



Roundtable

New Department Editor

Last spring Louis C. Fink and his wife, Vera, moved to North Carolina to be near their grandchildren, and Georgia's loss became CBC's gain. Formerly associated with Trust Company of Georgia, Lou now devotes his time to writing, editing, and public speaking engagements, including illustrated talks on native birds. Having been an active member of Georgia Ornithological Society for 20 years, Lou promptly offered his services to CBC. It is our pleasure to welcome him as the new editor of "CBC Roundtable." His address is Apt. 6, Building L, Tau Valley Estates, Rocky Mount, N.C. 27801.

Collector's Print Available

Richard A. Parks' print of the Brown Thrasher and Cherokee Roses is being offered to people who join National Audubon Society. For details, write Wm. H. Marsh Jr., Treasurer, Atlanta Audubon Society, 3974 Powers Ferry Road, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30342.

Mt. Mitchell Bird List

"Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Mt. Mitchell State Park, North Carolina" by Marcus B. Simpson Jr. appears in the Winter 1972 issue of *The Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society*. Dr. Simpson's paper lists 91 species and contains few surprises for those who have read his articles in *Chat* on the birds of the southern Appalachian Mountains, but his comments on several species should be kept in mind by CBC members visiting the Black Mountains. Simpson regards the Black-capped Chickadee as apparently having been "extirpated due to habitat disruption," the last acceptable record being a pair seen by Burleigh at 6,000 feet on 8 May 1930. Although the Pine Siskin has been found in the Black Mountains during every month of the year, Simpson found no evidence of breeding. From December through June the Red Crossbill is "highly irregular and generally rare or absent within the Park." Simpson found no evidence of breeding. Conspicuous by their absence are such species as the Great Horned Owl, Least Flycatcher, and Scarlet Tanager. Their apparent absence from the Park (elevation 5,600 to 6,684 feet) may be the result of altitudinal limitation, lack of suitable habitat, or insufficient field work in the less accessible portions of the area covered. Perhaps Simpson's paper will encourage casual birders in the Black Mountains to report sightings of transients and common mountain species whose presence above 5,600 feet seems unusual only to those intimately familiar with high altitude bird records.

Comments on Biblical Bird Names

Mrs. Potter's review of Holmgren's "Bird Walk Through the Bible" raises some curious questions. In A. Landsborough Thomson's "A New Dictionary of Birds" (1964) Dr. Aharon Shulov, Director of the Jerusalem Biblical Zoological Garden, gives a list of the

birds of the Old Testament. He points out that in quite a few cases, we do not actually know what birds were originally meant by the designations in the Hebrew text. The situation is even worse for the mammals. The bird names are now given the meanings that are used in Hebrew as spoken today in Israel. Part of the problem comes from the fact that Hebrew was not a vernacular language for nearly 1700 years following 200 A.D. It was simply a liturgical language persisting in more than one form and influenced to some extent by the environments in which Jews lived. Further, there was no natural history literature in Hebrew from the classical period. To make matters worse the present Hebrew (Masoretic text) was not canonized until about the year 900 A.D. How far it departs from any original Biblical text is, of course, uncertain.

The birds of the New Testament must depend largely on the meaning of Greek bird names. Here we have a longer continuous, but perhaps not wholly unaltered, tradition. Greek remained a vernacular. In addition, we have the zoological works of Aristotle with some descriptions written a little earlier than 300 B.C. Anyone interested might look up Sir D'Arcy W. Thompson's "A Glossary of Greek Birds." — CHARLES H. BLAKE, Box 613, Hillsborough, N. C. 27278.

Color Banding of Painted Buntings

Although we live close to the northern limit of the range of the Painted Bunting we have banded 28 birds between 22 April and 10 August, 1973: 7 definitive males, 6 green breeding males, 6 breeding females, and 9 hatching year birds of unknown sex. We are undertaking a study of this delightful species because the literature is sparse and contradictory. To that end we have color banded all but three of the banded birds, as shown in the table, and thus are able to identify as individuals the birds that come to our feeders and bathe and sing in the area, as well as those that repeat in the nets and traps. We are asking southern banders to be on the lookout for the color banded birds, especially the green males. We wonder when the males acquire definitive plumage. Of course, we hope to get a big return next spring; but even if the birds don't come to our area, perhaps they will be observed elsewhere and some observers will write to tell us the state of their plumage. We welcome information of any kind about this species. — Samuel R. and Isabel H. Tipton, Star Route No. 2, Box 780, Southport, N.C. 28461.

PAINTED BUNTINGS BANDED 1973 (Aluminum Band Prefix 820-)

Definitive Males	Green Males	Females	Hatching Year
07805 White	07813 Red	07809 Light Pink	07814 Yellow
07 Orange	15 Light green	10 Orange	24 Yellow
18 Mauve	16 Dark green	17 Light blue	31 Yellow
23 Black	19 Dark blue	20 Mauve	33 Yellow
30 Light blue	21 Dark pink	25 White	34 Yellow
	28 Light blue		35 Yellow
	(right leg)		36 Yellow
			37 Yellow
			38 Yellow

Color bands on left leg except 0728

Green birds categorized on basis of:

Skull ossification	Cloacal protuberance
Brood patch	Wing length