

annoying its fellow traveller. I switched to an 18-power glass. The dark bird proved to be an adult Golden Eagle. It made a sudden thrust forward, executed an Immelmann turn as effortlessly as a fly landing on a ceiling, and then, to my amazement, it seized the smaller hawk which seemed to put up a momentary, hopeless struggle. Down came the two birds precipitously, the eagle with set wings and clutching its victim. As the eagle plunged to earth, the wings of the smaller bird were fully outstretched, and I glimpsed the ruddy breast of the Red-shouldered Hawk. The eagle, still clutching its prey, disappeared into the densely wooded flank of the ridge. This immemorial drama of the wilderness took place in a matter of seconds.—MAURICE BROWN, *Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Route 2, Kempton, Pennsylvania.*

**Brant in Vermont.**—Last fall (1945), at Charlotte, Vermont, about ten miles south of Burlington, I noticed a large bird in a pasture bordering Lake Champlain. When I was about 150 yards away, the bird walked to the bank of the lake and disappeared over the edge. I ran to the bank, recognized the bird as a Brant, and shot it. I retrieved it by swimming, and may add that Lake Champlain was a little chilly. I did not realize at the time that this was an unusual record until a recent conversation with Mr. Clarence Cottam of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service who suggested that the matter might be of interest to the readers of *The Auk*.—ROBERT S. RUSSELL, *6030 Kenwood Ave., Chicago, Illinois.*

**Evening Grosbeaks in New Brunswick in late July.**—During the week of July 21, 1946, the writer was fishing with some business associates at Oxbow-on-Tobique, a point twelve miles northeast from the town of Plaster Rock along the Tobique River.

At about four o'clock on the afternoon of July 25, while we were standing on our canoe float, two birds were seen to alight in a near-by dead tree. Through binoculars they were readily identified as a pair of Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*); the bright color of the male bird was easily seen with the naked eye. While the writer is not familiar with New Brunswick ornithology nor with the status of the Evening Grosbeak in that province, he was immediately aware that the mid-summer presence of these birds so far to the east was decidedly unusual, as this species does not regularly breed east of the state of Michigan. The birds in question were studied carefully for about five minutes when they flew off and were not seen again.

As no nest or young were seen, this can hardly be claimed as a breeding record, although the presence of a male and female at this time of year seem to indicate a strong possibility that they were breeding birds.

It was unusual coincidence upon returning home on July 27 to find in the *Auk* for July an article on the presence of this same species in late June in the Adirondacks. The writer would be very glad indeed to hear of any other summer records of the Evening Grosbeak in the eastern United States or Canada.—R. DUDLEY ROSS, *23 Jefferson Avenue, Arlington, New Jersey.*

**Bullock's Oriole in Arkansas.**—So far as I am aware, the Bullock's Oriole, *Icterus b. bullockii*, has never been recorded for the state of Arkansas. It would appear, however, that in the vicinity of Little Rock it is not an infrequent visitor.

In checking over some banding data resulting from the operations of Mrs. Rowland Thomas of North Little Rock, my attention was attracted by the records of two orioles (37-220692 and 37-220693) listed as *Icterus bullockii* and banded on September 1, 1938 and September 8, 1938 respectively. Concluding that this was merely an erroneous use of the name, I wrote Mrs. Thomas to that effect and stated that since

*bullockii* did not occur in that locality "it is obvious that the birds were Baltimore Orioles, and we have changed your schedule accordingly."

This action on the part of the writer was, on purely geographic grounds, entirely defensible. Arkansas has at least three published state lists, by Howell in 1911, by Wheeler in 1925, and by Baerg in 1931,<sup>1</sup> in all of which the only orioles listed as being native to the state are the Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*), and the Baltimore Oriole (*I. galbula*), while the fourth edition of the Check-List indicates that *bullockii* is only casual in migration as far east as eastern Kansas. At the time of my letter to Mrs. Thomas I had, however, overlooked a recently published paper by George Miksch Sutton on some "Oddly Plumaged Orioles from Western Oklahoma"<sup>2</sup> in which the author describes a series of specimens of *Icterus* collected in the spring of 1936 and 1937. The descriptions and colored plate show an almost complete transition from the *galbula* to the *bullockii* types.

In replying to my letter, Mrs. Thomas cited this paper by Dr. Sutton and gave a complete account of her experience with these birds at North Little Rock. Quoting from her letter: "Perhaps I should have released these birds, unbanded. Each of them, as I took her out of the trap, seemed to me enormous (relatively speaking), larger than a Baltimore would be, and I brought each [one] into the house and checked the plumage, as carefully as I could, with the detailed descriptions of the two species in Forbush's Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States. The decidedly grayish upper shoulders and back, and the pale whitish breast and belly finally decided me in favor of reporting them as Bullock's."

