

birds along the coast as far south as southern Pamlico Sound, North Carolina. Seven were seen in one flock near Cape Hatteras, and three in another near Ocracoke (N. C.). Single individuals or birds in flocks of Herring Gulls were noted near Manteo, N. C., and at various places throughout Pamlico Sound. These facts and reports from the New England and Canadian coast point to an unquestioned increase in the Black-backed Gull population along the American Atlantic coast.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Biol. Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Snowy Owl in Virginia.—On March 14, 1936, M. B. Newman, taxidermist of this city, showed me a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*), in his collection which he had mounted. He stated that it was killed by a hunter, the latter part of November, 1934, about five miles from the city in Roanoke County.

As little is known of the occurrences of this specie in the state, I believe this record worthy of note.—A. O. ENGLISH, *Roanoke, Va.*

The Chuck-will's-widow in Maryland.—While the Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*) has been recorded as a breeding bird in St. Marys County, in southern Maryland by E. J. Court (Auk, 1921, p. 282) records for the state have been more or less casual. Kirkwood in his 'Birds of Maryland' (Maryland Acad. Sci., 1895, p. 314) records two seen near Odenton in July; Wetmore and Lincoln (Auk, 1931, p. 121) have recorded one near North Beach, Maryland; Clark and Forbes (Auk, 1932, p. 479) have noted one August 14, 1932, at Clements in St. Marys County; and S. E. Perkins, III (Auk, 1933, p. 368) has recorded a mounted specimen in the Cambridge High School taken near Fishing Creek in Dorchester County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

From my own observations of the past year it seems that this bird is a regular summer resident in fair numbers in suitable localities through the southern part of the state. On the evening of May 30, 1935, two miles south of Morganza, I heard two, and on June 15, two were calling steadily shortly after dark in second growth woodland near Cornfield Harbor. Three were noted simultaneously near Point Lookout June 25, and on July 14 at Morgantown the headlights of my car revealed one clearly as it rested beside the road while two others were heard nearby. On May 12, 1935, I recorded one near Laurel, which brings the species within the limits of the Washington region.

It appears that the Chuck-will's-widow is common in the southern part of the peninsula between the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, and that in lessrs number, perhaps irregularly, it extends north to the central part of the state in thie same region. Its northern limit on the Eastern Shore of Maryland has still to be ascertained.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Sennett's Nighthawk in Ohio.—The autumn Nighthawk migration reaches its peak in the Cleveland region during the last week of August and the first week of September. At certain times during this period, at favorable localities, particularly in river valleys, one may see hundreds of these birds in the air at one time. One such favorite locality is that part of Parma Heights, a suburb of Cleveland, which overlooks the valley of a branch of the Cuyahoga River. It was this locality which Mr. O. E. Mueller chose as a collecting station for Nighthawks during the autumn migration of 1934 and 1935 when it was decided to obtain a series of these birds for The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Five birds were taken during the last week of August and the first week of September in 1934, four of which turned out to be *Chordeiles minor minor* and one *Chordeiles minor sennetti*, the latter, an adult male, collected on August 31. In 1935 six birds

were secured during the first week of September, five of which were *Chordeiles minor minor* and one, a female, *Chordeiles minor sennetti*, shot on September 4. Thus out of eleven Nighthawks collected at random from passing flocks in two different years, two were the breeding form of the northern Great Plains region. It is not presumed that the proportion of Sennett's Nighthawks in flocks which migrate through Ohio is as high as this figure would indicate, but it does seem probable that this more western form, although previously unrecorded, is of somewhat regular occurrence in this state.

The identification of these specimens was corroborated by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser who considered the male bird a perfectly typical example of *Chordeiles minor sennetti*.—JOHN W. ALDRICH, *The Cleveland Museum Nat. Hist., Cleveland, Ohio*.

Winter-killing of Flickers in Central Iowa.—The Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) occasionally winters in central and southern Iowa, with at least some apparent success.

During the past season of 1935-36, a winter of extraordinary severity, I had an excellent opportunity to follow the fortunes of a small group of birds that stationed themselves on an area I was keeping under observation north of Ames. These birds were commonly to be seen within three-quarters of a mile of a coniferous planting, adjacent to which were divers environmental types represented by a wooded creek, the outskirts of a residential district, corn fields, pasture, and a scattering of large trees and brushy and herbaceous growths.

I was unable to obtain what I considered a satisfactory count of the Flickers present in late fall, but there seemed to be three or four. Some of these, however, apparently had left by December 20, at which time we experienced the first sub-zero weather of the season, a minimum of -7° (F.) (U. S. Weather Bureau). More sub-zero temperatures occurred from December 24 to 27. There seemed to be two birds remaining, and these were seen from time to time during the next few weeks, feeding in a sumac thicket and in a corn field near-by.

Several inches of more or less crusted snow had accumulated by January 17, but there had been no sub-zero temperatures thus far in the month, the average daily minimum being 13° . On January 18, a cold wave arrived, and the minimum temperatures ranged from -3° to -26° for the duration of the month, with an average daily minimum of -15.8° .

On January 24, one Flicker was observed to make a flight from the vicinity of the conifers to a corn field some hundreds of yards distant. Its flight was labored, straight, and steady, without the characteristic flaps and dips. It passed within thirty yards of me, and I gained the impression that its feathers were standing peculiarly "on end," as feathers do on birds that are in poor condition. This was the last day that I saw a living Flicker until after the winter had broken.

The carcass of a Flicker which had been dead but a few hours was picked up in the afternoon of January 25. Crows had eaten the viscera and some of the flesh, but the breast contour suggested a dying weight of perhaps seventy-five to eighty percent of normal, or a little less than the degree of emaciation noted for winter-killed Mourning Doves in this locality (Paul L. Errington, *Wilson Bull.*, 47: 159-160, 1935). Prior to death, the bird had done a great deal of fluttering over the snow in vain efforts to rise.

On the same day, very fresh feeding sign was to be seen in the corn field to which the one Flicker had flown on January 24. Subsequent indications were that this individual had managed to hold out for a few days longer, when it was killed by a Great Horned Owl. At the time of its death, its crop had contained sumac fruits (*Rhus glabra*).