

The mean incubation period for five of the nests is 18 days with the extremes from 14 to 21-plus days. Data from the other nests were too unreliable to use.

It has already been mentioned that only one bird appeared to incubate. The bird's mate was, however, always near by. After the young were hatched, and up to the time when they began to feather out, a parent bird was always found on the nest, remaining on it until we were at the edge of the nest, looking into it.

From the data gathered it seems to take from three to four weeks, after hatching, for the young to leave the nest.

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RECENT OBSERVATIONS ON MARYLAND BIRDS

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IN the course of working on a study of the 'Geographical and Ecological Distribution of the Birds of Maryland,' a considerable number of records of occurrence have been obtained, which have helped to clarify the status of many Maryland birds. Some of these records are new for the state and many serve to extend the known breeding or wintering ranges within Maryland. Others will serve as additional information on the seasonal and geographical distribution of certain species whose ranges are imperfectly known.

This study was started in earnest in the early summer of 1945, although a few field trips had been taken before this date. During this period, several people from the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, the Maryland Ornithological Society, and the Patuxent Research Refuge accompanied us from time to time and contributed to the observations.

Most of the more interesting information derived from the records obtained in this study is included in the following annotated list. An asterisk (*) indicates that there is no previous published record for Maryland.

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*).—Although this species is a regular winter resident along the coast of Maryland, its presence during the summer was unexpected. On August 5, 1945, three birds in non-breeding plumage were observed on Sinepuxent Bay about two miles south of Ocean City.

WILSON'S PETREL (*Oceanites oceanicus oceanicus*).—Nine Wilson's Petrels were observed on Chincoteague Bay on July 3, 1945. These birds, including one that was collected, were seen near the center of the bay at least a mile from the nearest island.

On this trip, our guide, Mr. H. D. Foulks, a man in his fifties, who is a native of the region and who has spent most of his life working on the bay, informed us that although he had seen this species (Mother Carey's chickens) offshore, he had never found it on the bay until two days previous to our visit. These birds were undoubtedly blown in by the tropical hurricane of June 26.

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*).—Mr. Ethan A. Carey of Berlin, Maryland, has a mounted specimen of a Brown Pelican that he shot about twenty-five years ago near the Isle of Wight Coast Guard Station north of Ocean City. He reports seeing single birds on two occasions since that time. This species was previously recorded by Dr. Clarence Cottam and F. M. Uhler on May 22, 1935, when a flock of four was seen near Ocean City (Auk, 52: 460, 1935). One also was seen by Dr. W. B. Truitt at Solomon's Island, Maryland, on October 10, 1936.

AMERICAN EGRET (*Casmerodius albus egretta*).—During 1945 and 1946 a considerable number were found nesting in a mixed colony of herons, located on the south end of Mills Island on Chincoteague Bay. Another group is evidently nesting along the Pocomoke River near the Delaware line, since a large number of birds were observed here on June 15, 1946.

SNOWY EGRET (*Leucophox thula thula*).—During 1946 a large number were found nesting in the mixed heron colony located on the south end of Mills Island. A much smaller number, comprising not more than six pairs, were also found nesting with Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) and Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) about one mile west of Ocean City. Still another colony appears to be situated along Chesapeake Bay near Crisfield, in Somerset County, as a considerable number of birds were observed in this area on June 12, 1946.

LOUISIANA HERON (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*).—In July, 1946, at least three pairs were found nesting in the mixed heron colony located on the south end of Mills Island. On August 29, 1945, two birds were seen feeding in the salt marsh bordering Assateague Island about three miles south of Ocean City. Kirkwood (Birds of Maryland, 1895) states that a specimen was taken "in Maryland" in 1868 or 1869 and preserved in the Maryland Academy of Sciences. There is also a sight record for Scotland Beach, St. Marys County, on August 18, 1928 (Ball, Auk, 47: 94, 1930).

