

single Horned Grebe found its haven and stayed for weeks. Golden-eyes, Mergansers, an Old-squaw, and an occasional Belted Kingfisher paid it frequent visits, but it became characteristic of that patch of water. Some of these water birds lingered on our rivers long after the break in the winter, but most of them went with the snow and ice. Other unusual winter visitors in our area included Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs. Both species came with large flocks of Horned Larks, and I fed both of them more or less regularly in the yard, along with the larks. One Longspur that was present only on February 9 was an adult male in an almost typical nuptial plumage. All of the others were in normal winter plumage. Among the Horned Larks, individuals that were typically *alpestris* could be picked out, as also could typical representatives of the subspecies *pratricula*. The great majority of individuals, however, were in an intermediate plumage which left me somewhat confused as to their proper subspecific rank.

The effect of the severe winter on the spring migration dates in the Fort Wayne area has been negligible. True, all of the extremely early February dates were eliminated, but when the break in the weather did come, it came so completely that March dates for all species averaged about normal.—PERRY FRANK JOHNSON, *Fort Wayne, Ind.*

The 1935 Fall Migration at the Washington Monument.—The Washington Monument, a white stone shaft rising 555 feet in height, is situated near the busiest part of the city of Washington, D. C., and affords an opportunity for quite an unusual method of bird study. For several years after the monument was erected, birds in migration struck it by the score, thousands probably being killed by coming into forcible contact with it. Reports state that it was not an unknown occurrence to pick up a bushel of dead birds at its base that had been killed during a single night.

Later, as the city grew, either the birds changed their course of flight or the survivors became educated concerning the dangers of the Washington Monument. At least in recent years very few birds were striking the monument each season until 1932, when it was decided to flash giant beacons on the shaft from dusk until 11:45 each night. That year, 1932, Miss Phoebe Knappen of the United States Biological Survey, who is keenly interested in all bird data taken at the Washington Monument, picked up 324 birds at the monument, and the next year she gathered a total of 331 birds, mostly warblers and vireos.

Last fall (1935) I visited the monument each night (with a few exceptions) from August 30 to November 7. Before listing a few statistics on the results of my nightly observations, I shall describe briefly a typical "good bird night", that of September 6, 1935. The weather was clear, but there was no moon. There was not much wind. Early in the evening the first birds struck the monument, and others came tumbling down its sides until the beacon lights were turned out at 11:45. At times birds were raining down so fast that the three of us who were watching that night could not keep track of them all. We could hear the birds chirping as they neared the monument, and then could see them, as they came into the path of the lights, three, four, or five hundred feet above us, fly directly toward the monument. Many birds would immediately strike head-on with an audible blow, and would drop like plummets to the concrete at the base with quite a loud thud. Others, though they seemed to strike as hard,

would back away from the monument after the impact and continue their journey. Still others would strike their heads on the stone again and again, each time at a lower level than the time before, and finally would come fluttering down the sides vainly trying to find a foothold on the smooth surface. Several of these latter were saved from probable death by landing in our outstretched hands. Those that seemed none the worse for the experience we let fly away at once. Many of the birds, either from their own efforts or the action of the wind, dropped at a considerable distance from the monument. We located these with flashlights.

We took home with us that night a total of seventy-four birds, twenty-one of which were liberated the next day, seemingly fully recovered. The other fifty-six were dead when we picked them up, or died during the night. Of the seventy-four birds, forty-six were Red-eyed Vireos. There were ten Maryland Yellow-throats, three Magnolia Warblers, three Yellow-breasted Chats, and two Bay-breasted Warblers. There was one each of the following species: Black and White Warbler, Redstart, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager.

During the entire 1935 fall migration thirty-three species, comprising 246 individuals, were obtained near the base of the Washington Monument. They include: Northern Flicker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Brown Creeper, 2; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 2; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Catbird, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; White-eyed Vireo, 4; Blue-headed Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 110; Philadelphia Vireo, 2; Black and White Warbler, 1; Tennessee Warbler, 1; Nashville Warbler, 1; Parula (Parula and Northern Parula), 3; Magnolia Warbler, 31; Cape May Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Black-throated Green Warbler, 15; Blackburnian Warbler, 3; Bay-breasted Warbler, 2; Black-poll Warbler, 3; Yellow Palm Warbler, 2; Ovenbird, 2; Connecticut Warbler, 2; Yellow-throat (Northern and Maryland), 31; Yellow-breasted Chat, 10; American Redstart, 4; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow, 1; Field Sparrow, 1; Eastern Song Sparrow, 1.

