

company with Robins in their garden, 421 Edinboro Road, Richmond, New York. It appeared first on November 24, 1936, and was still present on November 26, when it was identified by Mr. William T. Davis as a Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus varius* subsp.). On November 27, the bird was observed for several hours by Dr. William H. Wiegmann, Mr. and Mrs. George B. Wilmott, and Mr. Davis. Mr. Wilmott focussed his camera on some persimmons placed as bait and in due time secured a picture of the bird, which, although the image is small in the photograph, is perfectly identifiable as of this species. It was seen in the garden or vicinity until December 6, 1936, and was observed by a number of persons in addition to those mentioned.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Penna.*

Varied Thrush at Clementon, New Jersey.—On November 26, 1936, a male Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus varius* subsp.) appeared at a feeding station about ten feet from the sun porch of my house, and was seen about the place almost daily until March 20, 1937. Dr. Witmer Stone tells me he has record of four other appearances of this bird in the East since 1848.—M. L. PARRISH, *Pine Valley, Clementon, New Jersey.*

Bicknell's Thrush in Virginia.—On October 3, 1936, in the course of field work at Kiptopeke, on the eastern shore of Virginia, I came upon the remains of a Bicknell's Thrush (*Hyllocichla minima minima*) that had apparently been killed by some bird of prey. The feathers of the side of the head were grayish, lacking the buffy tone as well as the prominent eye-ring of the Olive-backed Thrush, while the breast feathers were only lightly tinged with creamy. The wing, tail and bill were intact, and measured as follows: wing, 3.8 inches; tail, 2.6; bill, 0.5. From these dimensions it seems safe to conclude that the bird was a Bicknell's rather than a Gray-checked Thrush. This seems to be the first instance of the discovery of the bird in Virginia.—WILLIAM J. RUSLING, *335 Central Ave., West Caldwell, New Jersey.*

Parula Warbler in Washington in December.—On December 14, 1936, J. P. Schumacher of Washington, D. C., brought me a fine specimen of the Northern Parula Warbler (*Compothlypis americana pusilla*) that had been found dead the day before by Mrs. Schumacher in Woodridge, a section of northeastern Washington. The bird was obviously a male, a fact later proved by dissection, which also established the fact that it had died from a fracture of the anterior cervical vertebrae. It was in excellent condition and preparation of the specimen necessitated the removal of a considerable amount of fat from the skin.

The latest previous record for this species in the Washington region was October 17, 1919, and for this race, October 5, 1917 (Cooke, May Thacher, 'Birds of the Washington, D. C., region,' Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 42, pp. 1-80, 1929).—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

A note used during migration by the Yellow Warbler.—Here in New England, toward the middle of August, before there is any hint that summer is ending, there come sometimes warm, tranquil days, when the trees, still dense with green leaves, stand motionless and we can hear the slightest sound. Most of the birds have stopped singing and the woods are silent; there has been little sign that birds are moving southward, except, in the night, the notes of the flying migrants. As we walk under the trees, listening, we hear a long, wild, high, sharp bird-note, abrupt, and very slightly vibratory, lasting perhaps half a second. It is a characteristic sound of this time of year, and we hear it best on these quiet, silent days. It comes from a bird moving restlessly up in the trees, and before we can see the bird, it is gone. I have

heard the note, August after August, and have wondered about it, for nearly thirty years. In pitch, it suggests the call of a migrating Ovenbird, but it is too long-drawn-out; it suggests the *chip* of a Northern Water-Thrush in its sharp abruptness, but again it is too long. I have thought of the bird which gives this note as one of the earliest migrants, passing invisibly by us in this unregarded time of the year.

On August 11, 1936, in the Boston Public Garden, I heard the note from a little flock of birds in the branches over my head. Instead of moving off, the birds came downward through the branches into full view,—four Eastern Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica aestiva aestiva*). They lingered in the tree for a few minutes, sometimes changing their wild note to the familiar blurred *chip* of our common Summer Yellow-bird.

Two days later, while crossing Massachusetts Bay on a crowded tourist steamer, I heard the wild note again. We were opposite Marshfield, about three miles, I should say, from the shore, which was faintly visible in haze. A Yellow Warbler was fitting beside the boat, travelling southeast with it, keeping abreast of us for five minutes or so. These five individuals probably represented an extensive flight of Yellow Warblers pushing southward over Massachusetts. I wished them *bon voyage*, for they had taught me something I had wanted to know for a long time.—WINSON M. TYLER, *Boston, Mass.*

Giant Red-wing in New York.—In the course of identifying the Red-winged Blackbirds in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, I noticed two adult male *Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus* from Cayuga County, New York, collected by Frank S. Wright on April 4, 1925. They have the following measurements: wing, 127, 128 mm.; culmen, 23, 25. This race is apparently an addition to the birds of New York, although its presence is not unexpected, since there are records from as far east as Connecticut.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

Hepburn's Rosy Finch in Maine.—A Hepburn's Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis*) appeared on a feeding shelf at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Verdell Waterman, Gorham, Maine, on December 15, 1936. It remained about the premises in company with a flock of about twenty-five English Sparrows. The finch is very pugnacious and is quick to drive away the sparrows whenever they attempt to share the feeding shelf. On February 15, 1937, it was reported by Miss Jessie L. Keene, Instructor of Biology, Gorham Normal School, as being some form of Rosy Finch. Up to the present (March 10), it has continued to visit the feeding shelf regularly and has been observed by many ornithologists and persons interested in the unusual bird. The accurate determination of the subspecies was not possible until the bird was trapped for banding on March 7. The band used was number 1276, supplied by Mr. Arthur H. Norton, of the Portland Society of Natural History, Portland, Maine. The living bird was photographed (see Plate 24), described and compared with a series of skins from the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, by the writer. The markings of the head region are as follows: nape and entire sides of head well down to the throat, light neutral gray; crown dusky neutral gray; tufts of feathers over the nares pale olive gray; chin light neutral gray; a narrow longitudinal band of dark grayish brown on the throat blending posteriorly into Natal brown beyond the hood of light neutral gray. The bird was practically identical with a male Hepburn's Rosy Finch (M. C. Z. number 25,762) collected in March at Fort Simpson, British Columbia. Measurements made of the living bird were as follows: weight 36.5 grams, length 174 mm., tail 68, middle tail feather 60, culmen 11, bill to eye 18, bill to nostril 11, extent 300, wing 101, tarsus 21, third or longest toe 13, third toe-nail 8.