

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by O. A. Stevens

Change of Route in the Fall Migration of Nighthawks.—In the forty years of observation of the Eastern Nighthawk (*Chordeiles m. minor*) a fall migration route has been directly over Hillsboro, at least for thirty years. Every year the period of migration lasted for three days, at which time the air was filled with vast numbers. After these days only stragglers were seen. The heavy movement began on August 21, and extended to the 29th. In 1931 these birds changed their route to a line seven miles eastward, and only a few stragglers are seen over the old route.—KATIE M. ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio*.

The Sexes in Migration.—Detailed work took me afield on every suitable day during the migration season. I have noticed that the males of the Brown Thrasher and Red-eyed Towhee await the arrival of the females before moving on. The first arrival of the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) was a male, and it arrived on March 19; the second one came on March 25. The males continued to arrive until the 29th, when a few females appeared. On April 3 more females were on hand. On April 4 the migration had moved on, leaving only the usual number of summer residents. Five males of the Red-eyed Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) arrived on February 24, and they became common on March 11. On March 23 the females arrived. On the 24th all had moved on except the few that remained as summer residents.—KATIE M. ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio*.

The Black and White Warbler in Europe.—The *Weekly Scotsman* of Edinburgh, for November 28, 1936, records the fact that at Tingwall in the Shetland Islands, about eighty miles east of the mainland of Scotland, there was picked up by the roadside, shortly before that date, a small bird identified at the British Museum as an American Black and White Warbler. The distance from the eastern normal range in North America of the species to where the bird was found is about the same as its southern migration distance, but the eastern journey across the Atlantic was almost entirely over water and that to its wintering ground largely over land. This bird was doubtless swept out of its range by storm winds. This is believed to be the first record of the finding of this species in Europe.—SAMUEL E. PERKINS III, *Indianapolis, Ind.*

Female Grouse at Drumming Log.—About 4 P. M. on May 14, 1937, I heard a grouse drumming on the top of Ferry Bluff, an erosion remnant of about 150 acres rising 300 feet above the Wisconsin River below the towns of Prairie du Sac and Sauk City, Wisconsin. The sides and top of the Bluff are covered with oak with several small "goat" prairies in a few spots.

I worked towards the drummer by moving during the drummings, which came at intervals of about three minutes. The drumming seemed to cease for I waited several minutes longer than the usual interval when I heard a rustling on the leafy floor to my right. I watched carefully and soon saw a ruffed grouse, presumably a female, moving along the brow of the bluff (which was wooded) closely pursued by a male in full display. She seemed to move at irregular trots with pauses until the male approached to within a few inches. Her body was turned left thirty degrees to the line of progress. The male's tail was erected perpendicularly to the body and the feathers were fully fanned out. The ruffs of the neck

were fully erected and the head and neck stretched far forward and almost touched the ground. He moved after her in a zig-zag line, continually moving the body to and fro. The female apparently detected me although I stood still in my tracks. She flew when fifteen feet away and returned in the direction of the drumming log, disappearing in the trees. The male looked about a bit, then lowered his display and went toward the drumming log on foot.

He drummed again in a few minutes and I was able to find him on the log. I paced the distance from the log to the spot where the female left and found it to be fifty-three single paces. My paces average about a yard. The route taken from the log to the spot where the female left was much longer as it was apparently circuitous.

This observation would indicate that the female does come to the drumming log at times, and that the male may pursue her from here. It is possible that in this case the drumming served as a location notice from the male rather than as a territorial proclamation.—LEONARD WING, *Madison, Wis.*

A Local Nesting Habit of the Towhee.—The Red-eyed Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*) is a rather abundant summer bird along woodland borders in southern Michigan, where it nests usually on the ground with the nest rim about even with the ground level. Of twelve nests I have found only two were in shrubbery, one a foot, the other about two feet, from the ground.

While spending some time at Lovells in Crawford County in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, I found during July, 1937, four nests of the Towhee on an area which had been burned over two or three years before. This area was now covered with shrubbery and low trees, most of which were under seven or eight feet in height and with numerous low branches or basal sprouts. All four nests were located in this dense undergrowth, well off the ground; one was up 21 inches, another 24 inches, while two were 36 inches above the ground. These nests were found in July and are summarized as follows: Nest No. 1, July 5, two eggs and one of the Cowbird; Nest No. 2, July 8, two eggs, and on July 9, three eggs; Nest No. 3, July 9, one egg, and on July 10, two eggs and one of the Cowbird, and on July 11, three eggs and one of the Cowbird; Nest No. 4, July 11, two eggs and one of the Cowbird. In Nest No. 3 the young Cowbird and two of the Towhees left the nest on August 1, with date of hatching undetermined.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek, Mich.*

Red Phalarope in Northeastern Illinois.—A specimen of the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) was secured by the writer on September 10, 1938, on the Lake Michigan beach north of Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois. It proved to be a male in full fall plumage except for a few small patches of the breeding plumage on the back. The skin (No. 110141) is now in the study collection of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

The only other extant Illinois specimen of the Red Phalarope which the writer was able to locate, is in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York. This, a female (No. 357777, Dwight Collection No. 21134), was collected by Charles K. Worthen along the Mississippi River near Warsaw, Hancock County, Illinois, on September 27, 1883. It is very likely one of those "taken two or three times" in that region by the same collector (p. 62, Widmann, A Preliminary Catalog of the Birds of Missouri; *Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis*, Vol. XXVIII, No. 1, Nov. 16, 1907). The species is listed for the state by a number