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Florida caerulea caerulea*).—During the summer of 1946, large numbers were found nesting in a colony located one mile west of Ocean City, and also in the mixed colony located on the south end of Mills Island.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea violacea*).—The existence of colonies of Yellow-crowned Night Herons along Seneca Creek, in Montgomery County, has been known for several years by some of the Washington, D. C., ornithologists including Mr. E. J. Court and Mr. Ralph E. Lawrence. In 1946, at least one pair was found nesting in the mixed heron colony located on the south end of Mills Island. On July 13, 1946, a single adult was observed on Assateague Island, about nine miles south of Ocean City.

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*).—This species, which nests somewhat sparingly in many of the tide-water marshes of the state, was recorded on January 18, 1946, when one bird was flushed from the salt marsh bordering Isle of Wight Bay, about one mile north of Ocean City.

HOODED MERGANSER (*Lophodytes cucullatus*).—On June 21, 1946, a female with a brood of eight half-grown young was observed in the Cherry Creek Swamps in Garrett County, about three miles east of McHenry.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*).—At least two small flocks, comprising five or six individuals each, were found to spend the entire summer of 1945 in

Sinepuxent Bay. These birds were in the female or immature plumage and all seemed active and healthy. A few scattered singles, including one seen near Parson Island in Chesapeake Bay, may have been cripples.

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*).—Black Vultures are largely restricted to the coastal plain of "Southern Maryland" (western shore coastal plain) and are especially common in Charles and St. Marys counties where they were found to comprise approximately forty per cent of the total number of vultures seen. Going north from here, the ratio of Black Vultures to Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) was found to drop steadily until after passing through the latitude of Laurel, in Prince Georges County, the Black Vultures practically disappear. Elsewhere in central and western Maryland the species is apparently of rare occurrence except along the Potomac River valley, where it occurs regularly at least as far as Williamsport in Washington County. Surprisingly enough, this species was found to be either rare or absent over the greater part of the "Eastern Shore" (Maryland portion of the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula), which in many ways is more southern in its general aspect than any other part of the state. However, there are apparently local populations around Wye Mills in Queen Annes County and around Snow Hill and Pocomoke City, in Worcester County.

A Black Vulture nest containing one egg, found on April 8, 1943, in an abandoned shanty near the Patuxent Research Refuge, Bowie, Maryland, was probably near the northern limit of the breeding range of this species.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaëtos canadensis*).—Among recent Maryland records for this species are an adult seen on March 22, 1944, at Glen Burnie by Frances T. Elkins, one observed on October 21, 1945, migrating over Washington Monument State Park near Boonesboro, and an immature at the Patuxent Research Refuge near Bowie on October 26 and 28, 1945.

MARSH HAWK (*Circus cyaneus hudsonius*).—This species nests in the more extensive tidewater marshes of the state and in June, 1946, was observed over wet meadows in Garrett County, where one was recorded at the Cranesville Swamp and another in a swamp near the south end of Deep Creek Lake.

VIRGINIA RAIL (*Rallus limicola limicola*).—This species nests regularly over the tidal (including fresh and salt-water) marshes of the state and in the open glades or wet meadows of the Allegany Plateau in Garrett County.

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominica*).—An immature male (*P. d. dominica*) was collected on September 20, 1945, on a sandy mud flat on Assateague Island, three miles south of Ocean City. This bird was associated with about thirty Black-bellied Plovers (*Squatarola squatarola*). Since the Golden Plover ordinarily migrates offshore in fall, the presence of this individual on the island might be explained by the strong winds which prevailed in this area during the tropical hurricane of September 17 and 18. On May 1, 1946, another single bird was observed in the same area. One previous specimen of this species was collected on March 28, 1911, at Nanjemoy Creek, Charles County, by John B. Peyton (Cooke, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 42: 32, 1929).

UPLAND PLOVER (*Bartramia longicauda*).—The summer occurrence of this species on the Allegany Plateau was discovered on June 22, 1946, when a single bird was observed perched on a telephone pole near Accident, in Garrett County.

WILLET (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*).—In 1945, F. M. Uhler informed us that he found Willets in large numbers and apparently nesting on the salt marshes three miles southeast of Elliott, in Dorchester County. In 1946, a general survey was made of this area and this species was found to nest commonly, although somewhat locally,

throughout the salt marshes of Somerset County and southern Dorchester County. Two birds also were noted on Popes Island, on the Maryland coast, on June 17, 1946, although no evidence of nesting was noted here.

