

GENERAL NOTES

**A Westward Autumnal Movement of a Brown Creeper.**—On 4 October 1962 Dr. F. E. Ludwig captured and banded (102-68109) a Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) at Port Huron, Michigan. Dr. Ludwig noted that the bird had worn remiges and rectrices; the bird was thus probably immature. On 14 October 1962, 10 days later, we netted this bird at the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. Our station is about 275 miles west, and slightly north, of Port Huron (bearing 280°).

The Brown Creeper has a circumboreal breeding distribution which in North America encompasses a vast area from southeastern Alaska to Newfoundland south to Nicaragua and the southern Appalachians. *C. f. americana*, the subspecies found in the area of the band recovery mentioned above, has a breeding range that extends from south-central Manitoba and Newfoundland to south-eastern Nebraska and western Maryland. This subspecies winters through the southern portions of its breeding range south to southern Texas and southern Florida (AOU Checklist, 1957). The Brown Creeper thus appears to be a partial migrant, and individuals of this species might be expected to show irregular migratory directions. In any event, a westward flight of almost 300 miles near the northern periphery of the wintering range for the subspecies seems worthy of note.

Table 1 presents the wind direction, wind velocity and sky cover in tenths for Detroit, Michigan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for 2400 hrs. (CST) on 4 through 13 October. These three cities lie at intervals close to a line running westward from Port Huron to Cedar Grove. It is difficult to attribute this unusual westward flight to wind drift. Easterly winds occurred on the nights of 4, 7, 12 and 13 October, but the winds were light and on all of the nights at least one of the three weather stations reported calm or a wind that was not easterly.

Sauer (*Z. Tierpsychol.* 14: 29-70, 1957) and Hamilton (*Auk* 79: 208-233, 1962) have presented experimental evidence for stellar navigation of passerines and for disorientation and irregular movements under overcast skies. Such disorientation could have occurred only on the nights of 4, 7, 8 and 10 October. All three stations reported complete overcast on only one night, 8 October, and the winds were northwesterly on that night. A combination of largely easterly winds and considerable cloudiness occurred on only 4 and 7 October, and neither of these nights had complete overcast nor consistently easterly winds.

In a manuscript now being prepared for publication we present data and arguments that most of the birds mist-netted at our station during the fall are migrants that arrived not more than a few days before capture. This leads us to suspect that the Brown Creeper in question came to our area from the vicinity of Port Huron on either the night of 12 or 13 October, nights with light easterly winds and nearly clear skies. If this suspicion is correct it would appear that the Brown Creeper migrated largely downwind.

Table 1. 2400 hr. (CST) readings of wind and sky cover (in tenths) for Detroit, Grand Rapids and Milwaukee. C: Calm. X: Sky obscured by fog, mist or smoke.

DATE	WIND			SKY COVER		
	Detroit	Gr. Rapids	Milw.	Detroit	Gr. Rapids	Milw.
4 Oct.	NE 5	E 5	C	7-8	10	7-8
5 Oct.	WNW 5	NW 5	W 5	0	X	0
6 Oct.	NW 5	C	ENE 5	1	X	1
7 Oct.	E 10	ESE 15	WSW 5	10	4	10
8 Oct.	N 5	WNW 10	WNW 5	10	10	10
9 Oct.	W 10	S 5	SW 2	0	0	0
10 Oct.	SW 10	SSW 15	SW 15	7-8	4	7-8
11 Oct.	SW 15	SW 15	SW 15	2-3	2-3	2-3
12 Oct.	N 2	E 2	E 10	1	6	1
13 Oct.	E 2	SE 2	SSE 2	1	0	1

This incidental observation was made while the authors were engaged in a study of bird migration in cooperation with Prof. John T. Emlen, Jr. Financial support was provided by the National Science Foundation (Grant no. GB - 175).—Helmuth C. Mueller, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, and Daniel D. Berger, Ornithological Station, Route 1, Cedar Grove, Wisconsin.

**Occurrence of the Common Tern in Australia and the Southwest Pacific.**—The recovery of a Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) in the Cook Islands group, South Pacific Ocean, recently reported by C. Stuart Houston (*Bird-Banding*, 34(3): 160-1, 1963), fills another gap in our knowledge of the zoogeography and migrations of the species. The purpose of this note is to summarize the Australian records of *hirundo*; a full account is in preparation by Hitchcock.

Apart from the Western Australian record mentioned in the editorial footnote to Houston's report, there are at least twelve other specimens from Australian localities, most of them collected during the last 15 years: two from South Australia (of which one has been provisionally identified as *S. h. turkestanica*); two from Victoria (*S. h. longipennis*); seven from New South Wales (all *longipennis*), and one from Cape York, Queensland (*longipennis*; cf. Hindwood, *Emu*, 44(1): 41-3, 1944). In addition, there are specimen records of *longipennis* from Lord Howe Island (3) and Torres Strait (1) (Hindwood, *loc. cit.*), and two from Rigo, Papua, collected August 1962 (in the collection of the Division of Wildlife Research, CSIRO, Canberra). With the possible exception of one of the Victorian birds, all of the specimens are in contra-nuptial plumage and apparently immature. These are in marked contrast to Houston's bird, which was in its fifth year and presumably had reached sexual maturity.

During the past ten years there have been persistent sight records in summer (October to March) — and including one in full breeding plumage (October 11, 1953) — of birds in New South Wales (mainly in the Sydney coastal area) that appear to be *hirundo longipennis*; the greatest number recorded was 20 birds at Botany Bay, near Sydney, on January 4, 1964, two weeks after three specimens had been collected in the same area. The inference is that eastern and southeastern Australia come within the normal wintering range of *hirundo longipennis* and, further, that there is in fact a gap of only 4° (i.e. between Cook Islands and Lord Howe Island) in the contra-nuptial range of the species in the southwest Pacific.

The breeding and wintering ranges of the eastern and northern Asiatic races of *hirundo* are still imperfectly known (cf. Stegmann, *Orn. Monatsber.*, 44(4): 102-7, 1936; Johansen, *J. f. Orn.*, 101(3): 320-4, 1960), but it is evident that individuals of two, and possibly three, races migrate regularly (*longipennis*) or sporadically (*hirundo* and *turkestanica*) to Australia.—W. B. Hitchcock CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research, Canberra, A. C. T., and K. A. Hindwood, 105, Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield, N. S. W.

**Rough-winged and Bank Swallows in Same Colony.**—In connection with Mr. Walter P. Nickell's note on the nesting of Rough-winged Swallows (*Steigodopteryx ruficollis*), *Bird-Banding*, 35: 40-41, the following may be of interest. On two or three July dates in 1959, '60 and '61, I netted swallows along the bank of the St. Vrain River near Longmont, Colo., with these results: 1959, 54 Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*), 12 Rough-winged Swallows; 1960, 93 Bank Swallows, 5 Rough-winged Swallows; 1961, 31 Bank Swallows, 2 Rough-winged Swallows. Because of gravel operations the bank has since deteriorated so that it is no longer used by the swallow colony. A net was placed directly in front of and only a few feet from the tunnel openings. Best success was obtained just before and after sunset when the nets were least visible to the birds. Apparently it is not uncommon for the two species to share a location. In this area the Bank Swallow is much more numerous than the Rough-wing (Robert J. Niedrach, *Birds of Denver and Mountain Parks*), which may account for the approximate 9 to 1 ratio of banded birds.—Mrs. Carl Collister, 706 Hover St., Longmont, Colo.