

Lesser Black-backed Gull on Long Island.—On March 1, 1947, the writers, together with Richard Ryan of New York, observed an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus* subsp.) standing upon the ice on the Hempstead Reservoir, Hempstead, L. I. Conditions under which the bird was observed were excellent. It was standing in a group of gulls with a Herring Gull immediately beside it and a Greater Black-backed Gull next to the latter. The difference in size between the two Black-backs was strikingly apparent. In addition, the mantle of the Lesser was much browner and a shade lighter than that of the Greater, and the difference in foot coloration was noticeable. The birds were observed and compared for a period of about fifteen minutes with a 33X scope.—PHILLIPS B. STREET AND WILLIAM W. LUKENS, JR., *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*.

Barn Owl in Quebec.—On September 8, 1944, the Quebec Zoological Garden received a live specimen of an adult Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*) from Thetford Mines, Megantic County.

As I have not been able to find any published record of this species for the Province of Quebec, and moreover having secured three other unpublished records from reliable observers, I believe the following records warrant publication.

The specimen brought to the Quebec Zoo was caught in a barn in the suburb of Thetford Mines, Megantic County, on September 3. The bird was in very weak condition and died a few hours after its arrival at the Zoo after which it was sent to the Quebec Provincial Museum.

Reverend J. A. Bergeron of Nicolet Seminary, through personal correspondence, tells me that a Barn Owl was killed in 1936 at St. Félix-de-Kingsey, Nicolet County. The mounted specimen is preserved in the institution's museum.

From L'Assomption, the late Gedeon Boucher reports that in mid-November, 1926, an adult Barn Owl was killed at L'Assomption College. The specimen was mounted and owned by a professor of the institution who died in 1943. Its present owner is not known.

The most interesting record comes from Reverend Brother Florian V. Crete, C. S. V. Director of the Museum of the Deaf and Dumb Institute in Montreal. Through personal correspondence, Brother Crete tells me that in 1931, at Berthierville, Berthier County, Reverend Brother Andre Paquette observed a nesting pair in the steeple of the church of Berthierville. Four young came out of this nest at least two of which were killed and preserved in museums. The first one, a male, was killed on November 10, 1931, and is now in the Museum of the Deaf and Dumb Institute of Montreal (No. 31/16). The second one was given to the museum of Ste. Anne-de-la-Pocatiere College in Kamouraska County.

Acknowledgments are due to those who contributed data for this paper and kindly permitted publication of their own records.—RAYMOND CAYOUILLE, *Quebec Zoological Society, Charlesbourg, Quebec*.

The Mourning Dove breeding in Lévis County, Quebec.—It is comparatively recently that the Eastern Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*) is a breeding bird in the Province of Quebec. Mr. L. McI. Terrill, in the annual report of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds (1941: 15), tells that he believes his record of a breeding bird at Lanoraie, Berthier County, in 1922, is apparently the first breeding record for the district of Montreal. Since that time, in that district, the Mourning Dove is more common and nests locally.

From the Quebec city district, the late Mr. G. Langelier had reported in *The Auk* (40: 15, 1923) an adult killed at Cap Rouge on April 12, 1923, and another one killed at the same place on April 17, 1939 (*Can. Field-Nat.*, 53: 121, 1939).

More recently, Mr. Ls.-A. Lord of the Provincial Museum secured an adult female specimen on June 27, 1944, at St. Nicolas, Lévis County, some ten miles southwest of Quebec city, on the south side of the St. Lawrence River. That female specimen had an enlarged ovary of 6 millimeters in diameter. At the same place on next July 14, Mr. Lord saw or heard at least three pairs of Mourning Doves in the woods between St. Nicolas and St. Apollinaire, in Lotbiniere County. On July 20, 1944, he saw one near Quebec bridge, on the north side of the St. Lawrence River. In the woods of St. Nicolas on next July 26, he again counted seven birds. Six birds were also seen on August 7, and on August 10, 1944, he killed for the Museum two specimens (Nos. 5257 and 5258, QPM) at St. Nicolas. One of those specimens, an adult male had enlarged gonads, and the other one, an adult female, had enlarged ovaries with well developed oviduct; the largest ovary measured 11.5 millimeters in diameter.

On August 15, 1944, Dr. Richard Bernard, Mr. Lord and the writer went to the St. Nicolas woods to see those Mourning Doves. From 7 A. M. to 9 A. M. we counted eleven birds, seen or heard cooing. At least four distinct birds were heard cooing. On August 27, of the same year, the writer still counted seven birds at the same place.

It is obvious that the Mourning Dove breeds very locally in our district. Though no nest has been observed in the St. Nicolas woods, the above records are, I believe, sufficiently conclusive to admit that this species actually breeds in the region of Quebec. It is interesting to note that the bird extends its range northward.—RAYMOND CAYOUILLE, *Quebec Zoological Society, Charlesbourg, Quebec.*

Upland Plover in Thunder Bay District, Ontario.—On May 23, 1946, Dr. A. E. Allin and myself, accompanied by some members of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists Club, saw four large plover-like birds about four miles west of Fort William. On closer examination these proved to be *Bartramia longicauda*. Dr. Allin and I again visited the locality on June 18 and while the birds were seen, no evidence of breeding could be obtained. However, on June 30 I again visited the spot and, assisted by Mr. John Speakman of Toronto, who was doing field work in the district, made a thorough search of a large, rough pasture where we suspected one pair to be nesting. We were fortunate in capturing and examining one young bird about a week old; the actions of the parent bird left no doubt as to its identity. The second pair apparently nested in a neighbouring field. This is the first known record of this species in this district, and as the whole country was originally heavy bush land, it is undoubtedly a newcomer.—L. S. DEAR, *Port Arthur, Ontario.*

Sabine's Gull on Long Island, New York.—On March 25, 1945, while observing the ducks on Hempstead Lake, Nassau County, Long Island, N. Y., I approached a point where the shore-line extended a few yards into the lake to form a small mud flat. On this flat were sitting about half a dozen Green-winged Teals, and standing amongst them was a gull, distinctly smaller than the teals on direct comparison.

As I drew nearer, the teals flew off, but the gull remained. At this distance the bill and legs appeared dark while the bird was unpatterned gray above and white below. However, another few yards closer exceeded the tolerance of the bird, and it spread its wings and took off, giving me a perfect view of the mantle and tail. The unmistakable diagnostic wing-pattern of a Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) was clearly evident, and the forked tail had a very narrow subterminal bar indicating that it was an immature bird. The gull began to wheel upward in extremely small circles, and upon reaching a high altitude veered off and disappeared from sight. A few days later some observers combed the lake but could not locate the bird.