PURPLE SANDPIPER (*Erolia maritima*).—This species was first recorded at Ocean City, Maryland, by the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club on May 12, 1945. Since then, up to fifteen individuals were observed by us during the late fall of 1945 and through the winter and spring of 1946. They were found only on or near the two rocky jetties on either side of the inlet at Ocean City. Our earliest observation was made on November 27, 1945, and specimens were taken on November 30. Our latest was on May 19, 1946, when three individuals were seen.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Erolia fuscicollis*).—Although this species is undoubtedly of regular occurrence in Maryland during migration, published records are so few that the following observations may be of interest. Four were seen, including one that was collected, on Assateague Island, within three miles of Ocean City on September 19, 1945; one was seen near Licksville, Frederick County, on May 11, 1946; and two were seen at Chesapeake Beach, Calvert County, on June 3, 1946.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*Erolia bairdii*).—One was collected at West Ocean City on September 29, 1945. Previous records include one seen at Scotland Beach, St. Marys County, on August 19, 1928 (Ball, Auk, 47: 94, 1930), and one seen at Deep Creek Lake, Garrett County, on October 18 and 24, 1936 (M. Brooks, Auk, 55: 127, 1938).

WESTERN SANDPIPER (*Ereunetes mauri*).—During the fall shorebird flight of 1945, the first individuals of this species were recorded on the flats three miles south of Ocean City on August 31, when two of these birds were found associated with Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*). On September 19 and 20, this species had increased somewhat; a total of 20 was recorded, all associated with Semipalmated Sandpipers. At this time it was estimated that the Western Sandpipers comprised about fifteen per cent of the individuals in the mixed flocks of these two species. When the beaches were visited on September 29, a count of 32 Western to 130 Semipalmated Sandpipers was made. A winter record of this species was made on January 20, 1946, when two were collected on the flats three miles south of Ocean City by Mr. R. Bruce Overington who accompanied us.

MARBLED GODWIT (*Limosa fedoa*).—W. H. Fisher (Oologist, 11: 97, 1894) states that the Marbled Godwit has been shot on the marshes along the coast, but no subsequent records are available. A total of four of these birds, all singles, was observed during the period August 20 to 30, 1945, between Ocean City and the flats three miles south of there. One of these was associated with four Hudsonian Curlews (*Numenius phaeopus*).

***PARASITIC JAEGER** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).—On May 11, 1946, while we were on a trip with the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, a Parasitic Jaeger was observed as it flew a short distance off-shore at Maryland Beach. It was seen on both sides of the Maryland-Delaware state line.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus leucopterus leucopterus*).—This species was first noted in Maryland on November 23, 1893, when F. C. Kirkwood saw an immature bird on the Inner Harbor of Baltimore (Kirkwood, Birds of Maryland, 1895); but no records are at hand for the following fifty years. During the past two winters, an adult bird has been recorded five times by numerous observers along the Chesapeake Ferry route from Sandy Point, Anne Arundel County, to Matapeake, Queen Annes County, on the following dates: February 18 and 25, 1945 (Irving Hampe, Maryland, 15: 77), May 12, 1945, January 18, 1946, and May 12, 1946. (An immature was seen on March 12, 1945, on the Potomac River in the District of Columbia.)

*GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*).—Between five and ten pairs of Gull-billed Terns were found nesting together with large numbers of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo hirundo*) and Black Skimmers (*Rynchops nigra nigra*) on a small sandy island in Chincoteague Bay, one mile south-southeast of South Point, Sinepuxent Neck. This island was formed by dredging operations about eight years ago. On June 3, 1945, a nest containing four eggs was found and an adult male was collected; and on July 14, 1946, two young about three-fourths grown were banded. On June 6, 1946, two pairs were found nesting on the outermost of the Clam Harbor Tumps located one-half mile southeast of Mills Island. Here one young about three-fourths grown was banded. These birds were associated with large numbers of Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) and Black Skimmers.

