

these owls are usually found. The region was originally heavily timbered. This bird was probably either a migrant from Northern Puget Sound region or a transient that wandered down through the Columbia gorge from east of the Cascade Mountains. This is the only Burrowing Owl I have seen in Clark County.—
JAMES BEER, 2904 Harney St., Vancouver, Washington.

Great Black-backed Gull breeding in New York.—A pair of adult Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) was first seen in the colony of Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) on the north end of Cartwright Island on July 18, 1940, when I banded 145 young Herring Gulls. Cartwright Island, a part of Gardiner's Island off eastern Long Island, is about one-half south of Gardiner's. On July 4, 1941, Christopher McKeever and Geoffrey Gill, of Huntington, L. I., banded 165 young Herring Gulls on Cartwright while I banded the young Ospreys. On July 25, 1941, I banded 56 young Herring Gulls on Cartwright. On these three trips, the adult Black-backed Gulls were present on the north end of the island and would always fly overhead, excitedly scolding me while I was in the vicinity of what was probably their nesting area. Although I believe the Black-backs nested in 1940 and 1941, no young were found among the 366 young gulls banded in these two years.

My next trip to Cartwright was on July 10, 1942, in company with my son David and the Rev. Oliver Degelman of Riverhead. I had banded 30 young Herring Gulls when, upon capturing the next young gull, I at once knew I was holding the evidence of the first nesting of the Black-backed Gull in New York. The bird was nearly grown and would be flying probably within a week. Mr. Degelman photographed the young gull and it was soon wearing band no. 41-673757.

In comparing the young Black-back with the young Herring Gulls, I noticed that, in addition to the difference in size, the tail feathers seemed to be the best means of separating the two species. I did not wish to collect the young gull to establish the record, so before I released it, the central and outer tail feathers were pulled out as a definite means of identification. The tail feathers were sent to Ludlow Griscom and Robert C. Murphy and both confirmed the identity of the species, stating that the tail feathers were about as important evidence as a whole skin.

In 1921, the southern limit of breeding range of the Black-backed Gull was Nova Scotia, according to A. C. Bent (North American Gulls and Terns, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 113: 79, 1921). The first definite breeding record of this species in Maine was in 1931 when 13 pairs were found nesting at ten different stations along the coast by Arthur H. Norton and Robert P. Allen (Auk, 48, no. 4: 589-592, 1931). In 1930, this species nested on Duck Island of the Isles of Shoals group off the coast of New Hampshire as recorded by C. F. Jackson and Philip F. Allan (Auk, 49, no. 3: 349-350, 1932). In 1931, the first breeding record of this species in Massachusetts was at North Gooseberry Island, Salem, as recorded by Richard J. Eaton (Auk, 48, no. 4: 588-589, 1931). Joseph A. Hagar informs me in correspondence that in June, 1941, he saw a pair of adults and caught two young on Wepecket Island off the west shore of Naushon Island in the Elizabeth Islands group in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts. He saw a mated pair there in 1939 and 1940 but found no evidence of nesting. This latter breeding locality off Cape Cod is about 75 miles northeast of Cartwright Island, New York. The breeding range of the Black-backed Gull has been extended some 450 miles south along the Atlantic Coast from Nova Scotia in 1921 to Long Island in 1942. Cartwright Island now is the southernmost breeding locality of both Black-backed and Herring Gulls in the United States.

It might be of interest to place on record the breeding bird population of Cartwright Island, which is a low, sandy island about one-half mile long with no trees or buildings. High tides in winter often wash over the island and the hurricane of September, 1938, washed away the only building, a fisherman's small shack, as well as all the Osprey nests. Apparently, the first record of Herring Gulls nesting on Cartwright was in 1936 when John L. Helmuth found a set of eggs and about a dozen pairs of adults. In 1937, Dr. W. T. Helmuth estimated there were 30 to 40 pairs of Herring Gulls nesting. My first trip to Cartwright, on July 11, 1938, revealed 18 Osprey nests, 82 adult Herring Gulls, 200 Roseate Terns, and 1000 Common Terns nesting. On July 13, 1939, there were 24 Osprey nests, 250 adult Herring Gulls, 100 Roseate and 1000 Common Terns. On July 10, 1942, there were 14 Osprey nests, 500 adult Herring Gulls, and 200 terns. This would show that the terns are decreasing while the gulls are increasing, despite the fact that the Ospreys kill many young gulls that venture too close to their nests. It will be interesting to follow the rise and fall of these colonial-nesting species on Cartwright Island.—LEROY WILCOX, *Speonk, Long Island, New York.*

Tree-top migration of Savannah Sparrow.—The Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) makes its spring appearance in Central Maryland from approximately the 18th of March to the middle of May, when it is usually found along roadsides adjacent to meadows and in closely cropped fields. On April 18, 1934, while I was procuring specimens at McDonogh, Maryland, a group of some fifteen birds was noted in the crown of several white oaks, at a height of fifty feet, hopping from limb to limb. It was beyond question that they were sparrows because of their conformation and sparrow-like characteristics, but the species was not determined until several of the birds were procured, when they proved to be Savannah Sparrows. The spring and fall migration of this species has been noted by the writer since 1929, but this was the first instance of tree-top migration.—BROOKE MEANLEY, 208 Oakdale Road, Baltimore, Maryland.

Evening Grosbeak at Lexington, Virginia.—The Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) is so rare in the southeastern states that any occurrence is worthy of note. On February 28, 1944, a small flock of two males and four females visited my yard in Lexington, Virginia. My attention was first drawn to them by their chattering notes. Almost at once they flew to a neighbor's yard, but I was able to follow them up and to study them with Zeiss 8X glasses at short range and as long as I wished. Although I had never seen the species, there was no difficulty about the identification. The unusually heavy, pale yellowish bill, general yellow color, and black and white wings in both sexes, the yellow forehead and brownish yellow upper breast and back in the male, and the white inner tips of the tail feathers in the female all were clearly noted. On coming into the house, I checked with several color plates. The birds were in rather higher plumage than is usually pictured.

There is only one previous report of this species from Virginia—a single bird seen at Alexandria in March (?), 1940, and described to Dr. William B. McIlwaine, Jr., by a friend (*The Raven*, 11, nos. 5-6: 30-31, 1940).—J. J. MURRAY, 6 White Street, Lexington, Virginia.

Green-winged Teal in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, U. S. A.—On the morning of January 5, 1944, while I was making observations on migratory ducks that were resting on Armstrong's Duck Refuge, I was delighted to find a male Green-winged