

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,

it seems desirable to report that an adult specimen was observed repeatedly on November 28, 1944, near Pleasant Point, Merrymeeting Bay, Sagadahoc County, Maine, by U. S. Game Management Agent, W. B. White. The distinctive coloring and large size of this bird make it very unlikely that anyone with even a casual acquaintance with waterfowl could misidentify the Whistling Swan.

This record seems the more important because Knight ('Birds of Maine,' 648, 1908) lists but one record (doubtful) for Maine.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois.*

Long-tailed Jaeger and other birds at Island Beach, New Jersey.—On January 21, 1945, a ten-mile walk along the beach north from Seaside Park to Point Pleasant, New Jersey, produced a list of only 24 species of birds observed. Noteworthy among these were a flock of 2000 (est.) American Brant, *Branta bernicla hrota*, flying south toward Barnegat Inlet, and two American Pipits, *Anthus spinoletta rubescens*, apparently feeding on beach debris.

And of unusual interest were 92 dead birds—mostly oiled—comprising 11 species as follows:—Common Loon, *Gavia immer immer*, (7); Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata*, (10); Black Duck, *Anas rubripes*, (1); Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus*, (1). Mrs. Kramer spied the jaeger lying close to the surf; it was fresh and bloody and almost completely disemboweled by gulls. It was the size of a slender Crow, and was an immature bird as was indicated by its two central tail feathers which were a scant inch longer than the rest of its tail. Because the bird was well oiled, we collected only the feet which, according to the literature, clinched the identification, which was later confirmed at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia by James Bond. Due to the absence of belly plumage, the color phase could not be determined. Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, (4); Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*, (27); Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*, (3); Atlantic Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*, (1); Razor-billed Auk, *Alca torda*, (1); Dovekie, *Alle alle*, (36—of these, 17 were within a one-mile stretch of beach); Common Pigeon (1).—EVELYN Y. AND QUINTIN KRAMER, 6101 Market St., Philadelphia 39, Pennsylvania.

Eskimo Curlew in Texas.—On April 29, 1945, two Eskimo Curlews were seen at Galveston, Texas, by Mrs. Edna W. Miner, Miss Mabel Kaiser, and the writer, all of Houston, Texas. The birds were amongst a huge assemblage of marsh and shore birds, including Buff-breasted and other sandpipers, Black-bellied Plovers, Eastern and Western Willets, various herons, and hundreds of Hudsonian Curlews. All were feeding over a wide area of sand flats, shallow ponds, and grassy patches near West Bay on Galveston island. Nearness of the Eskimo Curlews to Hudsonians gave fine opportunity for comparison. Smaller size of the Eskimos and shorter length of bill were obvious, and movements of the birds, in brilliant mid-afternoon sunlight, clearly showed the large black wing area and lack of median head stripe. Fully an hour was spent checking every identification mark through eight-power glasses at a range of less than one hundred yards from our parked car. In a small puddle a few yards beyond, two Marbled Godwits fed energetically. As is often the case along the Texas Gulf Coast during spring migration, a heavy rainstorm and change of wind from south to north during the previous night brought down a swarming visitation of migrants. Our list, for ten hours of observation, totaled 128 species.—(SGT.) JOSEPH M. HEISER, JR., *Det. Med. Dept., Brooke Gen. Hosp., Fort Sam Houston, Texas.*