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*).—During 1945 and 1946 large colonies were found in Chincoteague Bay on Robins Marsh and on the Clam Harbor Tumps, and small colonies were found on Striking Marsh and on an island one mile south-southeast of South Point. Young on the wing were observed as early as July 3, 1945, although many adults were still incubating eggs at this time. In the spring of 1946, Forster's Terns were first noted in the vicinity of their nesting ground on April 7, well ahead of other terns. Kirkwood (Birds of Maryland, 1895) reported a large nesting colony at North Beach, ten miles below Ocean City, in June, 1894.

LEAST TERN (*Sterna albifrons antillarum*).—Nesting colonies of Least Terns were found all along the coast of Maryland and on sandy stretches along the Chesapeake Bay shores as far north as Kent Narrows in Queen Annes County on the eastern shore of the bay, and Turkey Point in Anne Arundel County on the western shore. On May 7, 1946, adults were seen near Nanjemoy Creek in Charles County.

ROYAL TERN (*Thalasseus maximus*).—In 1945 this species was found commonly along the coast from August 27 to November 3, and two were seen on November 27 near Ocean City. On July 14, 1946, one was observed over Chincoteague Bay near South Point. A specimen was obtained near Ocean City on August 27, 1945.

*CABOT'S TERN (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*).—On September 19, 1945, two were observed resting on an exposed tidal flat at Ocean City. They were associated with a considerable number of Caspian, Royal, and Forster's Terns. These birds were seen the day after the tropical storm of September 17-18.

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*).—In 1945, from August 19 to September 29, this species was found fairly commonly along the coast, where it was usually associated with the more numerous Royal Tern. An adult female was collected near Ocean City on September 19, 1945, and two birds were seen on Chesapeake Bay near Sandy Point, Anne Arundel County, on August 19, 1945. During the spring of 1946, one bird was seen at Cobb Island, Charles County, on April 13; thirteen birds at South Marsh Island and Deale Island, Somerset County, on April 27 and 28; and one at Nanjemoy Creek, Charles County, on May 7. On April 18, 1943, one was reported by Frances T. Elkins at Marley Creek, Anne Arundel County. One adult was seen near the coast at Pope's Island, Worcester County, on June 17, 1946.

SAW-WHET OWL (*Cryptoglaux acadica*).—One was heard during the evening of July 5, 1945, and seen the following morning in a swamp three miles south of Finzel, Garrett County. Another was heard in the early morning of July 7, 1945, in the Maryland portion of Cranesville Swamp in the same county. Previous summer records include a full-grown young bird captured in Cumberland on July 6, 1903 (G. Eifrig, Auk, 21: 240, 1904). The Saw-whet Owl has been recorded three times on the Patuxent Research Refuge, Bowie, during the colder months: two birds were caught in Verbaile hawk and owl traps on March 30, 1944, and November 9, 1944, and one was seen on October 15, 1944.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*).—During the summers of 1945 and 1946, this species was found to occur regularly in St. Marys County as far north as Leonardtown and along the west shore of Chesapeake Bay as far north as Holland Point in Anne Arundel County. Along the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay it was recorded as far north as Nanticoke in Wicomico County. On the coast it occurs commonly all the way to the Delaware line. In the interior between Chesapeake Bay and the ocean, it was recorded in the vicinity of Pittsville in Wicomico County, and around Pocomoke City in Worcester County.

ALDER FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii traillii*).—On June 21 and 22, 1946, this species was found in the Cherry Run Swamps about three miles east of McHenry, in Garrett County, and also in a swamp along Miller's Run about four miles north of Oakland, also in Garrett County. A previous midsummer record was made in 1918, when G. Eifrig saw one at Thayerville (Auk, 37: 555, 1920). One singing the "fitz-bew" song characteristic of mid-western birds, was collected at Patuxent Research Refuge on June 2, 1943, and on May 26, 1946, one giving the same song was heard at Lake Roland, Baltimore County, by Allen W. Stokes.

HORNED LARK (*Otocoris alpestris*).—The Prairie Horned Lark (*O. a. praticola*) now occurs as a nesting bird over practically the entire state from the ocean front to the Allegheny Plateau, inclusive. It is more sparingly distributed in "Southern Maryland" (western shore Coastal Plain) than elsewhere, being somewhat local here, especially in the southern part. The Northern Horned Lark (*O. a. alpestris*) occurs regularly and commonly as a winter resident along the ocean beach and on the Allegheny Plateau in Garrett County.

