

inland, though this runs counter to the statement of Kumlein and Hollister. On January 19, 1913, a male was flushed at Lake Wingra from an opening formed by one of the springs. The intervening period of "watchful waiting" has failed to produce another record.

Oidemia deglandi. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.—The writer shot a pair at Picnic Point, Lake Mendota, October 30, 1910.

Lobipes lobatus. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—Rare migrant. An immature female was taken in a marsh near Madison on September 3, 1923. The bird was alone.

Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus. LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER.—An irregular migrant, occurring in small numbers. On May 17, 1925, in company with Mr. John Main, a flock of twenty-six, associated with Red-backed Sandpipers, was found at Lake Kegonsa. This is the largest flock by far that I have encountered. A female collected from a flock of four, on May 16, 1915, was referred to this form by Dr. Alexander Wetmore.

Pisobia fuscicollis. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—Aside from birds seen, I have a male taken at "The Widespread" May 10, 1914.

Zonotrichia querula. HARRIS'S SPARROW.—In my experience, this species is far from regular. I saw one, October 21, 1917, and another, September 9, 1922, which I tried to collect, but without success. I finally took a female, May 16, 1926.

Spizella pallida. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW.—A regular migrant in small numbers. It bred near Madison in 1920 when I took a male on May 30, and another on June 27. It appears the first week in May and passes southward the end of September. I took a male May 2, 1926, my earliest previous record being May 3, 1924.

Dumetella carolinensis. CATBIRD.—I shot a female on December 20, 1925. The bird's flight was normal so I supposed that I had a sound winter record. On preparing the skin, however, I found that at one time the right humerus had been fractured near the elbow, but had healed perfectly. This incident is cited to show that caution is very necessary before assuming voluntary winter residence by certain species. The stomach contained fruit of the climbing bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*).

Troglodytes aedon parkmani. WESTERN HOUSE WREN.—All the specimens of *Troglodytes* taken by me are easily referable to this form. In fact, I believe that *T. aedon aedon* is on the defensive and will have to justify its existence on the state list. This point is being investigated.

Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola. WILLOW THRUSH.—The skins so far submitted to Dr. H. C. Oberholser have been referred to this race. The status of *H. f. fuscescens* and *H. f. salicicola* in the state is being determined and the results will be published later.—A. W. SCHORGER, 2021 Kendall Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.

Avian Thyroids.—One field in ornithology, amongst many others into which ornithologists have made few excursions, is that of avian physiology. There are hints here and there in the work previously done in this field,

that further research may disclose conditions which have a direct bearing on questions heretofore considered purely ornithological (cf., *Avian Gonads and Migration*, Condor, July, 1926).

Unfortunately for bird students, many investigations already made relating to bird physiology have been published in journals rarely or never seen by ornithologists. Because of this fact attention is here directed to some data recently published in the 'Schweizerische Medizinische Wochenschrift' (Basel), April 17, 1926. In this article it is reported that the thyroids of male Crows shot in the fall and winter are larger than those of Crows shot in spring and summer. This thyroid enlargement and shrinkage is comparable to that of the gonads of birds, with however a reversed curve. There is definite evidence in mammalian physiology that the ovary and thyroid are mutually regulative; this recent publication on bird thyroids tends to show that this thyroid-ovary interaction obtains also with birds. It would be of much interest and value to determine if physiological thyroid hypertrophy and atrophy in migrating birds has a larger swing between extremes than in non-migrating birds.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

Passerine Birds Eating Trout Fry.—Mr. F. G. Bonfils of Denver has given me the following information, some of which is, to me, strange and entirely new:—At several places along the South Fork of the South Platte River in Colorado there are fishing clubs, which maintain ponds for the propagation of trout, which are later liberated in the main stream. Mr. Bonfils, while at the Wigwam Fishing Club in July, 1926, noticed a Robin picking food out of the shallow waters of the Club pond; to his amazement, on close examination he discovered that the bird was catching and eating small trout fry. This seemed so extraordinary that he took time to verify his discovery by a prolonged surveillance of the pond. Careful inquiry amongst the caretakers of the Club grounds disclosed the fact that they had been aware, for some time, of this fish-fry-eating habit of Robins, and also, that Brewer's Blackbirds and Magpies too, had the same habit. They reported the Spotted Sandpiper as also catching trout fry.

Mr. Bonfils learned that members and attendants of the Rainbow Fish Club, on the South Platte, above Deckers, had also noticed this habit in the Robins, Blackbirds and Magpies about the Rainbow Club, and had carefully verified it.

I have frequently seen Brewer's Blackbirds wading in the shallow waters of creeks and slews catching fresh water shrimps, and water insects, but never small fish. Such unusual habits give rise to interesting speculations as to the beginnings of avian differentiation.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

Effect of Fires on Pine Barren Bird Life.—The writer spent part of the month of June, 1926, in making a survey of the breeding birds of Ocean County. During the late winter and early spring large areas of the pine