descending process of the lacrymal *Ceryle* is intermediate between the two other genera.

In internal characters therefore, at least in the skeleton and the deep plantar tendons, *Ceryle* bears a much closer resemblance to *Chloroceryle* than to *Megaceryle*, agreeing better with the latter only in the somewhat broader maxillary. While this conclusion is probably correct it cannot be considered final until confirmed by examination of the remaining species, particularly *Megaceryle guttulata* or *M. lugubris*.

ONTARIO BIRD NOTES.

BY J. H. FLEMING AND HOYES LLOYD.

THE following notes refer chiefly to the birds of Toronto, Ontario, although there are some references to occurrences in other parts of the Province.

Since the senior author published his article "Birds of Toronto, Ontario,"[1] twelve years ago, there has been much change in conditions affecting bird-life near Toronto. The land birds have not been seriously affected. The ravines, especially those of the Don and Humber Rivers, form decided obstacles to the expansion of the city and still contain wooded tracts which provide shelter and food for many migrants. However, the Humber River is now flanked by an automobile road and since the completion of the Bloor Street Viaduct the ravines of the Don Valley, already cut up by railroads, will soon be absorbed in the ever-growing city.

There has been a large aerial training camp on the banks of the Don, from which aeroplanes have been flying in scores for the past three years, but they did not drive away the smaller birds. Large hawks and gulls have been seen, pursued by the cadets in their aeroplanes, and fleeing in terror before such huge

[1] Auk XXIII, pp. 437-453 and Auk XXIV pp. 71-89.

adversaries. This camp is now closed and the original birds of the air may resume their travels in peace.

The most important changes from an ornithological point of view are those on the water-front. Ashbridge's Bay, once the haunt of many rare species of shore-birds and water-fowl, is all but converted into a cement-walled turning basin for freight vessels, and large areas of the marsh have been filled and the reclaimed section is being rapidly built up with factories. Even a street-car line runs across a portion of it.

Toronto Bay is no longer seriously polluted by sewage. In 1913 two interceptors were put in service which cross the city from east to west and convey all but storm sewage to a Disposal Plant at the north-east corner of what was once Ashbridge's Bay. Here the sewage is sedimented, and the liquid portion carried 2900 feet off shore into Lake Ontario by an outfall sewer. The separated sludge is drained and air-dried in large open beds.

This series of changes in the water-front has had and will continue to have a considerable influence on bird life. The harbor, being free from sewage, provides a safe haven for water-fowl, for they are protected there at all times. There is probably little food there now, but there may be more as the water becomes purer.

As little unsedimented sewage is emptied into the harbor or lake the number of gulls must decrease as many depended on this source of food especially in the winter. Through the field-glasses gulls may be seen feeding over the point in Lake Ontario where the outfall sewer discharges, so evidently enough solid material escapes after sedimentation to provide food for some birds.

The sludge beds at the sewage disposal plant provide food for many waders. The sludge often swarms with the larvæ of a fly and with an annulid worm and fairly large flocks of shore-birds stop there on migration. They are safe and inaccessible while on these sewage beds, in fact, only an ardent ornithologist would stay to observe them. Considering all these points we can be sure that the marsh-birds, the waders, and the water-fowl will not visit us in anything like their former numbers, and those that do come, to the marsh particularly, will not remain long.

Colymbus holbœlli. HOLBŒLL'S GREBE.—One taken at Toronto on March 5 and one on April 13, 1913, are early records, both in winter plumage.—J. H. F.

Colymbus auritus. HORNED GREBE.—On February 9, 1918, one was seen leisurely swimming among the drift ice in Lake Ontario near Toronto. It was −23° F. on February 5th, but rained on the night of February 8.—H. L.

Podilymbus podiceps. PIED-BILLED GREBE.—A male was taken at Toronto on April 2, 1918, by Mr. J. S. Carter. This is the earliest Toronto record and the bird had not yet assumed the adult male plumage. —H. L.

Larus marinus. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.—A bird, not fully adult, was taken at Toronto Island October 31, 1914.—J. H. F.

Sula bassana. GANNET.—On November 5, 1918, Thomas and Duncan McDonnell shot a Gannet on Lake Ontario, near Gibraltar Point, Toronto. I obtained the bird from them in the flesh and found that it was a male (?) in immature plumage. Its stomach was empty but the bird appeared to be in good condition. There is one previous Toronto specimen[1] and about 4 others from the rest of the Province of Ontario, one being from Oshawa, one from Hamilton and two from Ottawa have been recorded.—H. L.