TREE SWALLOW (*Iridoprocne bicolor*).—This species, which occurs regularly as a summer resident in tidewater Maryland, was recorded on July 7, 1945, at Cranesville Swamp on the Allegheny Plateau of Garrett County by James B. Cope. It was previously found nesting at Crellin, in this county, on June 29, 1920, by G. Eifrig (Auk, 37: 599, 1920). It is not known to breed in the area between the Allegheny Plateau and the western shore of Chesapeake Bay.

NORTHERN RAVEN (*Corvus corax principalis*).—Two were seen at Conneway Hill (3200 feet) in Garrett County on July 7, 1945. The only other recent record for Maryland was a specimen taken on November 8, 1929, at Sunnybrook, in Baltimore County (Kirkwood, Auk, 47: 255, 1930).

WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*).—This species, which occurs regularly as a summer resident on the Piedmont and in the mountains of western Maryland, was also found commonly in the cypress swamps along the Pocomoke River in Worcester County. Elsewhere on the coastal plain, it is quite rare.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN (*Cistothorus platensis stellaris*).—This species occurs regularly as a summer resident in the tide-water marshes along the coast and on the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay as far north as Kent Narrows, in Queen Annes County. Along the coast it is rather rare and local but on the Chesapeake eastern-shore marshes and especially in Dorchester and Somerset counties it is quite common. It was also found in summer on the west shore of Chesapeake Bay at Franklin Point, in Anne Arundel County. A previous summer record for the western shore was made on June 25, 1935, when A. Wetmore found a nest with seven eggs at Point Lookout, St. Marys County (Auk, 52: 455, 1935). On June 28, 1946, at least two singing males were found in a large wet meadow in the Thayerville Swamp, about eight miles north of Oakland, in Garrett County.

HERMIT THRUSH (*Hylocichla guttata*).—On July 8, 1945, two were heard singing at the edge of the Cherry Creek swamp about two miles east of McHenry, in Garrett County. On June 20, 1946, two singing males were recorded near the Piney Creek

swamps about three miles west of Finzel, in the same county. Previous summer records have been made in Garrett County at Finzel, Grantsville, Bittinger, Mountain Lake Park, and Accident, by E. A. Preble (Md. Geol. Surv., 1900: 306) and G. Eifrig (Auk, 55: 281, 1938).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*).—Two males in full song and one female were seen near the center of Wolf Swamp (2600 feet), three and one-half miles northeast of New Germany, on July 6, 1945. Herman Behr (Auk, 31: 548, 1914) states that this species was formerly a regular breeder in localities thickly sprinkled with spruce timber, but after the spruce was cut the kinglet did not remain to breed.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*).—This species is now distributed as a fairly common bird along swampy river and stream bottoms over the entire coastal plain. It is especially abundant along the Pocomoke River where it is the most common species present. It also ranges up the Potomac River valley within the Piedmont as far as Seneca Creek.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*).—This species was first recorded in Maryland by Joseph M. Cadbury, who found one in the Pocomoke swamp near Willards on May 9 and 10, 1942. On May 2, 1946, two pairs of Swainson's Warblers were seen and one adult male was collected in a swamp along the Pocomoke River about five miles southwest of Pocomoke City, in Worcester County. During repeated trips to the area during the summer, this species was always found, and it is interesting to note that another male apparently took the place of the one that was collected, since it was found singing in exactly the same spot.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora pinus*).—During June of 1946 this species was found in fair numbers in Cecil County within five miles of the Susquehanna River between Rowlandsville and the Pennsylvania line. It was also found in the Blue Ridge Mountains between Smithsburg and Sabillasville. Previous summer records indicate that it occurred somewhat sparingly in the vicinity of Baltimore at one time.

