

and contiguous areas while a smaller, paler race (*M. g. leucopterus*) with the outer web of the outer pair of rectrices usually wholly white, is found on the coast at Santa Marta and west at least to Baranquilla. Dr. Hellmayr refers these birds to *melanopterus*, but I agree with Mr. Todd that they constitute a well-marked race. On the other hand, I agree with Dr. Hellmayr, and not with Mr. Todd, that *melanopterus* Lawrence (1849) and not *columbianus* Cabanis (1851) should be used for the Venezuelan bird. Dr. Hellmayr, who has examined Cabanis's two specimens, states that both are marked "Venezuela" and agree with Venezuelan skins.

The standing of the mockingbirds from the Cartagena-Atrato region has not been satisfactorily determined. The few specimens available agree in size with the Venezuela form and hence should be referred to *melanopterus* rather than to *tolimensis*. Their identification is of importance in an attempt to learn the geographic origin of the Canal Zone birds. If their presence in and near the Zone is due to an actual extension of the range of the species we should look to northwestern Colombia, rather than to Venezuela, for the ancestors of the Zone birds.

It is by no means certain, however, that the mockingbird has reached Panama under natural conditions. It is true that the distribution of the species in Central America is irregular and inexplicable. It is unrecorded, for example, from the area between the Canal Zone and Honduras and Salvador, and it would not, therefore, be surprising if it were also missing from the largely forested country lying between the Zone and northern Colombia.

But with a bird so often held in captivity one must consider the possibility of its descent from escaped caged birds. Large numbers of native wild birds are shipped from northern South American ports and it is more than probable that some of them reach the Canal Zone. From a number of sources I have heard of a cageful of mockingbirds that escaped from a steamer passing through the Zone. Whence they came is not stated.

More definite is the information received from Mrs. Bryan, well-known aviculturist of Ancon, that several mockingbirds have escaped from her aviaries. Here, also, their source is unknown though the odds are all in favor of Venezuela or Colombia. Of the two, the theory of accidental introduction seems to me to be more acceptable than that of normal extension of range. Possibly some reader of this note may be able to contribute to this first chapter of the mockingbird's history in the Canal Zone. In any event, the future history of this important addition to the Zone's avifauna should be closely observed and recorded.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Brown Thrasher in Oregon.—On August 20, 1940, while studying the wealth of bird life in and around Klamath Lake, Oregon, I was surprised to discover in some shrubbery in the plain at the north end of the upper marshes, a Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*. The bird was but a few yards distant and the reddish-brown plumage, slightly curved bill, yellow iris and long tail were plainly visible. I am thoroughly familiar with the bird in the East but offer no opinion as to subspecific form, assuming Oberholser's form, "*longicauda*," is accepted. Location is such that the western form seems the more probable one. The bird was also seen by my wife and son, who are well acquainted with the bird in the East and by Mrs. Lydia M. Moore and Miss Bertha F. Comings, now of Eugene, Oregon, but formerly of Newport, Vermont, and Holyoke, Massachusetts, where they learned to recognize the bird.

The Brown Thrasher was reported in Altadena, California, by van Rossem (Condor, 35: 161, 1933); at Zion Canyon, Utah, by H. Grantham (Condor, 38: 85, 1936); and near Albuquerque, New Mexico, by A. E. Borell (Condor, 41: 259, 1939).—AARON C. BAGG, 72 Fairfield Ave., Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Two Yellow Warblers new to Massachusetts.—For years I have wondered whether the occasional Yellow Warblers seen on migration in September long after the breeding birds have departed would not prove to be the perfectly valid Newfoundland subspecies *ammicola* Batchelder, if collected and properly compared. Two late specimens most judiciously collected at Jackman, Maine, by Mr. Allan R. Phillips in 1937 validated the first record of this subspecies for New England. My own opportunity came on September 7, 1940. On Monomoy Peninsula, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, there is a small clump of poplars near a camp in a dune hollow about one-third of the way to the Point, known to local students as the 'oasis,' because of the astonishing number and variety of land-bird migrants that can be found there. On September 7, two Yellow Warblers appeared here, the first I had seen in three weeks. I accordingly looked at them with the greatest care, and the moment I noticed that one was obviously greener than the other it was promptly shot, and proved to be a most typical adult female *Dendroica aestiva ammicola*, the first recorded for the State. Continuing to beat the thicket, I was surprised to see two more Yellow Warblers. One of these was so much greener and duller than the one I had just shot, that I was strongly reminded of similar-looking birds in Nicaragua, that had proved to be the Alaskan *Dendroica aestiva rubiginosa*. So the second green Yellow Warbler was also shot, and proves to be an extremely dull and green immature Alaskan Yellow Warbler. This is apparently the first record of this race for the Atlantic seaboard, but others may be found when migrant specimens are critically determined in innumerable collections, instead of being assumed to belong to the local breeding form.

I am entirely aware that Oberholser (Birds of Louisiana, p. 530, 1938) has recently commented on the characters of *ammicola* and claims that all breeding birds of northern Canada belong here. He is probably correct in both taxonomy and nomenclature, but the subject still requires proper elucidation. This race is now reported from Maine, Massachusetts, the District of Columbia, Louisiana and New Mexico, and I recorded it from eastern Guatemala in 1932.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Kentucky Warbler in Massachusetts.—On May 23, 1940, I went to the peninsula of Nahant in Essex County, Massachusetts, a natural trap for land-bird migrants. At the first stop the song of a Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) burst on my astonished ear through the windows of the car, before I had had time to turn off the motor. The bird was immediately located and seen to excellent advantage, and as is often the case with this species, was almost incessantly in song. Well aware that there was no specimen from the State, I next sought corroboration. Advised by telephone, Mr. S. G. Emilio started from Salem and Mr. David L. Garrison from the Boston Society of Natural History, and both gentlemen saw the bird perfectly an hour later. In the meantime I called upon Chief of Police Lamphier, who very obligingly waived a fifty-year rule and gave me special permission to collect the bird for the Peabody Museum of Salem, where it is now mounted and on permanent exhibit. His courtesy is here warmly acknowledged.

There have been various reports of the Kentucky Warbler seen in this State,