Mergus americanus. MERGANSER.—During August, 1916, a family of Mergansers regularly swam past my cottage, in the Narrows of Lake Joseph, Muskoka. On the tenth I made a careful count and found one adult female in charge of thirty-one young, one of which was noticeably smaller than the others. The flock usually passed only a few yards from the house but there was only the one old bird.—J. H. F.

This is corroborated although the bird may have been a Red-breasted Merganser by the following note. On July 5, 1909, as I came into Lake Obabika from Wakimika Creek, Temagami Forest Reserve, Ontario, a Merganser swam out ahead of me and she was the proud possessor of thirty-seven ducklings.—H. L.

Mergus serrator. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.—A female taken near West Hill, Ontario, from a small flock, on May 9, 1916, is the latest spring record for the Toronto district. West Hill is about 8 miles east of Toronto.—H. L.

Marila affinis. LESSER SCAUP DUCK.—The latest Toronto date is October 29, 1895. On November 21, 1913, I took a male at Lake Scugog about sixty miles north-east of Toronto.—H. L.

Marila collaris. RING-NECKED DUCK.—On November 5, 1918, Mr. C. A. H. Clark shot one in the plumage of the female over our decoys at Honey Harbor, Muskoka District, Ontario.—H. L.

Oidemia deglandi. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.—I examined an adult male at Toronto May 14, 1913, and saw a large flock at the mouth of the Niagara River on May 18, 1914. Mr. J. Hughes Samuel noted in his diary in 1897 large flocks seen May 26, one bird on June 3, and from

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[1]. Fleming, Auk XXX, p. 225.

November 20 to December 15, on Toronto Bay. Mr. Lloyd has a young male taken on Lake Ontario October 20, 1904, and he saw one which had just been killed at Scarboro Heights, Toronto, on November 11, 1916.—J. H. F.

Oidemia perspicillata. SURF SCOTER.—A female was taken on Lake Ontario near Toronto on September 27, 1907.—H. L.

Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus. SNOW GOOSE.—An adult taken at Weller's Bay, Prince Edward County, on Lake Ontario, October 21, 1916, is now in the Provincial Museum, Toronto.—J. H. F.

Chen cærulescens. BLUE GOOSE.—An adult female shot on November 2nd, 1914, at Port Rowan on Lake Erie is in the collection of Mr. John Maughan. An immature female was shot by Mr. Bert Gardner at Point Pelee on October 21st, 1916, the upper and lower mandibles of this specimen were black becoming flesh purple at base, commissure dusky black; legs and feet dark lead gray (plumbeous), webs dusky. Another immature bird was taken on the Holland River near Schomberg, in York County, on November 6th, 1916. The bird was in poor condition and had probably been previously wounded. This and the other immature bird were in dark gray plumage.—J. H. F.

Olor columbianus. WHISTLING SWAN.—A flock of about twenty settled in Ashbridge's Bay, Toronto, on the evening of April 17th, 1914, leaving next morning. One was killed at Whitby, thirty miles east of Toronto, on Lake Ontario on the 18th.—J. H. F.

Herodias egretta. EGRET.—A bird, without dorsal plumes, was killed on August 3rd, 1916, in Dundas County, Ontario, and identified by Mr. Oliver Spanner. It was subsequently mounted by a local taxidermist, but I have been unable to learn who owns it at present.—J. H.F.

Rallus elegans. KING RAIL.—One taken at Picton, Bay of Quinte, on March 28, 1917, is in the Provincial Museum, Toronto.—H. L.

Rallus virginianus. VIRGINIA RAIL.—One taken on November 10, 1906, at Toronto, is in my collection. This is the latest record.—J. H. F.

Porzana carolina. SORA RAIL.—Specimens taken on October 12, 1904; October 15, 1914; and October 17, 1914, are late Toronto dates.—H. L.

Calidris leucophæa. SANDERLING.—A specimen was taken at Toronto on September 15, 1905, a late fall date.—H. L.

Limosa hæmastica. HUDSONIAN GODWIT.—One was shot on September 18th, 1912, on the Eastern Sandbar, Ashbridge's Bay, Toronto, by Mr. H. M. Sheppard. The bird was flying in company with nine Golden Plover, some of which were taken at the same time. The record is based on a letter written by the late S. T. Wood, who published an account of the occurrence in the 'Globe' of October 12th, 1912.—J. H. F.

