

Reading Museum by Lester Leinbach, the County Game Protector.—
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Winter Records for the Coastal Region of North Carolina.—A field trip of two weeks' duration (from January 5 to January 19), along the islands and coast of North Carolina, revealed a number of birds generally regarded as being uncommon in this area during the winter season.

In the 'Birds of North Carolina,' by Pearson, Brimley and Brimley (p. 136) the authors state that the Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) ". . . has been recorded from Beaufort and Pea Island in February, and doubtless a limited number spend the winter along our shores." On January 8 at the Haynes-Laster Game Refuge on Portsmouth Island, fifteen individuals of this species were seen in one flock and smaller numbers were encountered from the 10th to the 14th on Portsmouth, Ocracoke, and Hatteras Islands. These birds were always associated with or in close proximity to other shore birds.

As many as 175 Sanderlings (*Crocethia alba*) and 44 Red-backed Sandpipers (*Pelidna a. sakhalina*) were seen in a single flock. Smaller numbers were observed daily on all the islands visited. A small number of Black-bellied Plovers (*Squatarola squatarola*) and Least Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*) were often associated with them.

On the gravelly beach near the Coast Guard Station at Ocracoke, on January 10, I was able to approach within twenty feet of three Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria i. morinella*). The authors of the 'Birds of North Carolina' (p. 150) write that Turnstones occur on the ". . . coastal region during the migration, at least from March to early June and from mid August nearly to winter." This apparently is the first winter record.

Sixteen Oyster-catchers (*Haematopus p. palliatus*) were observed feeding on an exposed shoal on the preceding day, January 9, at Portsmouth.

Within fifty yards of the Coast Guard house at Ocracoke I picked up a dead Razor-billed Auk (*Alca torda*). This bird probably had been blown ashore during one of the recent storms. It was very thin and its stomach was entirely empty. Only two North Carolina records of this species, namely for birds taken in February, 1890, at Cape Lookout and Morehead, are given by Pearson, Brimley and Brimley (p. 24). Two additional January records have been noted since that time; Portsmouth, January 19, 1927 (Auk, 1927, p. 427) and Currituck Sound, January 29, 1923 (Auk, 1923, p. 317).

At Portsmouth, on January 9, two large red-billed terns were observed at close range. These were considered to be the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne c. imperator*), but none was collected. Near them three Gannets (*Moris bassana*) were also observed flying about fifty feet in the air. Suddenly, one of the latter birds saw a fish and plunged headlong into the water with such terrific force that it was completely submerged. When it came up, it was probably ten feet from the point where it struck the water. Its dive appeared to be nearly perpendicular.

Each day from the 6th to the 10th on Portsmouth and Ocracoke Islands one to three Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*) were observed. Both their song and actions were typical of the summer season. They were observed eating the berries of holly (*Ilex* sp.) and juniper.

At Ocracoke, January 10, a male Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas* subsp?) was encountered, and at Swan Quarter on the mainland coast, January 18, one Yellow Palm Warbler (*Dendroica p. hypochrysea*) was observed.

At various points along the sand dunes of Portsmouth, Ocracoke, and Hatteras Islands we saw a limited number of Ipswich Sparrows (*Passerculus princeps*). Undoubtedly this bird is an annual winter visitor to the region. In the 'Birds of North Carolina' the authors state (p. 235) that it is ". . . at present only recorded from Pea and Bodie Islands, and from Currituck County."—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Notes from Western North Carolina.—These observations were made at Cone's Lake, on the edge of the village of Blowing Rock, N. C., at an altitude slightly below 4000 feet.

Florida c. caerulea. LITTLE BLUE HERON.—On August 8, 1932, I saw one in adult plumage and another in white on August 30, 1930. It is rare in North Carolina at this altitude and even lower down in the mountains it is more scarce in the blue than in the white plumage.

Sitta canadensis. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—A single bird was seen on August 26, 1932. I have never found it in August at Blowing Rock previously although it is common on the slopes of Grandfather Mountain.

Regulus s. satrapa. EASTERN GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—On August 5, 1932, I found a pair feeding two young birds in a dense grove of spruce. I watched them as long as I cared to at close range and on several days. Once the family group came to the lower branches of a spruce within three feet of the ground and I almost succeeded in catching one of the young in my hand, although they could fly fairly well. The adults carried food to the young again and again just before my eyes. This seems to be fairly good evidence of the breeding of these birds at this unusually low altitude. Except for similar small patches of spruce there is no suitable breeding territory nearer than Grandfather Mountain, a dozen miles away. These birds could scarcely have travelled very far.

Vermivora peregrina. TENNESSEE WARBLER.—I saw this warbler here for the first time on Sept. 1, 1932, when I found three in immature plumage.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia.*

Additional Notes from the North Carolina Mountains.—For several years past the writer and Dr. J. J. Murray have been contributing to 'The Auk' observations on the birds of the North Carolina mountains which supplement the accounts given in the 'Birds of North Carolina,' by Pearson and the Brimleys. The following from the Blowing Rock section are in line with this practice.