

tudes of over 300 feet, none over 600. On April 5, 1941, just before dusk, I was heading west up the outer boundary of the Oakland Airport at 1500 feet altitude and an air speed of 90, when two small, tight flocks, of perhaps a hundred birds each, characteristic mixtures of Red-backed and smaller sandpipers, overhauled me to starboard at an angle of about 30° to my course, crossed my nose, without hesitation or deviation, at a distance of not over 25 yards, and drew away to seaward. Unfortunately I was tied into the control traffic of a great airport, and could not follow. The two flocks were in close echelon, the individual positions fixed, the wing-beats rhythmic and powerful, in extreme contrast to the desultory, easily deflected flight of the lower flocks. The question of angle makes estimation of speed difficult, but familiar contact with other ships of known speed convinces me that the flocks were not moving under 110 m.p.h. air speed, and probably a good deal over. Without attaching too much weight to a single episode, however precise and unmistakable, I believe I had had the great luck to stumble on a near view of true migratory flight at a relatively high altitude, and suspect that, even if we do not subscribe to the romantic notions of a Gätke, it is not impossible that, contrary to the consensus of published opinion, not a slow, but rather a very fast mode may be used under such circumstances. Such a mode might even be a restricted or seasonal phenomenon, latent or impossible in the interim.—T. T. McCABE, 2620 Parker Street, Berkeley, California.

Black-billed Cuckoo in Colorado.—The thirteenth and fourteenth records of the Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) in Colorado, have come from within the Denver city limits this past summer. On June 5, 1941, a dead bird which had been clipped by a lawn mower, was found near Washington Park, and was taken by Mr. Dexter Landau, to the Colorado Museum of Natural History, where it was identified, and numbered 22620. The sex could not be determined. On August 22, 1941, I flushed a bird from ground covered with tumbleweeds, at the edge of the prairie, near a brick-yard at East 33rd Avenue and Dahlia Street. The size and shape and color and flight were those of a cuckoo (I have seen several in Connecticut), and no tail spots or rusty wing-feathers showed. After a low flight of about fifty yards the cuckoo alit in the weeds. I flushed it again and it flew back near the place where it had first been seen. The next time it was flushed it flew about twenty yards and perched on the edge of a brush pile, where I got a quick look at it through 8-power glasses. An Arkansas Kingbird dived at the cuckoo and it dodged into the brush. I went a quarter of the way around the brush so as to put the sun at my back, and slowly walked to the very edge of the pile without glimpsing the bird. Then I shook one of the limbs, and the cuckoo hopped out and perched in full view, for what seemed like a whole minute, on a twig not more than six or seven feet away. The entire bill was shiny black, and the spot which showed on the left side of the tail was about a quarter of an inch long. The bird flew away and circled back to the foot of a fencepost some twenty-five feet from the brush; then hopped up on a rail of the fence. It soon flew away out of sight beyond some buildings. That evening and the next morning I spent two hours unsuccessfully looking for a nest, but did not see the cuckoo again.—THOMPSON G. MARSH, *University of Denver Law School, Denver, Colorado.*

Second Record for Western Burrowing Owl in Wisconsin.—On October 8, 1941, while engaged in field work for the Milwaukee Public Museum I collected a Western Burrowing Owl, *Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*, for that institution.

The bird was observed along the Lake Michigan shore at a point east of Cedar Grove in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. It was flushed twice from a shallow dried-up slough, which was sparsely overgrown with willow and fringed with cat-tails, and finally from among the higher dunes. It was reluctant to leave the immediate locality. Having observed it only in flight, but feeling quite sure that it was a Burrowing Owl, I collected the bird and it proved to be of the Western variety.

Mr. William Elder of the University of Wisconsin Zoology Department collected a specimen of the Western Burrowing Owl at Faville Grove, Lake Mills, Jefferson County, on April 9, 1939 (see Passenger Pigeon, 1: no. 4, 1939). To the best of my knowledge our specimen would therefore constitute the second known record of the taking of this species in Wisconsin.—WALTER C. PELZER, *Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

Catbird wintering in Maryland.—A Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) first seen on November 3, 1940, remained in the northwestern part of Baltimore city through February 23, 1941, disappearing between that date and the 26th. This appears to be the most extended winter stay on record for a Catbird in this region. Others of the species were last seen in the same locality in 1940 on October 14, and first seen in 1941 on April 30, both averages dates.

After a threat of severe cold, including a snow, in the second half of October, the winter of 1940-41 was mild and open. The mean temperature for the four-month period of the Catbird's stay was 40° F., 1.8° above normal; the minimum reached was 18°, in December and January. A snow of 5.2 inches on January 26-27 was the only one that lay as long as one day; snow for the four months totalled 10.5 inches, 7.0 inches less than normal. Both colder weather and heavier snow came toward mid-March. From December 1 on, the wintering bird was visited every few days and watched, as opportunity offered, for from several minutes to an hour and a quarter at a stretch; it was actually under observation for a total of ten and a half hours.

Its habitat, in some undeveloped land, was a little hollow densely grown with blackberry bushes and a variety of saplings. Much of that growth, in turn, was heavily overrun by vines, chiefly Japanese honeysuckle. The flat bottom of the hollow was made marshy by a tiny stream.

At first the bird confined itself closely to the marshiest area that contained both dense ground cover and an abundance of wild fruits, but later it extended its movements to include more and more of the sides of the hollow. Thus on December 4, it was roving only about 25 yards north and south and 25 yards east and west; on January 1, these distances were 85 and 35 yards, on January 29, they were 90 and 65, and on February 19, they were 185 and 65. The bird did not exhaust the fruits of one area before adding another to its range; for example, honeysuckle berries were still being eaten on February 23 from a large vine first fed from on January 1. Another seasonal change in habits was an increase in hours of activity. Throughout most of the winter the bird could be found only in the morning. Searches on six afternoons between November 4 and December 22 were vain. No other was made in the afternoon, then, until February 9; on that afternoon it was found, and also on all of several later ones when it was looked for. It was feeding on each of these occasions.

Feeding was seen on twenty-three days, and five foods were observed. The abundant berries of the Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) were eaten on