Helodromas solitarius solitarius. SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—Spring occurrences are rare in Ontario. On May 16, 1918, three were seen at Coldstream, Ontario, and one taken; and on May 23, 1918, two were tak-

en at Toronto. The latest fall date recorded for Toronto is September 16, 1891. Later specimens have been taken at Toronto as follows: Sept. 15, 1917; Sept. 30, 1916, and October 2, 1907.—H. L.

Accipiter cooperi. COOPER'S HAWK.—Winter and spring records are unusual in the Toronto region. One was taken on December 6th, 1890, at Toronto; one on January 23rd, 1915, at Oakville, 19 miles west of Toronto; one on February 8th, 1907, at Newmarket, 34 miles north of Toronto; one at Toronto, on March 8th, 1913; all immature birds. A full plumaged adult male was taken on April 30, 1914; and another adult on April 6th, 1918, at Toronto.—J. H. F.

Aquila chrysaetos. GOLDEN EAGLE.—One was taken alive at Palgrave, in Peel County, on November 1 th, 1915, and sent to Toronto. Palgrave is about 32 miles north-west of Toronto.—J. H. F.

Haliæetus leucocephalus alascanus. NORTHERN BALD EAGLE.—An adult male Bald Eagle was shot at Scarboro Bluffs, Toronto, on January 26, 1918. The bird was in poor condition from starvation. January was an exceptionally cold month, with a heavy fall of snow.—H. L.

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. OSPREY.—One shot on April 16, 1904, at Toronto Island is an early record, and two taken on September 10, 1913, and October 11, 1915, respectively, are late records.—H. L.

Asio wilsonianus. LONG-EARED OWL.—Late Toronto dates are: November 10, 1917; November 11, 1918; November 14, 1914; November 18, 1916; and December 19, 1914.—H. L.

Bubo virginianus. HORNED OWL.—The senior author has already recorded a migration of Horned Owls into Southern Ontario that occurred during the winter of 1907–'08,[1] and though much the largest up to that time, it was insignificant compared with the movement that took place between the last week of October, 1917, and the end of January, 1918. The resident form *Bubo virginianus virginianus* seems to have had warning, and moved out ahead of the rush from the north; the last one was examined on October 22nd and the local bird did not reappear till towards the end of the following January after the last of the invaders had gone home or been killed. The only exception noted was a typical resident bird taken on December 25. The first non-resident bird appeared on the 27th of October and by the second week of November the movement had assumed large proportions, commencing to slow up early in December, and had virtually ceased by the middle of that month, though a few loiterers continued to be taken up to the third week of January and a dark male referred to *subarcticus*, was taken on March 16th, 1918. In all, about one hundred and twenty-five Horned Owls were examined, of these, quite one hundred were taken in the immediate vicinity of Toronto, and the others within a radius of sixty miles. The owls were in good condition, some had obviously eaten skunk, some had eaten cottontails and muskrats, and a few had eaten mice, but the majority found poultry the easiest food,

[1] Auk, 1908, p. 487.

and from what was learned, there must have been serious losses of pure bred stock, besides the large number of ordinary fowls destroyed; at least the owls had managed to keep fat, during one of the coldest winters known in Southern Ontario.

Believing the owls had probably not arrived in one flight, fifty-three were gathered together in the workshops of Mr. Oliver Spanner, from among those taken before the middle of December; and on sorting them some support for this theory was found. There were twenty seven Arctic Horned Owls, *Bubo virginianus subarctlcus*, representing both the light and dark phases; ten were referred to the Labrador Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus heterocnemis*, some of them very dark; of the remainder fifteen were difficult to place, the majority were darker than the Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus virginianus*, usually resident here, and possibly some were colour phases of the Labrador bird. An owl taken on October 22nd belonged to the resident type. The remaining one taken at Toronto on November 12th was perhaps the most interesting; it was light but with much more ochraceus, than any of the Arctic Horned Owls with which it was compared and approached closely a skin of *Bubo virginianus occidentalis*, Stone, from North Dakota, from which it differed, in having less ochraceus at the base of the feathers, and darker edgings to the feathers of the breast and back. The first Arctic Horned Owls were taken on October 27th, but the migration was not in full swing till the middle of November, when birds dark enough to be assigned to the Labrador Horned Owl began to come with the lighter coloured ones, and after that the two were mixed together in the same territory. Though it was impossible to asign any route for the migration, it is likely the owls, on reaching the north shore of Lake Ontario, drifted east. The information about the food conditions is largely due to the interest taken in the matter by Mr. H. M. Sheppard, who skinned and mounted many of the owls. —J. H. F.

