

During the period of observation, several pairs of Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted in the locality and there were excellent opportunities to distinguish the two species by both appearance and song.—GERALD ROGERS, CAPT. A. C., *Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*.

Blue-breasted Cyornis in the Malay Peninsula: A Correction.—Riley (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 172: 448, 1938) has recorded from Nakhon Si Thammarat, Peninsular Thailand, an "immature male (marked female)" of *Cyornis hainana*, collected by Hugh M. Smith on March 13, 1929. He observes that this seems to be the first record for Peninsular Thailand and might have said also that it is the first record for any part of the Malaysian Subregion.

To the end that error be not compounded by endless repetition, it should be noted that the specimen in question, U. S. N. M. No. 313345, was collected, in fact, at Sakon Nakhon (lat. 17° 10' N., long. 104° E.), a locality well within the species's normal range.

The female recorded by Riley from Bok Pyin, Tenasserim (ca. lat. 11° N.) is correctly identified and represents the most southerly specimen yet known in this direction. On the eastern (Thai) side of the Peninsula, the species has not been found south of Ban Thung Luang (ca. 11° 55' N.). That Riley's undocumented reference to the bird's ranging as far south as Trang is a *lapsus calami* is indicated by his own claim that his record for "Nakhon Si Thammarat" is the first for Peninsular Thailand.—H. G. DEIGNAN, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*¹

Cowbird parasitizes Wood Thrush and Indigo Bunting.—The eggs of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*) were found this spring (1943) in the nests of a Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) and an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) near Crawfordsville, Indiana. It both nests there were two Cowbird eggs and three eggs of the host. Both birds began to incubate the eggs, but, in both cases, the entire set of eggs was later found on the ground beneath the nest. The nests were about two miles apart and both were under observation. Both sets of eggs may have been destroyed by some predator but it is considered possible that the hosts might have destroyed the entire set of eggs in each case to get rid of the parasitic Cowbird eggs. If this was the case, it would be remarkable behavior. This observation is recorded to see if anyone has ever seen a bird destroy her own eggs to get rid of the eggs of another species.—HOWARD H. VOGEL, JR., *Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Ind.*

Three records from western Massachusetts.—As evidence of the eastward and northward trend of bird-life, and as indications of possible future breeding of various species, records of rare stragglers may be of interest. In Berkshire County, the westernmost part of Massachusetts, several birds added to the county list during the past year come under this category. This county, comprising just under a thousand square miles, extends fifty miles from the Vermont line to Connecticut, and is some twenty miles wide. In regard to the number of bird observers as compared to those in the eastern part of the state, the relationship is much the same as that of the southern bird students to those of the North Atlantic states. Here observers are few in number, and such birds may have been overlooked in past years.

The three additions to the county list were the Western Meadowlark, the Lark Bunting and a Tufted Titmouse. The first was found by Professor Sam A. Eliot, Jr., of Northampton and Stanley Clarke of Pittsfield, on July 8, 1944, at the Berkshire Hills Country Club, a favorite haunt of the Eastern Meadowlark. It sang

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freely and was seen many times by different observers until July 19. I observed it for a total of four hours, once timing as many as ten songs in twelve minutes.

The Lark Bunting was found at South Egremont Pond on October 24, 1944. It was in a mixed company of finches at the edge of the swamp there, and I saw it within twenty feet, perched on a bush, feeding on the ground, and three times in flight. The bird was probably an immature male, as the wing patches were large and conspicuously white.

The Tufted Titmouse appeared at a feeder in Pittsfield during the first week of January, 1945, and was then traced to many feeders in the neighborhood; its route included more than a dozen. It appeared healthy and active on January 25, but has not been recorded since the following day. From the accounts of its habits, it seems possible that it may have died of overeating!—DOROTHY E. SNYDER, *The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.*

The Bald Eagle nesting in captivity.—Records of the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nesting in captivity are rare. The files of the National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C., do not record any such event but from time to time a few eggs have been deposited on the ground in the cages. On March 4, 1945, I discovered a Bald Eagle nesting on the 'cliff' in the eagle flight-cage of the zoo. The nest was constructed of sticks and grasses that had been gathered by the birds in the cage. A good part of the material consisted of peanut bags and popcorn boxes that had been torn apart and incorporated into the nest. In this crude eyrie rested two eggs. An eagle hovered over them, wings spread in an attempt to protect them from an intruder. The incubating bird called out in defiance as I stepped near, and refused to leave the nest. Another eagle, probably the mate of the nesting bird, flew over my head and appeared angry at my presence.

The normal period of incubation of the Bald Eagle is from twenty-eight to thirty-six days. We in the zoo are not molesting this incubating eagle, and it is hoped that a family will eventually emerge from the shells.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C., March 5, 1945.*

Great Black-backed Gull in Monongalia County, West Virginia.—On February 16, 1945, I found an adult Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) at Lake Lynn, Monongalia County, West Virginia. The bird was under observation for about thirty minutes as it flew about and alighted on the broken ice which partially covered the lake. Through 7× binoculars I had every opportunity to see the bird at short range, although it was impossible to secure the specimen. The occurrence of this bird in West Virginia must be regarded as accidental, since this is the first published record for the species from the state.—MAURICE BROOKS, *Division of Forestry, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.*

American Eider in Delaware.—The occurrence of any species of eider south of Long Island is so uncommon that a record should be made of any such observation. An American Eider (*Somateria mollissima dresseri*) was killed on October 16, 1944, by a hunter on the Hundred Acre Marsh, near the mouth of the Delaware River, New Castle County, Delaware. The specimen, a female, was carefully examined by U. S. Game Management Agent, Alan W. Souder, who has had considerable experience with the eider on the coast of New England. Souder reported (December 21, 1944) that this was definitely an American Eider, not a King Eider.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois.*

The Whistling Swan in Maine.—Because few observations of the Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) in New England have been recorded during recent years,