

The Winter Status of the Carolina Junco.—Apparently very little is known about the winter status of the Carolina Junco (*Junco hyemalis carolinensis*), which is usually stated as "the lowlands adjacent" to its breeding range. I took a Junco near Lexington, Va., on January 22, 1932, which was identified as *carolinensis* by Dr. Herbert Friedmann, of the U. S. National Museum. I have not been able to learn of any other winter specimen taken north of North Carolina. The fact that I had not been able to secure this form in winter previously, although it is a common breeder in the mountains nearby, led me to make some inquiries of the larger eastern museums, with some interesting results. There seem to be no winter specimens of this form at all in the U. S. National Museum, the Carnegie Museum, or the collections of the Philadelphia Academy. There are fifteen in the Brewster collection in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and four in the American Museum, but all are from North Carolina. Dr. E. A. Smyth, Jr., in twenty years of collecting in Montgomery County, in western Virginia, found only the typical northern form in winter, although he examined many Juncos. (Auk, XXIX, 1912, p. 521). On the other hand, beyond the southern end of its breeding range, it has been found far from the mountains in winter. In the 'Second Supplement to Arthur T. Wayne's Birds of South Carolina' (Charleston Museum, 1931), Sprunt and Chamberlain say that it "winters down to the coast." They give three mid-winter coastal South Carolina records, and Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., writes me that he has several other such records. In the light of the almost complete absence of records from Virginia and farther north on the one hand and of the occurrences on the South Carolina coast on the other, I would suggest the probability that there is a general migration on the part of the Carolina Junco, with a resultant scarcity in winter in the northern part of the range, a concentration in the uplands of the Carolinas, and an advance beyond the southern limits of the breeding range eastward and southward on the part of many individuals. Possibly it might also be found in central Georgia and northern Alabama. Further information on these points would be of interest.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia*.

The Lark Bunting, an Addition to the Virginia Avifauna.—On February 11, 1932, at Cameron's Pond, near Lexington, Virginia, I had the pleasure of taking the first Lark Bunting (*Calomospiza melanocorys*) to be recorded from Virginia. As I was watching some Song and Tree Sparrows in a shallow limestone sink hole in a pasture this bird flew up from a thick tangle of briars and alighted in a bush. The buff wing patch at once caught my eye, and I soon realized that the bird was strange to me, although I had no idea what it was. After collecting it and looking it up I came to the conclusion that it was a Lark Bunting. I could not determine the sex in skinning it, and Dr. Herbert Friedmann, who has examined the bird and confirmed the identification, writes me that it is not possible to be certain as to the sex from the plumage in winter. He says that the bird is apparent-

ly an adult, judging by the hardness of the skull. The specimen has been deposited in the U. S. National Museum (No. 330128). This bird of the western plains has hitherto been reported in the east only from Massachusetts, New York, and South Carolina.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*

Notes from Along the Connecticut River.—Extremely mild, snowless weather until February 4 led to occasional individuals of such species as the Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, and Field Sparrow, wintering in western Massachusetts, and a Savannah Sparrow at South Windsor, Conn. Other birds were not far south, for in the first week of March the Red-shouldered Hawk in numbers, the Kingfisher, Bluebird, Red-wing, and Bronzed Grackle, were noted; and though the second and third weeks of the month were cold, with constant high north winds, the Fox Sparrow appeared March 10 and the Killdeer March 18. Northern birds, on the other hand, were scarce: the Goshawk, for example, has been seen but twice (March 18 and April 3) and the Northern Shrike but once, March 19.

Never in our experience has there been such a migration of water-fowl. Either the short gunning-season allowed by the Federal Government preserved the lives of many, or more likely the mild winter encouraged many to linger in Long Island or eastward waters, whence they passed north or northwest across our territory.

Cygnus columbianus. WHISTLING SWAN.—The most striking visitor was a swan on Woodland Pond, Manchester, Conn. Hordes of little fishes, mysteriously killed, attracted great flocks of gulls to the pond, and on going to see them, March 23, Mr. C. W. Vibert of South Windsor discovered this swan. A great many bird-students visited it in the next four or five days and it remained until April 4. It was positively not a Mute Swan: no yellow whatever could be seen on its bill.

Other species noted have been:

Branta bernicla hrota. BRANT.—A flock of 18 appeared at South Windsor, Conn., March 13, and remained until the 25th, when they were seen in northward flight at the very moment when we, from Massachusetts, arrived. The flock then consisted of 15 birds.

Anas rubripes rubripes. RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK.—Though at no time so common with us as *A. r. tristis*, some birds of this race were still at Porter Lake, Springfield, as late as April 16. Together, the two races amounted to over 100 birds. On April 5 at Northampton, Mr. Eliot closely approached an apparently mated pair, of which the male was *rubripes*, the female *tristis*. The drake made frequent short, low flights, for the sole purpose, it seemed, of displaying to his mate his brilliant legs.

Chaulelasmus streperus. GADWALL.—From the Ox-bow at Northampton on April 2, a duck was flushed which, because a male Baldpate was also in the flock, was supposed to be a female of that species. When the flock swung broadside, however, the lean form, blade-like wings, and sharply defined white speculum, indicated a Gadwall. Next day the male Baldpate