

in 1938 occurred on such a trip. No snipe was to be heard on this morning, and only one bird was to be seen. But as one of the boys stepped across a small drainage ditch, a few moments after the lone bird had flushed from the ground, he planted his foot beside a nest containing four eggs which I immediately recognized as belonging to none of the four species of shore birds commonly nesting in the region. My field notes read: "The ground color of the eggs is olive, with most of the chocolate markings centered about the large end. They are sharply pyriform, a bit more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in length. The nest is built of grasses, on the ground, on earth thrown up from the ditch." It was no more than five feet from a clump of willow bushes. The eggs apparently were quite fresh, with no nest-soil on them. On May 5, however, when I returned to photograph the eggs, no trace of eggs, nest, or snipe was to be found. On the evening of May 3, in a portion of the same marsh three-fourths of a mile distant but which is now separated from the nest site by a built-up portion of the city, I had heard one bird winnowing. The last Wilson's Snipe which I saw in the spring of 1938 was observed on May 7 at Guilford Lake. A mental comparison, a short time later, of a series of Wilson's Snipe and other shore-bird eggs in the collection of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, confirmed my identification of the eggs. In the seven seasons since 1938, I have been in Salem only two, in 1940 and 1942. The character of the marsh had been altered by drainage operations so that there appeared little possibility in those years of the nesting of Wilson's Snipe on the site of the 1938 nest. Drainage has now been abandoned, and a skating pond which had been dug in 1939 has already become a cattail marsh, and the site may once again be favorable for the nesting of snipe. It is altogether probable that the species has nested in the other localities in which I have found it in summer. The nest-site and all other areas in which the species has been noted in summer are the remains of glacial lakes. The marshes at Guilford Lake and New Chambersburg are each within five miles of the boundary of the Wisconsin glaciers, south of which, in Columbiana County, there is little likelihood of the nesting of Wilson's Snipe, for the steep gradient of the streams flowing into the Ohio river prevented the formation of outwash lakes and their residual marshes such as occur in the unglaciated areas southwest of Columbiana County in Carroll County, where nests of Wilson's Snipe should also be searched for.—WILLIAM C. BAKER, *Department of English, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh 13, Pa.*

**First record of Harris's Sparrow in Connecticut.**—On December 11, 1945, Mrs. Samuel D. Bogan first noticed a strange bird at her feeding tray in Spring Glen, Hamden, Connecticut. Peterson's 'Field Guide' helped her to identify it as a Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula*. Through her kindness I was privileged to study it at a distance of three feet on several occasions during the week, and to compare it as readily with skins as though it were actually in hand. Several competent observers, including Mr. Robert S. Judd, who years ago collected in North Dakota an adult now in the Peabody Museum of Natural History collection, confirmed our determination.

This sparrow was in typical first winter plumage and apparently in excellent condition. Mixed bird seed proved so attractive that the bird frequently drove English Sparrows from the tray attached to the window ledge, to sit alone at leisure feeding for several minutes. Its fearless attitude suggested previous association with humanity, but no leg band confirmed this conception.

The bird frequented the shrubs and trees of the dooryard, feeding at the Bogan tray several times each day. On the afternoon of December 17, I had been taking motion pictures of it between 3:00 and 4:10 P. M. After its final extended feeding

it flew across the lawn to a Forsythia bush as was its wont. But instead of returning with the next descent of English Sparrows upon the feeding tray a few moments later, *querula* flitted over a hedge into the adjoining yard. As far as known, it has not since been seen.

According to the records available, three Harris's Sparrows have previously been noted in New England, all in eastern Massachusetts, and reported in *The Auk* in 1929 and 1936 (29: 392; 36: 92-93), and *Bull. Mass. Aud. Soc.*, 28 (2): 45, 1944. This Hamden bird is believed to constitute Connecticut's first record of the species, thanks to Mrs. Bogan's intelligent interest.

A migrant of the great Central Flyway, the bird has been reported a few times in Michigan and Indiana, three times in Ohio (*Auk*, 48: 617, 1931; 50: 225, 1933; 42: 275, 1925; *Bird-Lore*, 42: 386, 1940). Perhaps a greater number of observers in Massachusetts and Connecticut have increased the likelihood of detection there as compared with New York State and Pennsylvania.

As always in such accidental visitations, one's imagination is aroused as to what factors may have led a western bird so far from its winter home. Certainly meteorologic conditions during the weeks previous to its discovery were more than once favorable to an eastward drive.

A storm center over Chicago on November 27 subjected the northeastern portion of *querula's* winter range in Missouri and the eastern border of its migration route through Illinois to strong westerly winds. This storm arrived in New England on December 1, accompanied in its early phases by strong west and southwest winds that could have carried the bird into New York or southern Ontario. A succeeding high, with strong southwest wind over the northern part of the winter range on December 4, reached northern New England on the 5th; and in turn, was followed by a low that moved up the coast, accompanied by west to northwest currents that might have deflected Harris's Sparrow into Connecticut. Finally, fresh to westerly winds accompanied a low-pressure area that travelled eastward through the northern States and southern Canada from December 7 to 11. The bird might well have been urged onward by the westerlies that prevailed south of this center.

