

birds from Homer, Alaska, except that the rump is somewhat less gray. It cannot be matched by a single skin of *littoralis*, of which I have compared a good series from Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In the majority of these birds the cap and back are conspicuously lighter, more buffy, brown. In *P. h. nigricans* these parts are decidedly darker than in the Ramsey specimen.

It will be recalled that there was a notable southward flight of brown-capped Chickadees in the fall of 1913, the first being recorded on October 29, at South Sudbury, Massachusetts. The species was also observed in Connecticut and Rhode Island (*cf.* Wright, Auk, 1914, p. 236, and Griscom, *l. c.*, p. 254). According to Dr. Townsend (Auk, April, 1917, p. 160) both of the eastern races of this Chickadee, *P. h. littoralis* and *P. h. nigricans*, were represented in this migration.

The specimen here recorded is the first individual of this race ever taken or seen in New Jersey, so far as we know. In 'The Auk' for April, 1917, p. 218, the writer recorded a specimen of *P. h. nigricans* taken near Plainfield on December 31, 1916, which at that time was the first record of the species from the state. Other individuals observed during the same winter at various localities as far south as Princeton, were probably of the same race. Incidentally it may be well to note that the tail of the Plainfield specimen is very imperfect, and the measurement given by Dr. Townsend (Auk, *l. c.*, p. 163) is incorrect. *P. h. littoralis* is as yet unknown from New Jersey.—W. DEW. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, N. Y.*

The Plain Titmouse a New Bird for Oregon.—Among a number of bird skins recently presented to me by my friend, Professor W. M. Clayton, of Santa Ana, California, who lived at Ashland, Oregon, from 1899 to 1902, there is a skin of the Plain Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*), a male shot on April 17, 1900, at Ashland, Oregon, in oak scrub. While there is really nothing unusual in the fact that the bird should be found there, since it is found in Siskiyou County, California, just south of the Oregon boundary line, yet so far as I know it has never been recorded from Oregon. Neither the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' 'The Auk,' nor the 'Birds of Oregon' make mention of it so far as Oregon is concerned. I have no access to the last volume of 'The Condor' and can not say whether a record is there to be found or not. As long, however, as no proof is forthcoming to the contrary, I believe I am entitled to hail this species as a new bird for Oregon.—W. F. HENNINGER, *New Bremen, Ohio.*

The Singing of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus c. calendula*). In an interesting paper entitled "Geographical Variation in the song of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet" ('The Auk,' Vol. XXXVI, pp. 525-528, October, 1919), Mr. Aretas A. Saunders has brought to the attention of the readers of this journal a constant difference which he has observed to exist between the songs of migrant Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the north-

eastern part of the United States and the songs of individuals of the same species breeding in Montana. Mr. Saunders has represented the two types of song graphically and has explained that the variation occurs in the third, final, and loudest part of the song. He says: "Eastern birds sing it as a series of triplets, the notes of each triplet rising in pitch, and the last note accented, that is, both loudest and longest in duration. Western birds sing a series of double notes, all on the same pitch, the first note of each double being the accented one."

In many widely-separated localities in the province of Nova Scotia, where this Kinglet is on its breeding-grounds, the final part of its song invariably, in my experience, corresponds with Mr. Saunders' description of the same part of the song of eastern birds as heard by him in migration farther south. Using written syllables in place of Mr. Saunders' graphs, with which I am not familiar, I should give the Nova Scotian type of ending, as *wud-a-weét*, *wud-a-weét*, *wud-a-weét*, *wud-a-weét*.

About Quebec, P. Q., which is the only place outside of Nova Scotia where I have heard the song of this bird, the species is a transient migrant only, and the songs differ much in type of ending. My interest having been aroused by Mr. Saunders' paper, I recorded the type of song-ending used by each Ruby-crowned Kinglet which I heard singing about Quebec during the spring migration of 1920. As the birds were transients, there was no way of determining identity of individual birds heard on different days, and each bird heard each day was therefore recorded as a unit. The first record was made on May 2, the last on May 31. At the close of the migration the records were grouped by classes and totalled, with the following results:

TYPE OF SONG-ENDING.

