

from York Factory, Manitoba, on Hudson Bay, taken forty-four years apart, November (?) 1880, and October 2, 1924. There are records of other Canadian specimens: Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, October 13, 1884 (Auk, 5: 218, 1888); Point des Monts, Quebec, August 14, 1894 (N. Comeau, 'Life and Sport on the North Shore,' p. 434, 1909); Clarendon Station, New Brunswick, May 21, 1906 (Auk, 23: 460, 1906); Alma, Albert County, New Brunswick, June 20 (year?) (Bull. Nat. Hist. Soc. New Brunswick, 6: 64, 1908); Whale Cove, Grand Manan, New Brunswick, October 26, 1924 (Canadian Field-nat., 39: 86, 1925). Besides these actually taken, are credible sight records of this unmistakable species for southern Manitoba in 1899, 1908, and 1930.—P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.*

Tree Swallows and highways.—Abbey Dawn Sanctuary near Kingston, Ontario, has great stretches of marsh land where it borders the St. Lawrence River. Among the vegetation, largely *Typha*, migrating Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) find suitable overnight roosts. On September 14, 1938, Wallace Havelock Robb, the founder of the Sanctuary, was called to the highway that crosses the marsh. He found speeding cars were killing many of the swallows and more than one hundred dead birds were counted along the half-mile strip of pavement. When one of them was hit the others nearby would swoop around the victim and in turn be caught by following cars. The trap was self-baiting and the killing continued all day. By the next morning the survivors had departed. While a few birds and animals are killed each year on this part of the road, Mr. Robb states that this is the first time he had ever noted Tree Swallows caught in numbers.—G. C. TONER, *Gananoque, Ontario.*

Mockingbirds in Panama.—In January 1938, with Dr. Herbert Clark, I saw two mockingbirds, apparently a pair, in the grounds of the Gorgas Memorial Institute, Panama City. About a month later I again saw two mockingbirds, also a pair, but presumably not the Memorial Institute pair, on the hillside between the Balboa railway station and the Zone Administration Building. In February 1939, Dr. Troy W. Earhart wrote me that mockingbirds were nesting near the Ancon tennis court, and in July of that year Mrs. Gladys C. Barnard reported their breeding at Pedro Miguel in 1938 and also in 1939. Adding to these definite records several rumored occurrences it seems evident that the mockingbird is becoming established in the Zone.

Apparently no form of mockingbird has been recorded from the Republic of Panama, nor is it contained in Mrs. Sturgis's 'Birds of the Panama Canal Zone' which is based on published papers as well as on her own observations. Since it is inconceivable that the author of this volume during her several-years' residence in the Zone could have overlooked so conspicuous a species as a mockingbird, we conclude that the bird has reached the Zone since the publication of her work in 1928.

It remained now to discover what manner of mockingbird had made the Zone its home. This could be done only by examination of specimens. These were subsequently supplied by Dr. Earhart with the assurance that their capture would in no way endanger the continued existence of the species in the Zone. These specimens show that the Zone bird is not referable to the North American *Mimus polyglottos* but to the Venezuelan *Mimus gilvus melanopterus*, the Black-winged Mockingbird. Only one form of this species is known from Venezuela, but in Colombia a larger race (*M. g. tolimensis*) occupies the upper Magdalena Valley

and contiguous areas while a smaller, paler race (*M. g. leucopterus*) with the outer web of the outer pair of rectrices usually wholly white, is found on the coast at Santa Marta and west at least to Baranquilla. Dr. Hellmayr refers these birds to *melanopterus*, but I agree with Mr. Todd that they constitute a well-marked race. On the other hand, I agree with Dr. Hellmayr, and not with Mr. Todd, that *melanopterus* Lawrence (1849) and not *columbianus* Cabanis (1851) should be used for the Venezuelan bird. Dr. Hellmayr, who has examined Cabanis's two specimens, states that both are marked "Venezuela" and agree with Venezuelan skins.

The standing of the mockingbirds from the Cartagena-Atrato region has not been satisfactorily determined. The few specimens available agree in size with the Venezuela form and hence should be referred to *melanopterus* rather than to *tolimensis*. Their identification is of importance in an attempt to learn the geographic origin of the Canal Zone birds. If their presence in and near the Zone is due to an actual extension of the range of the species we should look to northwestern Colombia, rather than to Venezuela, for the ancestors of the Zone birds.

It is by no means certain, however, that the mockingbird has reached Panama under natural conditions. It is true that the distribution of the species in Central America is irregular and inexplicable. It is unrecorded, for example, from the area between the Canal Zone and Honduras and Salvador, and it would not, therefore, be surprising if it were also missing from the largely forested country lying between the Zone and northern Colombia.

But with a bird so often held in captivity one must consider the possibility of its descent from escaped caged birds. Large numbers of native wild birds are shipped from northern South American ports and it is more than probable that some of them reach the Canal Zone. From a number of sources I have heard of a cageful of mockingbirds that escaped from a steamer passing through the Zone. Whence they came is not stated.

More definite is the information received from Mrs. Bryan, well-known aviculturist of Ancon, that several mockingbirds have escaped from her aviaries. Here, also, their source is unknown though the odds are all in favor of Venezuela or Colombia. Of the two, the theory of accidental introduction seems to me to be more acceptable than that of normal extension of range. Possibly some reader of this note may be able to contribute to this first chapter of the mockingbird's history in the Canal Zone. In any event, the future history of this important addition to the Zone's avifauna should be closely observed and recorded.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Brown Thrasher in Oregon.—On August 20, 1940, while studying the wealth of bird life in and around Klamath Lake, Oregon, I was surprised to discover in some shrubbery in the plain at the north end of the upper marshes, a Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*. The bird was but a few yards distant and the reddish-brown plumage, slightly curved bill, yellow iris and long tail were plainly visible. I am thoroughly familiar with the bird in the East but offer no opinion as to subspecific form, assuming Oberholser's form, "*longicauda*," is accepted. Location is such that the western form seems the more probable one. The bird was also seen by my wife and son, who are well acquainted with the bird in the East and by Mrs. Lydia M. Moore and Miss Bertha F. Comings, now of Eugene, Oregon, but formerly of Newport, Vermont, and Holyoke, Massachusetts, where they learned to recognize the bird.