

were recorded according to the percentage-by-bulk method as practiced by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Assistance in the identification of food items was given by staff members of the botany and zoology departments at the University of Maine.

Tubers and fibers of triangle spike rush were found in each stomach, although only three seeds of this plant were recorded. Each of the four stomachs was nearly full of food and the major items of these, expressed as percentages, are as follows: triangle spike rush (*Eleocharis robbinsii*) 40.4; water bulrush (*Scirpus subterminalis*) 25.6; three square bulrush (*Scirpus torreyi*) 11.9; pickerel weed (*Pontederia cordata*) 6.7; yellow water lily (*Nuphar variegatum*) 3.1; insects and mollusks 7.8. Based upon both stomach analyses and field observations, the tubers are the portions of this plant that are most frequently taken by ducks.

It would be interesting to determine whether parts of this plant are taken at seasons other than late summer and autumn. Since triangle spike rush does not seem to exhibit undesirable dominance tendencies, and does produce tubers, its propagation might be desirable where management plans call for the encouragement of waterfowl food plants.—MALCOLM W. COULTER, *Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Orono, Maine.*

#### **Subspecific identities of some winter and transient birds from Virginia.**

—Examination of the bird collection of the Virginia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit revealed several forms not previously reported for Virginia as well as others new to the respective collecting localities. Most of the specimens listed were collected by C. E. Addy, C. O. Handley, Sr., or C. O. Handley, Jr., and except where otherwise indicated, the specimens are contained in the collections of the Virginia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Blacksburg, Virginia. Identifications were verified in all instances either by Dr. John W. Aldrich or Allen J. Duvall, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

*Parus atricapillus praticus* (Oberholser).—Specimens from Alleghany Mountain (Highland Co.), Dec. 31, 1943, and Crabbottom (Highland Co.), June 9, 1938, are probably representative of local breeding populations, while specimens from Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.), Nov. 29, 1941, and Deerfield (Augusta Co.), Sept. 21, 1939, are transients. This subspecies has been infrequently recorded in Virginia away from its breeding grounds. All these specimens are typical of *praticus* which has not been recognized by the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature. *P. a. atricapillus* Linnaeus, has been recorded as a winter visitor in northern Virginia.

*Troglodytes troglodytes pullus* (Burleigh).—A transient specimen from Ironto (Montgomery Co.), Mar. 24, 1939, is new for the county.

*Turdus migratorius nigrideus* Aldrich and Nutt.—Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.), Feb. 27, 1939; a second record for the state. This specimen is a partial albino and has the breast white, with only a few traces of red. The back is dark, however, as in typical *nigrideus*.

*Hylocichla guttata faxoni* Bangs and Penard.—Specimens from Price's Fork (Montgomery Co.), Dec. 20, 1938, and Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.), Oct. 15, 1946, are typical *faxoni*, while a specimen from Haysi (Dickenson Co.), Feb. 20, 1940, is as pale as the western race *auduboni*, though not approaching it in size. Another specimen from Blacksburg, Oct. 22, 1938, is dark and like specimens from Newfoundland.

*Hylocichla fuscescens fuliginosa* Howe.—A specimen from Laurel Fork (Highland Co.), Sept. 22, 1943, is the first of this race to be recorded for Virginia. A specimen from Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.), Sept. 14, 1938, is typical *fuscescens*.

*Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla* (Swainson).—A Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.), Sept. 14, 1939, specimen is like birds in the National Museum from Ontario, while two others, Aug. 16, 1936, and Sept. 14, 1939, are like Nova Scotia specimens. Another Sept. 14, 1939, specimen is typical *trichas*.

*Setophaga ruticilla tricolora* (Müller).—A female collected at Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.), Sept. 13, 1939, is typical of *tricolora*, a race not currently recognized by the A. O. U. Check-List Committee. This form has not been reported previously from Virginia.

*Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius* Howe.—Virginia specimens typical of this race were examined from the following localities: Accomac Co. 1 (Fish and Wildlife Service); Arlington Co., 3 (U. S. National Museum); Fairfax Co., 1 (U. S. National Museum); Montgomery Co., 2 (Va. Coop. Wildlife Research Unit). Total, 7. Extreme dates: October 11 (Arlington, Arlington Co.)—November 12 (Chincoteague, Accomac Co.); April 5 (Four Mile Run, Arlington Co.)—May 27 (Blacksburg, Montgomery Co.). This subspecies has not been recorded previously for the state.

*Passerculus sandwichensis mediogriseus* Aldrich.—Specimens of this race, not recognized by the A. O. U. Check-List Committee, were examined from the following Virginia localities: Accomac Co., 1 (FWS); Brunswick Co., 1 (VCWRU); Essex Co., 1 (USNM); Fairfax Co., 1 (FWS); Montgomery Co., 3 (VCWRU); Total, 7. Extreme dates: October 29 (Blacksburg, Montgomery Co.)—November 13 (Chincoteague, Accomac Co.); March 3 (Charlie Hope, Brunswick Co.)—March 28 (Blacksburg, Montgomery Co.). Not previously recorded from Virginia. One specimen from Blacksburg approaches *nevadensis* in coloration.

*Passerculus sandwichensis oblitus* Peters and Griscom.—Three Blacksburg (Montgomery County) specimens are typical of this well-marked race which has not been reported previously from Virginia. Extreme dates: October 30—November 2.

