

KEMSIES AND WILLIAM A. DREYER, *Department of Zoology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

Northern Pine Siskin in Hamilton County, Ohio.—Specimen 5047—female. *Spinus pinus pinus*. Collected along the Great Miami River, four miles west of Cleves, Hamilton County, Ohio, by Emerson Kemsies, April 3, 1947.

This is the first collected specimen and the only record for Hamilton County since Charles Dury reported the form as "abundant in the winter of 1868-69." The specimen was shot out of a mixed flock of Siskins, Purple Finches and Eastern Goldfinches. It was feeding on the flower buds of a slippery elm. The Siskin has been reported in considerable numbers by various observers in adjacent areas during the winter of 1946-1947.—EMERSON KEMSIES, *Department of Zoology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

***Limnodromus semipalmatus* in Arabia.**—While I was stationed at Sharjah, Trucial Oman, Arabia, on the south shore of the Persian Gulf, 450 miles southeast of Abadan, Iran, I made two observations of the dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*). In the literature the bird is variously called "dowitcher," "semipalmated snipe," and "snipe-billed godwit." On March 12, 1945, I saw approximately 25 of these birds feeding in the shallow water of an inlet known as "Sharjah Creek." In my notes at that time I wrote: "The same in every respect as the American Dowitcher . . ." Upon my return to the area on March 16, I saw none; but on March 21, more than 100 were present, scattered over several acres of mudflats. On this occasion I noticed that they were large, substantially larger than the numerous Redshanks (*Tringa totanus*) with which they were associated. They were very tame, and permitted close approach time after time. I made several sketches of their markings.

Peters (Check-List of Birds of the World, 2: 273) gives the known winter range of the species as, "On migration and in winter to China, Japan, northern India, Burma, and Indo-Chinese countries."

Unfortunately, I was unable to collect specimens. Since returning to the United States, I have examined the specimens of this species in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Massachusetts, as well as all the rest of the Scolopacidae known to occur in the area. I have absolutely no doubt that my identification was correct. It seems worth while to record this observation for what it is worth, as it represents a considerable range extension, and may possibly stimulate future verification by the collection of specimens. I am indebted to Mr. James Lee Peters for permission to examine the material in the Museum of Comparative Zoology.—ROBERT M. MENDEL, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Bohemian Waxwing at Boothbay, Maine, in July.—One afternoon during the latter part of July, 1944, I was seated about 50 feet from a large clump of honeysuckle bushes near the barn in my summer place in Boothbay, Maine, watching a flock of about 20 Cedar Waxwings feeding upon the red berries the bushes bore. I was using 8-power binoculars which brought the images very close, and was suddenly startled to see a large head appear above the leaves. As the whole body appeared I realized it was a very large waxwing. The bird was about the size of a Robin, its breast was a little duller than that of its smaller brethren, but the yellow band across its tail was identical. Its crest was pronounced and its wings had a little more white on them. Its flight was the same undulating flight of the smaller birds.

When I went back to Boston I called Mr. Charles Townsend, son of the famous Dr. Townsend, who immediately identified the bird as a Bohemian Waxwing, rather

rare in this area. He suggested that I go to the Audubon Society and confirm his identification. This I did, and there was no doubt in the curator's mind as to the correctness of Mr. Townsend's finding.

In 1945 there was no appearance, but on July 20, 1946, the waxwings appeared in full force in the same bushes, and this time my wife saw the Bohemians first. We were seated in about the same position from which the first observation was made, when she suddenly exclaimed: "Three large Waxwings have just entered the bushes." I picked up the glasses, and sure enough, three Bohemians were there. They kept to themselves and as far as we know made no sound. They stayed off and on about a week, and then disappeared.—B. HOWE, *Boothbay, Maine*.

[Mr. Henry Thurston writes that Mr. and Mrs. Howe "were both familiar with the recognition marks of both Waxwings and I would vouch for their record being OK."—ED.]

Barometric pressure-patterns and spring migration.—Observations made by the writer during the spring of 1947, and analyses supplied by Miss Margaret Whitcomb, research associate in Meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, suggest strongly that there is a particular barometric pressure-pattern in North American weather which stimulates spring migration into New England and adjacent sections of the Northeast.

The ideal pattern is well indicated on the U. S. Weather Bureau's map for 1:30 A. M. on April 6, 1947, wherein a high pressure area is moving eastward off the southeast U. S. coast, while a low pressure area is moving into the Great Lakes region after having originated in the vicinity of Kansas and Colorado.

The favorable situation prevailing on April 6, 1947 (and other dates during that spring) was initiated by the clockwise effect of the "high," which set up a northeastward flow of warm air from the Gulf to New England. This flow subsequently was intensified by the counterclockwise effect of the "low."

Preliminary observations suggested that either the eastern "high" or the Great Lakes "low," by itself, could create conditions favorable for spring migration into New England, but that the combination of the two produced optimum conditions.

Furthermore (and most practicably important) it was found that the development of this favorable barometric pressure-pattern could be detected in newspaper weather maps and detailed radio weather forecasts in time for a southern New England ornithologist to anticipate periods of pronounced diurnal migration and days on which field trips reflected an obvious influx of migrants during the preceding hours of darkness.

The subject deserves careful study, particularly as regards the timing by which the pressure-pattern becomes favorable for particular areas as the season progresses, and the extent to which variations in the ideal pattern favor migration. (Incidentally, this discovery agrees substantially with European findings as outlined by Thomson [1926] in 'Problems of Bird-Migration,' pp. 104-108). Yet it seems possible to predict that a little knowledge of meteorology will enable a New England ornithologist to anticipate (from weather data given him by press and radio) the most advantageous occasions on which to be out afield to observe spring migration.

The writer will be glad to cooperate with any interested person who wishes to investigate the subject further.—AARON MOORE BAGG, 72 *Fairfield Ave., Holyoke, Massachusetts*.