

amined six of Austin's specimens now in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy and finds that ". . . they are the same as the Newfoundland form." He further states (in correspondence) that *nigrideus* is a "perfectly valid race whose characters are best developed in the Avalon peninsula of Newfoundland. It also ranges up the coast of Labrador." Austin's specimens, examined by J. L. Peters, are: female, Cartwright, July 16, 1928; juvenile, Mannack's Island, July 20, 1928; female and juvenile female, Hopedale, July 25, 1928; and two males, Nain Bay, August 4, 1928.—HAROLD S. PETERS, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Charleston, South Carolina*, and THOMAS D. BURLEIGH, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*.

The Blue-winged Teal at Sea.—On November 27, 1940, I was on a steamer coming north through the Strait of Yucatán between Quintana Roo and Cuba. About four o'clock in the afternoon, while we were out of sight of land, a band of a dozen Blue-winged Teals (*Querquedula discors*) passed near at hand, travelling only a few feet above the water toward Cuba. The flock of ducks flew directly east with no hesitation as to their course. This line of flight was, to me, unexpected as I have been accustomed to think of it as one followed by some species through Florida and Cuba to the west in fall and in the reverse direction in spring. It seems strange that in November these ducks should have been moving confidently eastward at a time when the migratory impulse might be supposed to carry the flight in general in the opposite direction. I have been led to ponder whether this cross flight line between the coast of México and the West Indies may not be used by migrating birds of various species more extensively than has been supposed. It would afford an easy, mainly overland route for birds from the western half of North America around the Gulf of Mexico to the West Indies with only a short passage across open water.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Extension of breeding range of the Western Burrowing Owl in Saskatchewan.—When I arrived in the northwestern farming area of Saskatchewan in mid-July, 1943, I found my neighbors, Rufus and Gordon Brooks, interested in a strange bird they had found nesting on their wild-hay land about two and one-half miles south east of Livelong. From their description of the bird and its nesting site and den, it seemed very probable that it was a Burrowing Owl. It was, however, a new bird to them in that neighborhood and as I had had over twenty years summer residence and knowledge of the bird life of that territory without having seen this species there, I was interested to learn what it might be. A trip to the locality proved the nest to be that of a Burrowing Owl. It was in what appeared to be an old, unused badger or coyote den, upon a slight elevation above the broad, wild meadow which sloped away some miles southwestward. Here, during the month of August, an opportunity was afforded to observe the birds. Five young and two old birds comprised the family. At first, when too closely approached, the little ones would scurry down the burrow quite out of sight. Toward the end of the month they had grown sufficiently to wing away to neighboring knolls when they wished to do so.

On returning home and looking up the distribution of these birds, it appeared that this observation might furnish interesting data upon the northern extension of their nesting range; existing records are much farther to the southward. The Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) appears to have its northern nesting range recorded as follows. Macoun ("Catalogue of Canadian

Birds': 317, 1909) says: "I found the bird breeding in Saskatchewan at Rush Lake, June 12th, 1891." Previously he says: "I did not, however, note them west between Portage and Edmonton along the line of the G. T. P. Ry., I presume because our course lay too far north." Taverner ('Birds of Canada': 26, 1934) gives the distribution in Saskatchewan as "north to about the Canadian Pacific main line in the three Prairie Provinces." Bent (U. S. National Museum, Bulletin 170: 394, 1938) gives the breeding range in Alberta and Saskatchewan as "southern Saskatchewan (Many Island Lake, Crane Lake, Rush Lake, Moosejaw and Indian Head)." These records lie south of the south fork of the Saskatchewan River, while Livelong is on the north side of the north fork of the same river. Roughly speaking, the two areas are about 225 miles apart from north to south.

The immediate Livelong area was originally an old buffalo country and until twenty or thirty years ago was a cattle range covered with wild grasses and 'bluffs' or clumps of trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) in about equal proportions. This mixed tree and grass land is spoken of there as 'park country.' The area upon which the owl nest was found was on the border of an old lake bottom which has been grass-covered for many years and with the settlement of the country must have become attractive to these birds.—WILLIAM T. SHAW, 1002 Cambridge Avenue, Fresno, California.

Forster's Tern in central-western Ohio.—On May 28, 1941, I identified a bird at Lake St. Marys, Auglaize County, Ohio, as the Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) but did not obtain the specimen. On May 5, 1943, a large number of terns were seen feeding on the minnows in the ponds at State Fish Farm No. 1 at the east end of Lake St. Marys. In an attempt to stop this pillage, five birds were shot, two Forster's and three Common Terns (*Sterna h. hirundo*). Later, on May 22, two of three terns killed proved to be Forster's. A skin was prepared by F. B. Magill of one of the Forster's Terns taken on May 5, 1943, and this is deposited as specimen no. 7707 in the Ohio State Museum at Columbus. Mr. Edward S. Thomas, Curator of Natural History, informs me that it is the first spring specimen from Ohio in the collections of that institution.

I am not aware of a published record of the Forster's Tern for central-western Ohio or of a recent spring record for the state, although Campbell and Trautman (Auk, 53: 213-214, 1936) and Campbell (Bull. Toledo Mus. Sci., 1: 87-88, 1940) record the presence of this bird in the Erie Marsh in Michigan on May 27, 1934.

Its presence in other parts of Ohio in summer and fall have been recorded by Wheaton (Geol. Surv. Ohio 4: 560, 1882), Jones (Ohio Acad. Sci., Special Paper, 6: 31-32, 1903), Dawson ('Birds of Ohio,' 2: 558, 1903), and Trautman (Auk, 45: 200, 1928).—CLARENCE F. CLARK, *Ohio Division of Conservation and Natural Resources, St. Marys, Ohio.*

Yellow Rail in Rice County, Minnesota.—While walking through a hummocky stretch of wet meadowland near Nerstrand, Rice County, Minnesota, on the morning of September 26, 1943, we chanced to flush a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) from the grass. The bird fluttered up almost underfoot and flew about forty yards. At first it looked like a Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*), but when it changed its course the buffy tone of its foreparts became noticeable; and when, a bit later, it threw its feet forward preparatory to alighting, the white of its secondaries showed very clearly. At this instant it was collected. It proved to be an immature female. It was rather fat and weighed 45.2 grams, and the stomach con-