Mrs. Thomas gave further evidence of the occurrence of *bullockii* in her area by reporting in detail an observation made during the last week of April, 1937, when two individuals of this species spent three days in the trees and gardens near her home. Again quoting her report, she stated: "The Orchard Orioles, our abundant species, had but recently returned, and were very jealous of a small cup of water and sugar which I kept for them in the flower garden, and one noon I observed a noisy tilt between a one-year-old male Orchard Oriole and a strange oriole. For the rest of the afternoon I watched that bird and another very like him, finally saw them go to bed in an oak tree close to the house. From 20 yards, with 6 x 30 glasses, I watched them drink from the cup on its low post, and I followed them in all their many posturings as they fed through the oaks. One bird tallied with the description of the adult male Bullock's Oriole, having the bright orange line above the eye, the orange cheeks, and the finger of black down the throat. The second bird was a curious mixture—just traces of orange showed on the sides of the head when he turned sideways, and he had no black on the throat. I assumed him to be an immature male, but could find no mention anywhere of plumage like his. . . . we searched all the books at our command and found no description of our off-colored bird." In commenting on Dr. Sutton's color plate (*loc. cit.*) she stated that her bird was not quite like any of those shown but its head most closely matched fig. 2 "except that he had no black on the throat."

Needless to say, the original identification of the two banded birds as *bullockii* has been restored to the record. In this connection, it should be recalled that a female *bullockii* was taken at Thibodaux, Louisiana, on February 1, 1939, and recorded in

<sup>1</sup> HOWELL, ARTHUR H., Birds of Arkansas, Biol. Surv. Bull. No. 38, Oct. 12, 1911.

WHEELER, H. E., The Birds of Arkansas, a Preliminary Report, State Bureau of Mines, Manufacturers and Agriculture, 1924 [= 1925].

BAERG, W. J., Birds of Arkansas, Bull. No. 258, Agri. Exper. Sta., Univ. of Ark., Jan. 1931.

<sup>2</sup> Auk, 55: 1-6, col. pl., 1938.

The Auk, 57: 257, 1940.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

**White Pelican in the Chicago region.**—A White Pelican in adult plumage was seen on McGinnis Slough, Orland Wildlife Refuge, Cook County, Illinois, on October 2, 1946. The bird was first observed by Mr. Ray Murdy and Mr. Jack Jedlicka who are in charge of duck banding on the Refuge. On October 4 it was observed for more than four hours on the water and in flight by Murdy, Jedlicka and Coursen. On Sunday, October 6, an audience of about fifty local bird students, including several staff members of the Chicago Natural History Museum, studied the pelican at fairly close range. It remained on McGinnis Slough until October 8. This appears to be the fifth record for the Chicago Region.—C. BLAIR COURSEN, *Chicago, Illinois.*

**Notes on the Pomarine Jaeger in the Atlantic and Caribbean.**—In March, 1945, the writers frequently observed Pomarine Jaegers (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) while enroute from an East Coast seaport to Panamá. In view of the scarcity of published records for this species in the area covered during our voyage, it appears to us that the observations we have made would be of interest.

Near sunset of March 23, two Pomarine Jaegers in light phase joined a group of eight Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) which had been following the ship throughout the afternoon. Our approximate position at the time of this observation was 200 miles southeast of Cape Lookout, North Carolina, at latitude 33 degrees north. The following afternoon, one jaeger was observed about 300 miles off the coast of northern Florida; however the bird did not approach close enough for specific identification.

Mid-afternoon of March 25, 150 miles east of Great Abaco Island in the Bahamas, a single Pomarine Jaeger followed the ship for an hour, appearing directly over the ship on one occasion. The bird was in the light phase, and its blunt-feathered tail and white wing bars were clearly distinguishable.

Early morning of March 26, an individual of description similar to the one seen on the previous day was noted following the ship. Our position at this time was 18 miles east of San Salvador in the Bahamas.

During mid-morning of March 27, about 25 miles east of Cuba, a single Pomarine Jaeger followed the ship for an hour, occasionally alighting in the wake of the ship.

A small group of Pomarine Jaegers, varying in number from five to eight, flew with the ship throughout the morning and early afternoon of March 28. One of the jaegers was in the dark phase. During this period the distance traversed was from 50 to 150 miles to the south of Jamaica. On several occasions we passed single birds of this species resting on the water.

Pomarine Jaegers were last seen March 29 at approximately 13 degrees north latitude and 79 degrees west longitude.—WILLIAM C. STARRETT, *Ames, Iowa*, and KEITH L. DIXON, *La Mesa, California.*

**Summering of the Alder Flycatcher in southwestern Virginia.**—On June 27, 1946, a small flycatcher was discovered at the edge of an extensive alder thicket less than one mile west of Abingdon, Virginia. As the habitat strongly suggested the possibility of an Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax t. traillii*), this bird was watched carefully for several minutes. Not only did it fully conform with this species in appearance, size, and habits, but its song supplied the final proof of its identity. In fact, even the call note, a rather loud *pep*, seemed noticeably different from that of other small flycatchers. Within the next few minutes another bird of this species was found frequenting the margin of a small alder thicket.