

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

Adaptability in the Feeding Habits of the Woodcock.—While the Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) is known to eat seeds of various plants, its normal diet consists largely of earthworms and insects. On a recent field trip to New Jersey, State Game Warden Joseph Mathis and others gave incontrovertible evidence that the Woodcock, at least when hard pressed for food, will take grain. During the unusually cold freeze of February and early March, 1934, when snow covered the ground, the warden placed cracked corn on a cleared surface for Bob-whites, three or four times each week. On the second visit to one feed patch near New Gretna, Burlington County, New Jersey, he saw five Woodcocks, along with a covey of Bob-whites, eating the cracked corn. These were observed eating the corn at the feeding station at each subsequent visit for fully a month. Other observers reported the same habit.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Unusual Bird Behavior.—Each new season brings new experiences with birds. This season (1933) I have had a new experience with the Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa satrapa*). On April 22, 1933, while walking through a small grove in Washington Park, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, I observed a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius varius*) busily engaged in drilling holes in the trunk of a white birch tree. At my approach, it flew to a white pine a short distance away. On the birch just vacated by the sapsucker, I noticed a Golden-crowned Kinglet feeding among the branches. I had barely made sure of its identity, when it did a peculiar thing. Bracing itself on the trunk of the tree in the same manner as the sapsucker, it proceeded to drink the sap that was oozing from the holes drilled in the tree. After drinking three or four times it flew farther into the grove. This being an interesting and unusual incident in my experience with birds, I decided to verify my observation. I had just placed myself in a better position, when another Golden-crowned Kinglet flew into the tree to a series of holes drilled beside a healing branch scar, and proceeded immediately to drink. Near by were two other birches whose trunks and larger branches were full of sapsucker wells. While watching these trees, at least ten other kinglets drank at these artesian wells, and in every instance the birds flew directly to the holes and proceeded to drink. I was then convinced that this unusual incident was not just one particular individual's habit, but apparently was a common practice among this troop of migrating kinglets. Although sap was flowing from all the pines and hemlocks in the vicinity, no kinglets were observed at them. No doubt they prefer the sap of the birches. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were not among this flock, although many species of warblers were present, but none were observed drinking sap.—JOSEPH N. WOPPERT, *Milwaukee, Wis.*

Shufeldt's Junco Taken in Northwestern Iowa.—An adult male Shufeldt's Junco (*Junco oreganus shufeldti*) was collected by the writer on April 10, 1934, southwest of Ruthven, in the northwest corner of Section 27 of Freeman Township, Clay County, Iowa. This bird was found among some willows which border the outlet from Rosacker Slough. It was associated with Tree and Song Sparrows, no other juncos being present. It immediately was recognized as one of the "black-headed" juncos.

The specimen was submitted to Prof. Myron H. Swenk of Lincoln, Nebraska, for comparison with specimens in his collection from Lincoln, western Nebraska, and eastern Colorado. His remarks, contained in a letter dated April 20, 1934, regarding the identification of this bird, are as follows: "The specimen is undoubtedly *Junco oreganus*, and probably closest to *shufeldti*, but it has the blackest head with the most contrast between the head and neck and the back, and the brownest back, of any of the specimens before me, in these respects approaching more closely than any of the specimens before me to the typical western form, *Junco oreganus oreganus*, as exemplified in some California specimens in my collection. I would classify it as *shufeldti*, but it is more intermediate between that and the typical subspecies than a typical specimen of *shufeldti* would be. It is interesting to know that this specimen was collected in northwestern Iowa earlier this month. *Junco oreganus shufeldti* is, as I told you previously, a regular migrant at Lincoln."

The color of the soft parts of this bird as noted at the time of collecting were as follows: Bill, pale lavender; iris, deep chocolate; tarsus, buffy gray. The two outer pairs of tail feathers are entirely white, with a clear-cut streak of white along the shaft on the third pair, nearly half the width of the feather. Measurements in millimeters taken of the specimen in the flesh are: Length, 151.0; tail, 68.9; wing (chord of closed wing), 78.5; wing (primaries flattened), 80.2; tarsus, 22.9; exposed culmen, 11.9.

R. M. Anderson, in his treatment of the juncos in the *Birds of Iowa* (1907), listed *Junco hyemalis hyemalis* and *Junco hyemalis montanus*. A specimen of *Junco oreganus shufeldti*, which had been collected by W. E. Praeger across the Mississippi River from Keokuk, in Illinois, on December 16, 1892, was referred to *Junco hyemalis montanus*. There were no specimens of the Montana Junco listed, its inclusion being based upon two sight records.

While examining the various collections of Iowa birds recently, the writer was unable to find any Iowa specimen of junco other than the Slate-colored Junco. Therefore, only *hyemalis* was included in *A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa* (1933, p. 149), Shufeldt's Junco being included in the hypothetical list (p. 158). Therefore, this specimen of *shufeldti* is probably the first taken in Iowa, and so constitutes an addition to the state list.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

Some Additional Ohio Breeding Records.—The following notes include some of the unusual breeding species for Ohio, and are submitted for record.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea violacea*). Since the first discovery of this bird as a new species and a new breeding species for the state, at the Indian Lake colony of Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons (C. F. Walker, *Auk*, XLV, p. 370), from one to three adults have been reported each year, except in 1933. Presumably nesting has occurred each year also, but it is very difficult to locate nests among the numerous nests of the other Night Herons. I have the following records of adults: April 28, 1928 (1); June 1, 1929 (1); June 30, 1930 (1); May 24, 1931 (1); and May 27, 1932 (3).

Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*). Several summer records at Cedar Swamp, Champaign County. On May 13, 1933, a nest was found at a height of about twenty-five feet in an arbor-vitae tree. It contained three young about two weeks old and was built on the platform of a nest known to have been used by a Cooper's Hawk the preceding year.