

1935, Mr. John Patek described to me a bird he had seen the previous day in Riverside Park, Milwaukee. It was entirely different from any native bird with which I was acquainted. The song, he said, was like that of a Goldfinch. With this clue, I suspected an escaped cage bird. Going to the park, I found and collected the bird, which my father, a man not at all interested in ornithology, recognized as a "Stieglitz" or European Goldfinch. He had known the bird some fifty years before as a boy in Czecho-Slovakia. Subsequent identification proved he was right.

Inquiry has been made at most of the pet stores in Milwaukee and also at the Zoo if such a bird had escaped. None reported having had any of this species in their possession for a number of years.

The plumage of the bird when collected was quite sooty, indicating that it had not been caged recently. I therefore feel that this bird may be reported as an accidental straggler in Wisconsin.

The skin is now in the Milwaukee Public Museum.—CLARENCE S. JUNG, 4612 N. Bahland Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*) in New Hampshire.—On January 12, 1936, while observing birds near the Connecticut River about four miles north of White River Junction, Vermont, I saw a single Hoary Redpoll in company with three Common Redpolls. The bird was an adult male, I believe, and was easily recognized.

Forbush cited one record for this bird from the state of Vermont in his 'Birds of Massachusetts' (vol. 3, p. 20), but to my knowledge there are no other definite records from the state.—WILLIAM C. VAUGHAN, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.

The Cape Sable Sparrow and Hurricanes.—At the southern end of the Florida mainland, between Cape Sable and the heavy mangrove forest that fringes the edge of the Everglades, lies a low ocean prairie extending in a narrow strip for twenty miles parallel to the coast. Scattered here and there over this area are large patches of switch grass, the home of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow (*Ammospiza mirabilis*). This species, peculiar to the Cape Sable prairie, is non-migratory, and remains in its limited range the year round, finding its food among the roots of the tall grass, and building its nest in some thick shady clump. But what happens when the awful hurricanes come? Where then do these little birds go? How can they survive?

On the second day of September, 1935, the most devastating hurricane ever recorded in this section swept over the entire range of the Cape Sable Sparrow. The low ocean prairie was completely covered with six feet of water, its surface lashed into great waves and spray by a gale of one hundred and thirty miles an hour. In the mangrove forests the trees that were large and not flexible enough to bend with the storm were torn to pieces; only the smaller ones, by bending to the water, escaped. Many large birds, Pelicans, Cormorants, Egrets, and Herons, which had gone to roost on the near-by keys were beaten down and killed. The Great White Herons suffered heavy loss. The storm continued throughout the night, leaving death and destruction in its path. Several human bodies from the Keys, thirty-five miles across the bay of Florida, were found after the storm, wedged in the mangroves that fringe the Cape Sable prairie. It is a wonder how this frail little Sparrow, with its weak, uncertain flight, could possibly survive. But it did. In the ensuing month of April (1936) I found it again in the switchgrass, pursuing, manifestly, its normal, unbroken course of life.—JOHN B. SEMPLE, Sewickley, Pennsylvania.

Harris's Sparrow again in Luce Co., Michigan.—Since recording this species (*Zonotrichia querula*) near my home here (Auk, January, 1925 and July, 1932) in

spring, I have observed it several times in the autumn. Two on September 23, 1932, and one each on the following days: September 24 to October 1 and October 11, of the same year. I banded three which were in immature plumage and saw one adult that was not trapped. In 1933 I banded an adult on October 3 and saw another on the 30th.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, *McMillan, Luce Co., Mich.*

Smith's and McCown's Longspurs Seen in Minnesota.—On October 19, 1935, a flock of about one hundred Smith's Longspurs (*Calcarius pictus*) was seen on Minnesota Highway No. 3 about six miles east of Breckenridge. They were feeding along the roadside and drinking from a nearby ditch. They appeared to be very hungry and paid no attention to us as we sat in the car and studied them for twenty minutes or more. They exhibited a variety of plumages, some showing the distinctively marked head of the male in spring, and some displaying the white of the lesser wing coverts very prominently. All were more or less buffy on the underparts.

On the following day on U. S. Highway No. 210 three and one half miles south of Hassman, Minnesota, a mixed flock of Longspurs, Horned Larks, and Snow Buntings was studied for an hour at close range from the lee side of a haystack in the middle of a newly plowed field. Chestnut-collared Longspurs of both sexes and in all phases of fall plumage made up the bulk of the large flock. Among them two male McCown's Longspurs (*Rhynchophanes mccowni*), stood out sharply as something entirely different. The underparts were white; the black of crown, "moustache marks," and upper parts of the breast patch were still most evident, and contrasted strongly with the whitish underparts. The chestnut of the shoulders was discernible, but somewhat dull.

Mr. William Kilgore, Curator of the Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota writes, "Your Longspur records were of great interest to me. . . . [McCown's Longspur] as our records show disappeared from the state sometime about 1900 and has been considered a lost species so far as Minnesota was concerned. We have very little definite information about Smith's Longspur consisting of only a few early scattered records. Just why we have never found this bird during the spring and fall migrations has always been more or less of a puzzle to us."—THEODORE PETERSON AND MRS. PETERSON, *Battle Creek, Michigan.*

Observations on Some Newfoundland Birds.—For nine days, July 28 to August 5, 1932, I studied the birds of Avalon Peninsula, Newfoundland. This peninsula forms the southeastern part of the island and is the section in which St. John's is located. Many short trips were made in the country surrounding this city, much time being spent in Bowring Park, and one or two trips being made some distance inland. One entire day was spent on "The Barrens" between Carbonear and Heart's Content. Since work and pleasure took me inland, rather than along the coast, little attention was given to the water birds. The list given herewith represents the more common land species.

Gavia immer immer. COMMON LOON.—One was observed flying high over the numerous ponds in "The Barrens" near Heart's Content.

Botaurus lentiginosus. AMERICAN BITTERN.—Just one bird of this species was observed. It was seen at Harbor Grace.

Anas rubripes rubripes. RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK.—A flock of six was seen flying over a pond at Salmonier. While subspecific characters could not be distinguished at that distance, the birds were presumably of the "Red-legged" form.

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. OSPREY.—A beautiful bird of this species was noted at Placentia on August 5.