

**Montana Junco in New York.**—On December 6, 1946, Mr. F. Clement Scott brought to the American Museum of Natural History for identification a Junco which he believed belonged to the *oreganus* group. The bird had been secured at a banding station in Poundridge Township, Westchester County, New York. It had frequented the station for several days, associated with a wintering flock of *J. hyemalis*. The specimen, which is now No. 344035 in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, is a male with a wing measurement of 80 mm. and tail, 68. The head is very dark; dorsally it is black, and ventrally, chaetura black. The hood is sharply differentiated from the back. The back is hair brown and the sides, army brown. The percentage of white in the rectrices is as follows: No. 6—100, No. 5—85, No. 4—20, No. 3—0. The specimen, a particularly dark bird, is identified as *J. o. montanus* of the northern division as defined by Dr. Alden H. Miller. To confirm the identification a comparison was made with some of the darkest examples of *montanus* in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology which were kindly loaned by Dr. Miller. The agreement is particularly close.

The study of this bird has led to the examination of other eastern records of *J. oregonus* in an attempt to determine which form or forms of this group wander so far from their breeding grounds.

Most of the well-substantiated records are from Massachusetts, and Mr. Ludlow Griscom of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, who is quite familiar with all of these specimens, has been kind enough to give me the benefit of his opinion regarding them. The oldest of these specimens is a female taken on March 25, 1878, and is now in the New England Museum of Natural History. The bird has been identified as *montanus* of the 1931 Check-List but this identification is rather uncertain as is often the case with single females of the genus. It well may be *cismontanus* or one of many of hybrid origin.

At Wellesley, Massachusetts, an adult male was taken on January 28, 1919. In connection with this specimen Mr. Griscom states: "This bird is definitely *shufeldti* of the last A. O. U. Check-List and is consequently *montanus* of Miller's northern division." The specimen is mounted and is on exhibition at the New England Museum of Natural History. In the same category is a male collected by Dr. C. W. Townsend at Ipswich, Massachusetts, on January 30, 1931. Mr. Griscom advises that this, too, is *montanus* of the northern division as defined by Dr. Miller. The specimen is now in the Peabody Museum at Salem, Massachusetts.

In the winter of 1941-1942, an Oregon Junco appeared at a feeding station at Danvers, Massachusetts, and spent several months there with a flock of *J. hyemalis*. Mr. Griscom could not obtain permission to collect the bird but did succeed in trapping and banding it. While in the hand the bird was compared with a carefully selected series of males of different races and it was determined to be of the same race as the two preceding specimens.

On February 25, 1932, a specimen of *J. oregonus* was collected at Branchport, Steuben County, New York, by Mr. C. F. Stone. The skin was sent to the United States National Museum and identified as *J. o. shufeldti*. Through the kindness of Dr. Herbert Friedmann this skin was borrowed and examined. It is *montanus* as defined by Dr. Miller.

Normally, subspecific determination within this species might not be considered valid without a specimen but, when the observation is backed with the long field experience of Mr. Aretas A. Saunders, the record must be given all of the weight that any sight record can have. At Mr. Saunders's feeding station at Fairfield, Connecticut, on December 9, 1939, an Oregon Junco appeared and continued as a regular

visitor until April 15, 1940. The bird fed with a flock of Slate-colored Juncos and was often observed at a distance of no more than three feet. Mr. Saunders has given a detailed description of the bird and, based on his great familiarity with the western juncos, has called it *montanus*. Two years later, a junco came to this same feeding station for one day only, but Mr. Saunders is quite certain that it was the same bird, for the description tallied exactly with that of the former visitor and the bird seemed to act as if it were quite familiar with the station.

It is a rather striking fact that, whenever a bird of the *oreganus* group reaches the East, it appears to be *montanus*. This race seems to have a greater tolerance for diverse conditions of environment than others of the group and so may wander more freely than the others, and, too, from the northern breeding ground of this race, the northern coniferous forest stretches eastward to form an almost unbroken and easy pathway to the East Coast.

I am deeply grateful to Dr. Miller, Mr. Griscom, Dr. Friedmann and Mr. Saunders for the material and information which they have so graciously provided.—CHARLES K. NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, N. Y.*

**Escaped paroquets found breeding in Florida.**—In April or May, 1926, the late Charles E. Doe, Curator of Birds at the University of Florida, found three pairs of paroquets which he said were the Carolina Paroquet, in Grapevine Hammock, on the Kissimmee Prairie, Okeechobee County, Florida. Later he returned to this same hammock and found two paroquet nests, both in holes in living oaks. In one nest were three eggs and in the other, two eggs which he collected and labeled as eggs of the Carolina Paroquet. Shortly after finding these three pairs of birds and taking the two sets of eggs, he told me the story. He never, so far as I know, collected any birds; he certainly would have mentioned it to authenticate these eggs. In December, 1946, I visited the Museum at Gainesville, Florida and Doe showed me the set of three eggs which certainly are those of some species of paroquet—white and without luster. He told me that he sold the set of two to a Mr. Parsons of Providence, R. I.

It perhaps can never be definitely known, whether he collected genuine sets of the Carolina Paroquet or the eggs of an escaped species of paroquet imported from outside the United States, but the probabilities are that the latter is the case, since there was reported from Miami an escape of Mexican Paroquets which were seen in the wilds by several observers. Quite possibly it was this species which he discovered breeding, but this is only my assumption.

It is unfortunate that specimens of the breeding birds were not collected so as to leave no doubts as to the identity of these two sets. I know of no other breeding records for either the Carolina Paroquet or escaped introduced species of paroquets in Florida.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida.*

**Fresh-water nesting of the Gull-billed Tern in Florida.**—In Howell's 'Florida Bird Life' he does not mention the Gull-billed tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*), as a breeder but as a rather rare visitor. Thus it was a great surprise when I found it nesting in numbers on Lake Okeechobee, on seven islands, in May and June, 1943. While studying the birds of that region on May 7, 1943, Wray H. Nicholson and Donald J. Nicholson, found four or five nests; one with two fresh eggs and the balance with a single fresh egg each. The birds were just commencing to breed on three small grassy islands bordered with a narrow fringe of sandy beach. The nests were made of debris and were quite elaborate. Again on June 7, 1943, we visited this lake and found scattered colonies on seven islands as widely apart as 30 miles. Fully 85 to 90 nests were seen, the majority with three eggs each, others with two and