

**Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo hirundo*) Nesting on Oneida Lake in Western New York.**—In August, 1935, Miss Nettie M. Sadler of Syracuse, N. Y. wrote me of visiting Wantry and Long Islands in Oneida Lake, N. Y. and of the Common Terns that were nesting there. She first visited Wantry Island July 2, 1935, and found a total of forty-two nests with seventy-one eggs and six downy young. On July 11 she visited Long Island. "This was four days after the big storm and the lake was a foot higher and water almost every place on the island." "As we approached we found many adult Terns and we counted twenty-five immature birds swimming very close to the edge of the island. They were beginning to show the black cap. On this island we found seventeen nests with one egg each, two with two eggs each, one with three eggs, one with one downy young and six dead young." They went on to Wantry Island again and this time found ten nests with one egg each, four nests with two eggs each, two nests with three eggs each, two nests with four eggs each, sixteen more eggs in the water and one dead young."

Thus we find a large increase in the number of Common Terns nesting on these islands since 1928 and 1929 as recorded by Dayton Stoner in his 'Ornithology of the Oneida Lake Region; With Reference to the Late Spring and Summer Seasons' (Roosevelt Wild Life Annals, January, 1932).

June 21, 1936, Prof. Hazel R. Ellis, Mr. Paul Erlingback and I visited these islands and found them to be about the same as when described by Stoner. We first visited Wantry, and long before we reached it we could see the Terns flying around above it and alighting to feed their young, and out on the boulders at the west end were about twelve Ring-billed Gulls. On landing we found the nests, a few dead grasses placed in little hollows among the pebbles. There were thirty-one on the island, each with from one to three eggs or one or two eggs and one or two newly hatched young. And there were other young of various sizes up to some with the primaries well started. We found and banded twenty-three of them.

Rowing back about one-half mile to Long Island we saw twenty Black Ducks flying around and then about thirty Herring and Ring-billed Gulls on the boulders at the west end. On the pebbly shore was a Ruddy Turnstone, three Least Sandpipers and six Black Terns. The air above the island was full of milling, scolding Terns and many more arose from the island as we approached. The moment we stepped on shore we began to find the Terns nests. They were placed all along the edges of the grass and some in the grass. Looking out over the island the grass seemed to completely cover it excepting a narrow strip along the shores but there were bare pebbly areas of from one to five or six square yards and in every one of these were from two to six nests. One had to be very careful to keep from stepping on eggs or young Terns.

Our time was limited and after banding the young Terns we did not have time to make a systematic count of the nests. A conservative estimate would be at least 150 pairs nesting on the two islands. We banded fifty-seven young and then ran out of bands and I believe there were at least twenty-five more young birds on the island. While hunting the young Terns Mr. Erlingback caught a fledgling Black Duck which I banded. He saw one more and is sure there was a full family of them hiding in the tall grass.

The only other birds we saw on the Island were a pair of Red-winged Blackbirds (in the rushes), a Bronzed Grackle (flew over), and a pair of Blue-winged Teal which we flushed from the rushes.—VERDI BURTON, *Branchport, N. Y.*

**A Record of the Passenger Pigeon in British Columbia.**—The occurrence of the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) is seriously questioned in Brooks and

Swarth 'Distributional List of the Birds of British Columbia' so that the specific mention of the bird in any early book dealing with travel in British Columbia, is worth placing on record. In the work entitled "The North-west Passage by Land—Being a narrative of an Expedition from the Atlantic to the Pacific—Undertaken with the view of exploring a route across the continent to British Columbia through British Territory by one of the Northern passes in the Rocky Mountains—By Viscount Milton, M. P. F. R. G. S. F. G. S. etc and W. B. Cheadle M. A. M. D. Canrab F. R. G. S." at p. 203 of the Seventh Edition appears mention of Pigeons: "Pigeons, wood partridges and pine partridges became very plentiful and we shot them at first in great numbers." The paragraph goes on to describe the different birds and finishes "The pigeon is the beautiful long tailed passenger pigeon so common in the American woods; we found this bird as far west as the sources of the North Thompson."

The first part of the paragraph quoted, from the context had more particular reference to conditions in Western Alberta but the source of the North Thompson is well in British Columbia.

The expedition reached British Columbia in the summer of 1863 crossing the Rocky Mountains by the Yellowhead Pass, present route of the Canadian National Railway.—THEED PEARSE, *Courtenay, B. C.*

**Additional Records of *Neomorphus radiolosus*.**—Recent collections of South American birds acquired by Field Museum through the generosity of Mr. Leslie Wheeler include a pair of Ecuadorian Banded Ground Cuckoos (*Neomorphus radiolosus*). Chapman records but two known specimens of this distinctive species other than the type; one being in the Royal Natural History Museum of Stockholm, the second lately in the Tring Museum. In view of the extreme rarity of this form in collections it is considered advisable to place pertinent facts on record.

The specimens at hand, F. M. No. 100727 ♂ and F. M. No. 100728 ♀, were collected by Carlos Olalla, August 21, 1935, at Montes del Achotal (possibly Arkotal), a locality on the Esmeraldas-Quito road fifteen kilometers south of the woods of Paramba, in the department of Pichincha.

Measurements of the Field Museum specimens approximate those of the type, being: wing, ♂ 162 mm.; ♀ 165 mm.; tail, ♂ 230 mm.; ♀ 240 mm.; culmen, ♂ 50 mm.; ♀ 48 mm.; tarsus, ♂ 70 mm.; ♀ 67 mm. Both birds are in adult or semi-adult plumage, but differ from published descriptions in several minor respects. No olive is apparent either on the abdomen or under tail coverts, nor is the former entirely without buffy bars. Particularly noteworthy is the narrow, though definite and unbroken black band, lacking in the male, which crosses the fore-breast of the female.—EMMET R. BLAKE, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois.*

**Saw-whet Owl Apparently Nesting in Wisconsin.**—In view of the fact that the Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*) is regarded as a very rare breeder in Wisconsin, the following observations are of interest.

I have rented a piece of land some 200 acres in Waukesha County. On it is a lake, probably fifteen acres in area. The land surrounding the lake is well wooded. On the second of June I was skirting the shore a little after sunset. Suddenly a small Owl, no bigger than a Robin, darted at me just missing my head. It repeated this several times, snapping its bill as it came. The only other sound it made was a single, plaintive note, something like the whine of a puppy. The bird was a light buffy brown, streaked with darker brown. I noted very carefully that it had no ear-tufts. It followed me for almost a quarter of a mile, continually darting at my head and snapping its bill.