

rare in this area. He suggested that I go to the Audubon Society and confirm his identification. This I did, and there was no doubt in the curator's mind as to the correctness of Mr. Townsend's finding.

In 1945 there was no appearance, but on July 20, 1946, the waxwings appeared in full force in the same bushes, and this time my wife saw the Bohemians first. We were seated in about the same position from which the first observation was made, when she suddenly exclaimed: "Three large Waxwings have just entered the bushes." I picked up the glasses, and sure enough, three Bohemians were there. They kept to themselves and as far as we know made no sound. They stayed off and on about a week, and then disappeared.—B. HOWE, *Boothbay, Maine*.

[Mr. Henry Thurston writes that Mr. and Mrs. Howe "were both familiar with the recognition marks of both Waxwings and I would vouch for their record being OK."—ED.]

**Barometric pressure-patterns and spring migration.**—Observations made by the writer during the spring of 1947, and analyses supplied by Miss Margaret Whitcomb, research associate in Meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, suggest strongly that there is a particular barometric pressure-pattern in North American weather which stimulates spring migration into New England and adjacent sections of the Northeast.

The ideal pattern is well indicated on the U. S. Weather Bureau's map for 1:30 A. M. on April 6, 1947, wherein a high pressure area is moving eastward off the southeast U. S. coast, while a low pressure area is moving into the Great Lakes region after having originated in the vicinity of Kansas and Colorado.

The favorable situation prevailing on April 6, 1947 (and other dates during that spring) was initiated by the clockwise effect of the "high," which set up a northeastward flow of warm air from the Gulf to New England. This flow subsequently was intensified by the counterclockwise effect of the "low."

Preliminary observations suggested that either the eastern "high" or the Great Lakes "low," by itself, could create conditions favorable for spring migration into New England, but that the combination of the two produced optimum conditions.

Furthermore (and most practicably important) it was found that the development of this favorable barometric pressure-pattern could be detected in newspaper weather maps and detailed radio weather forecasts in time for a southern New England ornithologist to anticipate periods of pronounced diurnal migration and days on which field trips reflected an obvious influx of migrants during the preceding hours of darkness.

The subject deserves careful study, particularly as regards the timing by which the pressure-pattern becomes favorable for particular areas as the season progresses, and the extent to which variations in the ideal pattern favor migration. (Incidentally, this discovery agrees substantially with European findings as outlined by Thomson [1926] in 'Problems of Bird-Migration,' pp. 104-108). Yet it seems possible to predict that a little knowledge of meteorology will enable a New England ornithologist to anticipate (from weather data given him by press and radio) the most advantageous occasions on which to be out afield to observe spring migration.

The writer will be glad to cooperate with any interested person who wishes to investigate the subject further.—AARON MOORE BAGG, 72 *Fairfield Ave., Holyoke, Massachusetts*.