GENERAL NOTES

First Townsend's Solitaire Collected in Ontario.—On 3 March 1962 a Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) was reported from Point Pelee, Essex County, Ontario, by Robert E. Mara and Helen Blanchet. On 8 March 1962 James L. Baillie and the writers visited Point Pelee, and the senior writer succeeded in collecting the bird.

The specimen, No. 92458 in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum, is an adult ♀: length—216 mm; wing cord—117 mm; and weight—40 g.

There are three previous unpublished sight records for Ontario, two at Hamilton, Wentworth County, and one at Toronto, York County. The A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (5th ed., 1957) gives winter occurrences for Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, New York, and New Brunswick. The Ohio record was an individual seen 26 December 1938 to 14 January 1939, in Sylvania Township, Lucas County (Campbell, L. W., *Birds of Lucas County, Toledo Mus. of Sci. Bull.,* 1(1): 127–128, 1940). Zimmerman and Van Tyne (*A Distributional Check-list of the Birds of Michigan,* U.M.M.Z. Occ. Pap. No. 608: 42, 1959) list an adult ♀ collected in Waterloo Township, Jackson County, on 4 January 1957.—D. H. BALDWIN, and JAMES WOODFORD, *Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto 5, Ontario.*

Scratching the "Rear" by Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).—The various ways in which birds head-scratch are well-known and species-typical criteria in avian systematics (for example, passerines scratch the head by bringing a leg over a wing). Species-typical forms of head-scratching and their implications are most recently discussed by Simmons (*Ibis,* 1961). In addition to over-the-wing head-scratching, similar to other closely related parrot species, Budgerigars also regularly perform scratching of the lateral crissal regions. The tarso-metatarsal-phalangial joint, together with the anterior toe surfaces of the ipsilateral foot, is rubbed over this area in a fairly rapid back and forth manner. The foot does not at any time approach either the cloacal or oil gland regions. This motor pattern has, to my knowledge, never been reported for any other avian species. Bouts of such scratching are common, with both sides being repeatedly scratched. They occur in conjunction with bouts of other maintenance activities (especially preening of these regions), and most frequently after an extended period of other groups of activities. The importance of a hitherto unreported type of scratching cannot be understated; however, no evolutionary or taxonomic significance can be discussed until observations of its absence or presence in other and especially closely related species have been reported. I would be happy to receive communications regarding such scratching in other species.—BARBARA F. BROCKWAY, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

The Systematic Position of Two Oligocene Birds from Belgium.—During study of a fossil teal from the Pliocene of Kansas, it became necessary to investigate the status of the supposed earliest member of this group, *Anas benedeni* Sharpe (1899: 217). This name was proposed as a substitute for the preoccupied *Anas creccoides* Van Beneden (1871: 260, Figures 3–6), from the Middle Oligocene Rupelian sand of Belgium. It is apparent from the illustrations that this bird and at least one other of the four Oligocene species named in Van Beneden's paper are wrongly allocated to order.