

## GENERAL NOTES

**Least Bittern at Long Lake, North Dakota.**—Because of the paucity of records of this bird in North Dakota, it seems desirable to report an observation of the Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) at Long Lake near Moffit, Burleigh County, North Dakota, August 28, 1942. The bird was flushed from a dense growth of *Scirpus acutus*. It flew within 20 feet of me and then disappeared into another stand of bulrush. Light conditions were excellent, and there seemed no possibility of mistaken identification.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois*.

**An Ohio Record of the Surf Scoter.**—On October 7, 1942, we collected a female Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) on Lake Erie, between South Bass and Middle Bass Islands, Ottawa County, Ohio. The bird was several hundred yards from shore, and during a half hour of observation was seen to feed only by dabbling in the manner of a shoal-water duck.

The total bulk of the stomach contents was 21 cc., of which 20 per cent was fine gravel; 20 per cent, plant material (parts of rhizomes, and three *Potamogeton* seeds); 60 per cent, parts of invertebrates. The recognizable portions of the invertebrates consisted of: pieces of the shells of 8 small snails; at least 42 cucumber beetles (Chrysomelidae); 2 ham beetles (Corynetidae); one rove beetle (Staphylinidae); one ground beetle (Carabidae); one water beetle (Hydrophilidae); one predacious diving beetle (Dytiscidae); 12 large hornets (Vespidae); 2 wasps (Psammocharidae); 3 chinch bugs (Lygaeidae); one stink bug (Pentatomidae). The preponderance of adult land insects is interesting, since Bent (*U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.*, 130, 1925:148) and other authors state that even on interior lakes the Surf Scoter's food consists principally of molluscs, crayfish, nymphs of aquatic insects, and a small amount of vegetable matter, and is obtained chiefly by diving.

The Surf Scoter is apparently the rarest of the three species of scoters found in Ohio, and there are few published records. This skin is deposited in Ohio State Museum.—MILTON B. and MARY A. TRAUTMAN, *F. T. Stone Laboratory, Ohio State University, Put-in-Bay, Ohio*.

**Remains of the Wild Turkey in Wisconsin.**—The Oshkosh Public Museum has a large collection of bird bones recovered from the Indian refuse pits on the eastern shore of Lake Winneconne, Winnebago County. The writer was instrumental in having these bones sent to Alexander Wetmore for identification. Among the bones were four metacarpals of the Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*). This is striking confirmation of the statement of Allouez (*Wilson Bulletin*, 54, 1942:175) that he found Wild Turkeys at Lake Winneconne in 1670. Thanks are due to Dr. Wetmore for the labor involved in working over the large mass of bones.—A. W. SCHORGER, *168 North Prospect Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin*.

**Two Long-eared Owl Nests near Toledo, Ohio.**—The Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*) has been regarded as a rare winter visitor in the Toledo region, with a decided preference for dense evergreen cover (L. W. Campbell, "Birds of Lucas County," 1940), although nests have been recorded in 12 northern Ohio counties.

Then, in the spring of 1942, Laurel Van Camp discovered two nests in small deciduous woodlands in this area. The first was found April 11, in a grove of small trees surrounded by level tilled country, in Sandusky County, near Kingsway, not far from the Sandusky River. It was apparently an abandoned Crow nest, relined with strips of bark, and was placed at a height of 20 feet, against the trunk of a red maple. When discovered April 11, the female was brooding. Five

nestlings, the smallest not over three days old, were present April 23, but only four on May 8, the fifth having fallen to the ground. Although the pellets revealed nothing but meadow mice (*Microtus*) remains, a half-eaten small rabbit lay on the nest at the time of the last visit.

A second nest of similar construction and location, but in a small pin oak, was found May 9, near the base of Little Cedar Point, Lucas County, in a wood that did not exceed ten acres, lying between an extensive Lake Erie marsh and level open farm land. There were six nestlings. Comparison with the young in the other nest led to the conclusion that these had hatched about April 18. On May 16, they were able to crawl out on limbs when approached. When the nest was visited May 23, the adults were near, but the young were not found. We believe that they left voluntarily. On the rim of the nest lay a partly plucked Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*).—LAUREL VAN CAMP, *Genoa, Ohio*, and HAROLD MAYFIELD, *3311 Parkwood Avenue, Toledo, Ohio*.

**Evidence for the Former Occurrence of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Ohio.**—The Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) was found years ago in Franklin County, Indiana, adjacent to the southwestern corner of Ohio, and on this basis it has been carried in the hypothetical list of birds for the latter state, on the logical assumption that formerly it must have occurred there. There have been no positive records for it, however.

Recently Robert Goslin has sent to me for identification a set of birds' bones excavated in 1940 and 1941 by H. R. McPherson of Columbus, Ohio, from the Feurt Village Site in Clay Township, Scioto County, Ohio, east of the Scioto River, and not far from the Ohio River, which marks the southern boundary of the State. The material is presumed to date back to the fifteenth or sixteenth century, since it was found at one of the sites of the Fort Ancient Culture.

Among the 24 species of birds included in this collection I was interested to find a metatarsus of the Ivory-bill (now preserved in the osteological collections of the U. S. National Museum). It appears to me that this constitutes a definite record for the former occurrence of this bird in Ohio. It is true that the Ivory-bill was considered of some value by the Indians, who without question carried the heads and bills about, using them in medicine bundles and in other ways. It seems hardly probable, however, that the foot (which was of no particular interest) would have been taken to a locality distant from where the bird was killed.

Other interesting species whose bones are found in this deposit are the Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus americanus*), the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) and the Raven (*Corvus corax*). The deposit also contained remains of two other woodpeckers, the Pileated Woodpecker and the Flicker.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

**Roosting Habits of the Verdin.**—For several summers I have observed the Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*) at Hot Springs, Brewster County, Texas. In this rough, dry country it is a common resident along chaparral-lined arroyos of the lowlands, and its compact nests are easy to find. Noting, almost invariably, an accumulation of excreta at the nest-entrance, I found myself wondering about the species' roosting habits.

Frequently during the last hour of daylight I came upon a nest with a protruding tail visible at the outer edge of the tunnel-like doorway. By cupping my hand over the nest-hole, I succeeded in capturing a bird now and then. Of five finally captured thus, all were adult. Every attempt to capture roosting birds not in such a "tail out" position failed.

At dusk on July 2, 1942, I found a nest with two tails showing in the entrance, and succeeded in capturing both birds, which proved to be young of the year. (At the same nest I had caught an adult on August 17, 1941.) The two immature birds