

faded into what looked like a light, grayish tan above the tail; the tail was grayish brown; the region under the tail and behind the legs was visible every time this tall bird tipped over to pick up food, and was pure white; a white wing-stripe was visible when the bird flew.

I am very familiar with the ordinary shore-birds of the Gulf Coast, and I know well the short-legged Red-backed Sandpiper, the chunky Knot, and the long-billed Dowitcher. This bird could not possibly have been any of these three. It was certainly a Curlew Sandpiper.

A few remarks on the appearance of this bird in comparison with some familiar illustrations in various ornithological texts may help other observers identify the species more frequently than in the past. The bill looked precisely like that in Audubon's picture of the species; the more pronounced curvature shown in Ridgway, Peterson, and Taverner's Birds of Canada was not apparent in this bird. (Is it possible that the bill shrinks into a different form in dried specimens?) The legs were much darker than Audubon has them, and were longer than those of his bird in breeding plumage; the legs of his bird in winter plumage seem to have about the right proportions. The bird was more slender (like a Lesser Yellowlegs or a Stilt Sandpiper) than Peterson's drawing suggests; and the light area above the tail seemed neither so white nor so sharply defined as in Peterson's figure. In the living bird this area seemed merely to have a dirty, cream-colored wash. The red of the fore parts had a more smoky look than in Audubon's picture. These inconsistencies of coloration may have been seasonal since, at that time of year, a change from winter to summer plumage was doubtless occurring. The incomplete wing-stripe of this bird is perfectly depicted in Peterson.

The Curlew Sandpiper is a Eurasian species that was recorded with some frequency along our northeastern coasts during the market-hunting days of the nineteenth century; and it has been recorded in the Lesser Antilles and in Patagonia. Bent (1927) gives 1904 as the last date for the United States. I believe that it has not been reported hitherto from our Gulf Coast.—GEORGE G. WILLIAMS, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.*

**Hooded Merganser nesting in Massachusetts.**—Last spring (on May 14, 1946), I saw a Hooded Merganser with seven tiny young swimming close to the shore on the Quabbin Reservoir in Dana, Massachusetts. (Dana is now a ghost town, since its area has been claimed by the town of Petersham. The Quabbin Reservoir, the largest domestic supply reservoir in the United States, is in Dana and six or eight other real and ghost towns in central Massachusetts.) The young had the markings of downy young Hooded Mergansers and were not foster young of some other species of duck. I made other trips out there, but the only two times that I saw any of them after that was on July 4, when I saw all eight—the young then almost the size of their mother, and July 17, when, in company with John J. Monahan of Spencer, a photographer, and Oscar L. Cregan of Spencer, a game warden, I saw just one. All of these were seen in Dana on the Quabbin Reservoir. I had heard somewhere of people putting out houses for the American Merganser and had put out two houses for them the previous fall. On the ground at the foot of one of the houses was a very small amount of excrement, but there was nothing inside either of the houses. I do not feel sure that the ducks nested in one of these houses, but since the young were only about a day old the first day I saw them and since the Quabbin Reservoir is entirely in Massachusetts, I feel sure that they nested in Massachusetts. Upon inquiry, I heard of two other nestings of the Hooded Merganser in Massachusetts in the last twenty years, one also in Dana and the other in Harvard on the Nashua

River. I have put out two other houses and I hope the mergansers come back and start nesting there also.—DAVIS H. CROMPTON, *Worcester, Massachusetts.*

**Black Skimmer and White Pelican in the Bahamas.**—While visiting Bimini Island of the Bahamas, from March 4 to 8, together with Dr. Charles M. Breder of the Department of Fishes of the American Museum of Natural History, I observed, among other birds, two Black Skimmers (*Rynchops nigra nigra*) and one White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). Neither of these birds has been previously reported, to my knowledge, from Bimini. Bond's Birds of the West Indies and Riley in his list of the birds of the Bahamas, do not mention these two species as occurring at Bimini. Presumably both birds occur there irregularly, and the probable reason they have not been previously reported is because nobody resident on the island is familiar with the local birds or the migrants.—RALPH FRIEDMAN, *New York, N. Y.*

**Additional occurrence of the White-eyed Vireo in Canada.**—Publication of Farley Mowat's list of six occurrences of the White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) in Ontario, Canada (Auk, 64: 138-139, 1947) prompts me to record the following more recent occurrence.

Perhaps I should begin by stating that I became familiar with the White-eyed Vireo and its song near Sag Harbor, Long Island, New York, in 1910, but did not see an individual of this species again until I made the following observation, twenty-nine years later. About 9:45 a. m. on May 11, 1939, as I was walking through the woods on Fishing Point, Pelee Island, Ontario, in Lake Erie, I heard and recognized the frequent, distinctive song of a White-eyed Vireo. Without difficulty I found the singer in an isolated clump of shrubbery. As I waited, the bird moved to the top of the clump, where it perched in plain sight in excellent sunlight, about 15 feet from me, and sang repeatedly while I observed it at leisure through a 6-power binocular. I saw clearly its characteristic size, greenish olive upper parts, yellow flanks and loreal area, white wing-bars and white iris.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Ottawa, Canada.*

**Southernmost penetration of the Starling in the East.**—In all of the continuing spread of the Starling (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*) throughout the East and South, to say nothing of the West, there has, hitherto, been one section of the southeast which has remained free of this introduced Old-World species; that is south-central Florida. Efforts on the part of the writer have failed to reveal a single occurrence of this bird south of a line drawn from Tampa (west coast) to Melbourne (east coast). He has, for the past twelve years done a great deal of field work in the southern and central portions of the state, not only in the sanctuary supervision of the National Audubon Society's refuges, but also in conducting the Audubon Wildlife Tours, now in their fifth year, from Okeechobee, each February and March.

Not since 1935, when I began work in the Lake Okeechobee-Kissimmee Prairie region, has a single Starling been observed until this last season. On February 10, 1947, after the second freeze of that extraordinary month in meteorological history, while I was conducting Trip No. 3 of the Audubon Tours, an adult Starling was seen and watched by the entire group of ten persons. The bird was perched on a telephone wire along the road running from the Seminole Indian Reservation to Brighton, in Highlands County, one mile south of Brighton. It was in company with Red-winged Blackbirds and was watched at a range of about twenty feet. The group, composed of visitors from the north, all of whom were familiar with the bird, would never have given it a second glance had it not been for the excitement of the writer