

annals of the Weather Bureau, I walked several miles along the coast at Rockport, Massachusetts. Tremendous waves were pounding in and, although the day was one of brilliant sunshine, the air was filled with an invisible mist which constantly drenched my field-glasses. Some 25 Black Guillemots, *Cephus grylle grylle*, were scattered along the shore, being in many instances only a few yards from the rocks. To see more than three of this species from the mainland in one day is a rare event. Perhaps 40 American Eiders, *Somateria mollissima dresseri*, were flying aimlessly back and forth or resting near shore. While this species is found commonly inshore in numbers on Cape Cod, but few birds winter off Rockport and the species there stays well offshore. More rare yet was an Atlantic Puffin, *Fratercula arctica arctica*, a bird almost never seen from the mainland in Massachusetts. Apparently deciding the worst was over the bird headed far out to sea.

Folly Cove, so named because it faces practically due north and affords no shelter to any unsuspecting sailor, was a set-piece for the study of waterfowl. In this tiny basin, which could not contain a large schooner, were two White-winged Scoters, *Melanitta fusca deglandi*; a drake American Eider; two Common Loons, *Gavia immer immer*; a Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata*; a Horned Grebe, *Colymbus auritus*; three Holboell's Grebes, *Colymbus grisegena holboëllii*; and a Western Grebe.

Mr. Robert Walcott, President of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, saw presumably the same Western Grebe in the general region on December 9, 1945.—WENDELL TABER, *Cambridge, Massachusetts*.

Cowbird young in western Oregon.—In late May, 1946, two females and one male Nevada Cowbird (*Molothrus ater artemisiae*) appeared in my back yard here in Eugene, Oregon. Though it is an unusual bird west of the Cascades, here in Oregon, I did not record the date.

Then about June 10, I noticed a Rusty Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia morphna*) feeding a youngster almost its same size only much lighter in color and gray rather than brown. My observations of this bird were rather casual, and it was not until the sparrow began bringing its ungainly youngster to a feeding tray that I really took notice of it. Then its shorter tail, much differently shaped bill, and walking rather than hopping gait became evident.

The last day on which I saw the sparrow feed the young cowbird was June 26. At that time the youngster was one-quarter again larger than its foster parent.

The bird is still about (July 9), feeding itself a good deal of the time on a tray about eight feet from our kitchen window. It seems to prefer the seeds of millet to anything else that I have put out. Although it has very completely taken over the feeding tray and spends much of its time there it does not monopolize the tray. It pretty generally ignores any other birds on the tray and because of its larger size, they seldom bother it.

In correspondence with Dr. Stanley G. Jewett, Pacific Flyway Biologist for the Fish and Wildlife Service, I learn that this is the first definite record of the cowbird 'breeding' west of the Cascades in Oregon.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Eugene, Oregon*.

Yellow-billed Loon on Long Island, New York.—One day in June, 1930, the late Gerald H. Thayer brought to me the mandible of a bird that he had recently found on the shore of eastern Long Island. The carcass of the bird was so badly decomposed that he had made no attempt to salvage more than the fragment in question. A careful comparison of this with a variety of other skeletal material showed the bird to have been a Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsi*), and more recent reexamination has confirmed the earlier identification.

The specimen (No. 4005, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.) is not quite complete, even for the mandible, since the extreme basal portion (apparently about 15 mm. in length) is broken off, but the remainder is entire. The length from the malar apex is 91 mm.; the length of the gonyes, 51; the commissural outline is definitely concave; the lateral aspect of the gonydeal angle is rather evenly curved; the rhamphotheca is ivory white, darkened only at the gonydeal angle and irregularly basad. These characters all show perfect agreement with *adamsi* and none at all with the other loons.

Unfortunately, the exact date of discovery and the precise locality were not given, but "eastern Long Island, early 1930" may be sufficient for the record, the publication of which is prompted by current work on the new edition of the A. O. U. Check-List.—JOHN T. ZIMMER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

American Knot and Red-backed Sandpiper in Vermont.—During September, 1944, water levels of Lake Champlain at Burlington, Vermont, were considerably below the official average for this period. Fairly extensive flats were thus exposed along the shore from the Burlington City sewer outlet south for about a mile to Oak Ledge. Sewage debris made attractive feeding for considerable numbers of shore birds of thirteen species including Killdeer, Pectoral Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, American Knot, and Red-backed Sandpiper. These were all observed between September 8 and 27.

The Knot was a single bird in full winter plumage seen there on September 15 in company with Black-bellied Plovers. The bird was observed carefully from behind a jetty with 6 x 30 binoculars from thirty feet distant. The characteristic build, short bill, white feather edging, and whitish rump were all noted. I have been familiar with this species on Lake Ontario. So far as I have been able to determine, this is the first recorded observation of this species in the State of Vermont. Mr. Wendell P. Smith, Vermont State Ornithologist, confirms this as a first record.

The Red-backed Sandpiper was also a lone bird seen on the rocks of a stone jetty on September fifteenth. The bird was in almost full winter plumage and the characteristic decurved bill was clearly seen as the bird allowed close approach. This is apparently only the second record of this species from Vermont.

Because of the appearance of both these species along the Atlantic Coast and westward along the Great Lakes, it would seem likely that careful watch would reveal their occurrence more frequently along the shores of Lake Champlain.—GORDON M. MEADE, M.D., *Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, New York.*

Sabine's Gull in Minnesota.—An immature Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini* (Sabine), was observed on October 1, 1944, at Stillwater, Minnesota, on the Saint Croix River. With 8x binoculars the bird was studied as closely as twenty-five yards (paced) at 6:20 to approximately 6:30 P. M. in good light. We stood ten feet above the water's edge, looking down upon a group of Ring-billed Gulls which fed upon bread we tossed to them. They were joined by the Sabine's Gull with its striking wing-pattern and black-tipped, forked tail; it was identified from Peterson's 'Field Guide' on the spot.

A check of the past records in the Auk indicates that each of the six specimens taken in the interior of the United States are immatures collected in October. One sight record on September 12, 1940, by Wm. H. Behle and Edwin D. McKee in Grand Canyon National Park (Auk, 60: 278, 1943) and one shot but not recovered by E. W. Nelson on April 1, 1873, on the shore of Lake Michigan (Auk 1: 41, 1884) are not identified as to age.