The above list includes all birds taken at the monument. Thirty-six of the birds were recovered and include twenty-eight Red-eyed Vireos, three Magnolia Warblers, four Maryland Yellow-throats, and one Ruby-crowned Kinglet. I personally handled and identified (or in a few cases had Dr. Oberholser or others verify my identifications) practically every one of the 246 birds. I prepared sixty of the birds for my collection.

A few facts concerning migration at the monument may be mentioned. Nearly all birds struck the monument on nights when there was no moon. There were more fatalities on windy nights than on calm nights. Over one-half of the birds struck the monument on the east face, and nearly all of the rest on the south face. Why this should be I cannot quite figure out—all faces are illuminated identically; the direction of migration is from northeast to southwest; and the wind usually was from the west, northwest, or southwest. Why do so many birds hit the south side and so few the north? Miss Knappen tells me it is the same each year.

Nearly all birds were in immature or juvenile plumage, which made the identification of several difficult and fascinating. Nearly all stomachs were examined, but none contained any food whatsoever. As may be expected, most of the birds had fractured skulls. There were few broken wings and legs. The vireos, being

heavier than the warblers, would strike the monument much harder, and a larger percentage of them would fall.

On rainy or misty nights, Whip-poor-wills, apparently feeding upon insects attracted by the beacons (which are on the ground in large boxes around the base of the monument) flew round and round the monument at low levels, often as low as our heads. Once a Whip-poor-will came so close to me that I could see his large luminous brick-red eye.

On October 20, hundreds of Field Sparrows settled on the benches and light boxes at the base of the monument, apparently resting. None of these sparrows struck the monument that night, nor did they seem confused by the lights nor fly against the shaft, as the vireos and warblers were doing. Besides the birds, four bats died from striking the monument while in pursuit of insect prey. Three were Red Bats, the other a Little Brown Bat. Very few birds strike the monument during spring migrations, according to Miss Knappen.

Mr. Allen McIntosh of the Bureau of Animal Industry, examined 190 of the birds for parasites. An abstract of his results is published in the *Journal of Parasitology*, Vol. 21, No. 6.—ROBERT OVERING, *Landover, Md.*

Concerning the Southern Range of the Cowbird.—In the WILSON BULLETIN for March, 1936, on page 13, Mr. Thomas D. Burleigh in an article on the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) states in the second paragraph, "actual records of eggs or young in that state (Virginia) are scarce". On page 199 of my book on the "Birds of Virginia" one will see that breeding Cowbirds are very common in Virginia, and I have in my collection some thirteen sets of eggs representing ten different species, with Cowbird eggs in them. All were personally taken by my father, Mr. H. B. Bailey, and me. On my farm in Warwick County, Virginia, fronting on the James River, and now used as the Country Club, I threw dozens of Cowbird eggs out of nests yearly while residing there, from 1906 to 1919, for I did not wish further sets with Cowbird eggs in them. As to Mr. Burleigh's remarks regarding the A. O. U. Check-List stating that the Cowbird does not breed south of central Virginia, that is an error on the part of the Check-List, for I have found them breeding as far south as Florida, and have taken locally reared young at Cape Sable, Monroe County, during the first week in August.—HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Miami, Fla.*

Bird Banding in Luce County, Michigan, in the winter of 1935-36.—The winter of 1935-36 has been a cold one in this locality, there being only three days in February up to the 21st that the temperature has not been to zero or below. Only a few species of birds are wintering, and my list for this year so far numbers only ten. Banding has been favorable. I have had 129 Snow Buntings, eight Redpolls (four were the Common, and four perhaps the Hoary), and one Northern Shrike to band. Have had nine Snow Buntings that I banded in the winter of 1934-35, nine from the winter of 1933-34, one from the winter of 1932-33, and one from the winter of 1930-31. Also had one Common Redpoll from the winter of 1933-34, this being my first return.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, *McMillan, Mich.*