*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna* (Wilson).—A total of 53 specimens of this race were examined from the following Virginia localities: Accomac Co., 3 (FWS); Arlington Co., 15 (USNM); Essex Co., 11 (USNM); Fairfax Co., 7 (5 FWS, 2 USNM); Montgomery Co., 6 (VCWRU); Norfolk Co., 1 (USNM); Northampton Co., 8 (USNM); Princess Anne Co., 1 (VCWRU); Pulaski Co., 1 (USNM). Extreme dates: August 22 (Cobbs Island, Northampton Co.)—winter—May 19 (Smiths Island, Northampton Co.).

*Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus* (Coues).—A specimen from Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.), Nov. 14, 1946, is typical of this western race. This is an unusually late date for the species at Blacksburg. This form has not been reported previously from Virginia. Other Blacksburg specimens (Oct. 29, 1946, Oct. 6, 1936, and June 7, 1941) are typical *pratensis*.

*Melospiza melodia euphonia* Wetmore. This is the breeding form in the western part of the State, but is apparently infrequent in winter. Specimens: Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.), Nov. 1, 1946; Nov. 8, 1946.

*Melospiza melodia juddi* Bishop.—Specimens from Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.), Mar. 22, 1941; Asberry (Tazewell Co.), Feb. 21, 1940; and Rocky Gap (Bland Co.), Feb. 22, 1940, are pale and like specimens from Wisconsin and the upper Mississippi Valley which have formerly been called *M. m. beata* Bangs. Following current nomenclature they must be classed with the darker *juddi*. This form has not been previously recorded for Virginia.

*Melospiza melodia melodia* (Wilson).—This is the common winter resident form in western Virginia, and specimens were examined from the following localities: Bedford (Bedford Co.), Oct. 17, 1938; Lyndhurst (Augusta Co.), Feb. 14, 1940; Grundy

(Buchanan Co.), Feb. 19, 1940; Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.), Oct. 15, 1938; Oct. 22, 1936; Nov. 12, 1938; Jan. 4, 1938; Feb. 13, 1941; Mar. 27, 1941; Apr. 9, 1938.

*Melospiza melodia atlantica* Todd.—A specimen from Virginia Beach (Princess Anne Co.), Nov. 2, 1939, is typical of the race.

*Melospiza georgiana ericrypta* Oberholser.—This form, which has not been recorded previously for the state, apparently outnumbered *georgiana* at Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.) in migration. Specimens: Nov. 12, 1938; Mar. 21, 1939; Apr. 10, 1939; Apr. 19, 1941. A single specimen, collected Oct. 17, 1938, is typical of *georgiana*.—CHARLES O. HANDLEY, JR., *Virginia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Blacksburg, Virginia*.

**The flight of the Greater Snow Goose in upstate New York.**—On April 9, 1947, an unusual but welcomed flight of nineteen Greater Snow Geese (*Chen hyperboreus nivalis*), stopped at the New York State Conservation Department's Delmar Game Farm, near Albany, N. Y. These visitors were brought to earth and within range for easy identification during a blinding but short-lived snowstorm. They were standing within 150 yards of the observer and were close enough to the Canada Geese on the same field to allow a favorable comparison of size. Their stay was brief, lasting but about three-quarters of an hour from their first appearance at 7:45 A. M. After one short flight from an open, fall-plowed field, which was attempted during the heavy fall of snow, the birds returned to their first position on the ground. No movement of the birds was noted again until the snowfall had ceased and the visibility had increased to about one-quarter of a mile. The familiar V-flight was then formed and the geese began to wheel in a large half circle overhead. Their contrasting white and black plumage was then plainly visible as they disappeared through the falling snow.—STEPHEN C. FORDHAM, JR., *Delmar Game Farm, Delmar, N. Y.*

**Recent northward penetration of the Reddish Egret in Florida.**—The activities of the plume trade in the early part of this century all but wiped out the Reddish Egret (*Dicromanassa r. rufescens*) in Florida. Arthur H. Howell states in his Florida Bird-Life, page 104, that: "About 1890 this species seems to have almost disappeared from peninsular Florida, but more recently it appears to be returning in small numbers." He follows this with a few records during the years of 1906 and 1908; the latest he gives is the securing of a specimen by W. G. Fargo at Tampa Bay in March, 1927.

A decade and more passed before the bird was again noted in the state, and during one of his inspection trips to the Keys, in connection with Audubon work, the writer was privileged to see the first nest of this bird to be found in many years. It was discovered by a boatman from Tavernier (Key Largo) on Bottlepoint Key in April, 1938. On the 21st of that month, the writer saw and photographed the nest which contained two young. Since that year the Reddish Egret has been making a slow comeback in the Florida Keys, and specimens have been seen by a good many observers. However, apparently they have been confined to that region and have not appeared on the mainland, even at Cape Sable, the very Land's End of peninsular Florida.

It was, therefore, with keen interest that, during the 1947 season of the Audubon Wildlife Tours, conducted out of Okeechobee each year, the writer saw and watched a Reddish Egret for some time on February 22, 1947. With a party of eleven observers in two station-wagons, we saw the bird on the banks of the Kissimmee River, Highlands County, at the Pearce Ranch, near the bridge which crosses the River at