

skinned it told me that it was considerably under the average weight of the species, and that it seemed to be greatly emaciated. Apparently there was some factor about this Crow which prevented it from putting on weight despite a normal intake of food.—LEONARD J. UTTAL, 246 Catherine St., Albany, New York.

**Mimicry by a Brown Thrasher.**—Forbush gives a satisfactory discussion (Birds of Massachusetts, etc., 3: 330, 1929) of this subject, ending by saying, "The imitator may be the exception." My experience supports that conclusion, so I was much interested in the opportunity afforded me near Vienna, Virginia, in June 1940 to make observations on a mimicking thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). On a few occasions the song, beginning with imitations of some shrill-noted species suggested that of a Mockingbird until it lapsed into the gutturals and more deliberate phrasing characteristic of the thrasher's music. The birds that were imitated were all species commonly heard on the spot and included the Flicker, Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Wood Thrush. To my regret the audition was terminated suddenly, probably by the intervention of a Cooper's Hawk. Loss of the opportunity for study of a thrasher's unusual efforts was scarcely more a cause of regret than the deprivation of his standard singing, which to my ear is the best of any of our birds and is given during a season that always seems too short.—W. L. McATEE, Arlington, Virginia.

**An albinistic Robin.**—A partly albino Eastern Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) first nested on my premises in May of 1932. Two broods of young were raised each year thereafter. During the first three breeding seasons other Robins in the vicinity persecuted the albino whenever it left its 'territory.' However, in the seasons of 1935 and 1936, the albino became quite domineering and usually took the offensive. The bird presented a very mottled appearance, with numerous white areas on its plumage. The bird's peculiar color pattern apparently did not impair its ability to secure a mate, for the Robin was mated by the 5th of April each year. The bird's mates (?) were of normal coloration, as were its young. In the course of time this Robin became rather tame, and would allow members of the household to approach within three or four feet before moving. It was last observed on October 10, 1936, and failed to return the following spring.—CHARLES H. KNIGHT, 4157 East 113th St., Cleveland, Ohio.

**Brewer's Blackbird in Florida.**—On December 10, 1939, I collected two blackbirds that were new to me. These birds were associated with a large flock of Red-winged Blackbirds and Cowbirds that were feeding in a cultivated field, located about twenty miles north of Panama City, Bay County, Florida. Skins of the collected specimens were sent to Dr. H. C. Oberholser, in Washington, D. C., who identified them as Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). As far as I am able to ascertain, there seem to be no other records of this species for Florida.—R. C. HALLMAN, 521 Bay Street, Panama City, Florida.

**Brewer's Blackbird in Florida.**—On April 8, 1940, a flock of eight Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) was seen feeding at the side of a road through a stretch of recently burned-over pine woods near Vernon, Florida, approximately 120 miles east of Pensacola. From the moment that the birds were first observed, their appearance and characteristic actions left no question as to their identity, but as this species had not heretofore been recorded from the State, two birds, a male and a female in partial molt, were collected. Since in recent years this

blackbird has been found not uncommon in Georgia and has been noted with increasing frequency in Alabama, it is rather surprising that it has until now escaped observation in Florida. In southern Mississippi, where it is common throughout the winter and early-spring months, relatively little land is under cultivation, and apparently because of the scarcity of open fields and pastures the flocks observed were feeding to a large extent in the cut-over pine woods. There is a possibility that this is likewise the case in Florida and may explain why Brewer's Blackbird has until now been overlooked.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Gulfport, Mississippi*, and GEORGE H. LOWERY, JR., *Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*.

**Brewer's Blackbird in Alabama.**—In substantiation of the reports of Messrs. T. D. Burleigh and G. H. Lowery, Jr., on the Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) in Alabama, I give my record of the bird as observed near Orion, Alabama (about fifty miles south of Montgomery), on March 16, 1939. A number of males and females were observed (8-power binocular) under excellent light conditions at a distance of approximately 200 feet between 5.00 and 6.00 p.m. They were in company of a flock of about forty Cowbirds, and their Rusty Blackbird shape with the distinct purplish reflections of the heads of the males was easily seen. Several females observed were slate-colored and possessed the distinct brownish eyes of the females of the species. The birds were feeding in the cow pasture of a dairy and remained until shortly before dusk, when all departed apparently for a nearby lowland wooded area.—FREDERICK J. RUFF, *U. S. Forest Service, Atlanta, Georgia*.

**Dickcissel at Bar Harbor, Maine.**—Mrs. Maurice Sullivan captured a Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) at Bar Harbor, Maine, on November 20, 1939. This bird was observed in company with Tree Sparrows and after identification it was trapped. This constitutes the first record for Mount Desert Island, Maine, as far as can be determined. Two other records for Maine are recorded in 'The Auk.' The first is of a young male shot on Job's Island, Penobscot Bay, September 29, 1884. The second specimen was a young male taken at Westbrook, Maine, October 10, 1888, by Ralph H. Norton. The specimen taken at Bar Harbor is a young male. It has been mounted and added to the Museum of Acadia National Park.—MAURICE SULLIVAN, *Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor, Maine*.

**European Goldfinch in New York.**—On May 27, 1940, Mrs. G. H. Russell reported a bird which had "red plush" around its bill. The writer went with Mrs. Russell to investigate this bird and, arriving at the very place where she had first sighted it, on Cornell Heights, Ithaca, New York, found it at once and heard it singing. It was a European Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*, and a very gifted singer. Its song, which is unusually bright and clear, and very canary-like, was recorded the next day by Mr. Charles Brand, and is now in the files of the Albert R. Brand Bird-song Foundation collection. The bird has been very tame and has remained in approximately the same locality for nearly a week. Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Dr. P. P. Kellogg, and several student ornithologists from Cornell University have visited the place to see it.

It is unlikely that the bird is an escaped one, since it is in excellent condition; it is perfectly at home in the open; it knows where to find food; and it was seen associating with American Goldfinches. Then, the bird has survived through a week, more or less, of severe rainstorms which have lasted as long as two days and one night. A cagebird most likely could not endure such severe conditions.