

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

for you—who cooks for you all?”. The challenge came from the forest on the opposite side of the river, perhaps a quarter of a mile away. Never before having heard the species within several thousand miles of this region we were instantly attentive, and were favored by another rendering about a minute later. We failed to hear the bird again during the night. Our next camp was made many miles below, and here we heard Great Horned Owls several times during the night, calling to each other across the wide valley, but no further note from the Barred Owl.

This fortunate observation is the basis of Mr. Bent's record for Fort McMurray, Alberta, in U. S. National Museum Bulletin 170, page 196. The note was inserted when the bulletin was in final page proof, and this circumstance precluded fuller particulars. It should be noted that this record extends the range as known at that time northwestward from the region of Lake Winnipeg, a distance of about 500 miles. Doubtless when the region is more thoroughly worked, the Barred Owl will be found to occur in the intervening area.—EDWARD A. PREBLE, 3027 Newark St., Washington, D. C.

**Alder Flycatcher breeding in Philadelphia.**—The Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii traillii*), regarded as a breeding bird of the Canadian and Hudsonian Zones, has this year (1940) been found nesting in Philadelphia, within city limits. The bird has been found breeding sparingly in the Poconos in northern Pennsylvania, but this locality is fully one hundred miles farther south and in the Carolinian Zone.

At the mouth of Pennypack Creek which empties into the Delaware River, there is a low swampy area of calamus, cat-tails, sedges and elderberry bushes bordered and interspersed with willow trees. In the past few years, records of the occurrence of the bird in this locality indicated that it might be breeding. It was often observed perched on a dead branch from where it sent its three-syllabled note out over the swamp at frequent intervals. It was Mr. William Yoder who first discovered the bird summering in this locality. His records are one bird on May 26, 1938, and June 21, 1938. He found another bird there on May 21, 1939, and the writer records one bird singing on August 1, 1939. Yoder's records for 1940 at this same locality are two birds on May 30 and three on June 2.

On June 15, 1940, Mr. Richard F. Miller, in company with Mr. Carl Collopy and the writer, found the nest. It was constructed of coarse grasses and was situated 22 inches up in a small elderberry bush that was four feet high and growing amid clumps of goldenrod and jewel-weed. Miller stated that the nesting site was typical of that of the Indigo Bunting. The one egg was white and marked at the larger end with light buffy blotches. On June 19, 1940, the female was observed sitting on four eggs while the male sang, perched on a dead stub about 150 yards away.—EDWARD J. REIMANN, 2261 E. Kennedy St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Hoyt's Horned Lark in Massachusetts.**—For some years it has been noticed that flocks of Horned Larks, many individuals with white eyebrows and pale-yellow throats, occur at inland localities in late winter or early spring, usually just after heavy snowstorms or strong northwest winds. Inexperienced observers usually report these as Prairie Horned Larks, but definite proof that this bird would normally occur in flocks of 30 to 40 in eastern New England is lacking. For two years I have been on the trail of such flocks, have noted what I regarded as sus-