

Austing, Edith Folger and I saw an immature bird at Lake Grant, in Brown County, some thirty miles southeast of Cincinnati. Austing collected the bird, which proved to be a male (testes very small). The stomach contained about two hundred adult water beetles of the families Gyrinidae, Hydrophilidae and Dytiscidae. This specimen is in the skin collection of the University of Cincinnati's Department of Zoology. It measures: wing, 265 mm.; tail, 112; culmen, 110 (114 if measured along the curve); tarsus, 93. Thus far I have been unable to identify the bird as to species. In the letter above referred to, Dr. Oberholser expressed belief that *Plegadis falcinellus* and *P. mexicana* were indistinguishable in any but fully adult spring plumage.¹—EMERSON KEMSIES, *Department of Zoology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

Reidentification of some Swans, Scoters, and a Jaeger from Kansas.—While engaged in work with the bird collection of the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, I have noted several important misidentifications of birds taken in Kansas.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). This museum has three skeletons (two without data) and one mounted specimen allegedly of this species. All have proven, when critically examined, to be Whistling Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*). The skeleton with data (UKMNH No. 11949) and the mounted bird (UKMNH No. 7475) were taken at Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas, in 1888, and have long been regarded as the only state specimens of the Trumpeter Swan. There seems to be no reason to doubt the early records of the Trumpeter Swan in Kansas. Goss (1891. "History of the Birds of Kansas," p. 108) mentions the "loud clarion voice" of this species, and indicates that it was more common in migration than the Whistling Swan (although this may be doubtful, since the Trumpeter apparently has never been as migratory as the Whistler, and it may not have been at all common or regular in Kansas even in the early days). The fact remains, however, that no specimen of the Trumpeter Swan from Kansas seems to have been preserved.

The skeletons mentioned above were readily identified on the basis of the convolutions of the trachea within the sternum. The mounted specimen was identified on the basis of size—wing, 20.5 inches; tail, 6.25; tarsus, 3.75; eye to hind edge of nostril, 2.37; tip of bill to hind edge of nostril, 2.19. Probably the original misidentifications were based on the false premise that all Whistling Swans have a yellow spot on the bill in front of the eye, and, therefore, that any swan lacking this spot must be a Trumpeter.

American Scoter (*Oidemia nigra americana*). This scoter was first reported from Kansas by L. L. Dyche (1909. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, 22: 311) on the basis of two specimens. One (UKMNH No. 7735), by plumage a female, was taken at Lakeview, Douglas County, on November 1, 1908, by Edward E. Brown. The other (UKMNH No. 7743), also a female, was taken at Lawrence on October 24, 1908, by George Weyermiller. W. S. Long (1940. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, 43: 438) indicates that the specimens taken in 1908 are the only records for the American Scoter in Kansas. Actually, however, both specimens are Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*), with the female plumage and feathering about the base of the bill characteristic of that species. These specimens raise to eight the number of known specimens of the Surf Scoter taken in Kansas. The American Scoter, although recorded from the Kansas City region of Missouri (H. Harris, 1919. *Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis*, 23: 237), must, for the present, be dropped from the list of Kansas birds.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). F. H. Snow (1904. *Auk*, 21: 284; and 1905. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, 19: 263) first reported the Parasitic Jaeger from Kansas. He wrote: "a young male [of this species] was captured along the Kansas river near Lawrence on October 10, 1898, by [Gus Berger and] Banks Brown. The specimen [UKMNH No. 6967] was mounted . . . and is now in the museum of the University of Kansas. . . ." This record has been re-

¹ Note, in this connection, the comments of Ernest P. Edwards (1950. *Condor*, 52: 262) concerning variation in color of facial skin in museum specimens.—Editors.

published or cited unchallenged in subsequent lists pertaining to Kansas birds (see C. D. Bunker, 1913. *Kansas Univ. Sci. Bull.*, 7: 139; W. S. Long, *op. cit.*: 443; and American Ornithologists' Union Check-List, Fourth Ed., 1931: 129).

I recently remade the mounted jaeger in question into a study skin. Examination of the bird at that time disclosed that it was actually an immature Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). It measured as follows: wing, 337 mm.; tail, 140 (central pair of rectrices rounded and projecting 9.7 mm. beyond adjacent rectrices); tarsus, 51.4; middle toe (without claw), 42.5; exposed culmen, 38; depth of bill at base, 14.2; width of bill at base, 13; cere, 21.6; dertrum, 18.0.

The specimen under discussion is the only jaeger ever reported as taken in Kansas, although all three species have been reported from the vicinity of Kansas City in Missouri (Harris, *op. cit.*, pp. 224-225). The Parasitic Jaeger has not been authentically reported from Kansas, therefore, while the present note will serve to add the Pomarine Jaeger to the Kansas list.—HARRISON B. TORDOFF, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence.*

Deep diving of the Old-squaw.—Having heard that Herman J. Freitag, a commercial fisherman at Kenosha, Wisconsin, had taken 37 Old-squaws (*Clangula hyemalis*) in nets set at a depth of 150 feet seven miles off shore, I wrote to him for confirmation. Under date of December 28, 1950, he stated: “. . . we always sound the depth of the shallow end of the nets. I thought this was deep until I talked to my brothers fishing out of South Haven, Mich., who got them in 180 and 190 feet of water this fall.” The latter depths approach the maximum previously reported by me (1947. *Wilson Bulletin*, 59: 151).—A. W. SCHORGER, 168 N. Prospect Ave., Madison, Wisconsin.

Marsh Hawk catching a Mourning Dove.—On May 21, 1946, I observed a Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus*) in pursuit of a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) at Craigheads, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. The hawk flew a few feet above and behind the dove which was about eight feet off the ground at the edge of a square 10-acre wheat field. By swerving sharply to one side or the other and dipping low over the ground, the dove was able to elude several strikes of the hawk before they reached the center of the field. Each time the hawk closed the gap as it struck, then banked quickly to maintain a slight altitude advantage when the maneuvering dove eluded it. The erratic twisting course made both birds appear slow-moving. In the center of the field, however, the dove was closer to the ground and appeared exhausted. The hawk made a swift direct stoop, grasped the dove in one foot, and without pause or change in altitude wheeled and carried the dove back along the course of pursuit and out of my view. This incident was observed through a 7 x 35 mm. binocular from the edge of the field. It took place quickly—perhaps in one minute.—JOHN L. GEORGE, *Department of Zoology, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York.*

Marbled Godwit, Upland Plover, Burrowing Owl and Yellow-headed Blackbird in Chicago area.—Week-end bird observations from 1942 to 1950 in the Chicago area produced a few interesting results. On May 4, 1947, I saw a Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) near Warrenville, Illinois, and on September 21, 1947, a Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) near Barrington, Illinois. Each of these had been recorded in the Chicago region only once before (see Ford, Sanborn, and Coursen, 1934. *Chicago Acad. Sci. Program of Activities*, 5 (2-3), respectively pp. 42 and 46). Two species which I sought especially; which Ford, Sanborn, and Coursen (*ibid.*, respectively pp. 39 and 65) called “fairly common”; and which Woodruff (1907. *Chicago Acad. Sci. Bull.* 6) called “common”, I recorded on only one occasion each: the Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*), a pair with two well grown young, near Brunswick, Lake County, Indiana, June 17, 1949; and the Yellow-headed Blackbird (*X. xanthocephalus*), a male at Calumet Lake, Illinois, May 7, 1948.—W. L. McATEE, 3 Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.