It must be admitted that if any one of the seven original discoverers of this Philadelphia Vireo had reported it on uncorroborated testimony, the record would never have been given definite credence. I devoted the rest of the afternoon to rounding up four other bird-students, and a half hour later we had another ideal observation.

There was another considerable flight on May 18. Entering the Ramble about nine A.M. almost the first bird I saw was a Philadelphia Vireo feeding in a small wild cherry. Five minutes were devoted to making as certain as humanly possible that my identification was correct, when I rushed off to secure corroboration from as many witnesses as possible. Fortunately I found that keen and competent student, Mr. Frank E. Watson, lurking in a deep thicket, nursing an illusion that he had glimpsed a Mourning Warbler. I had no difficulty in persuading him to forget it temporarily, and we returned with Mrs. Davis to the wild cherry tree. The bird was, of course, not there, but after an anxious fifteen minutes quartering of the vicinity, it was finally relocated and studied at leisure. Later on this individual was seen by several other people, including Mrs. Chas. N. Edge and Mrs. Clarkson Runyon, Jr.

One would have supposed that two records of the Philadelphia Vireo would have sufficed for one spring, but on June 1, a day when there was a small late flight, Mr. Charles Johnston found another individual in the Ramble in the early morning. This careful and conservative observer studied his example with great care for some time, and was familiar with this species in life, as already recorded by me in 'The Auk' note referred to above. I have not the slightest doubt that his identification was absolutely correct.

Mr. Arthur Janes also has kindly sent me a detailed account of a bird observed on May 14 at Scarsdale, which can only have been this species.

Published data from various sources in recent years seem to indicate that the Philadelphia Vireo has increased as a summer resident in the northeastern parts of its range in the Maritime Provinces of Canada, together with certain of the rarer Warblers. Suffice it here to say that I think the evidence presented warrants the statement that the Philadelphia Vireo is becoming a regular transient in this region, and can no longer be regarded as excessively rare. The increase in records in recent years cannot be ascribed solely to the admitted increase in competent observers.

Vireosylva gilva. WARBLING VIREO.—This species, like the Bobolink, has shown distinct signs of a "come-back" in the suburban area, and has

ceased to be a rare migrant in Central Park. It is now recorded there every spring, and each year the number of individuals markedly increases.

Lanivireo flavifrons. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.—The rapid decrease of this Vireo, which I recorded in my 'Handbook,' has happily ceased, and like the last species it has increased, if anything, to an even more marked extent.

Protonotaria citrea. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.—This beautiful Warbler instead of a casual visitant is now perhaps a regular summer resident in the swamps along the Passaic River near Caldwell, N. J. (See Auk, 1925, p. 138.) The exact site was fortunately near a bridge-head across the river, readily accessible. The birds did not return next year (1925), but Mr. J. L. Edwards observed a male in early July a mile or two further down the river, from a canoe, in an area of deep and almost inaccessible swamp land. On May 15, 1927, Messrs. Carter and Watson found a female on the western edge of this same area near what are known as the Troy Meadows. This perhaps accounts for the recent spring records near the City. There have been three in the Bronx Region and one in Central Park.

Vermivora pinus. BLUE-WINGED WARBLER.—This Warbler is markedly extending its range northward in northern New Jersey and in Dutchess County, penetrating the breeding range of the Golden-winged Warbler.

Vermivora celata. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER.—This Warbler is changing its status in this region exactly as the Cape May and Tennessee Warblers did some ten or more years ago. From an excessively rare bird it now bids fair to become a regular spring and fall transient. There were more records in 1926 than in all previous years combined. The following records support this contention, and are believed to be as reliable as sight records can be. *1924:* Central Park, Sept. 19, Griscom and Watson; 2 in a garden at Long Beach, L. I., Oct. 13, Watson. *1925:* Pine Plains, Dutchess County, singing male May 10, Baker, Crosby, Griscom, specimen collected; Dutchess County, Oct. 15, Crosby; Grassy Sprain, N. Y., Oct. 18, J. Kuerzi. *1926:* Inwood, N. Y. C., Jan. 20 (Allan Cruikshank); adult male Central Park, May 13, Griscom and C. Johnston; Bronx Park, May 13, Kuerzi; singing male Croton Point, Westchester County, N. Y., May 15, Pangburn; Elizabeth, N. J., May 16, Urner; Dyker Heights, Brooklyn, May 19, Hix; Point Pleasant, N. J., Dec. 5, Watson. *1927:* singing male Pine Plains, Dutchess County, N. Y., May 6, Allan Frost; singing male Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, May 8, Griscom; female Elizabeth, N. J., May 19, Griscom and Urner.

Dendroica cerulea. CERULEAN WARBLER.—In 1922 after the discovery of the nesting of this species in Dutchess County, N. Y., I ventured to suggest that should it increase there locally, it might possibly be found near New York more frequently on migration. The Cerulean Warbler has steadily increased as a summer resident in Dutchess County and has now ceased to be a bird of any special note there. In accordance with

my prediction the species has occurred on the following occasions nearer the city on migration: Central Park, a female, Sept. 15, 1923, Rudyerd Boulton (Auk, 1924, p. 348); Van Cortlandt Park, singing male, May 27, 1926 (Allan Cruickshank); two singing males in Central Park, May 11, 1927, Griscom and over twenty other people; singing male, June 5, 1927, in the woods near Wyanokie, Bergen County, N. J. (T. D. Carter). Most unfortunately this locality could not be revisited to determine the possible presence of a nesting pair. I should not be at all surprised if this species were found nesting in northern New Jersey in the next few years.

Dendroica dominica. YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER.—No less than three spring records for our rarest Warbler have been made in the past three years, as follows: Elizabeth, N. J., May 15, 1925, Urner; Quaker Ridge, Westchester Co., N. Y., May 18–21, 1925, R. R. Coles (Auk, 1925, p. 591); Central Park, N. Y. C., April 29–May 1, 1926 (at least fifty observers). These records are undoubtedly connected with the regular occurrence of this species in recent years in spring and summer in southern New Jersey.

In addition to the species discussed above the increase in recent years of the following additional species was discussed in my 'Handbook': Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Baldpate, Pintail, Dowitcher, Knot, Pectoral Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, Piping Plover, Turnstone, Evening Grosbeak, Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warbler, and Bay-breasted Warbler. These birds are now all common or abundant, whether as winter visitants, transients, or summer residents, the only exception being the Evening Grosbeak, which is irregular instead of accidental. This makes a grand total of 50 species, truly a remarkable record for so short a time. With the exception of the smaller oscine birds, conservation of one kind or another is fundamentally responsible for this increase, and the field students of the New York City Region owe a debt of gratitude to the men and organizations who have advocated the necessary laws and regulations, and so successfully moulded public opinion in the last forty years.

Museum Comp. Zool.,
Cambridge, Mass.