

and Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) nesting at the head of Bear Cove, lat. 63° 35', long. 84° 15' on Southampton Island. This colony was not previously known to the Eskimos and it seems probable that it is of recent establishment. In 1936 there was a marked decrease in the number of geese nesting at the Bay of God's Mercy colony compared with 1934 (cf. Manning, T. H., Blue and Lesser Snow Geese of Southampton and Baffin Islands; *Auk*, 52: 158, 1942). The Bear Cove colony may have been established between these two years or it may have been the result of the exceptionally late season at the Bay of God's Mercy in the latter year. According to my informant, the proportion of Blue to Snow Geese in this new colony was similar to that at the Bay of God's Mercy.—T. H. MANNING, *Montreal, Canada*.

**Connecticut notes.**—White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus griseus*). Flight-song; May 29, 1943, Groton, Conn. The bird fluttered up some fifteen feet from the bushes where it had been feeding and, on alighting, immediately resumed its ordinary routine. The performance was not repeated during the ten or fifteen minutes I was able to keep the bird under observation. The song was reminiscent, in tonal quality, of the usual resounding voice of this species but the notes were more softly and sweetly uttered. The range was considerable and the really delightful song seemed to me to be a jumble of ecstatic notes rather than to follow a distinct pattern.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*). Unusually early appearance; March 14, 1943, New London, Conn. Two males in full song. Because of the date (the earliest prior date I can find is more than a month later), I give rather full details. Time, mid-afternoon; very strong sunlight; temperature, 54° F.; calm. Place, vacant lot in outskirts of New London. The lot is large and much overgrown with high bushes and weeds. While not far from houses, access to open country without passing close to any is easy. Song Sparrows always winter in this neighborhood and several were singing. Mrs. Stoddard, a professional musician, called my attention to a bird song she had never heard. I failed to recognize it, but perhaps this is understandable as it is five years since I have heard this song. While much shyer than the Song Sparrows with which they were in company, the birds were surprisingly indifferent to my presence and sang several times when only a few feet away, the nearest within three paces. I have seen similar, though not quite so extreme, behavior in New Brunswick. I find this occurrence of peculiar interest because in this region, in recent years, the number of wintering birds has increased and, even more markedly, the number of visitants from the south and west. The date and behavior of these birds strongly suggest that they were winterers.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia melodia*). Partial albino; May 18, 1943, Waterford, Conn. Head, neck, throat, under part of body dull white except for an almost invisible gray stripe through the eye and two stripes, equally faint, on each flank. Breast-spot pale gray but distinct. The white of the flanks ran upward onto the back. Back light brown, bright in color and without spots or stripes. Wings and tail light gray-brown. Bill rather pale slate. Feet and legs very bright pink. Iris dark brown. The bird was active and apparently in good health but made no sound while under observation.—E. V. STODDARD, *Waterford, Connecticut*.

**Meadowlark ranges.**—The Fourth Edition of the A. O. U. Check-List (1931, p. 302) is vague as to the eastward limit of the range of the Western Meadowlark. Minnesota is not mentioned, but that state is occupied by this form, "breeding

throughout," according to Dr. Thomas S. Roberts ('Birds of Minnesota,' 2: 292, 1932). In Wisconsin, it is a common summer resident (Wisconsin Birds, Wis. Soc. Orn.: 22, 1942), and in Iowa also is given that status by Philip A. DuMont (Univ. of Iowa Studies, 15 (5): 133, 1934). Otto Widmann ('Preliminary Catalog of the Birds of Missouri': 157-160, 1907) recorded it east to the Mississippi River, and discusses its relationship to the Eastern Meadowlark at some length. For Illinois, no formal list of recent date is available<sup>1</sup> and E. W. Nelson's comment of 1876 (Bull. Essex Institute, 8: 111) is usually quoted. He called the bird "A regular but rather rare summer resident upon prairies." He was writing about the 'Birds of northeastern Illinois' and mentions a specimen taken near Chicago. Manifestly the Check-List statement as to the eastward range—"southern Manitoba south to . . . central Texas"—does not give sufficient recognition to these records, old or new.

The writer became interested in the matter through hearing in territory some forty miles west of Chicago (the Aurora-Plainfield-Joliet region) songs of meadowlarks strongly reminiscent of those of the western race. They had the same rich, oriole-like quality but were not so long sustained as the fullest of the Western Meadowlark's efforts. They may perhaps best be described as having the phrasing (maybe of a little greater length) that is characteristic of the song of the eastern, but the timbre of that of the western, bird. It appears that the difference in song was the character that had most weight in persuading ornithologists to recognize the Western Meadowlark as a distinct species. If song is so important, intergradations in it should be taken into account. In his 'Study of the genus *Sturnella*' (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 13: 297-320, 1900), Dr. F. M. Chapman points out the great variability in meadowlark songs. Since the Eastern Meadowlark is recorded from eastern Minnesota to western Nebraska, Kansas, and northwestern Texas, there is broad overlapping of its range with that of the western bird, and in that zone intergradation, at least as to song, occurs. Perhaps the case is similar to that of the Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flickers and could be recognized by somewhat similar language in the Check-List.—W. L. McATEE, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois.*

**Sheld-Duck in North Carolina.**—Now that *Tadorna tadorna* is recognized as a Check-List bird, on the basis of capture at Ipswich Bay, Massachusetts, October 15, 1921, it may be of interest to recount the evidence of a considerably earlier occurrence in North Carolina. My informant was Jasper B. White, who had hunted practically all his life on Currituck Sound, and with whom I became well acquainted on several visits to that region. Mr. White was an educated man and a frequent contributor to 'Forest and Stream' over the signatures, "That Reminds Me" and "More Anon." During his young manhood (*circa* 1885), his father had as a shooting guest a wealthy young sportsman, Fred Simmons of Bristol, England. One day during Simmons's stay, about a dozen strange ducks passed White, of which he shot two. In the evening he described his experience to Simmons and showed him the birds which he pronounced 'pink-breasted sheldrakes.' Upon returning to England, Simmons sent White a copy of B. R. Morris's 'British Game Birds and Wild Fowl' which contained a colored plate of the species. In 1909 and in certain subsequent years, I was shown this book inscribed by Simmons to White,

<sup>1</sup> Schantz, 'Birds of Illinois' (Ill. Dept. Conservation, Conserv. Publ., 6: 77, 1928) gives the Western Meadowlark as "S[ummer] R[esident], North gradually extending its range east"; the [Eastern] Meadowlark as "S. R. N[orth] C[entral] S[outhern]."—Ed.