Chordeiles virginianus virginianus. NIGHTHAWK.—One was seen on September 30, 1918, and four on October 10, 1918, at Toronto. The last ones were observed at close range for some time.—H. L.

Archilochus colubris. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—It is not always easy to tell when the adult Hummingbirds leave Ontario. On July 5th, 1911, after one of the hottest weeks ever recorded in Southern Ontario, the adult male Ruby-throats began to pass through my garden in Toronto, and from then until the 18th, at least one was seen every day. In 1914, I saw adult males in the garden from July 8th to 10th, when they disappeared, and no more Hummingbirds were seen till white throated birds appeared on the 26th, and were present every day till August 9th, but it was impossible to tell if there were any old females among them. At Lake Joseph, Muskoka, I met with a family party consisting of the old brds and two fully fledged young on August 17th, 1917, which would indicate that the old birds do not all leave in July.—J. H. F.

Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.—One was taken at Rosebank, Ontario, which is 18 miles east of Toronto, on May 10, 1915. This is an early date for the Toronto district.—H. L.

Sayornis phœbe. PHŒBE.—The latest Toronto date is November 3, 1917, when a specimen was taken.—H. L.

Nuttallornis borealis. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.—Near Toronto, on August 17, 1918, a female was secured. The only other specimen, other than spring migrants, which has been procured at Toronto, was taken August 9, 1899.[1] Two spring migrants were seen this year, 1918, on May 27th and one on June 8th.

Empidonax flaviventris. YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.—On September 14, 1918, these flycatchers were fairly common in a small ravine of the Don Valley, near Toronto. They were difficult to observe, but five were recorded. The identification was confirmed by specimens.—H. L.

Empidonax trailli alnorum. ALDER FLYCATCHER.—In dense willows, on the Scarboro cliffs, near Toronto, two of these birds were taken in midsummer, one a male, on July 18, 1905, and the other on August 4, 1905. This flycatcher has not previously been recorded in summer and the last bird taken was uttering the characteristic note of the species.—H. L.

Empidonax minimus. LEAST FLYCATCHER.—A new, early Toronto date is May 6, 1905; and a new late date August 31, 1918. Both are confirmed by specimens.—H. L.

Otocoris alpestris praticola. PRAIRIE HORNED LARK.—Four Horned Larks were taken from a large flock on November 24, 1917, all males. They were submitted to Dr. H. C. Oberholser, for examination, and his identification, which is of interest, is quoted below:

"They prove to be of considerable interest, and a word or two concerning them may be desirable. Three of them are nearly typical *Otocoris alpestris praticola,* although they have rather bright yellow throats. The fourth specimen is much more brownish on the upper parts and seems to be more or less intermediate between *Otocoris alpestris praticola* and *Otocoris alpestris hoyti,*with possibly a strain of *Otocoris alpestris alpestris* in rather yellowish eyebrow. The bird is, however, altogether too small for either *Otocoris alpestris alpestris* or *Otocoris alpestris hoyti.*"

Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos. CROW.—Two albino Crows were taken from the nest by Mr. Ernest Dunn on June 29, 1908, at a spot nine miles north of Toronto. Both birds were grayish white, the eyes blue-gray; the feet lead-black; and the beaks horn colour.—J. H. F.

Sturnella magna magna. MEADOWLARK.—I saw a flock of these birds that numbered between twenty and thirty, on January 14, 1913,

[1] Auk, XXIV, 1907, 77.

near Glenwilliams, in Halton County. It is not unusual to have one or two wintering about the farm buildings, but a flock of any size is rare. —J. H. F.

Euphagus carolinus. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—One was taken from a flock on March 30, 1904, which is an early Toronto record, and one taken on November 5, 1904, is late.—H. L.

Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina. EVENING GROSBEAK.—A flock was reported at Glenwilliams, in Halton County, on April 3, 1913, and on December 27, I examined two males that had been taken at Toronto. Two more males were taken at Oshawa, thirty-eight miles east of Toronto, on March 22, 1914. The late S. T. Wood saw a flock at East Toronto on February 18, 1915.—J. H. F.

