

V-formation, during which the entire flock *quopped*, the geese immediately returned to their feeding grounds.

Forbush reports one possible record of the Blue Goose in New Hampshire. It is that of a bird listed by Brewster as taken at Lake Umbagog, Maine, but claimed by O. W. Knight to have been shot in New Hampshire.—EUGENE J. GOELLNER, *St. Anselm's College Ornithological Society, Manchester, New Hampshire.*

**Blue Goose and American Egret in Chester County, Pennsylvania.**—This morning, April 28, 1938, I had the pleasure of seeing an adult, white-headed Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) in a pond on Pickering Creek. This creek is on the estate of Mr. Frank B. Foster, known as 'Broadwater Farms,' about two miles south of Phoenixville, in northern Chester County. Mr. Foster has a number of tame Canada Geese breeding around the various ponds and dams he has made. There were also about a dozen wild Canada Geese in the pond this morning. The Blue Goose arrived about ten days ago and seems perfectly at home. Together with Mr. Foster, I observed this goose for some time through a binocular at about fifty yards. On a mud flat in another pond on Mr. Foster's place, I saw an American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*), whose long plumes were very conspicuous. Egrets visit these ponds every summer and fall, but it is unusual to see one at this time of year.—WHARTON HUBER, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

**Gray-breasted Tree Duck in Puerto Rico.**—On October 16, 1937, a hunter brought me a specimen of the Gray-breasted Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis discolor*) which he had shot that day at a pond in Añasco. The specimen, which is now in my collection, proved to be a female, and weighed 510 grams. Due to lack of comparative material here, it was sent to Dr. A. Wetmore for subspecific determination. He replies that it is unquestionably *discolor*. This makes a new record for the island, but throws some doubt on the subspecific identity of previous records which were unsubstantiated by specimens, but which have been considered as *D. a. autumnalis* on the basis of probability.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.*

**Old-squaws taken in gill-nets.**—Arthur A. Oehmcke, of the Biology Division, Wisconsin Conservation Department, reports that the majority of Old-squaws (*Clangula hyemalis*) that frequented the waters surrounding the Wisconsin Door County peninsula this last spring (1938) moved north by June 8, leaving only a few stragglers. He also reports that on February 12, sixteen of these birds were taken from a gill-net set in one hundred twenty feet of water in Lake Michigan about ten miles southeast of the Sturgeon Bay canal; on April 15, twelve were found in nets set in one hundred fifteen feet of water in Northern Green Bay eighteen miles northwest of Gills Rock; and on May 11, eighty were taken from a single net set in ninety feet of water fifteen miles northwest of Ellison Bay. One loon (sp.?) was also found in this latter net which was 11,000 feet long and was of four and a half inch mesh. The other nets set in one hundred twenty and one hundred fifteen feet of water were 16,800 and 14,000 feet long, respectively. Although it seems likely that the depth of the nets would make a great difference in the number of birds captured, it is probable that the difference in season also played an important part in this regard. Many more birds were reported taken by the fishermen of this locality, but accurate records are not available.—WALTER E. SCOTT, *Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison, Wisconsin.*

**Food habits of small falcons in north-central States.**—During late years, a considerable amount of food material of the smaller falcons has come to hand

from Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa. This is represented for the most part by stomachs of birds sent in by cooperators, a few pellets of unquestionable origin, and observations made from time to time in the field. Identifications of foods were largely made by the authors, with some help from the U. S. Biological Survey.

The Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*) breeds sparingly in northern Minnesota, and, in the spring of 1937, the senior author located a nest near Lake Saganaga. The feeding of the family of five half-grown young by the adults was watched from a photographic blind. Food was brought to the nest ten times during the day observations were made and, although none of it could be positively identified, all appeared to be avian prey ranging from the size of a small sparrow to perhaps that of a Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). The male, which captured almost all of the prey, plucked it before bringing it to the female, and she, in turn, fed the young. The female stayed near the nest and was repeatedly seen to swoop down from the jack-pine tops and take dragonflies (Odonata) on the wing and was once seen to make an unsuccessful attempt to capture a Flicker. Four pellets taken from the nest were almost wholly of much disintegrated feathers, some of which were undoubtedly those of Fringillidae and Turdidae. Pigeon Hawks are only infrequently encountered as migrants in the States with which this writing deals. One May stomach contained a small flycatcher (probably *Empidonax* sp.). Three September stomachs also contained avian remains: one, an English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*); another, a fringillid; and the third, two Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*).

The Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*), on the other hand, is not only a common breeding bird throughout much of the region, but in Iowa it also is found in some numbers as a winter resident. We have no stomachs taken earlier in the year than April, but random field observations in central and southern Iowa suggest that mice of the genera *Microtus* and *Peromyscus* constitute staple foods of the wintering birds. Of eight April stomachs, all contained mice, chiefly *Microtus* spp., and one also contained parts of a striped ground squirrel (*Citellus tridecemlineatus*) and two frogs. There was a trace of undetermined bird feathers in one of the stomachs, and the contents of all included varying quantities of invertebrate debris, principally of grasshoppers (*Melanoplus* spp.) and crickets (*Gryllus* sp.), in addition to Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, and spiders. Five pellets gathered in early May from the vicinity of an Iowa nest consisted of mouse fur and bone fragments, but only one of five stomachs for this period contained mouse (*Microtus* sp.). The bulk of the stomach material was of insects, predominantly adult Coleoptera and larvae of Lepidoptera; other items were dragonflies and spiders.

For June, July, and August, our specimen data are limited, but a vast number of general observations in central and northwestern Iowa indicate that the grasshoppers so abundant in these months form practically the entire diet of the Sparrow Hawks. The contents of three out of four stomachs confirm this concept, but the fourth also contained a meadow mouse. Errington (Condor, 35: 19-29, 1933) observed that mammals and birds were represented in the diet of a nesting pair of southern Wisconsin Sparrow Hawks and their young mainly in May and June; insects provided nearly all of the food taken in July. Eight September stomachs contained little except grasshoppers and crickets which were eaten in approximately equal proportions. There was no evidence of vertebrate prey in this lot of stomachs, and the recognized food seen in possession of Sparrow Hawks along highways was consistently of Orthoptera, as expected.

We have insufficient data from which to judge just when the shift in Sparrow Hawk diet from invertebrate to vertebrate prey occurs in the autumn, although analogous

data from other insect-eating hawks lead us to believe that it may take place in early October, as the availability of Orthoptera and similarly large and edible insects diminishes.—W. J. BRECKENRIDGE, *Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota*, and PAUL L. ERRINGTON, *Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa*.

**Whooping Crane in Louisiana.**—Just at noon, June 5, 1937, four Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*), flying at about four hundred to five hundred feet elevation, all adults and giving voice often, passed from east headed west over Avery Island. These birds were probably on their way to join the seven birds resident, and now reported nesting, two and one-half miles west and north of White Lake in Vermilion Parish.—E. A. McILHENNY, *Avery Island, Louisiana*.

**Sandhill Crane in Kentucky.**—On April 3, 1938, I found a Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis tabida*) in a pasture in the southern part of Jefferson County on the outskirts of Louisville. The pasture was perhaps three-quarters of a mile wide, open with only one or two scattered trees on it, and gave the bird the opportunity to see anyone approaching from any direction. It was very wary and would take flight when anyone approached within one hundred fifty or two hundred yards. It would fly in a wide circle, calling as it flew, but would always return to the field. The ground was dry, except for two small wet-weather ponds at one end and the bird was continually feeding among the fodder scattered around for the cattle. Upon questioning the farmer who owned the land, I learned that the crane had first appeared or been noted on March 31. I personally observed it on April 3, 4, 5 and 6, when it was last seen.

The single record I have had of this bird at Louisville prior to this one was obtained on March 19, 1933, when a flock of thirteen was seen in flight.—BURT L. MONROE, *207 N. Birchwood Ave., Louisville, Kentucky*.

**Yellow Rail at Churchill, Manitoba.**—While collecting birds on the western bank of the Churchill River in northern Manitoba, on July 28, 1937, I flushed and shot a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) which rose from the grass a few feet ahead of me. Thinking there might be more in the 'immediate' vicinity, I began a systematic search. Within an hour I flushed four more, three of which I secured. All four collected proved to be adult males with the testes greatly enlarged. The strange clicking notes of these birds were heard on various occasions but when approached they would stop calling and keep out of sight.

All records of birds seen or heard were made along the west bank of the Churchill River from the old Hudson's Bay Post southward for about a mile or more, approximately four to five miles southwest of Churchill townsite. From what I observed, their habitat is the grass and sedge marsh-community occurring above the high-water mark and intersected at short intervals by small streamlets. Most of the green carpet appeared to be about a foot deep, but along the borders of the streamlets it grew more lush. Here there appeared to be runways and signs of the rails' activities, and it was from these places that the birds were usually flushed. In 'Birds of Churchill' by Taverner and Sutton (*Annals Carnegie Mus.*, 23: 33, 1934) the bird is considered hypothetical, based on Mr. Arthur Twomey's experience in June 1932, when he heard the bird but was unable to get a glimpse of it. In 1902, Edward A. Preble collected several at York Factory and the bird is probably more common at Churchill than previously supposed. The secretive habits of the Yellow Rail and the great difficulty of flushing them, as well as the restricted habitat, are probably responsible for the absence of other records. The Indians informed me that the clicking notes