***ALASKA YELLOW WARBLER** (*Dendroica petechia rubiginosa*).—On September 20, 1945, one was collected in a thicket on Assateague Island about four miles south of Ocean City. The identification of this specimen was made by Dr. John W. Aldrich.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Dendroica virens virens*).—This species, which occurs commonly as a summer resident on the Allegany Plateau of Garrett County and western Allegany County, was also found on June 8, 1946, in the Blue Ridge Mountains in two dense hemlock stands. These stands were in Frederick County, one near Thurmont (800 feet) and the other five miles northwest of Lewis-town (1400 feet).

CERULEAN WARBLER (*Dendroica cerulea*).—During June, 1946, this species was found to occur commonly on the flood plain of the Susquehanna River, in Cecil County, and somewhat sparingly along the Savage River in Garrett County. Previous summer records indicate that it occurs locally north of Baltimore in the vicinity of Towson and Cockeysville, and on the central Appalachian ridges of Allegany County (Haven Kolb, Auk, 60: 275, 1943).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica dominica*).—The breeding range of this species in Maryland is apparently largely coextensive with the distribution of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). On the "Eastern Shore" it occurs regularly in pine stands as far north as Kent Narrows, although along the Pocomoke River it also occurs commonly in cypress swamps. On the western-shore coastal plain, it is found commonly in southern St. Marys County and occurs locally along Chesapeake Bay as far north as Sandy Point, in Anne Arundel County, and up the Potomac River as far as Indian Head, in Charles County. It is rare or irregular north of this region.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*).—The breeding range of this species is restricted to the mountains of western Maryland, extending eastward as far as the Blue Ridge Mountains in Frederick County. In the latter mountains it occurs north of Myersville, being locally common above 1300 feet and occasionally down to 800 feet. The nesting of one pair near Baltimore was reported by M. Brooke Meanley, Jr. (*Auk*, 55: 542, 1938).

NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH (*Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*).—During the summers of 1945 and 1946, this species was found to occur regularly in the swamps and in many of the hemlock and rhododendron tangles along streams throughout most of the Allegany Plateau in Garrett County. The summer occurrence of this species at four localities in this county has been previously noted by E. A. Preble (*Md. Geol. Surv.*, 1900), G. Eifrig (*Auk*, 37: 554, 1920; and *Wilson Bull.*, 45: 61, 1933), and M. Brooks (*Wilson Bull.*, 52: 263, 1940).

MOURNING WARBLER (*Oporornis philadelphia*).—During 1946 this species was found to occur locally as a fairly common summer resident above 3000 feet on Backbone Mountain in Garrett County, from Swanton south to Roth Rock. The Mourning Warbler was previously recorded in western Maryland in summer by Maurice Brooks (*Wilson Bull.*, 52: 263, 1940), who first noted that the line of distribution followed the 3000-foot contour mark with surprising accuracy.

HOODED WARBLER (*Wilsonia citrina*).—The Hooded Warbler is a common nesting species throughout most of the western-shore coastal plain. It also occurs on the Piedmont and in the mountains (including the Allegany Plateau) of western Maryland, where it is somewhat more local and sparingly distributed. It was not found on the "Eastern Shore" coastal plain except along the Pocomoke River and its tributaries, where it occurs quite commonly.

BOBOLINK (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).—During the summers of 1945 and 1946, this species was found scattered in hay fields above 2500 feet throughout that part of Garrett County lying west of Backbone and Big Savage mountains. The summer occurrence of this species near Accident, Grantsville, Bear Creek, and Frostburg was previously reported by E. A. Preble (*Md. Geol. Surv.*, 1900) and G. Eifrig (*Auk*, 21: 242, 1904, and 37: 555, 1920; and *Wilson Bull.*, 45: 63, 1933).

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Cassidix mexicanus major*).—During 1945 and 1946, this species occurred fairly commonly along the coast all the way to the Delaware line. Along the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay, it was found regularly along the salt marshes as far north as Deale Island in Somerset County. It apparently also occurs north of here irregularly, as there are a few previous records of its occurrence beyond this point. On July 5, 1946, two males, one carrying food, were seen near Sandy Point in Anne Arundel County.

