

years ago it was quite common in the winter and in favorite spots great numbers of mice and small birds would be found impaled on thorns.

Thryothorus l. ludovicianus. CAROLINA WREN.—On January 7, 1924 and for several days thereafter, a Carolina Wren appeared at our feeding station. Although manifesting all the nervousness of a Wren, it was not shy and fed on some suet tied to a bar across the window, four inches from the glass. We were able to observe this bird while seated within three feet of the window. It was not taken but George S. Wing made a pencil sketch which clearly shows the characteristic markings of the species.—LEONARD W. WING, *Jackson, Michigan*.

Certain Land Birds Observed at Sea.—It is always interesting to see birds under abnormal conditions. Many times such observations are of no scientific significance, but in the case of migrating birds they are always valuable, in that any intermediate point between their summer and winter homes is of interest. While on my way to Salem, Mass., in October, 1930, I made part of the trip by water, going to New York from Charleston via the Clyde-Mallory Line and returning the same way, two weeks later. A watch was kept for migrating birds en-route and the results of the observations may be of interest.

Migrants began showing up soon after the ship passed the Charleston Bar, on October 15. The first one of these was a Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) which was flushed from the promenade deck forward, and which flew up to the boat deck. It appeared to be a good shape and was bright and active. The ship was, at the time, about thirty miles off-shore. An hour or two later, a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*) appeared, flew around the ship two or three times, and finally alighted on a stay of the foremast about six feet over the writer's head. Another was seen on the following day. In the afternoon, as the ship was about off Cape Lookout, North Carolina coast, and well out at sea, a House Wren (*Troglodytes a. aedon*) was seen on the forecastle. It crept about under the winches and about the mooring bitts for the better part of an hour.

Cape Hatteras was passed in the night and on the 16th, another Dove was seen early in the morning. The ship reached at this point, its furthest from shore, being about 100 miles out. A Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) came aboard early in the morning and remained all day. It perched here and there, calling loudly and evinced a clearly bewildered attitude. From then on, all through the day various birds appeared. A Palm Warbler (*Dendroica p. palmarum*) and several Myrtle Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) were aboard for hours. These birds caught numbers of small moths which were about, making sallies from the various decks and seeming not to be inconvenienced in the slightest. Many of them would take off and fly westward for some distance, only to wheel about and come back to the ship. Three White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) stayed most of the afternoon, creeping about the steel decks near the cargo hatches forward, as if searching for food. One of them

sat upon a coil of rope at the foremast for nearly an hour, chipping nervously occasionally. They seemed more ill at ease than the Warblers. Late in the afternoon, a Bobolink (*Dolichonyx orizivorus*) came aboard in a very tired condition and sat on the forecastle deck for about forty minutes without moving a muscle. I approached to within a few feet of it. A Pine Warbler (*Dendroica vigorsii*) was the last visitor that day. The weather all the way to New York was very fine and the sea nearly like a mill pond. The breeze was very light, mostly from the north-west.

The return trip, begun October 30, was very different in character. It blew hard all the way down from the south-west and the sea was rough. This militated against the occurrence of small birds, combined with the fact that the season was advanced by two full weeks. Nevertheless, Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco h. hyemalis*) were seen several times on the 31st, as well as Myrtle (*D. coronata*) and Palm Warblers (*D. p. palmarum*). I approached to within two feet of one of the latter as it sat upon the anchor cable. The most interesting item of the return trip was the presence of a Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). I first noticed the bird as I was watching some Gulls and Jaegers near the stern of the ship. The Owl was flying along about seventy-five yards off the port quarter, heading quartering into the fresh wind, and keeping a course parallel to that of the ship with remarkable exactness. It did not appear to be very tired, but flapped constantly, in striking contrast to the easy, soaring flight of the Gulls and Jaegers, which sometimes swooped within a foot of it. It kept behind for nearly half an hour during which time I did not take my eyes from it except for seconds at a time. Finally, it made a spurt, and came up opposite with the bridge, shot into the air to a height of perhaps fifty feet and started to drop downward, its feet were hanging at the time. Three times it did this, the wind blowing it back each time, until it finally dropped to the deck just aft of the bridge, where I lost sight of it.

Eleven species of land birds were seen, and had the ship been nearer to land others would doubtless have occurred.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR.,
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