

## BIRD WALKS

March 11, 1945

Seven members of the Society met at 8 A.M. on Sunday, March 11, 1945 for a short bird walk in the Lake Roland Area. The day was sunny but a cool, damp wind blew steadily.

Robins and Cardinals were heard singing on both sides of the road down to the Lake. Three Carolina Chickadees allowed close scrutiny as they fed in the bushes along the road. Near the spillway the group spent some time trying to locate a woodpecker that was drumming on the hillside. Unable to find the bird and observing bird life awing farther down the road we meandered along. Song Sparrows were very numerous along the stream bordering the road. They were evidently migrants as no territorial fighting was seen. A pair of Cowbirds were seen atop a tall tree. They were displaying courtship behavior. The display began by fluffing out the feathers and partially raising the wings. The birds pitched forward until head was between the feet and the spreading tail feathers upright. Just as the bird seemed about to lose its balance and fall off the branch it would close its wings and resume a normal position. Both birds were males, no females being observed in the vicinity.

Several Tufted Titmice and Carolina Chickadees were observed along the roadside. We crossed to the north of the stream at Falls Road and walked up to the Lake through the moist bottomlands. Robins, Song Sparrows and Juncos were observed in this area. Three Fox Sparrows and several Cardinals were also seen. As we approached the lake seven American Mergansers were flushed. We were unable to get close to them. A lone Kingfisher put in appearance as we reached the railroad bridge.

Five of the Society members returned to town and Mr. Ray Beasley continued with the writer around the lake. A flock of eight Bluebirds made us pause as we hiked over the hills. Two flickers called as they flew by. We paused for awhile at a railroad trestle to watch a pair of Bluebirds cleaning out an old nest hole in a dead tree. Both sexes took turns at the job. Several Bluejays and a small group of Crows were observed downstream. A lone Towhee had been flushed from the ground on the hillside just before we stopped at the trestle. He (it was a male) was very tame and moved off through the underbrush without hurrying. We reached Falls Road and hiked over to the abandoned mine pits to look for hibernating bats. One of the pits was knee-deep with water so we were unable to enter. The other pit was unoccupied by bats. Walking back to the streetcar we observed numerous Song Sparrows and repeated observations on a number of species seen previously.