Pinicola enucleator leucura. PINE GROSBEAK.—An early fall date for Toronto is October 24, 1903, when a male was taken.—H. L.

Loxia leucoptera. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.—These birds were abundant, in flocks, at Sutton, Ontario, on the South Shore of Lake Simcoe, on November 5, 1915. An early fall date for Toronto was November 16, 1917, when one was taken.—H. L.

Zonotrichia albicollis. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—Late Toronto dates are October 26, 1918, and October 31, 1914.—H. L.

Melospiza georgiana. SWAMP SPARROW.—A late Toronto date is October 20, 1917, when a specimen was taken.—H. L.

Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis. CARDINAL.—A male was taken on December 3, 1917, near the Humber River, Toronto, and afterwards examined by me.—J. H. F.

Zamelodia ludoviciana. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK.—Fall records are rare. A male was taken at Toronto on August 19, 1913, and a female on September 18, 1915.—H. L.

Passerina cyanea. INDIGO BUNTING.—Additional Toronto fall dates are August 12, 1916, and September 3, 1917.—H. L.

Piranga erythromelas. SCARLET TANAGER.—There were more Tanagers than usual in my garden at Toronto, during September, 1913; on the 14th I took an adult male, on the 18th I saw two, one of which had the black wings of the male; one was seen on the 19th and one on the 20th; two seen on the 22nd one of which proved to be a female; the last seen on the 27th.—J. H. F.

Progne subis subis. PURPLE MARTIN.—The earliest Toronto date is given as April 18th. On April 6, 1904, about 5 p. m. a male came to my bird-house in Toronto, leaving immediately. This, or another, a male, came to the house on April 10th of the same year and remained perched on the house for some time.—H. L.

Stelgidopteryx serripennis. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—At West Hill, Ontario, about 8 miles East of Toronto City limits, and not far from the shore of Lake Ontario, I found two adult and four young of this species on July 20, 1918. The young birds were flying well at that date. This

extends the range of this species eastward a few miles more on the north shore of Lake Ontario.[1] Specimens were taken, which proved the identity of the species. As it is understood specimens were taken on the Rideau River, during the summer of 1918, a general extension of range may be occurring.—H. L.

Vireosylva philadelphica. PHILADELPHIA VIREO.—The latest spring date is June 2, 1917, when a female was taken at Toronto. They were common on the morning of May 22, 1918, when at least twelve were seen in a section of the Don Valley and several were taken.—H. L.

Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla. NASHVILLE WARBLER.—The earliest spring date is April 29, 1905, when a male was taken at Toronto. The latest fall date is September 28, 1918, when another was secured.

Vermivora peregrina. TENNESSEE WARBLER.—The latest spring date recorded for Toronto is May 22. One was seen on May 31, 1917, and a female taken on June 7, 1907. Early fall records are, an immature bird taken on August 17, 1914, and one taken on September 9, 1913.—H. L.

Dendroica tigrina. CAPE MAY WARBLER.—A male seen on May 31, 1917, at Toronto, is the latest spring record. A moulting male, taken on August 22, 1908, and one seen at Toronto Island, on August 23, 1915, are early fall records. In 1913, Cape May Warblers were passing through my garden, at Toronto, from September 12 to 21.—J. H. L.

Dendroica coronata. MYRTLE WARBLER.—The earliest spring record for Toronto is a female, taken on April 23, 1904.—H. L.

Dendroica magnolia. MAGNOLIA WARBLER.—The latest spring record for Toronto is a male taken on June 6, 1907, and the latest fall record is a female taken on October 16, 1915.—H. L.

Dendroica cerulea. CERULEAN WARBLER.—On May 23, 1918, I took a female Cerulean Warbler near Toronto. I was watching another warbler, which I considered to be a Parula Warbler, when it pursued a plainer bird across a stream. I followed and took the plainer one of the two, which proved to be a Cerulean Warbler. I concluded at once that the pursuing bird had been a male of the same species but did not see it again. There are seven or eight previous Toronto records at least one of which is a female taken in 1856.[1]—H. L.

