

to have been present the week before. These birds evaded collection by flying low over a large corn field and could not be found again.

Why have these waifs from the west turned up on at least four occasions during the last 15 years in a 20-mile-long strip of dry prairie-lake plain in northwestern Ohio? There have been a number of other reports from eastern states during the same period but the only other Ohio record is of a juvenile male found dead on September 6, 1944, by Merit B. Skaggs, near Cleveland (*Auk*, 62: 313, 1945). The five records all fall during a 40-day period in late summer (July 28 to September 6).—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio*.

Additional notes on the Arkansas Kingbird in Luce County, Michigan.—Since sending in my date of observing the Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), which appears in Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne's list of Michigan records of this species (*Auk*, 50: 107, 108, Jan., 1933), I have seen this species on nine more dates. These are: September 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 30, and October 1, 1945. Only one bird was seen on each day, and as all observations were within a small area, it seems certain that it was the same bird. It was first noted in a lane on the place where I formerly resided, two miles south and between one-half and three-fourths of a mile east of McMillan, Luce County, Michigan, and it was very near the same place on the next two days. On September 30, it was on a fence by a corn field not over 50 feet from the east side of a large area of hardwood forest. This is the nearest to any woodland that I observed it. On each of the other five days, it was seen at various places about the farmyard. The entire area is not over 40 rods north and south, and 70 rods east and west. The bright yellow on the breast and some of the other under parts and the light-colored head and neck were among the chief field marks used in identification.

This bird encountered most unfavorable conditions for capturing insects on the wing during the time it was at this locality. The first two days were the best, with fair weather and a temperature ranging from 32° to 61° F. From September 22 to 28 there were snow storms and cold weather so that very few if any insects were flying about. Snow fell on each of these days, covering the ground at times, but usually gone by sundown. Rain also fell on each of these seven days, except the 27th, and the temperature ranged from as low as 25° F. on the 25th to as high as 49° on the 23rd. On three of these days, I did not see the temperature above the 30's. September 29 was mostly cloudy and cold (35° to 43°). On one day of this cold period, September 27, I was fortunate in seeing the kingbird feeding on mountain ash berries on a tree in the yard; it took at least two berries. It would be of interest to know to what extent this wild fruit served for food for this bird when flying insects were scarce. Natural feeding conditions were very much better on the last two days (September 30, October 1), when fair weather prevailed and the temperature ranged from 36° to 67° F.

Readers may note that this bird was last seen on a day when natural feeding conditions were favorable. It remains a mystery to me why it remained at this locality during unfavorable weather and at a time which seems to be unusually late for this species in the northern part of its range, judging by Mr. A. C. Bent in his "Life Histories of North American Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows and Their Allies" (*U. S. National Museum Bulletin No. 179: 69, 1942*).—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, *Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Michigan*.

Migration of the Sooty Shearwater off the Washington coast.—On September 2, 1945, Earl J. Larrison, Jr. and I observed a large migration of the Sooty

Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) at Gray's Harbor, near Freeport, on the coast of Washington. There is a long breakwater extending about two and one-half miles out into the ocean at this point, and the birds were flying south just beyond its end.

For an hour, during the walk out to the end of the rocky breakwater, we had seen enormous flocks of shearwaters, and, when we reached the end, we watched them for an hour or more. We attempted to estimate the number of birds by counting the number passing a point about one hundred yards distant in a given time period. In this way, it was believed that about 100,000 birds an hour were going by. Most of them flew close to the surface, but individual birds regularly wheeled up to a height of about 50 feet from time to time, staying here for about twenty seconds, and then rejoining the main flock. We were told by some fishermen that the flock had been passing steadily for about three days, so that an estimated count of several million birds does not seem to be excessive.

At one time, toward evening, the leaders of the flock turned east into Gray's Harbor, and thousands of birds followed them, circling about and finally settling on the water in a dense, compact mass which covered several acres of water surface. In this flock was one bird, noticeably larger than the Sooty Shearwaters, with clear white under parts—probably the Pink-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus creatopus*). On the way back we picked up one dead Sooty Shearwater which had been killed by a car.—DR. LOCKE L. MACKENZIE, *New York City*.

Lesser Black-backed Gull in New York harbor.—On the evening of March 28, 1945, while the boat on which I had crossed the Atlantic from England was lying off Staten Island, I saw a Lesser Black-backed Gull among the crowds of Herring Gulls. The bird flew past me, and rather below me, at a distance of a few yards. Not only could I see that its size was the same as that of the Herring Gulls, but I also saw the yellow legs, while the mantle was not by any means as dark as that of the Greater Black-backs that were also flying up and down the Hudson River that afternoon. In terms of the subspecies to be seen on the eastern side of the Atlantic, I should have supposed it was *Larus fuscus graellsii* rather than *L. f. fuscus*, but there are probably other possible subspecies that should be taken into account as possible visitors to New York. On the following morning (26th) before we weighed anchor, the bird once again flew past our boat, but I did not see it so well as on the previous evening.—H. G. ALEXANDER, *144 Oak Tree Lane, Birmingham 29, England*.

Rare Utah birds.—In going over my collection recently with Dr. A. M. Woodbury of the University of Utah, we came upon a swift that I have for years been holding for comparative data. The University had comparative skins, and it has been finally identified as the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), taken by me at Kaysville, Utah, May 7, 1912. This is a new record for Utah, and the specimen has been donated to the collection of the University of Utah.

I have also given to the University of Utah the Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) recorded by me from Wendover, Utah, July 2, 1919 (Auk, 36: 565, 1919), as it seems to be too rare a bird to be left in a private collection.

On May 27, 1944, on Farmington Bay, Utah, Louise Atkinson and I sat within seventy-five feet of a Brown Pelican for half an hour and were able to record every detail of its plumage. Shooting was not allowed. I have submitted the detailed description to various ornithologists and, although its size indicated *Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis*, we have concluded to call it just "Brown Pelican." Dr. A. M. Woodbury has one sight record for *P. o. californicus* for Utah (Condor, 39: 225, 1937), but as far as I know these two comprise all the records of the occurrence of the