

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

Bird Life' (1932: 278-280) reviews the status of *carolinensis* in that State, and cites a single record of the western race (*Z. m. marginella*) taken at Wildwood, on February 2, 1929. In the files of the Fish and Wildlife Service, there are many cards in Mr. Howell's handwriting referring to various specimens in different collections which he had examined and subspecifically identified. Several of these deal with doves collected during the winter season at Key West and Miami. In several instances, measurements of wing, tail, and culmen are given and on one card, giving the data for a half-dozen specimens, the notation is added "all dark." While nowhere in his work (loc. cit.) does he indicate that he entertained any suspicion that either the West Indian form (*Z. m. macroura*) or the Western race *marginella*, might be of regular occurrence in Florida, the data collected by him are at least suggestive. Since size is the chief character alleged to distinguish *macroura* from *carolinensis*, while *marginella* is "similar to *Z. m. carolinensis* but averaging slightly paler, upper parts slightly grayer, and size slightly larger" (Ridgway, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 50, pt. 7, p. 347, 1916), his studies may have been directed toward either possibility, although the identification (by Dr. Oberholser) of the Wildwood specimen as *marginella*, lends probability to his having this race particularly in mind. Thus far, however, and with the one exception above noted, all Mourning Doves collected in Florida have been identified as belonging to the race *carolinensis*.

The possibility that the West Indian form, *macroura*, is a regular but heretofore overlooked winter visitor to southern Florida would, at first thought, seem to be a logical conclusion. This deduction does not seem altogether justified for the reason that a large number of other doves banded by Mr. Demeritt at Key West, have been recovered at northern points, several as far away as Illinois. In this connection it should be pointed out that the Service files now contain more than 1800 recovery records for Mourning Doves, the points of banding being well distributed over the entire country. Birds from several northern States have been subsequently recovered in all of the southeastern States, including Florida, but in no case have they passed beyond to Cuba or any other West Indian point.

Conclusions.—From the available data it appears to the writer that a choice may be made of two conclusions, both of which are dependent upon recognition of the validity of the races of *Zenaidura macroura* that are involved: (1) The winter range of the Eastern Mourning Dove (*Z. m. carolinensis*), extends regularly to western Cuba, and occasionally to Hispaniola; on both islands it may possibly breed in which case hybridization with *Z. m. macroura* is probable; (2) The West Indian Mourning Dove (*Z. m. macroura*), is a regular resident in southern Florida, and in winter is associated with migratory representatives of *Z. m. carolinensis*.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

Barred Owl on Athabaska River, Alberta.—In May 1934, in company with Luther J. Goldman of the Biological Survey, I descended Athabaska River from Fort McMurray, at the mouth of Clearwater River, to Athabaska Lake. We travelled in a small canoe, and camped each night beside the river. The purpose of our trip was to make observations on the migrating and nesting waterfowl, in a region where I had made similar studies at the same season in 1901, 1903, and 1907.

Our first camp was made on the right (eastern) bank of the river about twenty miles below Fort McMurray. Shortly before dark, among other familiar night sounds, we were surprised to hear the characteristic calling of a Barred Owl, *Strix varia*, a call that has been most aptly rendered in the form of a query: "Who cooks