

An Early Banding Record.—An interesting early banding record is given in the account of the Mahdist uprising in the Egyptian Sudan, 'Fire and Sword in the Sudan,' by the author, Colonel Sir R. Slaten Pasha. This officer was a captive among the Mahdists for twelve years, and was frequently called upon to translate various papers. On one occasion, in 1893, he was handed a small metal cartridge case in which was the following message written in French, German, English, and Russian:

"This Crane has been bred and brought up on my estate in Ascanea Nova in the province of Tauride in South Russia. Whoever catches or kills the bird is requested to communicate with me, and inform me where it occurred."

September, 1892.

(Signed) F. R. Falz-Fein.

The Crane had been killed near Dongolla by a native, and the metal case was found about its neck.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences*.

Wintering Mniotiltidae in Central Ohio.—Four species of Mniotiltidae have been recorded in winter from central Ohio since 1922 according to records of the Wheaton Club of Columbus, the Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*), Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*), and Northern Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*). The occasional presence of the Myrtle Warbler as a winter resident is not surprising since it has frequently been recorded at this season from other northern states. Apparently, however, this bird was not known as a winter resident to the earlier Ohio ornithologists.

Of the three remaining species only one, the Orange-crown, has been found in winter in the northern states often enough to be considered anything but casual at this season. Wright (Auk, 1917, p. 11) gives numerous Massachusetts records in the early part of the winter but offers little data which would suggest that the species had successfully survived the season.

On December 26, 1926, a single Orange-crowned Warbler was observed in Greenlawn Cemetery near Columbus by Edward S. Thomas, Robert M. Geist and Stanley Douglas. Later other observers noted an Orange-crown in the same locality, doubtless the same bird. It was seen on January 7, 1927, January 16, 29, 30; February 7 and 10. It was shy and restless, associating but little with other birds. Whether its disappearance after February 10 was due to an accidental death, to failure of its ability to cope with winter conditions for an extended time, or to an early migratory impulse is problematical. It is unlikely that it was present and escaped notice, since there were observers familiar with the bird and its habits in the vicinity many times during late February and March. The Orange-crowned Warbler has not before been reported in central Ohio at a season which would suggest the possibility of its wintering. Except for this instance the latest fall date is October 12, 1925 and the earliest spring record, April 25, 1926. It is rare at either season.

Another Warbler which wintered in the same locality was a Palm Warbler, first seen on December 19, 1926, by Harold S. Peters and the writer. On December 26, two individuals were reported but later records in the same locality refer to a single bird. The dates were, January 2, 7, 9, 16, 22, 29, 30; February 7, 10, 19, 23; March 5 and 13. This bird was almost invariably in the company of a small flock of Juncos and two Red-breasted Nuthatches and was therefore easily located. Much of the feeding seemed to be terrestrial, the bird taking advantage of the dense shrubs and evergreens under which the ground was bare all winter. On two occasions it was noted hovering under the eaves of a stone vault, thus securing while on the wing some small lepidopterous pupae that are commonly found in the crevices of stone buildings and monuments.

The length of the period during which the bird was seen leaves no doubt that it survived the winter, which was in temperature only slightly above the normal for this region. The lowest temperatures recorded during this time were, 12° on December 19, 2° on January 15, 4° on January 16, 6° on January 26 and 15° on February 11.

The Palm Warbler had previously been suspected of wintering in central Ohio. In 1924 one was recorded December 6 and 13 near Columbus and on February 28, 1925 a single bird was noted by the writer at Buckeye Lake (Licking County). There are several November records. Thus we have evidence that the species has wintered in two of the past three years. This is entirely at variance with statements concerning the winter range of the Palm Warbler in every authority which I have been able to examine, indeed the 1924 edition of Chapman's 'Handbook' gives southern Florida as the northern limit of its winter range. In the same text we read that the Yellow Palm Warbler (*D. p. hypochrysea*) winters "from La. and northern Fla. casually to N. C. and Pa." The specimen which wintered at Columbus was typical *palmarum*. In recent numbers of 'The Auk' I note three winter records for the Palm Warbler from the northeastern states as follows: Nov. 26, 1911 to Jan. 3, 1912—Boston, Mass. (Wright—1912, p. 247); Nov. 9 and Dec. 9, 1916—Belmont, Mass. (Faxon—1917, p. 217) and Dec. 13, 1914—Long Island, N. Y. (Murphy and Rogers—1915, p. 230). Each of these records is referred to the western race, *palmarum*. From the records given here it seems apparent that the bird should be considered of casual occurrence in winter far to the north of the range commonly ascribed to it at this season.

On January 1, 1924, Mr. Edward S. Thomas found a Northern Yellowthroat in a weedy field adjacent to the Olentangy River near Columbus. This bird was seen several times during the winter by a number of local observers. On March 28 the writer saw the bird and heard it sing. Although this locality was visited frequently after this date the Yellowthroat was not found. Migrants arrived in number on April 29. The Palm Warbler mentioned above also disappeared long before the first

migrating individuals of the species arrived and we have noted a similar hiatus between the departure of wintering Myrtle Warblers and the appearance of spring migrants.—CHARLES F. WALKER, *The Ohio State Museum, Columbus, Ohio.*

Bird Migration at Guatemala City, Guatemala.—At 7 P.M. on the evening of September 19, 1927, (Guatemala time) we had, after a calm afternoon, a typical rainy season thunder storm with exceedingly violent showers. The thunder storm abating, the sky remained very cloudy and there was a drizzling rain all through the night until about 5 o'clock the following morning, interrupted by violent showers and short stops. The night seemed calm but the drifting clouds indicated movements in the upper air.

About 8 P. M. I heard, from the dark sky, bird calls: soft whistles like *gi, gi, gi*, (as i in give) or *di, di, di*, or hoarse monosyllables like *ca*. I finally saw about sixty birds the size of a small Heron circling over the city. About 11 P.M. the cries increased and I realized that the city of Guatemala was witnessing the splendid phenomenon of a night migration such as I had seen at Heligoland during several residences there.

I watched the flight until 2:30 A.M. and up to that time could detect no decrease in the flight although there was a constant variation in the intensity of the calls, they being more numerous during cessations in the rainfall. I heard the following calls which I give in the order of their frequency.

1. *gi, gi, gi*, (i, as in give) or *dudu, dudu*. Soft whistling calls certainly made by a *Totanus* like those of *T. totanus* in Heligoland. These callers seemed to always pass in little groups of three to five individuals. The number of calls per minute ranged from 5 to 40.

2. *ka, ya, yak, kyak*, (like a in car). Separate, deep, loud, rattling calls sometimes exactly recalling *Corvus monedula* of Europe. The birds passed at a moderate altitude over the city in groups of 80, 60, 20, 18, 15, and 5 individuals. I calculated that at one time there were at least 500 flying over the lights of the city.

3. *tsik*, a high loud tone from a moderate altitude. About the same number of calls throughout the night.

4. *tsirr*, frequently repeated at short intervals. Resembled the call of a flying *Delichon urbica* (European Martin) the call seemed so close that I thought I would be able to see the bird but I could not.

5. *pit* exactly like the short migrating note of a European Song Thrush (*Turdus musicus*).

7. *tse, tse*, (like e in bed).

8. *tsee, tsee*, or *fee, fee*, (like ee in free). Clearly two syllables, loud and clear.

9. *héedee, héedee*, (like ee in free). Loud, high and penetrating whistles like the voice of the European Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*). The whistles were from a considerable altitude and not more than five to a minute as if single birds were passing over quickly.