

Snow-killed Bobwhite Covey—While making the routine spring check-up at the Faville Grove game management area at Lake Mills, Wisconsin, on April 22, 1940, in company with Arthur S. Hawkins of the Illinois Natural History Survey, we came upon a covey of Bobwhite Quail (*Colinus virginianus*) that had died during the previous winter.

The hapless covey was found in a small copse of second-growth oaks with an undergrowth of wild raspberry, grape, and dried weeds. The copse is triangular, bounded by grazed pasture, tamarack swamp, and oat stubble on its three sides. The birds had evidently gone to roost on the leeward side of the copse, and on the leeward side of a grape tangle, in an open growth of raspberry and weeds. The date of their demise must have been after January 5, 1940, for on that date Hawkins flushed a covey from this same copse and counted sixteen birds. On January 14 an 8.7 inch snow fell during the night and then drifted. It seems likely that our covey was unable to dig out of the drift and fell victim to starvation in their "snow prison." Eight bodies were found, still arranged in rosette formation. What happened to the other eight birds? Some may have died between the date last seen and the date of the storm. Some certainly were removed from the roost by scavenging animals, for one wing and a few breast feathers were found eight feet from the "death circle."

A feeding station that had been operated during the winter stood, as if in mockery, but 25 yards to the south of the dead covey.

Both crop and gizzard contents were too far gone to be identified. The plumage was used to sex and age the birds. The sex ratio was four males to five females. Five of the eight birds were young ones, of which three were males.

But for this one storm, the winter of 1939-40 was comparatively mild. It would appear, therefore, that sudden storms may prove to be as disastrous as continuously severe weather. Few snow-killed coveys have been recorded. Douglas E. Wade (*Bird Lore*, 40, 1938: 7-10) has traced the separate fates of a covey scattered during a blizzard, but we know of no published account of an entire covey found dead on the roost.—ROBERT McCABE and ALDO LEOPOLD, *University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin*.

Red Phalarope and Other Water Birds at Lexington, Virginia.—The following notes are supplementary to two former papers in *The Wilson Bulletin* (47, 1935: 59-67 and 49, 1937: 48-9). The two previous papers listed 56 forms for Rockbridge County. Since then five additional species have been recorded. Of land birds, 180 forms have been recorded, making a total of 241 species and subspecies for this mountain county.

KING RAIL. *Rallus elegans elegans*.—On May 15, 1940, one of these birds, alive and in good condition, was brought to me. It had been captured while trying to get through a fence in a chicken yard on South Buffalo Creek, eight miles from Lexington. The friend who showed the bird to me promised to release it.

YELLOW RAIL. *Coturnicops noveboracensis*.—One was captured on September 29, 1937, and brought to me alive. It was later released. The man who captured it saw others at the same time.

PURPLE GALLINULE. *Ionornis martinica*.—One, of which I have the skin, was captured on May 16, 1940, on South Buffalo Creek, about ten miles from Lexington (*Auk*, 57, 1940: 566). A more unlikely place for such a bird than this mountain stream could scarcely be imagined.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. *Pisobia fuscicollis*.—My daughter, Jane, and I found one of these birds at a rain pool in a field two miles north of Lexington, on September 30, 1940. I had close views of the bird for some time with 8X glasses, flushing it several times to observe the white rump. The next day I tried without success to collect the bird. At times it was in company with Killdeers, and again with a small flock of Pipits. This species is extremely rare in western Virginia.

RED PHALAROPE. *Phalaropus fulicarius*.—On September 30, 1940, my daughter and I found a phalarope swimming about in shallow water at Cameron's Pond, a mile north of Lexington. I thought that it was a Northern Phalarope, but it seemed too large, so I went home for a gun and collected it. The heavy bill and blue-gray back identified it as a Red Phalarope. The moult to winter plumage was not complete, the bird being considerably darker than typical winter specimens. It was a female, and fairly fat. There are only three previous records for Virginia, all of them curiously enough being inland records (Montgomery County; 50 miles up the Potomac from Washington, D.C.; and Charlottesville).

Additional records on certain other birds have been made during the four years since the last paper was published. I have one summer record, July 27, 1937, for the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). Professor R. S. Freer saw another Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) in James River at Snowden, just outside our area, on May 8, 1937; and I saw an immature bird on North River inside the city limits of Lexington on October 19 and 22, 1939. The American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) now occurs not uncommonly from June 22 to October 1. Several years ago a Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) joined a flock of domestic ducks at Big Spring Pond, and has mated regularly with one of the females each summer since. A female wild Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) at the same place mated with a domestic drake and nested successfully in 1938 and 1939. The Sora (*Porzana carolina*) is much less common than formerly, because of the drying up of suitable small marshes. I now have a number of records for the Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) in September, December, February, and several years in April; and several additional March and April records for the Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*).—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia*.

Community Bathing of the Cedar Waxwing.—While waiting at Glen Haven, Michigan, on June 7, 1940, for the boat to South Manitou Island, we noticed an interesting habit of a flock of Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). Between 55 and 60 Waxwings were in a small aspen tree next to a pool of stagnant water in a depression on the beach of Lake Michigan. Some of the birds were bathing in the water while others were sitting quietly or preening themselves in the tree. Periodically one or several of the bathing birds would fly up into the tree and almost immediately they would be replaced at the pool by others from the tree. Thus there were always about 15 or 20 birds from the flock bathing at any one time. A considerable portion of the pool was never used by the birds, and the bathing individuals kept close together. The weather was cloudy and cool with occasional light rain. The flock was still bathing when we left, nearly an hour after we had first noticed them.

On July 5 during another visit to Glen Haven a flock of about the same size as before was noted bathing in the pool. Their behavior was the same as on the previous occasion for they not only used the same tree but the same end of the pool. The day was clear and warm, and the flock spent most of the afternoon bathing. The nesting activities of mid-summer may have brought to an end the community bathing habits of the Waxwings as observations made on July 29, 30, and August 1 disclosed no birds bathing at the familiar pool.—ARTHUR E. STAEBLER and LESLIE D. CASE, *Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.