

65, 1943), the Western Harlequin Duck (*H. h. pacificus*) is a rare straggler in Iowa. Dr. Oberholser has written me that the species has been recorded in Colorado and he is of the opinion that those I saw also belonged to the western subspecies. This is the first time I have seen the Harlequin Duck here during nine years of daily observation and, so far as I can ascertain, it is the first record from Texas.—CONGER N. HAGAR, *Rockport, Texas.*

Canada Geese nesting in Maine.—There is a rather widespread belief among sportsmen and bird lovers that the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis canadensis*) regularly breeds in limited numbers throughout Maine, despite the fact that there appear to be no references in the literature relative to such breeding. Actually there are but two Maine records known to the writer that could be considered as reasonably authentic instances of nesting by wild geese.

In the lower Kennebec River valley of south-central Maine, and in the coastal portion of Washington County in the extreme eastern part of the state, there have been frequent reports during the past decade of nests or broods of this species. All reports that were investigated, however, have been found to pertain to the nesting of released or escaped semi-domesticated birds. A number of releases of pen-reared geese have been made in the vicinity of Lubec, in Washington County, by a sportsman who for several years maintained a small waterfowl sanctuary. Moreover, from time to time, wing-clipped birds escaped from the sanctuary and occasionally nested in the general vicinity. Similar dispersals have occurred in southern and central Maine from pen-reared stock.

The first authentic record of breeding in this state by strictly wild geese was apparently in 1939 in the Gilman Falls section of Old Town, Penobscot County. The nesting area was in a meadow flowage on Pushaw Stream, surrounded by open woods and farmland. Local residents found the nest and reported it to Deputy Game Warden C. M. Chaples. It was said to have been located at the edge of a small clump of maples near the water and to have contained five eggs. The nesting attempt was a failure as a poacher shot the female with a rifle. Warden Chaples arrested the law violator and obtained a conviction in court. The specimen was brought to the laboratory of the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit for examination, and partly developed eggs were found in the ovary. The bird was not banded, and since the male had been observed by Warden Chaples at very close range with no band being apparent, it seems likely that these birds were of wild strain.

The other record occurred in 1944 at Chemquasabamticook Lake (known locally as Ross Lake) in northwestern Piscataquis County, about 20 miles from the Quebec border. George J. Stobie, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game, received reports of a brood of goslings being seen at that body of water and investigated early in July. The area is very remote and Stobie was flown in by Warden Pilot William Turgeon. As the plane circled over the water at a low altitude, two broods of geese were seen, each accompanied by both parents. The plane was landed and the lake was explored by boat. The observers were able to relocate only one brood, but this—consisting of four young in downy plumage—was watched for several minutes at a distance of about 50 feet. The young were attended by both adults and the family was in a small cove of the lake. Although it was impossible to detect the presence or absence of bands on the adults, the occurrence of the birds at this wilderness lake so far removed from any area where captive geese are known to have been released would constitute rather strong circumstantial evidence of breeding by wild birds.

The writer is indebted to Commissioner George J. Stobie and Deputy Game Warden C. M. Chaples for the details of these breeding records.—HOWARD L. MENDALL, *Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Orono, Maine.*

Costa Rican Sparrow near the Canal Zone.—According to Chapman ('Post-glacial History of *Zonotrichia capensis*, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 77: 381-438, 1940), the present known mainland range of the Neotropical White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) begins in southern México and Guatemala, skips to Costa Rica and western Panamá, skips again to Colombia, and thence, in favorable unforested localities, to Tierra del Fuego. Throughout its range the bird seeks a climate with comparatively low temperatures and is consequently found only in uplands or territory influenced by the Humboldt Current. In the Republic of Panamá the bird is known from the western part as far east as Santa Fé, which is 5000 feet above sea level.

On April 22, 1942, at Chamé, Rep. de Panamá, 25 miles southwest of the Canal Zone, at an altitude of 1600 feet, there was a single sparrow which I described as follows in correspondence to Dr. James P. Chapin: "Its head was black and white striped with the chin and upper throat white. Around its neck was a collar of cinnamon-buff or red-brown. The rest of the upperparts and tail were brown with black streaks." These observations were made with 8 × 30-power binoculars at a distance of fifty feet. The habitat was an isolated rocky, sedge-covered hilltop which projected above the coastal plain like an overturned teacup on a table top. The summit is bald and reaches an altitude of 1767 feet above the Pacific Ocean. Below 1300 feet, these 'mountains' are blanketed with thick dry forest. It was above this false timberline, where only sedges and occasional stunted shrubs grow, that the bird was seen all alone among the rocks in a cold wind. Dr. Chapin replied that it was undoubtedly *Z. capensis* and expressed surprise that it was found below "3000 or 4000 feet."

Having no gun, I was unable to collect the specimen to determine its race. However, since *Z. capensis costaricensis* is the only subspecies known to occur between Costa Rica and Colombia, the bird would most likely be an individual of this race. The Chamé 'Mountains,' on the Pacific Coast, are 72 miles east of cordillera Santa Fé, the previous easternmost record for the species in the Republic de Panamá.—GERALD ROGERS, CAPT., A. C., *Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.*

English Sparrow anting.—While inspecting the nesting activities of the waterfowl in the National Zoological Park, I observed a Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) probing an ant hill. As the bird thrust its beak far down into the opening of the hill, and withdrew it, and again extended its beak downward in the nest of ants, many ants swarmed about in excitement upon the ground. It was a rich feeding ground for the flicker. As I stood six feet from the bird, watching this feeding operation, a young English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*) which appeared to have been on the wing only a few days, flew down to the ant hill, and with much excitement dusted itself among the ants. Then I suddenly realized that I was witnessing the act of anting by a member of the Ploceidae.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*