

Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America': 168-170, 1942). Shortt (Wilson Bulletin, 55: 1-7, pl. 1, 1943) clearly shows that the coloration of the soft parts, which has been mainly relied upon for differentiation of the supposed subspecies, varies with age, sex, and eclipse, and he labels the evidence as tending to refute the existence of the subspecies.

The writer wishes to draw attention to two other examples among the waterfowl that should be investigated by systematists. In Missouri, a quarter of a century ago, he found a rather general conviction among sportsmen that two races of Mallards occur. The case resembles that of the Black Duck in that the popular names tend to contrast the characteristics of immaturity and lesser hardiness with those of maturity and greater stamina. The birds of the early fall flight were known by the names, red-legged mallard, redlegs, prairie mallard, and timber mallard; and those of the late flight as yellow-legged mallard, yellowlegs, frosty-beak, ice-breaker, ice duck, ice mallard, snow mallard, and twister.

The second instance, also from Missouri (vicinity of Kansas City) in the same period, was the report of the killing in older times of exceptionally large (*i. e.*, 14-16 pound) geese of the Canada type, which were thought to represent a distinct, and possibly an extinct, race. Roy N. Bach of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department has favored me with information he has collected on large geese in that state. Some of it came from the well-known sportsman, the late Wm. B. Mershon, who reported as local to Kidder County in the 1880's a breed of Canada Goose ranging from 14 to 18 pounds in weight. Another correspondent, A. P. Paulson of Rogers, North Dakota, claims to have killed in 1886 and 1887 two honkers, weighing 18 and 21 pounds, respectively. Stanley Saugstad informs me that this "big goose" is also referred to by the vernacular name of 'Mershon goose.' Bird taxonomists are urged to give attention to these and other popularly conceived races. The northern plains goose seems even to have the geographic qualifications for a subspecies, but a complicating record should be noted. It refers to 17-pound birds shot in British Columbia in the 1860's (Mayne, R. C., 'Four Years in British Columbia and Vancouver Island': 418, 1862).—W. L. McATEE, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois.*

Comparative weights of northern and southern subspecies.—Although it is known that most species of birds having an extensive north to south distribution are larger in the colder parts of their range (Bergmann's rule), actual measurements to this effect are few. Weight is probably the best measurement for this purpose, as it is proportional to general size, while the size of appendages may vary independently. The following weights of three Florida subspecies, secured during the period from March 30 to April 21, 1943, at the Archbold Biological Station (operated in co-operation with the American Museum of Natural History) near Lake Placid in southern Florida, are perhaps worth recording in this connection, although too few to give a very accurate average weight. For comparison, weights of northern races of the same species are added. The weights of northern Blue Jays and Grackles are of spring specimens in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan. I am greatly indebted to Dr. J. Van Tyne for sending them to me. The weights of the Eastern Cardinal are from Ohio birds weighed during the period of March through June and recorded by Baldwin and Kendeigh (Auk, 55: 433, 1938). All weights are in grams.

? Semple's Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta c. ? semplei</i>)	1 ♂: 86.2 (86.2)	3 (?): 70, 74, 80
Northern Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta c. cristata</i>)	10 ♂: 83.4-96.6 (88.1)	7 ♀: 82.0-91.0 (86.2)
Florida Grackle (<i>Quiscalus q. aglaeus</i>)	8 ♂: 97-114 (108.1)	6 ♀: 74-86 (79.8)
Bronzed Grackle (<i>Quiscalus q. aeneus</i>)	23 ♂: 103.7-132.8 (120.2)	9 ♀: 96.4-107.8 (101.3)
Florida Cardinal (<i>Richmondia c. floridana</i>)	1 ♂: 37.7 (37.7)	2 ♀: 36.3, 37.0 (36.7)
Eastern Cardinal (<i>Richmondia c. cardinalis</i>)	30 ♂: — (43.8)	10 ♀: — (44.1)

—DEAN AMADON, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

Long-billed Curlew eating trapdoor spiders.—Among such few references as I have seen to the food of the Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus americanus*), I note that C. W. Wickersham (Auk, 19: 355, 1902) includes "spiders" in the fare. The following personal observation by my friend, Lee Passmore, of San Diego, who is a close student of spiders, may be of interest in this connection. In early April, 1940, he told me that he had watched curlews driving their bills deep into "something" on the grassy uplands about two miles east of Imperial Beach, California. Upon investigating the area, he discovered that they had been eating trapdoor spiders. He found the doors of nests thrown back and the spiders gone. On April 7, 1940, I visited the scene to determine which of the two species of curlew was involved and found that it was the Long-billed Curlew. Thus was added some new information not only relative to curlews but also to natural enemies of the trapdoor spider.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.*

Pipits eat injurious insects.—Large migrations of a few hundred to several thousand individuals of the American Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta rubescens*), possibly associated with some pipits of other sorts, have been encountered in northern Utah. Such a flock was found to extend from Blue Creek to Lampo, in Box Elder County, Utah, October 11 and 12, 1934. Another large flock covered this same area on October 9, 1935. A large flock extended from Petersboro in Cache County, to Collinston in Box Elder County, on October 5, 1942. Smaller flocks were encountered in Tooele County on September 25 and in several parts of Box Elder County on September 30, 1942; at Neola and Hayden, Utah, October 8, 1936; and at Ephraim, October 9, 1936.

Examination of 103 pipit stomachs, collected largely from birds feeding in alfalfa and wheat stubble fields and along weedy and sagebrush roadsides, during autumns of the past eight years, revealed the following recognizable insects to be present: two Thysanura; twenty Collembola; thirty Orthoptera in twenty-four stomachs, of which twenty-six were field crickets; one Neuropteran; five thrips; 1,944 Hemiptera of which 1,641 were Lygaeidae, including 1,586 false chinch bugs (*Nysius ericae*) in thirty-two stomachs, and nine *Geocoris decoratus*; fifty-four Miridae (eight *Lygus elisus* and two *L. hesperus*); four predacious Anthocoridae (two *Orius tristicolor*); five Nabidae, five Pentatomidae, one Coreid and one Aradid; 206 Homoptera included ninety-two beet leafhoppers, three Fulgoridae, four psyllids, seven Coccidae and ninety aphids of which twenty were the injurious pea aphid (*Macrosiphum pisi*); 561 beetles of which five were larvae, included 261