

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 available¹ 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,

¹ 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.

who pointed out the species in question. This reported occurrence seems to me entirely credible and, were I writing on the birds of North Carolina, I should include it.—W. L. McATEE, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Ill.*

Interesting Maine records.—Two unusual occurrences for Maine were encountered in July, 1940, by my wife and me. Only July 10, 1940, a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) was seen near South Brooksville, Maine (on the east shore of Penobscot Bay). We were subsequently informed by a resident there, who had noticed the bird a few days earlier because of its conspicuous song, that it stayed near her house for the following two weeks. *

On July 20, 1940, four American Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta rubescens*) were seen on Mt. Katahdin, Maine. They were found together on a rock-strewn meadow slightly above 4,000 feet, about one mile southwest of Baxter Peak on the Appalachian Trail.

The following is of interest because of longevity: a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*) was found dead thirteen years after banding; it was banded May 14, 1930, in Madison, Wisconsin, and recovered less than a mile from the place of banding on February 16, 1943 (No. A253073).—HENRY BUNTING, M. D., *Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut.*

Five birds unusual in Arizona.—It has occurred to the writer that record should be made of certain specimens contained in a collection of birds made by Mr. Alex. Walker in Arizona for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in the period from December 20, 1931, to November 19, 1932. Dr. Harry C. Oberholser has identified this collection, and I am appreciative of his ready courtesy in waiving his privilege of recording the information that follows. Numbers in parentheses are those of the particular specimens as they are listed in the catalogue of the Department of Ornithology of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*).—A specimen with unrecorded sex (No. 39883, C. M. N. H.) the plumage of which, however, is that of a female, apparently adult, was collected at Yuma on December 24, 1931. Munson and Phillips [Condor, 43 (2): 109, 1941] in recording a specimen taken at Patagonia, Arizona, on December 3, 1939, express the opinion that their bird was a late fall transient and state that there are no published winter records from southern Arizona. It would thus appear that this Yuma bird is the first winter-taken specimen to be recorded from southern Arizona.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*).—A male (No. 39884, C. M. N. H.) was collected two miles southeast of Portal in the Chiricahua Mountains on October 23, 1932.

Boreal Flicker (*Colaptes auratus borealis*).—A female (No. 29885, C. M. N. H.) taken in the Chiricahua Mountains at a point two miles south of Portal on October 26, 1932, is an example of this large, northern race. It appears to be the first record of the Boreal Flicker from Arizona.

Northern Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius ruber*).—A male (No. 39886, C. M. N. H.) in fresh postnuptial plumage from Pinery Canyon, Chiricahua Mountains, on October 27, 1932, is typical, both in size and in color, of this form and constitutes the first record of this subspecies in the state.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Hylocichla minima minima*¹).—A male (No. 39944,

¹ *Hylocichla minima aliciae* of the A. O. U. Check-list, fourth ed.: see Wallace, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., 41, (6): 238-242, 1939.