

North Andover, was caught in a mink trap set in water at Haggett's Pond, Andover; about 1890 by S. Arthur Lovejoy." The second specimen was collected by Arthur Heiman of Methuen and has recently been presented by him to the Peabody Museum of Salem. Mr. Heiman says, regarding this bird, "In the latter part of July, 1933 I was shooting crows in the Scotland Hill district (near the Methuen-Haverhill line). In a pasture on the hilltop . . . a large black bird got up . . . which was secured and found to be a raven in the pin feather stage, though well advanced."

There are also recent sight records of the Raven, mainly in the past ten years, since between 1927 and 1938 only one has been found. An earlier one is that of November 11, 1922, when Mr. Arthur W. Beckford of Danvers, an experienced hunter who had shot many crows, saw in Ipswich a bird which he was convinced was a Raven.

By 1940, Paul F. Eckstorm of Brewer, Maine (Bull. New England Bird Life, 4 (2)) notes the Raven is "increasing somewhat in forested areas and westward along the coast," and Katharine Tousey (Bull. New England Bird Life, 5 (7)) reports "more than usual; two to eight in every wild harbor of the east coast of Maine." To the south, J. J. Murray in Virginia (Bent, Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows, 1946) says "commoner now than it was ten years ago."

It seems probable that this increase of breeding birds both north and south is reflected in the more numerous records for Massachusetts for the last decade. The two reports from Connecticut are included as confirming the possibility of a coast-wise migratory movement.

SUMMARY OF RECORDS OF 1940-1948

1941	Mass., Mt. Tom., October 26, Mrs. Albert Dietrich and Ruth Wheelright.	1
1942	Connecticut, Waterford, March 11, E. V. Stoddard.	1
1943	Conn., Waterford, April 2, E. V. Stoddard.	2
	Massachusetts, Osterville, April 18, John W. Eaton.	1
1945	Mass., Brookline, March 27, Ruth Ernst.	1
1947	Mass., Rockport, November 9, Davis Crompton.	1
	Mass., North Andover, December 12 and 15, Oscar M. Root.	1, 1
1948	Mass., Newburyport, May 22, Charles Crain and D. E. Snyder.	1

Such frequent encounters were apparently unknown prior to the last decade, or at least were unrecorded in the past century. Two explanations might be suggested: (a) an increase in Raven populations both to the north and south, with casual migrants flying over Massachusetts; and (b) an increase in the number of skilled observers in the state.—DOROTHY E. SNYDER, *The Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass.*

European Tree Sparrows at Hannibal, Missouri.—In 1870, a colony of European Tree Sparrows, *Passer montanus montanus*, was released in St. Louis, Missouri. They flourished near Shaw's Garden in St. Louis until 1877 when the English House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, spread westward and displaced its less aggressive cousin. The colony broke into isolated groups which seemed to drift slightly eastward and southward. For a number of years nesting pairs were reported from St. Louis, East St. Louis, Alton, Horseshoe Lake in southern Illinois, and even down to the Reelfoot Lake country in Kentucky. Their usual range was in a radius of about 50 miles from St. Louis.

It is of some interest that in 1946 a pair nested behind a water spout on the Hannibal Missouri High School, which is about 50 miles farther north than the bird has ever before been reported. The following year a pair nested in a bird box at Hull, Illinois, ten miles east of Hannibal. No 1948 record has been secured of this pair.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois.*

Raised ear coverts.—It is well known that many birds raise the crown feathers when alerted, but not enough alarmed to flee. I have not seen any reference to