

(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

Bassenger. On February 25, during the next Tour, the bird was again seen at the same place, but on all subsequent trips (which lasted through March) it was not observed.

This is apparently the farthest northern record for the Reddish Egret in Florida for the past twenty years. Not since Fargo secured his specimen in the Tampa Bay region in March, 1927, has it been noted so far north. It is to be hoped that it is an indication that the species is getting its present foothold in Florida on a firm basis.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, South Carolina.*

New and unusual North Dakota trapping records.—In another paper (Bird-Banding, 1: 67-69, 1930), I discussed 'Some secondary results of bird-banding,' referring chiefly to migration data. The opportunities of securing unusual species are perhaps not appreciated by ornithologists who are not engaged in banding. The regular operation of a series of traps during migration seasons requires considerable time which may seem unprofitable. In my own case I have found that the frequent visits to the traps provide regular, short field trips which would not otherwise be made. The traps are located about one-fourth mile distant and thus frequent though brief observations are secured. The traps are constantly awaiting birds which drift through, and while various species are not equally susceptible of capture, many birds are taken which would be unlikely to be seen without trapping unless considerable time were spent afield.

To my own results I am able to add those secured at the stations of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Brentzel of Fargo and Mrs. Hannah R. Gray of Wilton, N. D. Both of these are backyard stations, though both are near the edges of the towns. I find that no unusual records were secured at my station until about 1933 when water traps were in operation. The Brentzel station covers the period since 1933, and has been operated a greater proportion of the time than have either of the others. Mrs. Gray's station has been operated since 1931; the figures here extend to 1945, inclusive. A general report on my own station has been published (Bird-Banding, 15: 139-144, 1944).

1. WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).—One on Oct. 8, 1938, is the only positive record by Stevens.

2. MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*).—Mrs. Gray banded one at Wilton on June 3, 1943.

3. WILLOW THRUSH (*Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola*).—This bird nests regularly in suitable localities, but captures are rare. Comparative numbers of the different thrushes banded have been as follows:

	Brentzel	Gray	Stevens
OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH	149	581	214
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	16	189	67
HERMIT THRUSH	19	26	84
WILLOW THRUSH	5	21	9

4. TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes townsendi*).—Two birds banded by Mrs. Gray, October 7, 1937, and Aug. 29, 1943; one by Stevens, Oct. 1, 1946. So far as I know it has not previously been reported for North Dakota.

5. BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*).—Not a rare species, but uncommon. Mrs. Gray banded one Sept. 3, 1945, and one Sept. 6, 1944; Brentzel one Sept. 12, 1944; Stevens four: Sept. 10, 1933, May 19, 1935, May 28, 1940, and Sept. 4, 1940.

6. PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*).—I believe this had not been recorded for the State, but I banded two: May 24, 1940, and May 27, 1945; Brentzel one: Sept. 16, 1937; Gray two: Sept. 6, 1944, and Sept. 3, 1945.