

teresting find was a colony of Beautiful Buntings, apparently the first to be discovered in the United States.

On the morning of June 12, the senior author found two pairs of the birds in dense thorny thickets well up in Baboquivari Canyon. Here, at the foot of a cliff on a rough, steep slope, the males sang repeatedly. Though one pair was observed mating, no nest was found. The male of this pair was finally collected. Meanwhile Phillips and Hargrave, who were preparing specimens at Baboquivari Camp, took two males and one female there. All three of the above-mentioned males were plainly in breeding condition, but the ovary of the female was only slightly enlarged, the largest eggs being 1 mm. in diameter, and in none of the four birds was there any indication of a brood patch.

During the evening of that same day the senior author saw four males in the lower part of Moristo Canyon, about half a mile above camp. On June 13, Sutton and Phillips saw three or four males and one female in the catclaw and mesquite brush of a small flat in this same section, and a pair in mesquite, *Baccharis*, etc., near the mouth of the canyon. No new nests were found, but two old nests which were much like those of other members of the genus *Passerina*, but a little less bulky, were found several feet up in the thorn brush.

On June 13, our party detected a total of two males and one female at and near Baboquivari Camp. On June 14 a single male was seen there by Sutton. That day our activities centered in the higher parts of the mountains and in our return to Tucson. We saw no other *Passerina* anywhere in the region.—GEORGE MIKSHI SUTTON, ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, and LYNDON L. HARGRAVE, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*.

Natural death of a Fox Sparrow.—In 'The Condor,' September 1924, Laurence M. Huey describes the natural death of an Audubon's Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*) under the title 'The Natural End of a Bird's Life.' Huey describes the bird as "ascending a vertical rose stem in a peculiar spiral manner" and otherwise conducting itself in a very abnormal fashion. Shortly afterward the bird fell dead to the ground and was examined externally and internally by Huey, who could diagnose nothing that might have had a lethal effect.

Late in the afternoon of November 23, 1937, the author flushed a Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) at unusually close range in an apple orchard at the State Institution of Applied Agriculture, at Farmingdale, Long Island, New York. The bird perched erect on the lowest limb of a large tree and gave every appearance of perfect health. A few seconds later it dropped back into the grass, presumably to resume feeding. (It was not easy for me to be certain at this distance that the bird had dropped *head foremost*, as it had appeared to do.) The writer walked slowly forward, expecting to flush the sparrow again, but soon came within sight of the trembling bird approximately five seconds before its death. A cursory examination revealed no parasites. Freezing or emaciation seemed unlikely; the temperature had remained near normal for several weeks previously and read slightly above 40 degrees F. at the time. There had been no snow on the ground.

Aside from these two records, the author can find no data on a bird's death from causes which were presumably natural. Such occurrences must undoubtedly be quite rare.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, JR., 724 Eighth Avenue, West, Birmingham, Alabama.

Notes from Hawk Mountain (Kittatinny Ridge), Pennsylvania.—In the course of six three-month periods of almost daily census-taking of hawks (the fall seasons

of 1934 to 1939 inclusive), I have recorded a few locally rare or unusual birds. Lulls in the hawk migrations frequently permit close observation of passerine birds, which at times swarm over the ridge. While I have perched like a linnet atop Hawk Mountain during the period cited, 140 species and subspecies of birds have passed my scrutiny!

Impressive numbers of waterfowl winging through the autumn skies, have been an added source of interest and inspiration to observers of the hawk migrations. Fifteen species of waterfowl, including Whistling Swans, have been recorded to date, and Herring Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls and even shorebirds are also seen occasionally. Common Loons, like animated crosses, are often seen passing high over the ridge, usually in precipitous flight; as many as 86 loons have been counted on one day, November 18, 1937. In most instances the waterfowl and gulls are seen flying due north-south, and therefore at right angles to the ridge (which locally has a strictly east-west trend). Only the raptors and the passerines follow the course of the ridge, the former utilizing the air currents, as is well known. Movements of migrating waterfowl over Hawk Mountain occur nearly always immediately after a severe storm.

RED-THROATED LOON, *Gavia stellata*.—Four of these birds seen early in the morning of October 8, 1939, were literally 'in a fog.' Misty, lowering weather, with a raw southeast wind prevailed when the loons loomed up suddenly only a stone's throw from the lookout, coming toward us on a level with our position. They had been flying parallel with the ridge, only a few feet above the tops of the trees. A few days later, on October 15, three more Red-throated Loons flew over, rather low, but in the customary north to south direction.

