

(*P. e. erythrophthalmus*), has been suspected for some time by the writer, due to certain data that have become evident through field observations in various parts of the state. It was noted that Towhees do not remain to breed in the north central part of the state near Monroe, although they are known to occur quite commonly in certain sections of Arkansas during the breeding season (Baerg, *Birds of Arkansas*, 1931). Further evidence of the absence of the species in northern Louisiana during the summer was offered by J. S. Campbell, of Bienville Parish. He had been unsuccessful in locating the birds in the northwestern part of the state, and both he and the writer could not find them in the northeastern section near Tallulah and Oak Grove, in Madison and West Carroll Parishes respectively.

At about the same time, the writer was surprised to find the Towhee a common breeding species at Baton Rouge. A nest was located there on June 28, 1932. Furthermore, the species was found not uncommon south of the Mississippi state line near Clinton and Jackson. Stanley C. Arthur's 'Birds of Louisiana,' published anonymously in 1931 by the Louisiana Department of Conservation (Bulletin No. 20, p. 569), also lists the bird as a common breeder in the region around Jackson and Clinton. This interruption in the breeding ranges of the birds occurring in Arkansas and those found in southeastern Louisiana immediately lead to the supposition that the range of the Alabama Towhee extended through Mississippi and into the Florida Parishes of this state. Such has been shown by the identification of an adult, singing male collected at Baton Rouge. Possibly this form does not occur very far west of the Mississippi River. Bailey and Wright, during several summers' work along the southern coast, were unable to find Towhees later than May 18 (Wilson Bulletin, XLIII, 1931, pp. 212-213).

The absence of an overlapping in the breeding ranges of two subspecies as closely related as the Red-eyed and Alabama Towhees is indeed interesting.

Furthermore, the fact that Audubon specifically stated in regard to the Towhee, "None of them breed in Louisiana, nor indeed in the state of Mississippi" (*Birds of America*, III, 1859, p. 168), leads one to believe that the Alabama form has extended into Louisiana since the time of Audubon. Since his home at St. Francisville is now in the center of a region where the species is abundant as a breeder, it is difficult to believe that he could have completely overlooked it.—GEORGE H. LOWERY, JR., *Department of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.*

Insects in the Winter Food of Tree Sparrows.—The stomachs of 549 Tree Sparrows (*Spizella a. arborea*) have been examined by the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, 328 of which were taken in the winter months, as follows: December, 103; January, 116; and February, 109. Of these, 14 stomachs (December, 6; January, 3; February, 5) contained insects and spiders, in percentages varying from 1 to 90 of the total content. Insects and spiders, in the form of eggs, larvae, pupae

and adults, constituted approximately one-third of all the food taken. More than 400 of the stomachs came from one restricted area, and were taken by a single collector, a long series being frequently taken in one day. Only three of these 400 stomachs were among the 14 containing insects. The 11 remaining insect-containing stomachs were taken on ten dates at ten localities by nine collectors.—PHOEBE KNAPPEN, *Washington, D. C.*

Rare birds at Lake Ontelaunee, Reading Pa.—In addition to the Leach's Petrels recorded on p. 74 *antea* the following species were observed on this reservoir lake six miles north of Reading following the storm of late August, 1933.

Oceanites oceanicus. WILSON'S PETREL.—Two were with the Leach's Petrels on the reservoir on August 24. These were readily distinguished at short range by smaller size, darker color, square tail, etc.

Sterna antillarum antillarum. LEAST TERN.—One was resting on some trash at the head of the reservoir on the same day. This is the first local occurrence of this bird in the present century, to the best of my knowledge.

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus. WILLET.—One of these striking birds seen both at rest and in flight at close range, on August 24, constitutes the first county record, either old or new.

A number of other species of rare occurrence were noted in numbers on the same day, such as Laughing Gull and Sanderling.—EARL L. POOLE, *Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pa.*

Summer Bird Records for North Carolina.—While doing field work in the Pamlico Sound area of North Carolina the week of June 22–28, I was much surprised to find two adult Least Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*) with two apparently full grown juveniles. The birds were observed on Ocracoke Island, June 25. If these birds were early fall migrants, the migration was almost a month earlier than that normally reported for this area.

It was interesting to note on this date and at the same island beach such a variety of apparently non-migrating "northern" shore-birds. The following were observed: one Lesser Yellow-legs, five Greater Yellow-legs, ten Knots, one Hudsonian Curlew, and seven Ruddy Turnstones. While none of these species were seen on any of the adjoining North Carolina islands, five Knots were observed on June 29 at Egg Island, north of Atlantic City, New Jersey. I have been unable to find any previous summer records for any of these birds for North Carolina and none are recorded by Pearson, Brimley & Brimley in their 'Birds of North Carolina.' It should be stated, however, that there are summer records for other coastal states. While none of these birds was collected, they were observed with 8-power binoculars at a comparatively close range.

Near Avon, Hatteras Island, on June 24, a flock of 42 Brown Pelicans was observed and five more individuals were seen near the town of Hatteras. Such numbers in a single flock this far north would seem to indicate an increase in numbers and an extension in the range of this species.