

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

—despite Forbush's hospitality to a report from Maine (!) in his 'Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States' (3: 365, 1929)—but Dr. Sharpe's observations, separated by 50-plus years, are so mutually corroborative that they seem to me worth recording.—SAMUEL A. ELLIOT, JR., *Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts*.

Evening Grosbeak in summer in the Adirondack Mountains.—On the evening of July 9, 1942, I found Evening Grosbeaks close to the Elk Lane Camp, near Blue Ridge, Essex County, New York. They were seen shortly thereafter by Mr. Charles H. Rogers of Princeton, N. J., Mr. Hustace H. Poor of Yonkers, N. Y., and many others. There were three birds, a bright-colored male and two females. The birds appeared again the next morning and I saw a female again on July 13 and a pair on July 15. I obtained a motion picture of the male. The birds were seen on July 20 at Clear Pond, two miles from Elk Lake, but there were no further reports of them up to the time I left the camp on July 26.—EDWARD FLEISHER, *Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Catbird wintering in Bennington, Vermont.—Early in December, 1941, Mrs. Stella Higgins telephoned me that she had a Catbird coming to her feeding station. Although doubting the report, as soon as I had an opportunity I visited her place. Sure enough, there was the Catbird. It seemed hale and hearty. From that time until February 15, 1942, the bird was a daily visitor to the feeding station. I saw it many times. Mrs. Higgins said that its visiting hours were usually about the middle of the morning, between one and two in the afternoon, and just before dusk. An effort was made to locate the place where it spent the night, but without success.

Late in the afternoon of February 15 it came to the feeding station as was its wont. It seemed as active and alert as ever. While Mrs. Higgins was watching it feed, it suddenly flew up from the ground to a height of five or six feet, and dropped back dead. We, being uncertain as to the cause of death, sent the body to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Harvard College.

Mr. James L. Peters's report was this: "It was a male in good condition, not overly fat, but with some adipose tissue. No sign of old injury. Death was probably due to a blow on the back of the skull. Though the skull itself was not injured, there was a hole in the skin below and to the right of the occiput, and a small amount of intercranial hemorrhage. The bird might have been attacked by a shrike, or hit something in flying up. Anyway death was due to injury and not to weather conditions or starvation."—LUCRETIOUS H. ROSS, *Bennington, Vermont*.

Second record of the Wood Thrush in Colorado, with other observations.—During the week of May 11, 1942, a number of unusual eastern species of birds were discovered on the campus of the University of Colorado, at Boulder, and since one of these is the first specimen of its kind to be taken in the state, it seems advisable to record them all at the same time. The observations below were made by students of the University, including Miss Luella Hamilton, Miss Verna Mace, Mr. Malcolm Jollie, Mr. William Jaeger and the writer, and by Dr. Gordon Alexander, Head of the Department of Biology. Eight-power binoculars were used, and in every case the birds were observed at such close range that positive identification was possible.