

specimens. At this time a flock of about twenty were noticed at Hyde Lake and two specimens were secured. The flock, gradually diminishing in numbers, stayed at Hyde Lake until about August 15. In the interim the writer took another specimen, and several were secured by Messrs. Conover and Sanborn. Now, with a series of four I determined to compare my birds with the series in the Field Museum. On examining their birds I found that they had been identified by Mr. Cory on the basis of the barring of the under parts and with more or less disregard for measurement discrimination. On measuring it was found that on the whole the bills and tarsi of the birds labeled *griseus* averaged as much or more than those marked *scolopaceus*. It would appear that the two diagnostic marks, the breast markings and the bill measurements are not at all correlated! Certainly I know this, that all my birds approach closer the measurements given by Ridgway for *griseus* than for *scolopaceus*. and so I have determined to label all my specimens *griseus* until further light is cast upon the subject.

Zonotrichia querula. HARRIS'S SPARROW.—The status of Harris's Sparrow in our area presents a very interesting if a somewhat perplexing problem and one which I hope to take up in greater detail at some future time. Woodruff mentions one record of James Dunn (Auk, XII, p. 395), and the sight record of Mr. Ruthven Deane. Nelson lists the bird as a very rare visitant, and Coale has one sight record. Certainly the bird has been very rare until the last few years.

Within the last three years however at least twelve records have been reported. Mr. Stoddard has taken two at Miller, Indiana; Mr. William Lyons trapped and banded one last year, and two this year.

My attention was first called to the bird when Mr. Lewis observed three individuals September 26, 1920, and I also succeeded in finding them. Last year Mr. Lewis again found a bird September 21, 1921.

This year the bird was first reported by Mr. C. J. Hunt on September 23. Mr. Hunt found one bird in Lincoln Park. Mr. Lewis and I succeeded in finding two birds at the same place September 26, and I secured one immature male on that date. Mr. Colin C. Sanborn took one bird, a male at Beach, Illinois, also on September 26. It would seem that this bird is extending its range eastward and is becoming commoner and more regular at Chicago. What is the reason?

Icteria virens. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—A rare bird in our area. One observed by Mr. Watson and the writer May 19 in Jackson Park is my only record.—N. F. LEOPOLD, JR., 4754 Greenwood Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

Notes from Elizabeth, N. J.—The following records are submitted as of possible general interest:

Passerculus sandwichensis savanna. SAVANNAH SPARROW.—On June 10 the writer found a Savannah Sparrow chipping vigorously on a mound of mud upon the local salt marsh. Lack of time prevented a

careful search for a nest but upon my return to the same locality on June 17 I found a pair of these birds. They evidenced great concern at my presence, the female flying at the male and making advances often seen when birds are alarmed over the safety of their young. I withdrew and watched from a distance of fifty yards. The birds were apparently feeding young in the grass. They carried insects repeatedly to two different places, one frequently singing the characteristic *chip, chip, chip, seee, ser eee*. I visited the spots but though I heard a chipping I could not locate the young in the thick cover. The adult birds were still carrying food when I again passed the spot several hours later, but when I returned the following week both had disappeared. On July 4, 23 and 28, however, I found this species on another part of the same marsh. These are my first local summer records.

Bartramia longicauda. UPLAND PLOVER.—The one compensation for the serious ornithological damage wrought in this section by the Mosquito Commission has been the appearance of the Upland Plover as a post-breeding season summer visitor on the wide expanse of dry, drained salt hay marsh with which this locality is blessed. When the uncut salt hay has been flattened and matted down by wind and storm, and when the grasshopper crop is maturing, the Uplander Plover appear. They have occurred in limited numbers for two succeeding years during August in the same general location on the marsh. Dates for 1922 range from August 2 to September 3.

Florida caerulea. LITTLE BLUE HERON.—For the third consecutive year immature Little Blue Herons have occurred near Elizabeth—nine on July 28 and two on Aug. 10, 1922.

Casmerodius egretta. AMERICAN EGRET.—Appeared here—three on August 2; five on August 9 and four on August 10, 1922.

Nyctanassa violacea. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON—On August 16, 1922, the writer, with Ralph Friedman of Brooklyn started two Herons from a creek on the local salt marsh. The birds arose as we were crossing a mosquito dike spanning the creek, and the tide being low, they came up from below us, giving an excellent view of their outstretched wings. The first bird was an immature Black-crowned Night Heron, a very common bird locally. The second, the instant it came into view, impressed me as a stranger. Though the size and span were about as in the Black-crown, the bird carried itself differently as it rose almost vertically from the narrow creek bed. And there was a very noticeable difference in the color. I described it as a slaty blue, darker on all the dorsal surface than its companion. Mr. Friedman described it as a bluish slate. We noticed light spots in irregular rows on the outstretched wing, more conspicuous, because of the sharper contrast with the darker background color, than the similar spots on the wing of the Black-crown. The primary feathers appeared a uniform slaty blue. The birds flew off, turned, and crossed before us and we both then noted that the slaty blue bird had per-

ceptibly longer legs—that is they trailed out a little further beyond the tail. Also the bulge of the curved neck appeared rather more prominent than in the Black-crown. The two again turned, this time abruptly, and on the turn I saw a difference in bearing. We marked the spot where they lit and were able to approach very closely before they arose. We both noted again the differences in color, and while Mr. Friedman, from his position, failed to affirm the differences in length of legs and carriage of neck, the writer had a very favorable chance to compare the two birds through 8 X glasses as they flew across his path at relatively close range, one almost directly over the other. A noticeable difference in the length of the legs was again apparent, though only a very slight difference in the carriage of the neck. No striking difference was noted in the rate of wing beats, as is often seen when comparing the flight of the Black-crown and the Bittern. Neither Mr. Friedman nor I was certain of the identity of the bird until a perusal of the published descriptions and an examination of museum specimens convinced us that the stranger was an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

Opportunity came to more certainly confirm this conclusion on September 3, 1922, when the writer and Mr. Friedman were again covering the same marsh. We flushed the strange bird three times from a rush-bordered creek at close range and each time immediately noted the bluish tinge to the darker upper parts, especially the primaries. Finally the bird lit in a small dead tree in and about which six immature Black-crowns were roosting. We were able to approach closely and secured a good view in fair light. The poise of the bird was different from the Black-crowns. The full length of unfeathered leg was distinctly longer than the latter and the stranger seemed to stand up higher from its perch. The extended neck appeared slightly more slender, especially the basal half, than that of the Black-crown, the bill was heavier and the legs darker. We noted the dark top and back of the head in contrast to the cheek, and the darker back. The stranger was the last to leave and was noticeably tamer than the Black-crowns.

Pluvialis dominicus GOLDEN PLOVER.—This bird is still found occasionally during the fall on the wide expanse of salt marsh here. Two birds were seen at very close range by the writer on a piece of burnt meadow September 17, 1922. They were identified by (1) the rich golden color of the lighter markings on the back and top of head; (2) absence of black axillaries under wing, well seen since the wings of both birds were repeatedly raised while they preened and fed on the ground; (3) absence of conspicuous white on the tail and rump when they were in flight; (4) more slender bill in contrast to Black-bellied Plover; and (5) repeated nervous bobbing of the head. A single bird with a broken leg was found on the same marsh October 1. I was able to approach very closely and noted the more slender bill, color, and absence of white on base of tail and outstretched wings as seen in flight. Also heard the bird call. CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, New Jersey.*