

setts border, Ralph C. Morrill saw a Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) fly from a stand of spruce two hundred yards away to a small maple about seventy-five feet from him. The bird flew back and forth a few times across a small ravine where slash remained from the previous year's logging of white pine, then back to the spruces. Mr. Morrill later learned that a deer had been shot there. Perhaps this jay, as frequently happens in the north woods, had been attracted to the viscera.

As far as I have ascertained, this constitutes the most southerly New England record of this species, and the first from Connecticut. At least twenty Canada Jays have previously been reported casually from Massachusetts (E. H. Forbush, *Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States*, 2: 385, 1927; A. C. Bagg and Samuel A. Eliot, *Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts*, 1937; *New England Bird Bulletin* through 1944). Of these the most southerly were at Westfield, where Robert K. Smith saw two in February, 1926, and one on January 28, 1931 (Bagg and Eliot, p. 398). Mr. Morrill's observation, therefore, pushes the New England boundary of this bird's range about six miles farther southward. He has long been acquainted with the Canada Jay in Maine.—STANLEY C. BALL, *Peabody Museum, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.*

Black-crowned Night Heron in Washington, D. C.—In 1911, there came to the tall trees that border the large outside flight cage in the National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C., many pairs of the Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*). Possibly the captured species in the cage attracted them, but no doubt the large buckets full of fish that are fed daily to these captive birds were an added inducement to stay near-by and form a colony of breeding pairs. At this date, August, 1944, the colony has increased to some fifty nests and has maintained itself for about thirty-three years of unbroken activity. Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, told me that he had observed the colony first in 1911.

In the evening, the adult nesting pairs leave their colony and fly in a straight line toward the Potomac River, and at times, when the demands of their young are heavy, the parent birds fish by night and day. We have observed the courtship, nidification, and care of the young, and have pointed out to zoo visitors the plumage patterns of the immature and adult, the nuptial dress of the species, the act of the parents feeding the young by regurgitation, the pale dull blue eggs on the frail platform nest of sticks, and the fledglings sitting on the rim of their nests looking upon the exotic birds in the near-by cage.

I have seen the birds passing across the skies above the city and 'quawking,' as the gloom of the evening enveloped the nation's capital, but most Washingtonians do not look up and see them; for after all, the colony has been resident in the city for some thirty years, and is accepted as commonplace.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

Bald Eagles and Woodcocks in central-western Illinois.—The accumulation of Bald Eagles, which gather yearly south of the Mississippi River Dam between Keokuk and Hamilton, has become almost constant because of the protection afforded these birds. Twenty-five to thirty birds normally gather south of the great dam and hunt along the river for ten to forty miles. More than twenty individuals have been seen recently, and Saturday, February 3, the writer counted nine mature Eagles sitting on the rocks that break the water below the dam. No doubt this accumulation will continue as it has for years, as long as the usual abundant supply of fish is available.

I have not discovered a nest of Woodcock eggs since the tragic winter of 1940. Imagine my surprise, during this fall hunting season (1944), to have five different Woodcocks brought to me for identification, killed by hunters ignorant of the law protecting them. Another Woodcock was captured in a garage and brought to me alive. I banded and released it.

Late in November, 1944, I had a letter from J. W. Summers, science teacher at the Griggsville High School, which read: "For the past two weeks I have been observing what to me is most unusual. About three miles northeast of Perry, in a creek valley, some two or three hundred Woodcock have been having a great time feeding. I first observed them on November 13, again November 20, and November 23 and 26. On the last date few remained. In the past twenty-five years, I have seen possibly fifteen Woodcocks all told, but never before anything like the number accumulated in the Perry creek valley."

It has probably been fifty years since a similar accumulation was reported from the middle Mississippi Valley. Whether this invasion of Woodcocks is due to an unusually good year on the feeding grounds or to a shift of migration route due to unsatisfactory breeding conditions in the east, is difficult to tell. Certainly, in the spring and fall of 1945, we shall watch the same valley for a similar invasion.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois*.

A further record for the Double-crested Cormorant from the Pleistocene of Florida.—Early in 1934 the late Walter Wetmore Holmes forwarded to me a number of bones of the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) from the pit on Florida Avenue, Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida,¹ that furnish a new locality for this species from the Pleistocene of the state. For various reasons the specimens were laid aside at the time but it seems desirable now to place them on record. The lot includes parts of right and left humeri, an ulna, a fragmentary radius, a coracoid, one vertebra and a broken lower jaw, all found associated in such a manner that the collector, Mr. J. E. Moore, believed that they are parts of the skeleton of one individual bird.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Yellow Rail nesting in Massachusetts.—On August 1, 1944, my son Richard and I were taking a bird walk through the salt marshes in Essex County, Massachusetts. Following the railroad tracks toward Newburyport, we were crossing one of these marshes and had reached a point about half way when we heard a bird call which seemed to come from the marsh grass at the base of the roadbed. The tracks here were elevated about 12 feet above the marsh. Directly beneath us was a bare spot in the marsh, roughly triangular in shape and approximately six feet across. It was from the grass fringing this spot that the call seemed to come.

We waited quietly and were soon rewarded by seeing a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops n. noveboracensis*) walk leisurely out of the marsh grass to the center of the bare patch where it stopped to stretch and preen its feathers. It was not more than 18 feet away from us, and being above it we had an excellent chance to study it. Then, to add to our enjoyment and surprise, another Yellow Rail, the female, with her brood of black downy young, approached through the marsh grass to the edge of the same bare spot. Just how many young there were it was impossible to tell, as they did not stray far from the marsh grass, and were constantly on the move, running back and forth. We did, on several occasions see four at one time and judged that there were six or seven in the brood. The female did not venture far out into the open, as

¹ See Wetmore, A., *Smiths. Misc. Coll.*, 85 (no. 2): 8, April 13, 1931.