

water and other natural resources. The Long Island Press headlined this story, "FOREVER PURE."

This came at the same time that three scientists were reporting in *Science*, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, that a study in a Long Island salt marsh "suggests that DDT residues are currently reducing certain animal populations within the estuary."

Dr. Charles F. Wurster, Jr., assistant professor of biology at the State University at Stony Brook, one of the three scientists, warned that "I don't look on the picture optimistically. We have introduced into our environment a molecule that has never been there. It is completely foreign and organisms have never handled it before, and their physiological systems are poorly equipped to deal with its toxic properties. This is a very poor situation."

Such a dire warning charges a phrase or plea for "forever wild" — or "pure" — or "natural" — with emotion.

Think of what we are spewing into the air. Sulfur dioxide pours out of chimneys of coal-burning furnaces. It irritates nose and throat. Nitrogen dioxide emanates from cylinders of high powered automobiles and can be poisonous. There is now 4.85 percent more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than there was around 1900 because of the burning of coal, oil and gasoline.

Air pollution can and has killed man.

We are talking about the first resource of life — the natural air around us. We can survive without food or water for several days, but less than five minutes without air. The man in the city requires the natural air no less than the man in the country.

We are now talking about "forever natural" on 42nd and Broadway!

This has generated the urgency in the words "forever wild" or "forever natural." These words invoke now the thought of life itself.

Our plea to man to keep our environment "forever habitable" is really a prayer to man himself.

333 Bedell Street, Freeport, N.Y. 11520

FIELD NOTES

House Finch Influx at Schenectady: The first House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) recorded in the Schenectady area was a male seen with Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) on April 29, 1964, and later banded and photographed on May 5, 1964 at my feeder (*Kingbird*, 14(3):153, 1964). During the late winter and early spring of 1965, Purple Finches were common at the feeder, but no House Finch was seen. No Purple Finches were seen at the feeder during the winter of 1966 and when migrants arrived in mid-April to mid-May, no House Finch was noted among them.

In 1967 migrant Purple Finches again arrived in about mid-April after being absent all winter. On May 5th, there was a marked influx of Purple Finches, and with them came a pair of House Finches. Both were captured at about 6:20 pm., the male banded and the female found to be already banded. The male was fat

class zero and weighed 23.05 g., while the female was fat class one and weighed 26.10 g. The wing chords of both birds measured 78 mm. On May 6th, another female was captured and banded, and on May 12th an unbanded male appeared at the feeder and went uncaptured. This second female was also fat class one, weighed 21.90 g. at 10:30 am. and her wing chord measured 76 mm. None of these birds was seen again. By May 15-20, all but a very few Purple Finches had departed from the feeder. It appears that when northward movements of House Finches do occur into this area, they coincide with, or are possibly influenced by, the northward movement of Purple Finches.

Concurrent to this appearance of four House Finches, Gustave Angst nearby on Rosendale Road reported the sighting of at least one male and possibly a female at his feeder the week of May 7th.

The banded female of May 5th was traced to Mrs. William Babcock of Gordonsville, Virginia, who had banded the bird on December 26, 1966 at her feeder. According to Mrs. Babcock, whom I thank for the use of her banding data and other information on the species, House Finches appeared at her feeder for the first time on December 24, 1965. During the winter of 1966-67, they arrived on November 17th and up to 200 were present during snow storms. The last House Finch departed April 1st. Gordonsville represents the furthest southern penetration of the species in numbers. It is most interesting that an individual from the species' southernmost population should be one of the northern vanguard.

Robert P. Yunick, 1527 Myron St., Schenectady, N.Y. 12309

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

April 1 – May 31

DAVID B. PEAKALL

April was fairly normal weatherwise although cold in some areas. May, however, was one of the coldest on record. In general early migrants arrived on time but later migrants were delayed. Wickham sums up the situation "the low numbers of many species – even by mid-May – were unprecedented in my experience." Waves of migration were poor, the largest and most wide-spread being May 18-20, but this movement was considered good only compared to the previous poor showing. Despite reports of tanagers and warblers feeding on or near the ground the actual reports of casualties were few. Some Purple Martin kills were noted, but these were small compared to last year. However, low numbers of Martins were reported, perhaps due to a combination of the cold May and last year's heavy kill.

Five regional editors commented on the decrease of the Grasshopper Sparrow and four of these editors also mentioned decreases of Henslow's Sparrow. In at least two areas this decline was a continuation of one previously noted. It would be worth-while investigating this situation to see if the factors involved, such as changes in agriculture practice, could be evaluated. Cuckoos, particularly the Yellow-billed, continued to be scarce. On the other hand, the flight of kinglets was excellent in the central and western portions of the state.

A House Finch was noted in Region 1 (2nd regional record) and several in Region 8, all at feeders. These included one previously