

In December we found a fair population of wintering hawks from central Illinois south to central Oklahoma. In March we met migrants in Illinois, but we reached Oklahoma after the winter population of American Rough-legs and many Red-tails had left for the north.

In northwestern Ohio, Hicks and co-workers (Ohio Wildlife Research Station, Releases 116, 119, 122, 124), found an average of one hawk per 36 miles in September 1938, on a total of 5314 miles and one in 22 miles in September 1939, on 2780 miles. In June 1938, they recorded one hawk in 76 miles on a total of 9330 miles and the following June one in 55 miles on a total of 22,770 miles. Hawks, of course, are much easier to see in fall, winter, and early spring than in summer.

Roadside censuses of hawks can give us valuable information as to their numbers in different parts of the country at different times of the year.—MARGARET M. NICE, 5708 Kenwood Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

Pectoral Sandpiper in North Carolina in winter.—On December 9, 1940, a male Pectoral Sandpiper (*Pisobia melanotus*) was collected at Mattamuskeet Lake, New Holland, North Carolina. The bird was in an extremely emaciated condition. While no evidence of mechanical injury was noted, the entire intestinal tract showed evidence of inflammation. It seemed obvious that the bird had been unable to proceed south at the time of the regular migration. I have, on a number of occasions, skinned belated birds and found them in the same condition, due either to disease or injury, and believe that more frequently than we suspect unusual seasonal records of migrants may be due to this cause.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

Avocets in Maryland.—The first-known occurrence of Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) in the State of Maryland was recorded by the writer on September 30, 1940, on the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. A pair of the birds was seen on the morning of that day wading in shallow water and probing about for food at the edge of a three-square (*Scirpus olneyi*) marsh bordering the Blackwater River on the refuge and about 100 yards from the headquarters buildings. Subsequent observations on various days showed that the birds moved about quite freely, although they always remained within several hundred yards of the place in which they were first observed. They frequented a small freshwater pond nearby, and as the water was somewhat lower than usual, a good supply of small minnows and similar food was readily available. The two birds appeared to be unafraid of spectators, as on one occasion an outboard motorboat approached within about twenty feet of the birds without causing them to take flight. They remained together until October 17. On the next day, but one Avocet was observed and it remained at the same feeding grounds until November 2, 1940, when it, too, left. The writer was able to approach the two birds close enough to take a picture of them, which is now on file in the records of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. Sight observations were also made and confirmed by Dr. David E. Davis, Robert W. Allen, Alan W. Souder, Robinson Watters, John H. Sutherlin, and George Tonkin.—DAVID V. BLACK, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Cambridge, Maryland.

Franklin's Gull an addition to the Florida list.—Howell (Florida Bird Life, p. 474, 1932) includes the Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan*, in the hypothetical list on the basis of a sight record by Pangburn (Auk, 36: 395, 1919), who reported one bird seen on February 26, 1918, at St. Petersburg. On July 1, 1937, Wm. I. Lyon banded

more than 500 Franklin's Gulls at Delta, Manitoba; one of these, number 37-516471, was reported "found" on Lake Okeechobee near Lakeport, Florida, about December 4, 1938. With this additional evidence the species should be admitted to the Florida list as a casual winter visitant.—ROBERT C. McCLANAHAN, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

A Maryland winter record for the Black Skimmer.—At the mouth of the St. Jerome Creek, St. Mary's County, Maryland, on December 29, 1940, a flock of gulls resting on St. Jerome Point was examined from a distance of about 500 yards with a 7-power binocular and a 24-power telescope. A dark bird sitting much lower than the gulls was present and readily recognized as a Black Skimmer, *Rynchops n. nigra*. By driving around the headwaters of the creek, St. Jerome Point was reached, and a good view of the bird at less than 100 yards was obtained. So far as we are able to find, this is the first reported occurrence of the Black Skimmer in winter north of the coast of South Carolina.

Earlier in the day at Point Lookout, Maryland, a flock of thirteen Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax n. nivalis*) was seen and two birds were collected. Probably no other field party has observed these two species, one lower austral and the other arctic, on the same day.—LUCAS DARGAN, PHOEBE KNAPPEN, AND ROBERT C. McCLANAHAN, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

Mourning Doves of southern Florida and the Greater Antilles.—In 1933, the writer predicted (Auk, 50: 218, 1933) that the Eastern Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*), would be added to the list of Cuban birds. This prediction was based upon the observations of Wm. W. Demeritt of Key West, Florida, then superintendent of lighthouses and a cooperator of the Biological Survey who reported that he had "recently [report dated November 18, 1932] observed over a thousand doves take their departure for Cuba." Four years later, this prophesy was fulfilled by the recovery in Cuba of two doves, both of which, appropriately enough, had been banded at Key West by Mr. Demeritt (Auk, 54: 391, 1937).

Since that time three additional Mourning Doves, banded by Mr. Demeritt at Key West (36-328645, 36-328702, and 36-328801), have been retaken in Cuba, two in the province of Habana, and the third in the province of Pinar del Rio. These provinces comprise the western end of the island. Of the five cases now available, three are of birds banded in October, one in November, while the fifth, an adult male, was banded on July 30, 1935. The dates of all recoveries are between October 22 and April 1, the case with the latest date being an adult female banded on October 17, 1937, and recovered on April 1, 1939. The recovery date of the latter bird is significant for at that time the nesting season is well advanced in the southern United States. Nests with nearly fledged young have been found near Pensacola, Florida, on April 10. It is recognized that this bird might have been an earlier victim of the hunting season in Cuba, receiving a wound that, while not fatal and from which it subsequently recovered, was sufficient to prevent a normal migratory return to the United States. Nevertheless, the record assumes additional value in conjunction with another Florida Mourning Dove (A-441887) recovered during the latter part of July 1934, at Santiago, Dominican Republic. This bird was banded at Gulfport, Florida, on March 30, 1932. The Eastern Mourning Dove has not been previously recorded from the island of Hispaniola.

In the opinion of the writer, these data are not only of unusual interest from a distributional viewpoint, but also from that of systematics. Howell in his 'Florida