

by itself on the water, apart from other Gulls and gave every indication of being a Black-back. It is probably the case that this large Gull frequents the South Carolina coast more generally than has been heretofore believed.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR.—*R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

**The Dovekie Incursion of 1932.**—In November, 1932, there was a phenomenal wave of Dovekies (*Alle alle*) on the Atlantic coast, promptly reported and interestingly discussed in 'The Auk' for July, 1933.<sup>1</sup> In the course of time a couple of observations have come to my attention which seem to clarify the nature of this invasion in the latitude of New York City, and will make the record more complete.

On November 19, at Jones Beach, L. I., Mr. William F. Drescher observed Dovekies estimated at about 1,000 individuals flying east, most birds following the shore line closely. The flocks generally seemed to consist of 10 to 20 birds, and the largest was estimated at about 50. The main flight started at 10:30 A. M. and lasted until 2 P. M., and, aside from two stragglers before it started, all birds were seen flying in the one direction. He was in the field from 7 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. and when returning to Wantagh station 'noted a number of Dovekies flying about in a bewildered manner on western side of causeway.'

This observation taken in connection with one from farther east near Westhampton quoted in detail by Murphy and Vogt<sup>1</sup> enables us to reconstruct a seemingly pretty accurate picture of what happened along the Long Island shore, where it was blowing hard from the southeast with heavy rain. A great wave of birds had swept upon the land and was receding to the eastward toward the open sea and safety over coastal waters. From this multitude individuals, in a weakened condition, driven by the wind or confused by the rain, were coming down on the shore, and now and then one turning tail and flying inland, like a fleck of wind-blown spume.

Of even greater significance is an observation made at Lavallette, N. J., by Mr. Henry Stevens. He tells me that on the day of the storm there was a steady stream of Dovekies flying south along the beach for some four hours, and estimates that during this time not less than 100,000 individuals passed down the coast, a southward movement probably correlated with their appearance south of their normal range later in the year. The bight of sea between the Long Island and New Jersey shores was very likely crowded with Dovekies coming in from the east and ebbing out along both shores. I would estimate those blown inland or lost as certainly less than 10% of the number present.

To complete the record of this November, 1932, Dovekie flight for the vicinity of New York City I list data which have come to my attention in addition to those in Murphy and Vogt's table. *November 6* (report from 'Local Bird Club'—W. Sedwitz) and *November 8* (report from Miss Cynthia Church), Montauk, L. I., Dovekie not mentioned. About *November 10*, Moriches Inlet to Shinnecock Bay, L. I., a few stragglers driven ashore in a storm more severe than that of November 19 (Le Roy Wilcox). *November 19*, Bayside, L. I., 1 dropped in front yard (S. C. Yeaton); Hollis, L. I., 1 picked up at rear porch, lived 2 days (Mrs. P. S. Campbell); Montrose, N. Y., 1 picked up exhausted in back yard at 4 p. m., another reported found at 7:30 (H. Thurston); Clifton, N. J., 1 landed exhausted in front yard (Chas. Shuster); Rutherford, N. J., 5 observed, Hackensack meadows (Thayer Platts). *November 20*, Brookhaven, L. I., 1 seen in pond with Ducks, flew in, and out after 20 minutes ('Local Bird Club'—W. Sedwitz); Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., 1 killed (B. S. Young), another reported to me by J. Burggraf, picked up in road, is probably the one in the

<sup>1</sup> Murphy, R. C., and Vogt, W., 1933, *Auk*, L (3), pp. 325-349.

published table; Mecox Bay, L. I., a few (J. F. Kuerzi, et al.); Montauk, L. I., 50, a few dead (J. F. Kuerzi, et al.); Quogue, L. I., 15 found dead on beach, 1 alive but tar-covered ('Local Bird Club'—W. Sedwitz); Danbury, Conn., 1 dead, on road (Elwood Logan); Kensico Reservoir, N. Y., 2 observed (Elwood Logan); Peekskill, N. Y., some 8 scattered birds found exhausted (High School pupils—Miss Marguerite Powell, science teacher); Clinton, N. J. (some 50 miles west of New York City) 1 found dead, 1 exhausted (James Rintoul); Princeton, N. J., 1 picked up alive, died next day (V. W. E. Payne—C. H. Rogers). *November 21*, Seaford, L. I., 1 from here brought to K. W. Baasch at Baldwin (H. C. Raven); Princeton, N. J., 1 picked up on a pool (Prof. Marcus S. Farr—C. H. Rogers). *November 22*, Eastport, L. I., a few stragglers still present in the bay, alighting in Duck decoys (Wilcox). *November 24*, Baldwin, L. I., 1 swimming in creek (H. C. Raven). *November 25*, Barnegat Light, Bradley Beach, Manahawken Bridge, Manataloken Bridge, and Toms River Bridge, N. J., about 2 at each of these localities (M. C. Rich). *About December 1*, Dunellen, N. J., 1 found dead on a pond (Miss Marie Shultz); and *December 3*, Far Hills, N. J., 1 killed by a cat ('Messenger-Gazette'), the above two records from Mrs. Theodore Herbst.—J. T. NICHOLS, *New York, N. Y.*

**Microsittace ferruginea minor in Northern Patagonia.**—Several years ago in work with a collection of birds from Patagonia presented to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology by Mr. J. R. Pemberton I listed three specimens of Parrot taken June 3, 1912 on the Upper Arroyo Las Bayas in western Rio Negro under the name *Microsittace ferruginea*.<sup>1</sup> This is apparently the most northern record for the species on the eastern side of the Andes. Recently, through the kindness of Dr. Joseph Grinnell, I have again examined these skins to find on careful comparison that they represent the form *Microsittace ferruginea minor* Chapman which has been currently supposed to range only in Chile. The birds from Rio Negro have the smaller size (wing measurements 180.0 to 181.5 mm.), the darker green coloration, and the darker abdominal red of this race, and are readily differentiated from typical *ferruginea* of farther south.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**The Range of Amazona oratrix.**—While working on the distribution and relationships of the Parrots of the American genus Amazona Lesson, it seemed evident that *auropalliata* (*Psittacus auro-palliatius* Lesson, *Rev. Zool.*, 1842, p. 135.—Realejo, Nicaragua) and *oratrix* (*Amazona oratrix* Ridgway, *Man. No. Am. Bds.* 1887, p. 587. New name for *Chrysotis levaillantii* G. R. Gray, not *Amazona levaillantii* Lesson) were conspecific. An apparent barrier to such treatment was the fact that both birds were recorded from two nearby localities in Honduras and from Ruatan Island.

Feeling confident that some error was present I started upon the task of running down the basis of the records with some rather interesting results. *A. oratrix* is attributed to Ruatan by Salvin and Godman in the 'Biologia Centrali Americana,' Aves, II, 1897, p. 587, the collector being given as Gaumer and the authority for the statement, *Ibis*, 1889, p. 241. Reference to 'The Ibis,' year and page stated, fails to find any mention of this fact; the paper by Salvin, part of which appears on that page, deals briefly with the results obtained by Godman and some of his collectors in northern Mexico. In the same volume of 'The Ibis,' Salvin published a list of the birds collected on the coast of Yucatan and islands in the Bay of Honduras by Geo. Gaumer and on page 373 definitely lists *auropalliata* from Ruatan Id. based on several specimens (listed in *Catalogue of Birds*, XX, p. 292 as spec. *f-i*, adult and *k*, imm;

<sup>1</sup> Univ. California Publ. Zool., vol. 24, 1926, p. 432