This succession of storms covered a period of some 13 days. Had the sparrow left mid-northern Missouri on November 27, it would have averaged over 80 miles daily. That a bird accustomed to spending much time on the ground should maintain such progress eastward seems doubtful. Would it have been possible? The wind velocity probably never exceeded 45 m.p.h. Had it averaged 30 m.p.h. as a 'tail wind,' and had the bird added 20 m.p.h., the resultant would have been 50 m.p.h. Then only two hours flying time per day would have sufficed to maintain the rate of 80 miles per day.

If storms and winds are the major factors concerned, one would expect more than one of these birds to be carried eastward. Indeed, there is strong possibility that Robert Clem of Hamden may have seen an adult Harris's Sparrow at his food tray on December 20 and 21, about a half mile from the Bogan home. A boy unusually skilled in bird portraiture, he brought to me a careful drawing of an adult *querula*, seen from in front as it would have appeared on the edge of the food tray at his window. It hardly seems likely that wishful thinking could have led him to glorify thus an English Sparrow into a bird bearing black crown and striped flanks, as well as breast and throat.

Whether or not more than one Harris's Sparrow reached Hamden, we shall await possible reports of others seen in the northeast. Speculation as to how even this one bird reached New England must recognize the possibility that it may have been here

for weeks before its discovery. Perhaps in migration it was deflected southeastward from Manitoba across Ontario. Records of this species in eastern Canada seem to be lacking.—STANLEY C. BALL, *Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.*

**A Whistling Swan in Cuba.**—An adult male Whistling Swan, *Cygnus columbianus* (Ord), was taken December 17, 1944, near the Río Tumbadero and the Arroyo de los Horconcitos in the Ciénaga de Zapata, Cuba. There is no question as to the identification, because of the yellow spots on the lores and because of the distance from the eye to the nostril, which is much greater than that from the nostril to the point of the bill. This is the first record of the species for Cuba and for the West Indies. The specimen is preserved in the Museo Poey of the University of Habana.—ABELARDO MORENO, *Universidad de la Habana, Habana, Cuba.*

**The White-fronted Goose in New Jersey.**—The White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) is an extremely rare migrant on the Atlantic seaboard of the United States and specimens or authentic sight-records are few. From the coast of New York State (Long Island) there are reports of single specimens collected from Great South Bay in 1846, at Islip in 1849, at Montauk in 1872, and at Sag Harbor in 1889. To these may be added Helme's record of a flock of eleven seen at Miller Place in 1883. Two inland reports complete the published records for the state; one is a note of the presence of these geese on Chautauqua Lake in 1881 and the other of a specimen killed on Lake Champlain in 1943. From the New Jersey coast there have been but two occurrences reported: one, a single bird at Beach Haven Point in November, 1926 (Griscom), and the other, two White-fronts flying with a flock of Brant over Barnegat Bay in November, 1928 (Urner and Edwards). An addition to these New Jersey records may be of interest.

On November 16, 1945, we were walking south along the beach on the ocean side of Beach Haven Point, New Jersey, when we noticed a small flock of geese approaching from the north, flying just within the line of the surf at a height of about 75 feet. As soon as our glasses were on them we eliminated the possibility of the two common species and, as they flew directly over our heads, the speckled breasts and the characteristic head-markings of the adults showed them to be White-fronts. The flock consisted of five birds, two in adult plumage and three in the plumage of the immature of this species. An adult bird led the little flock. The sun was just setting and its light seemed to give a rosy tinge to the breasts of the adults as they passed low over our heads and swung around the Point, seeking the protection of the bay for the night.—MABEL M. AND C. K. NICHOLS, *Ridgewood, N. J.*

**Burrowing Owl in Ohio.**—My brother Norman called my attention to a small, fast owl along an open ditch southwest of Payne in Paulding County, Ohio, during the early part of October, 1944. It insisted upon roosting along the bare bank of a ditch that had been enlarged by a dredge a short time previously. On four occasions it was seen sitting on the bare bank of the ditch. Two attempts were made to secure it with a 40-gauge shot gun and both times it could have been shot at a distance of 40 feet. However we did not shoot it as it would have been ruined for a specimen. After flushing, it seemed very shy and would fly a considerable distance out in the harvested soy-bean fields where it tried to conceal itself under bunches of soy-bean straw. It did considerable walking. It was observed at one of its roosting places beside a four-inch tile where this drained into the open ditch. There on October 21 I collected eleven pellets of varying sizes. The pellets contained some fur but several