Dendroica castanea. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.—This is one of the warblers that has increased as a migrant at Toronto, within the last twenty years. The first record of the bird being in any numbers, is in the diary of the late J. Hughes Samuel under date of May 19th, 1898, at Toronto Island. "Bay-breasted Warblers were astonishingly numerous, —so much so that I counted twelve feeding on the ground at one time and in a space of a few feet." This warbler breeds in Nipissing District, as

[1] Auk, XXXIV, 460.
[1] Auk, XXIV, 1907, 84.

a breeding pair was taken on July 11th, 1906, at Annina, Nipissing (near Latchford) by Mr. W. B. Rubridge. Of late years it has become a fairly common and regular migrant, during August and September at Toronto, though in 1907, there was only one to record, and we have young birds taken there between August 13th and September 9th, and one from Lake Joseph, Muskoka, on September 17th, 1907. We have adults from Toronto in full moult taken between August 10th and 29th; and adult males taken on August 17, 1918, September 2, 1918, September 2nd, 1908, and September 30th, 1907, and one adult female taken September 22, 1917.

Dendroica striata. BLACK-POLL WARBLER.—The latest spring date for Toronto is a female taken on June 7, 1907.—H. L.

Dendroica fusca. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.—The latest Toronto spring dates are a female taken on June 7, 1907, and a male taken on June 8, 1907.—H. L.

Dendroica vigorsi. PINE WARBLER.—The latest spring date for the Toronto district is a male, taken at Etobicoke Creek, by Mr. Osborne H. Shenstone on May 31, 1902.—H. L.

Seiurus aurocapillus. OVEN-BIRD.—The latest fall dates for Toronto are a female taken on September 28, 1918, and another taken on October 2, 1908.—H. L.

Icteria virens virens. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—A female was taken at Coldstream, Middlesex County, Ontario, on May 14, 1918.—H. L.

Wilsonia pusilla pusilla. WILSON'S WARBLER.—The earliest spring record for Toronto is a male taken on May 10, 1904.—H. L.

Wilsonia canadensis. CANADIAN WARBLER.—This species has not yet been recorded as breeding at Toronto. The birds were found on four different occasions in June, one in July, and three in August in the same section of the Don Valley during the summer of 1918.—H. L.

Toxostoma rufum. BROWN THRASHER.—A female taken on October 8, 1917, is the latest fall date for Toronto.—H. L.

Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus. CAROLINA WREN.—The first Toronto record was taken in my garden on May 20, 1917, a male in worn plumage.—J. H. F.

Sitta canadensis. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—A male was taken at Toronto on May 20, 1916. This is the latest spring date.—H. L.

Regulus calendula calendula. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.—Specimens were taken at Toronto on August 31, 1918, September 19, 1916, and September 21, 1908, which are all earlier than recorded fall dates.—H. L.

Polioptila cærulea cærulea. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—A female was taken at Coldstream, Middlesex County, Ontario, on May 14, 1918.—H. L.

Planesticus migratorius migratorius. ROBIN.—Late fall and winter dates are November 3, 1917, November 24, 1917, and December 10,

1904. Between August 28 and September 7, 1918, Mr, Robert Moorcroft obtained four, which had been killed or wounded by wires, at the same street corner. He saw many others, during the same few days, and says he has found dead or wounded Robins, at the same place, for some time past. The stomachs were empty in each case, so that the birds are evidently killed during the night or before feeding in the morning. A few high wires pass over a small wooded park at this corner but no definite reason can be given for high Robin mortality at this point.—H. L.

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SEVENTEENTH SUPPLEMENT TO THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

THE Sixteenth Supplement, the only one since the appearance of the Third (1910) Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union 'Check-List of North American Birds,' was published in July, 1912. Since that time it has for various reasons not been expedient to publish further decisions. The Committee on Nomenclature, since its reorganization at the A. O. U. meeting in November, 1919, has decided to begin the preparation of a new A. O. U. 'Check-List'. This is undertaken as part of the cooperation between the British Ornithologists' Union and the American Ornithologists' Union in the production of a series of lists of the birds of the several zoogeographical regions of the world, and will probably be issued as the Nearctic volume of the proposed 'Systema Avium.'

Since the publication of the last A. O. U. 'Check-List' the great activity among American ornithologists has resulted in an almost unbelievable number—several hundreds—of additions and changes most of which have been listed from time to time in 'The Auk' and will have the consideration of the A. O. U. Committee. As fast as these cases are disposed of, it is planned to publish the decisions in supplements to the 'Check-List,' in order that those who have occasion to use the names of North American birds may have the benefit of the opinions of the Committee.