

some observations detailed in a recent letter to me from Mr. Ernest Ronald Runnacles, of General Lavalle, in the eastern part of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The region is one which has long been well known to ornithologists from the early investigations of Mr. Ernest Gibson, so that modern studies here have a double importance.

Mr. Runnacles, who is thoroughly familiar with the birds of his region, writes me that on February 16, 1937, he saw two, or possibly three, Eskimo Curlews on a level plain near the town. The birds were quite wild and were observed for some time from an automobile. One had been seen in this same region about a month previous, and another was recorded there on February 19. On the 28th of the month the birds had disappeared. Finally, one individual was seen at this same place on January 17, 1939.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Western Sandpiper near Chicago.—A number of reports of the presence of the Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes maurii*) in the Chicago region, based on sight records, have been published during recent years. We have very few records based on specimens, however, and it seems advisable to report one which I collected several years ago. This specimen, a male, was taken at Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois, on July 29, 1928. It was identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser and bears the number 516 in my collection.—STEPHEN S. GREGORY, JR., *Winnetka, Illinois.*

Black Terns in New Brunswick.—While studying the nesting of waterfowl on June 14, 1937, near Sheffield, Sunbury County, New Brunswick, I saw six Black Terns (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*) flying over a marshy area along a small creek. When near the same place on May 26, 1938, I observed three Black Terns which indicated, by their actions, that they might be nesting nearby. Lack of time prevented a search for a nest, but the marshy area was well adapted to their use. Again, on May 24, 1939, four Black Terns were observed flying over the same small marshy area. I know of no record of this species having nested in New Brunswick. Col. H. H. Ritchie, chief game warden of New Brunswick, and John Campbell, game warden, were with me when the terns were seen in both 1937 and 1938.—HAROLD S. PETERS, *U. S. Biological Survey, Charleston, South Carolina.*

Spring record of Dovekie in the Connecticut valley.—The strong blow on May 13, 1938, brought bad luck to a female Dovekie (*Alle alle*) a hundred miles or more inland from its native element. In the town of Granby, Massachusetts, Mrs. Henry Boyer reported sighting what she thought to be a chicken by the roadside as she rode with her husband westward toward Holyoke. Mr. Boyer stopped the car to investigate. The strange bird fluttered off down the road at his approach. After a chase of twenty-five feet or so, he succeeded in dropping his hat over the bird, which seemed to him exhausted rather than injured. He left his captive at a nearby farm where the bird expired two days later. At the Holyoke Museum of Natural History the specimen subsequently proved to be a female.

All previous records of the Dovekie in this section of the Connecticut Valley have occurred during the late fall or early winter. This is the first capture to be recorded in the spring of the year.—AARON C. BAGG, 72 *Fairfield Ave., Holyoke, Massachusetts.*

Left-handedness in the Carolina Paroquet.—In connection with Friedmann and Davis's paper on "Left-handedness" in Parrots' in the 'Auk' for July, 1938, it may be worth while to call attention to Wilson's account of that behavior as it existed in *Conuropsis carolinensis*. (Though the individual particularly observed was taken alive at Big Bone Lick, Kentucky, and therefore may be presumed to have

belonged to the subspecies *ludovicianus*, the habit was doubtless specific rather than subspecific.) Wilson ('American Ornithology', London, 1: 384, 1832) says of his captive bird that in eating the seeds of the cockle-bur "it always employed its left foot to hold the bur, as did several others that I kept for some time," and he goes on, "I began to think that this might be peculiar to the whole tribe, and that the whole were, if I may use the expression, left-footed; but by shooting a number afterwards while engaged in eating mulberries, I found sometimes the left, sometimes the right, foot stained with the fruit; the other always clean; from which, and the constant practice of those I kept, it appears, that, like the human species in the use of their hands, they do not prefer one or the other indiscriminately, but are either left or right footed." It would be interesting to note whether hawks or owls or any other birds that grasp their food use one foot more than the other.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Massachusetts*.

Western Olive-backed Thrush in West Virginia and Tennessee.—The western form of the Olive-backed Thrush, described by Oberholser as *Hylocichla ustulata almae* is not recognized in the last edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list,' but recent discussion by van Rossem (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., 23: 457, 1938) and by Oberholser (Louisiana Dept. Cons., Bull. 28: 472, 1938) indicates that it is distinct. Examination of specimens substantiates the claim that it is to be differentiated by grayer, less-brownish dorsal coloration, a character that separates it clearly from the eastern race.

As *Hylocichla ustulata almae* ranges eastward in migration, I have reexamined specimens secured recently in West Virginia and Tennessee for the U. S. National Museum, with the result that several prove to be of the western form. One of these is a male taken on Pine Creek, near Enon, West Virginia, May 8, 1936. The following come from Tennessee: male, nine miles north of Waynesboro, Wayne County, May 11, 1937; male and female, near Reelfoot Lake, Obion County, April 27 and 28, 1937; and two males, four miles west of Hornbeak, Obion County, May 1, 1937. Other specimens listed in the two reports on collections from the two States in question are *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni* as previously indicated.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Starlings nesting near Rogers, Arkansas.—A pair of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) appeared at a bluebird box on May 2, 1938. After some chasing by Mockingbirds, Flickers, and Red-headed Woodpeckers the Starlings settled in a woodpecker's nest hole, working on the nest till May 8 when the first egg was deposited. May 13 the complement was complete, six eggs. On May 19, ten Starlings settled in the nest tree. On May 26, three young were in the nest; they left the nest June 14. On May 30 a flock of young Starlings was seen in an oat field, apparently an earlier hatching not far away. A second brood was begun in the same nest tree, June 20, but removal of four eggs apparently prevented rearing of this brood. A second nest observed in Rogers was in an old woodpecker's nest in a tree. Four young Starlings left the nest (June 27) when boys attempted to investigate. A third Starling nest was found in a telephone post, west of Rogers.—F. D. CROOKS, *Rogers, Arkansas*.

Starlings in New Mexico.—Suspecting the presence of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in eastern New Mexico because of their occurrence nearby in the Texas Panhandle, I had my suspicion confirmed on March 7, 1939. At Texico, Curry County, on that date I observed a flock of seven, and a few hours later at Clovis saw several more. On March 8, several hundred were observed in the vicinity of Clovis. Several residents in the vicinity of Clovis mentioned to me that the birds were new