

summer of 1930, photographs were obtained of the adults and young of the Great Black-backed Gull.

The larger species apparently lived in perfect harmony with the smaller, and more abundant, Herring Gulls. The total gull colony was estimated at two thousand pairs, and they occupied an area of about twenty acres. The three nests of the Black-backed Gulls were some distance apart, and Herring Gull nests were within a few feet of each.

In a recent article, Richard J. Eaton¹ says, “. . . it is highly probable that the Black-backed Gull within a very few years, if not in 1931, has made the first definite southward extension of its breeding range since Audubon's time.” The records of Arthur H. Norton and Robert P. Allen² give further evidence of this extension. They record the breeding of this species on ten islands farther up the coast than our record. Our data show that the southward extension of breeding range began at least within the last three years, and probably a few years earlier.—C. F. JACKSON, and PHILIP F. ALLAN, *Univ. New Hampshire, Durham, N. H.*

Nesting of the Eastern Mourning Dove.—Though the Mourning Dove is well known to appropriate abandoned nests of the Robin and other birds my attention was recently called to a case where the Dove drove the Robin from a newly made nest, the Robin submitting without protest. As usual the Dove put a shallow lining in the nest before using it.

During the summer of 1931, I witnessed several attempts of a Dove to drive a Robin from a nest that it was remodeling for a second brood but the Robin waged a successful fight and the Dove built a nest of its own nearby.

The past mild winter seemed to induce the Doves to nest earlier than usual. In mid-February an egg was found near a nest that Blue Jays had destroyed and on March 3, 1932 a young Dove just hatched was found on the ground under a nest.—MYRA KATIE ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio.*

Early Breeding of the Eastern Mourning Dove in Virginia.—The unusual weather conditions prevailing during the past winter and spring have resulted in some curious ornithological records. Among these the following account of an early nesting and laying of the Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*) in Virginia, is of interest.

On February 21, 1932, while following an old wood road leading from the valley of Potomac Run, Virginia, to the upland, we flushed a female dove from her nest located in a small pine (*Pinus virginiana*), beside the road. Investigation revealed two eggs which were collected and are now in the National Museum collection. They appeared to have been slightly frozen, but were not cracked. The parent had utilized an old Cardinal's nest for the foundation of her own flimsy structure. The site of this nest is about

¹ Eaton, R. J.: *The Auk*, vol. XLVIII, No. 4, pp. 588-589, 1931.

² Norton, A. H., and Allen, R. P.: *The Auk*, vol. XLVIII, No. 4, pp. 589-592, 1931.

fifty miles by motor from the capitol city, and about midway between Stafford and Fredericksburg, Virginia, on U. S. Highway No. 1. The earliest previous record for this section as given by May Thacher Cooke¹ is April 6, 1919.

An interesting sequel to the collection of this set was noted on April 3, 1932, when we again visited this locality. A short search resulted in our flushing the bird from a new nest of her own construction, placed in a windfall about four feet from the ground, and within fifty feet of the site of the earlier effort. The nest again held its two eggs which we left undisturbed. Incubation appeared to be considerably advanced.—ALEXANDER WETMORE and FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Washington, D. C.*

Late Occurrence of Eastern Mourning Doves.—On December 27, 1931, the writer observed near this city a flock of between sixty and seventy Eastern Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*), interesting both for its size and the late date of occurrence, undoubtedly due to mildness of the season. The birds were on the ground, evidently feeding, in a brushy tract at the edge of woods. Upon being disturbed they arose almost *en masse* and alighted in near-by, barren-limbed trees, presenting a picture strikingly remindful of certain Passenger Pigeon delineations. Small groups of doves have been recorded as wintering hereabout during recent years. It should be stated, however, that their general numerical status in central Illinois shows a very noticeable decrease within the past decade.—HAROLD M. HOLLAND, *Galesburg, Ill.*

The Snowy Owl in South Carolina.—On December 29, 1931, I was watching some small birds on the Grove Plantation near Adams Run, Charleston Co., S. C. Suddenly I noticed a movement in a clump of Spanish moss in a nearby live oak and as I looked up a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) burst out of the tree and flew noiselessly away. The identification was unmistakable as the bird flew directly in front of me.

I procured a gun but was unable to secure him and when last seen he was flying away over the rice fields.—J. WILLCOX BROWN, *White Oaks, Montchanin, Delaware.*

Snowy Owl in Michigan.—During the winter of 1930-31 I observed three of these birds near McMillan, Luce Co., Michigan. One on December 5, 1930, perched on the top of a dead hemlock. It or another individual was seen on several subsequent dates by Mr. R. S. Ruggles who lives nearby. Another bird flew past my trapping station and rested for a while on a balsam fir tree on January 8, 1931. The third observation was of a bird perched on the top of a windmill on February 19, 1931. It was heavily barred with black, evidently a female.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, *McMillan, Luce Co., Mich.*

¹ Birds of the Washington, D. C., Region. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. 42, p. 34, Mar. 25, 1929.