

data from other insect-eating hawks lead us to believe that it may take place in early October, as the availability of Orthoptera and similarly large and edible insects diminishes.—W. J. BRECKENRIDGE, *Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota*, and PAUL L. ERRINGTON, *Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa*.

Whooping Crane in Louisiana.—Just at noon, June 5, 1937, four Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*), flying at about four hundred to five hundred feet elevation, all adults and giving voice often, passed from east headed west over Avery Island. These birds were probably on their way to join the seven birds resident, and now reported nesting, two and one-half miles west and north of White Lake in Vermilion Parish.—E. A. McILHENNY, *Avery Island, Louisiana*.

Sandhill Crane in Kentucky.—On April 3, 1938, I found a Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis tabida*) in a pasture in the southern part of Jefferson County on the outskirts of Louisville. The pasture was perhaps three-quarters of a mile wide, open with only one or two scattered trees on it, and gave the bird the opportunity to see anyone approaching from any direction. It was very wary and would take flight when anyone approached within one hundred fifty or two hundred yards. It would fly in a wide circle, calling as it flew, but would always return to the field. The ground was dry, except for two small wet-weather ponds at one end and the bird was continually feeding among the fodder scattered around for the cattle. Upon questioning the farmer who owned the land, I learned that the crane had first appeared or been noted on March 31. I personally observed it on April 3, 4, 5 and 6, when it was last seen.

The single record I have had of this bird at Louisville prior to this one was obtained on March 19, 1933, when a flock of thirteen was seen in flight.—BURT L. MONROE, *207 N. Birchwood Ave., Louisville, Kentucky*.

Yellow Rail at Churchill, Manitoba.—While collecting birds on the western bank of the Churchill River in northern Manitoba, on July 28, 1937, I flushed and shot a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) which rose from the grass a few feet ahead of me. Thinking there might be more in the 'immediate' vicinity, I began a systematic search. Within an hour I flushed four more, three of which I secured. All four collected proved to be adult males with the testes greatly enlarged. The strange clicking notes of these birds were heard on various occasions but when approached they would stop calling and keep out of sight.

All records of birds seen or heard were made along the west bank of the Churchill River from the old Hudson's Bay Post southward for about a mile or more, approximately four to five miles southwest of Churchill townsite. From what I observed, their habitat is the grass and sedge marsh-community occurring above the high-water mark and intersected at short intervals by small streamlets. Most of the green carpet appeared to be about a foot deep, but along the borders of the streamlets it grew more lush. Here there appeared to be runways and signs of the rails' activities, and it was from these places that the birds were usually flushed. In 'Birds of Churchill' by Taverner and Sutton (*Annals Carnegie Mus.*, 23: 33, 1934) the bird is considered hypothetical, based on Mr. Arthur Twomey's experience in June 1932, when he heard the bird but was unable to get a glimpse of it. In 1902, Edward A. Preble collected several at York Factory and the bird is probably more common at Churchill than previously supposed. The secretive habits of the Yellow Rail and the great difficulty of flushing them, as well as the restricted habitat, are probably responsible for the absence of other records. The Indians informed me that the clicking notes

were made by an insect rubbing its feet across its back! Apparently the elusiveness of the bird has entirely deceived them also.

The specimens are now in the collection of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.—ARTHUR B. FULLER, *Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio.*

American Woodcock in Thunder Bay district, Ontario.—The first indication that the American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) might be breeding in this locality was in June 1937, when one was heard by T. M. Shortt of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, who was here on a collecting trip at that time. The spot was about ten miles west of Port Arthur. On May 8, 1938, therefore, I visited the same place, and heard and observed a male on this and subsequent occasions. Suitable territory in the neighbourhood was later visited and two more 'fighting' males were discovered, and on May 28, information was received that a nest had been found by a man clearing land, some distance from where the other birds had been observed. This nest was visited on May 29, when the bird was incubating four eggs. These, on examination, proved to be infertile, probably due to the cold, snowy weather of the early part of the month.

This is the first time that this species has been definitely known to occur in this district.—L. S. DEAR, *Port Arthur, Ontario.*

Baird's Sandpiper in Texas.—Apparently Baird's Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdi*) is a rare migrant in Texas. Streker (Bull. Baylor Univ., 15: 20, 1912) lists only three Texas localities whence this species has been recorded: Boerne, Kendall County; San Angelo, Tom Green County; Alpine, Brewster County. Griscom and Crosby (Auk, 42: 528, 1925) record two specimens from near Brownsville. All these localities are west of the meridian passing through San Antonio. Williams (Auk, 55: 62, 1938) did not record it in the vicinity of Houston during his five years of observation. For this reason it seems advisable to report the taking of three birds twelve miles southwest of Eagle Lake, Colorado County, Texas, on April 15, 1938. Two others were observed on the same day in open short-grass prairie about six miles northeast of Eagle Lake. These two localities seemingly are near the eastern edge of the migration route followed by this species in passing northward through Texas. The westernmost record is from Alpine in trans-Pecos Texas.—WILLIAM B. DAVIS, *Texas Co-operative Wildlife Service, College Station, Texas.*

Scandinavian Lesser Black-backed Gull at Key West, Florida.—On the morning of March 10, 1938, Messrs. James J. Murray, of Lexington, Virginia, Edward M. Moore, of Key West, and the writer were on the head of one of the piers in the Key West Yacht Basin awaiting a Coast Guard plane for an aerial survey of the Lower Keys. Many gulls were flying about and Mr. Moore suddenly pointed out one which he described as "very dark." Catching sight of it at once, we saw that it was clearly a black-backed gull, indeed, the veriest tyro could not have mistaken it. Other than the striking coloration, the size of the bird was arresting. It was constantly in company with Herring Gulls, and was studied for an hour or more. Every opportunity was given for comparison both in the air, and at rest on a nearby breakwater. Messrs. Moore and Murray were sure that it was just the size of the Herring Gulls, the writer thought it a shade larger. Range of observation varied from about fifty to two hundred yards. The bird exhibited the following characters: under parts pure white; bill distinctly yellow as were the feet; small white spots appeared at tips of primaries and there was a white edging on the front of the wings as well as on the hinder rim; under side of wings rather dusky, this area extending toward the body on