

**American Three-toed Woodpecker in Massachusetts.**—While investigating the winter bird life of coastal Westport in southeastern Massachusetts on February 21, 1942, Richard Bowen saw, briefly but closely, a female of the American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus bacatus*), but William H. Drury, Jr., and the writer, who were afield with him, failed to find the bird when summoned from a distance. This was disappointing since so brief an observation of so rare a bird, particularly in the coastal lowlands, could hardly be expected to stand as a satisfactory record.

On the 23rd, therefore, Mr. Bowen invited us to join him again and, our party augmented by David L. Emerson and Ivory Littlefield, Jr., we revisited the area. Studied preparations to cover the site methodically soon proved unnecessary because Emerson found the bird almost upon entering his assigned lane. Subsequently, during some two hours of criss-crossing through the stand, every member of our party obtained one or more satisfactory observations of this dark, unobtrusive 'ladderback.' At least once, two of us simultaneously observed birds from widely separated points, and Bowen, who obtained more and better observations, strongly suspects that there were three of these northern woodpeckers in addition to several individuals of our own trio of resident forms.

These observations were made in a mature stand of pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) which occupies a narrow interval between the dunes of Horseneck Beach and an extensive salt marsh. Perhaps half the trees are dead, standing as stark, splintered reminders of the hurricane of September, 1938. The intervening four years have presumably given the bark beetles which are the favorite food of *Picoides* an opportunity to multiply, perhaps accounting for this rare bird's presence here, but not for its coming! It is interesting, however, that Mr. Ludlow Griscom mentions reports of a movement of these birds in the 'transition zone' portion of the St. Lawrence Valley this winter [*Audubon Mag.*, 44 (2): 122, 1942].—**ROLAND C. CLEMENT, 804 Walnut St., Fall River, Massachusetts.**

**Tufted Titmouse in Massachusetts and Connecticut.**—*Baeolophus bicolor* is a very rare wanderer into New England, so when in July 1940, a sight-record at Uxbridge, Massachusetts, was brought to my attention, I skeptically got into touch with the observers, Dr. and Mrs. M. R. Sharpe, and was surprised, indeed, by what I learned. Dr. Sharpe, an elderly dentist, had grown up at Putnam, Connecticut, near the northeastern corner of that state (a section from which no tit records are known), and there, in or about 1888 and 1889, he and a slightly older boy had found a pair of tits nesting in a sops-of-wine apple-tree in an old orchard on the Leach farm. The date was early, for Flickers, in search of whose eggs they were, had made nest-holes but not yet laid in them. In both springs the boys collected tit eggs and kept the location a secret from envious rivals. Sharpe's eggs were later passed on to nephews and are lost, but it seems to me incredible that they were eggs of any other early-laying hole-nester, like Bluebird or nuthatch, whose eggs would be in every boy's collection. Moreover, when he saw a tit at his bird-bath on July 18, 1940, he recognized it instantly, and commented that it was "unusually rufous below" and so big that he guessed it to be a male. Mrs. Sharpe, two or three days earlier, had heard a *peter peter peter, de-de-de* that she knew was strange, and had observed the new bird at the bath without identifying it; and it, too, stayed around for a few days after July 18. There is, of course, no evidence, even now, of the species's nesting in New England