AMERICAN BRANT, *Branta bernicla hrota*.—Four occurrences of Brant in the fall, at Hawk Mountain, are noteworthy, inasmuch as this species is seldom recorded away from coastal areas, or off its main paths of migration (cf. Harrison F. Lewis, *Auk*, 54: 73-95, 1937). On October 18, 1936, a bleak, blustery day at the Sanctuary, following a period of very stormy weather to the north, we saw seven flocks of Canada Geese, aggregating 485 birds. In one flock of forty geese a single Brant was identified. The same season, in the forenoon of November 18, fifteen Brant in V-formation passed within two hundred feet of the lookout. One of the most amazing sights I have experienced at Hawk Mountain, however, was that of some 225 Brant, at 2.45 p. m. of November 9, 1938. The birds came out of the north in a compact, formless mass, and passed directly over me in a faintly audible wave of swishing wings. On October 21, 1939, we identified eleven Brant. So far as I know, the only other local (Berks County) occurrence of Brant is of a single bird observed at Lake Ontelaunee (near Reading) on November 10, 1932, by Earl L. Poole.

SNOW GOOSE, *Chen hyperborea*.—The paucity of records of Snow Geese (presumably *C. h. atlantica*) in Pennsylvania has been commented on recently by C. Brooke Worth (*Auk*, 56: 329, 1939), and by J. K. Terres (*Auk*, 57: 107, 1940). Worth cites but three fall records that he has been able to discover. To these I submit two additional records. October 12, 1936, was a cold clear day of high northwest wind, and many hawks were on the wing. During the forenoon, to the great interest of a score of observers, a loose flock of nine Snow Geese passed high over the ridge, some distance to the east, too far off to be heard. Some thirty Pintails, three Black Ducks, twenty-four Canada Geese, and over a hundred Double-crested Cormorants passed a few minutes after the Snow Geese. Again, twenty-six Snow Geese late in the afternoon of October 30, 1938, created much excitement in a

large gathering of observers who had experienced a poor day for hawks. This flock of geese was low-flying and exceedingly noisy. The birds were in such loose formation that five became dissociated from the main group and, cackling lustily, continued southward scarcely more than 150 feet above the treetops, directly over the entrance to the Sanctuary, where I happened to see them.

AMERICAN SCOTER, *Oidemia americana*.—A singular occurrence of nineteen American Scoters, passing fairly close to the lookout at a low elevation, was noted about mid-day of October 17, 1939.

NORTHERN RAVEN, *Corvus corax principalis*.—I have nine records of this species. Single birds occurred on October 14 and November 2, 1934 (Auk, 52: 311, 1935). In the forenoon of October 2, 1935, my wife and I saw a Raven sail low over the ridge, passing from northeast to southwest, and twice we heard a throaty *croak*; at 4.05 p. m., a Raven (the same bird?) flew by in reverse direction. The same season, October 15, seven members of the West Chester (Pennsylvania) Bird Club and myself saw two Ravens, one at 2.30 p. m., and the other at 2.50 p. m., both following the course of the ridge. On October 12, 1936, a number of observers were fortunate in seeing a Raven pass within fifty feet of the lookout; the bird flew up the ridge toward the east. A large gathering of observers had an excellent view of a Raven on October 14, 1939, and very early the next morning two birds were seen by Millard R. Lindauer, Robert Newman, and W. Bryant Tyrell.

BEWICK'S WREN, *Thryomanes b. bewicki*.—On September 30, 1934, I studied a bird of this species for nearly ten minutes, in the low growth bordering the dirt road, near the entrance to the Sanctuary. No other local records obtain for this wren, so far as I know. I have had considerable experience with the Bewick's Wren in the South.

SNOW BUNTING, *Plectrophenax n. nivalis*.—I have seen two Snow Buntings at our Sanctuary lookout: the first, on November 18, 1936, a low-flying bird, following the course of the ridge; the other on November 2, 1937, alighted on the great barren pile of rocks beside me and loitered several minutes before continuing its journey in a southerly direction. So far as I know, there are no other records of Snow Buntings for this region during the present century.—MAURICE BROWN, *Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Route 1, Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania*.

Maritime Birds occurring with summer storms near Charleston in 1939.—At frequent intervals during the summer of 1939, I was on the outer beach at the Isle of Palms, a South Carolina sand-barrier island in Charleston County. While there I spent some part of the time in observing with interest the bird life of the strand and the adjacent ocean. This resulted in the discovery of two species unusual on the Carolina coast: Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) and Noddy (*Anous stolidus*). Tropical oceanic birds often occur on this coast with the passage of storm areas originating in or near the tropics. The occurrence of the Noddy as cited below is an example of a species blown by storm winds beyond its normal range. That heavy local storms may account for some mortality even among such strong-flying forms as the shearwaters, may be seen by the following account. I have drawn from the Weather Bureau's data of the accompanying atmospheric disturbances which I have discussed in some detail in an attempt to shed light on the method of dispersal of maritime birds by storm factors.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER, *Puffinus lherminieri*.—On July 24, 1939, a specimen of Audubon's Shearwater which had just washed ashore was found dead on the beach at Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Although this species has its nearest breeding