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|---|----------|
| 1. <i>wud-a-weét</i> , <i>wud-a-weét</i> , etc. (3 syllables, accent on third)... | 1 record |
| 2. <i>pul-é-cho</i> , <i>pul-é-cho</i> , etc. (3 syllables, accent on second).... | 2 record |
| 3. <i>jim-in-y</i> , <i>jim-in-y</i> , etc. (3 syllables, accent on first)..... | 50 " |
| 4. <i>you-cét</i> , <i>you-cét</i> , etc. (2 syllables, accent on second)..... | 1 " |
| 5. <i>pé-to</i> , <i>pé-to</i> , etc. (2 syllables, accent on first)..... | 9 " |

Total number of singing birds recorded 63 "

It will be observed that:

1. All possible classes of single-accented two-syllable and three-syllable phrases, including both of those noted by Mr. Saunders (Nos. 1 and 5,) were recorded.

2. The type of phrase (No. 1) recorded by Mr. Saunders in the eastern United States and by myself in Nova Scotia was noted but once at Quebec.

3. The type of phrase (No. 5) recorded by Mr. Saunders from Montana only was the second in frequency of occurrence at Quebec.

4. The majority of the songs heard at Quebec are of a type (No. 3) not noted in Montana, Nova Scotia, or the Atlantic seaboard of the United States.

Mr. Saunders suggested that the difference in songs noted by him might be of subspecific value. The evidence presented above, showing five types of song in one northeastern locality, renders doubtful the existence of any relationship between these song-types and true subspecific characters.

It is possible, however, that these differences in song may be of use in determining the migration routes of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Song-type No. 1, and no other, has been recorded by Mr. Saunders from "Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Alabama." and by myself from Nova Scotia, but it is very rare at Quebec. Apparently, then, few of the Ruby-crowned Kinglets which migrate northward in the United States east of the Alleghany Mountains pass near Quebec; it is probable that nearly or quite all of them breed farther eastward, some of them in Nova Scotia. This tends to confirm what might be expected, for, although Quebec is about as far east as Boston, the breeding-range of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet extends more than eight hundred miles to the eastward of Quebec, and this great territory should easily accommodate in the breeding season all the individuals of the species which have migrated along the narrow Atlantic seaboard of the United States. Furthermore, if the birds which pass Quebec have not come from the eastern side of the Alleghanies, they must have come from the western side. Those who have the opportunity to compare songs of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet between the Alleghanies and the Mississippi with the records made at Quebec can assist in determining this. It seems probable that there can be proven in the case of this species a strong northeastward movement from the basin of the Mississippi to tide-water in the vicinity of Quebec; a movement which I believe to be participated in by many other species in whose cases the evidence is not yet so clear.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Quebec, P. Q.*

Notes from Seal Island, Nova Scotia.—In 1884, in Volume I of 'The Auk,' J. H. Langille published an interesting account of the recently described Bicknell's Thrush as found by him breeding in Seal Island, a low, spruce-covered island, twenty miles off the southeastern point of Nova Scotia. Since then the island has been visited by Bent, Job ('Wild Wings,' 1905, Chapter X), Bishop, Cleaves and other ornithologists. I stayed there from July 10 to 14 of this summer (1920) and have thought it worth while to record the present status of the birds of this interesting island.

Black Guillemots, formerly so common, have dwindled to less than a dozen pairs and Puffins are entirely extirpated. Fully a thousand Herring Gulls nest there and possibly a few Common Terns, while the burrows of Leach's Petrel are everywhere to be seen in the peaty soil of the island. Counted twenty-seven Eiders, which we disturbed from under spruce bushes and one with a brood of four downy young. Two or three pairs of Semipalmated Plover were breeding and the downy young seen. Spotted Sandpipers were common.