

BLACK DUCK, *Anas rubripes*.—Four adults, each accompanied by downy young, were observed on the fresh-water ponds at Pea Island on June 20, 1939, by T. Gilbert Pearson, S. A. Walker and the writer. An adult, with seven or eight young was seen on Lake Mattamuskeet, June 19, 1935, by Earle R. Greene (Report to the Bureau of Biological Survey, 1935).

EUROPEAN WIDGEON, *Mareca penelope*.—One was seen by S. A. Walker on Pea Island, March 9, 1939.

AMERICAN MERGANSER, *Mergus merganser americanus*.—In a letter dated February 9, 1939, Mr. Rupert West of Moyock, North Carolina, informed me that during the last week in May 1938, he viewed at close quarters a pair of adult American Mergansers, accompanied by five downy young, on Bennett's Pond, Chowan County, our first record of this species breeding in North Carolina.

MARSH HAWK, *Circus hudsonius*.—A nest containing four eggs was found on King's Point, about six miles northwest of the Cape Hatteras Park, on May 20, 1936 (Edwin L. Green: The Chat, January, 1939). This seems to be our first definite record of the nesting of this species in this State.

EASTERN DOWITCHER, *Limnodromus g. griseus*.—A single bird was observed by T. Gilbert Pearson, S. A. Walker and the writer on the 'lumps' off Buxton, June 20, 1939.

BLACK SKIMMER, *Rynchops n. nigra*.—Mrs. Roxie Collie Simpson reports large flocks (thousands of individuals in the aggregate) in Beaufort Harbor on December 15, 1939. On a later visit, from January 14 to 20, 1940, Mrs. Simpson states that none was to be seen in the same area.

GROVER QUINN, in a letter to C. S. Brimley, under date of February 16, 1940, states that he found a dead bird on the sound shore at Buxton on January 24, 1940, and that he observed about fifty live skimmers during the day. These seem to be new winter records for the species, at least in large numbers.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER, *Mniotilta varia*.—On May 14, 1933, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Clarkson found a nest of this species about five miles southeast of the center of Charlotte, North Carolina, and about 300 yards from their home. It occupied a typical situation and contained four almost fully feathered young. One week later the young had left the nest which was collected for examination. There was no particular departure from normal in its construction except for the fact that it was lined with a mixture of fine rootlets and *very fine copper wire*, such as is used in telephone cables. Fragments of such cable, discarded by repair men, were found nearby where a telephone line ran through the woods. Mrs. Clarkson kindly sent us the nest for examination and there is no doubt of its lining being composed of rootlets and fine copper wire woven together.

EASTERN LARK SPARROW, *Chondestes g. grammacus*.—On Pea Island, S. A. Walker observed an individual a number of times from January 13 to March 31, 1939.

EASTERN SNOW BUNTING, *Plectrophenax n. nivalis*.—A flock of about 75 was observed by Mrs. Roxie Collie Simpson, at Beaufort, on December 11, 1939.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *State Museum, Raleigh, North Carolina*.

Notes from Princess Anne County, Virginia.—The writers made a brief trip on May 20–22, 1940, to this border-line region in order to secure a few birds for subspecific identification. All specimens referred to below were kindly identified for us by Dr. Alexander Wetmore. Certain other observations of some interest were made.

PARASITIC (?) JAEGER, *Stercorarius* sp.—A jaeger in light phase and probably of

this species was seen over the surf at Sand Bridge, near the head of Back Bay, on May 22. As rain clouded our view and as neither of us is very familiar with jaegers the specific identification is somewhat doubtful, but the occurrence of any jaeger on the Virginia beaches is of interest.

LAUGHING GULL, *Larus atricilla*.—On May 22, we watched a flock of some fifty birds at Lynnhaven Inlet, nearly all of which were definitely paired off. Courtship activity was in full swing, the females generally taking the initiative, sidling up to the males and continually throwing their heads up with a jerking motion. There was some fighting among males. A few pairs were seen copulating, the females standing erect on the sand at the time. The nearest breeding grounds known to us are Cobb's Island, forty miles north, and Pea Island, eighty or more miles south.

SOUTHERN FLICKER, *Colaptes auratus auratus*.—A male taken at Ocean View, just outside the Norfolk city limits, on May 20, turns out to be this subspecies. It accordingly represents an addition to the Virginia list.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK, *Sturnella magna magna*.—A female taken at Ocean View on May 20 has been identified as *magna*. The southern limit of the range of this form cannot be far from this point, since *argutula* breeds in eastern North Carolina. Meadowlarks were found to be fairly common not only in meadows and pastures but also in the coarse grass of the open pine woods.

ATLANTIC SONG SPARROW, *Melospiza melodia atlantica*.—Two males were collected, one at Ocean View on May 21, the other on May 22 at Sand Bridge Beach, near Pungo. Both were taken among the myrtles on the sand dunes back of the beaches. The bird was abundant in such locations. Some had young on the wing. We also found them at other places in this region in thickets along salt marshes, but never very far from open salt water. We thought that we could distinguish the song of this race from that of *melodia*, altogether apart from individual variation, by a buzzing quality, definitely reminiscent of the song of the Bewick's Wren.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia*, and JOHN H. GREY, *Raleigh, North Carolina*.

Some West Indian birds' eggs.—Since publication of my 'Birds of the West Indies' I have received the following information on eggs of certain Antillean species for which I am indebted to the following gentlemen: Mr. George D. Smooker of Trinidad, B. W. I., Dr. Ermanno Cifferi of Pavia, Italy, Sr. José Hernández Bauzá of Havana, Cuba, and Mr. James Gillin of Ambler, Pennsylvania.

*Geotrygon versicolor*.—Two eggs of this dove, apparently laid by a captive bird in Kingston, Jamaica, measure 32.8 by 24.3, 32.9 by 25.3 mm., respectively. In color they are ochraceous buff, resembling eggs of the widespread *Oreopeleia montana* but are much larger. This set is now in the collection of James Gillin of Ambler, Pennsylvania.

*Amazona collaris*.—A set of four eggs of this parrot in the Smooker Collection (Trinidad) measure 35 by 29.5, 36 by 28, 36 by 29.6, 35.8 by 30 mm., respectively.

*Asio flammeus domingensis*.—An egg of this owl, sent to me by Dr. Cifferi from the Dominican Republic, measures 41.6 by 32.4 mm.

*Corvus jamaicensis*.—Two sets of eggs of this crow, containing four and three eggs, respectively, are in the Smooker Collection. These eggs are pale green, densely spotted with different shades of grayish brown, the markings heaviest at the larger ends (45.5 by 29.6, 45.8 by 29.9, 45.5 by 29.5, 44.5 by 29.6 mm.; 43 by 28.8, 41.9 by 28.9, 44 by 28.9 mm.). They closely resemble eggs of the common crows of Europe and America.