

18, 1943, about a mile east of the Housatonic River in the town of Orange, by Mr. Donald Page, nephew of the late George Bird Grinnell. When received at the Museum it was in perfect condition except for a small bare spot on one side of the neck. The skin bears the catalogue number 13511. The bird was flushed by Mr. Page and a companion in typical pheasant cover of goldenrod and weeds on a knoll about 200 yards wide rising from Sora marshes on two sides.

As far as we know, this constitutes the second record for Connecticut. The first Corn Crake was taken at Saybrook by the Hon. John N. Clark on October 20, 1887, making an interval lacking two days of fifty-six years. One can but wonder how many others may have escaped attention, and especially by what route a bird of such comparatively weak flight reached Connecticut. Forbush ('Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States,' 1: 364, 1925) reports the species as having been "taken and recorded 14 times on this side of the Atlantic, to say nothing of Greenland records," and surmises that it reaches New England (three records from Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut) by way of Greenland. But, rejecting transportation by man, the bird's appearance in Bermuda on October 25, 1847, indicates an ability to span wide oceanic distances.

The last record for North America seems to have been from Dennisville, New Jersey, November 11, 1905. It may be added that, with the exception of a bird taken in June, 1856, near Bridgeton, New Jersey, all the Corn Crakes recorded south of the St. Lawrence River have appeared in autumn (August 15 to November 28). In only one instance, at Falmouth, Maine, where two were shot on October 14, 1889, was more than one crake seen.

Two errors have crept into Mr. Bent's paragraph on distribution (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 135: 339); the date of the earlier Connecticut bird was 1887 instead of 1871, and the Bridgeton, New Jersey, record should be June, 1856, according to Stone.—STANLEY C. BALL, *Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.*

**Two new records from Newfoundland Labrador.**—During investigations of birds in Newfoundland we spent the last three days of June, 1943, in southern Labrador. We visited Chateau Bay and St. Peter's Bay, both on the north shore of the Strait of Belle Isle. Among the specimens we collected were two birds one of which was not previously recorded from Newfoundland Labrador while the other has demonstrated the necessity of altering an accepted subspecific assignment.

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax flaviventris*). A male in breeding condition (original number 424) was collected at Pitts Arm, Chateau Bay, Labrador, on June 29. Austin ('Birds of Newfoundland Labrador,' Mem. Nuttall Ornith. Club, 7: 229, 1932) does not record any species of flycatcher from Labrador.

**BLACK-BACKED ROBIN** (*Turdus migratorius nigrideus*). This Newfoundland form is represented by a female (original number 426) which was shot on a nest of four partly incubated eggs at Pitts Arm, Chateau Bay, Labrador, on June 29. This specimen agrees with our series of seventeen robins taken in Newfoundland during the past two summers. Since this race was described (by Aldrich and Nutt, Sci. Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., 4: 2, 1939), it has not been known that Labrador birds were assignable to it. Austin (*tom. cit.*: 169) says: "The robin of Labrador, at the northern extreme of its range, is certainly larger and darker than more southern birds, but I am unable to differentiate between a series of ten breeding specimens from Labrador and a much larger series from New England sharply enough to warrant further separation." Mr. James L. Peters, however, has ex-

amined six of Austin's specimens now in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy and finds that ". . . they are the same as the Newfoundland form." He further states (in correspondence) that *nigrideus* is a "perfectly valid race whose characters are best developed in the Avalon peninsula of Newfoundland. It also ranges up the coast of Labrador." Austin's specimens, examined by J. L. Peters, are: female, Cartwright, July 16, 1928; juvenile, Mannack's Island, July 20, 1928; female and juvenile female, Hopedale, July 25, 1928; and two males, Nain Bay, August 4, 1928.—HAROLD S. PETERS, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Charleston, South Carolina*, and THOMAS D. BURLEIGH, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*.

**The Blue-winged Teal at Sea.**—On November 27, 1940, I was on a steamer coming north through the Strait of Yucatán between Quintana Roo and Cuba. About four o'clock in the afternoon, while we were out of sight of land, a band of a dozen Blue-winged Teals (*Querquedula discors*) passed near at hand, travelling only a few feet above the water toward Cuba. The flock of ducks flew directly east with no hesitation as to their course. This line of flight was, to me, unexpected as I have been accustomed to think of it as one followed by some species through Florida and Cuba to the west in fall and in the reverse direction in spring. It seems strange that in November these ducks should have been moving confidently eastward at a time when the migratory impulse might be supposed to carry the flight in general in the opposite direction. I have been led to ponder whether this cross flight line between the coast of México and the West Indies may not be used by migrating birds of various species more extensively than has been supposed. It would afford an easy, mainly overland route for birds from the western half of North America around the Gulf of Mexico to the West Indies with only a short passage across open water.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**Extension of breeding range of the Western Burrowing Owl in Saskatchewan.**—When I arrived in the northwestern farming area of Saskatchewan in mid-July, 1943, I found my neighbors, Rufus and Gordon Brooks, interested in a strange bird they had found nesting on their wild-hay land about two and one-half miles south east of Livelong. From their description of the bird and its nesting site and den, it seemed very probable that it was a Burrowing Owl. It was, however, a new bird to them in that neighborhood and as I had had over twenty years summer residence and knowledge of the bird life of that territory without having seen this species there, I was interested to learn what it might be. A trip to the locality proved the nest to be that of a Burrowing Owl. It was in what appeared to be an old, unused badger or coyote den, upon a slight elevation above the broad, wild meadow which sloped away some miles southwestward. Here, during the month of August, an opportunity was afforded to observe the birds. Five young and two old birds comprised the family. At first, when too closely approached, the little ones would scurry down the burrow quite out of sight. Toward the end of the month they had grown sufficiently to wing away to neighboring knolls when they wished to do so.

On returning home and looking up the distribution of these birds, it appeared that this observation might furnish interesting data upon the northern extension of their nesting range; existing records are much farther to the southward. The Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) appears to have its northern nesting range recorded as follows. Macoun ("Catalogue of Canadian