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus caeruleus*).—Blue Grosbeaks are fairly common summer residents in Queen Annes and Talbot counties, but apparently are either very rare or absent over the remainder of the eastern-shore coastal plain. On the western-shore coastal plain they seem to be somewhat sparingly distributed as scattered pairs throughout. Blue Grosbeaks are rare elsewhere in Maryland.

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*).—A singing male was found three miles south of West Friendship in Howard County on June 19, 1946. This species has been reported in recent years as breeding near Dickerson in Montgomery County (A. Wetmore and F. C. Lincoln, *Auk*, 45: 508, 1928).

EVENING GROSBEAK (*Hesperiphona vespertina*).—During the remarkable invasion of this species last winter (1945-1946), it was reported from the following counties: Baltimore, Charles, Garrett, Montgomery, Prince Georges, and Washington. The first flock was recorded in Baltimore on November 15 by John T. Emlen and David

E. Davis (Md. Birdlife, 1: 24, 1946); some remained at least until May 11, when a flock of seven was seen at Cedar Mill Grove, Washington County.

PURPLE FINCH (*Carpodacus purpureus*).—During the summer of 1946, this species was recorded in Garrett County at the Cherry Creek swamps three miles east of McHenry, and in the Maryland part of Cranesville swamp. The actions of these birds indicated that they were nesting. There is a previous summer record from Accident, where G. Eifrig took a singing male on July 27, 1903 (Auk, 21: 240, 1904).

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*).—During the summers of 1945 and 1946, this species was found to occur locally throughout that part of the Alleghany Plateau in Garrett County lying west of Backbone and Big Savage mountains. Previous occurrences of this species in Garrett County during the summer have been reported from Mountain Lake Park, Accident, and Oakland by G. Eifrig (Auk, 26: 438, 1909; 37: 599, 1921; 55: 282, 1938) and T. D. Burleigh (Auk, 49: 97, 1942). The Savannah Sparrow is a fairly common winter resident along the coast of Maryland.

*On January 20, 1946, a specimen of the Labrador Savannah Sparrow (*P. s. labradorius*) was collected north of Ocean City. Another was taken on May 7, 1946, at the Patuxent Research Refuge near Bowie. Both specimens were identified by Dr. J. W. Aldrich.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW (*Passerherbulus henslowii*).—This species is a common nesting bird in abandoned fields throughout the coastal plain of Maryland, and also occurs sparingly on the Piedmont. In 1945 and 1946, three nesting colonies were also found on the Alleghany Plateau, in Garrett County, near Finzel, McHenry, and High Rock on Big Savage Mountain.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*Ammospiza caudacuta*).—Observations made in 1945 and 1946 show that this species nests in the salt marshes all along the coast, and also in salt and brackish marshes along Chesapeake Bay. On the eastern shore of the bay it occurs regularly as far north as Kent Narrows in Queen Annes County, while on the western shore it is of regular occurrence as far up as Sandy Point in Anne Arundel County. Breeding specimens taken at Kent Narrows proved to be *A. c. diversa*.

SEASIDE SPARROW (*Ammospiza maritima*).—The breeding range of this species in Maryland is practically identical with that of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow except that it has not been found north of Idlewilde, in Anne Arundel County, on the western shore of Chesapeake Bay. Breeding specimens taken at Kent Narrows proved to be typical *A. m. maritima*.

VESPER SPARROW (*Poocetes gramineus*).—During the nesting season this species is found over the entire state, although it is somewhat local and sparingly distributed over much of the Coastal Plain.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*).—During the winter of 1945-1946, two flocks of Chipping Sparrows containing a total of fourteen individuals were found in the vicinity of Newark and Snow Hill in Worcester County.

***GAMBEL'S SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*).—An adult female was collected at the Patuxent Research Refuge, near Bowie, on November 8, 1944.

SWAMP SPARROW (*Melospiza georgiana*).—During 1945 and 1946, Swamp Sparrows were found to nest commonly in shrub swamps throughout Garrett County west of Backbone and Big Savage mountains. It was previously recorded near Accident, Oakland, and Negro Mountain, by G. Eifrig (Auk, 37: 600, 1921; 55: 281, 1938).

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Patuxent Research Refuge

Bowie, Maryland