

ington, The Am. Wildlife Inst., 476 pp., 1943). Stomach contents showed that a number of these birds had fed at the mouth of a sewer.

Today scaup are the most common wintering ducks in Mississippi's estuarine waters, where they rest and feed in large rafts on the bays and Mississippi Sound and in smaller groups along the bayous and streams. In mid-January 1958 a pair of Greater Scaup were observed in the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory boat slip, a small bayou connecting with Davis Bay, with a group of feeding mergansers. The mergansers were feeding on small live fish, probably mullet (*Mugil cephalus*), which they often brought to the surface to swallow. Some Gulf menhaden (*Brevoortia patronus*) carcasses had been dumped into the water after being measured. The scaup were seen bringing these menhaden to the surface, where fish too large to swallow were broken into smaller pieces and eaten. The ducks soon lost their fear of people on the boat and docks and fed regularly in the narrow slip where the water was five to eight feet deep.

Other scaup, both Greater and Lesser, soon joined the original pair, and as many as nine were constantly diving in the area, where additional menhaden were dumped periodically. Any sudden noise or movement caused the little flock to fly 50 to 100 yards away, to return at once to the feeding ground. When the writer left the Laboratory at the end of January for a two-week field trip, the scaup were still devouring discarded menhaden. They were not seen in the slip again after menhaden were no longer discarded, although many scaup were in the vicinity. Recorded surface-water temperature ranged from 10.8 to 12.2° C, and salinities varied between 3.6 and 18.0 o/oo during this period. Since that time scaup have been occasional visitors in the Laboratory slip, but only in groups of two or three that remain quite wild and do not stay very long.

Another instance of scavenger feeding by scaup was reported to me by Mr. O. L. Seymour of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. In the past, processors loaded discarded shrimp heads on a small barge that was unloaded in Biloxi Bay between the Highway 90 bridge and the L. & N. Railroad bridge. Feeding scaup gathered in large numbers in the dumping area, where they apparently fed on the discarded shrimp heads and remained as long as this food was available.—J. Y. CHRISTMAS, *Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Ocean Springs, Mississippi.*

**A Le Conte's Sparrow at Beaupré, Province of Quebec.**—On 21 May 1935, a bird, which was then believed to be a Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacuta subvirgata*), was collected at Beaupré, some 25 miles northeast of Quebec City, by the late Dr. Gus. A. Langelier.

Recently, while revising the Langelier collection, which now belongs to the Quebec Provincial Museum, it appeared to me that the specimen previously identified as a Sharp-tailed Sparrow was of a different species. In fact, it was reidentified as a Le Conte's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus caudacutus*). The new identification was verified by Mr. W. Earl Godfrey of the National Museum of Canada.

Apparently, this specimen is the first record for the Province of Quebec and the first mention east of Bradford, Ontario (A.O.U. Check-list 1957: 593). The specimen is an adult male, catalogued No. 4971 in the Quebec Provincial Museum collection.—MRS. GUS. A. LANGELIER, *Musée de la Province, Parc des Champs de Bataille, Quebec, Canada.*

**Recent Emigrations of Northern Shrikes.**—The Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) formerly appeared in the northern states at intervals of about four

years (Davis, Auk, 54: 43-49, 1937) but more recently at intervals of four, five, and six years (Davis, Auk, 66: 293, 1949). The present note summarizes data for the past 10 years. As in the previous two papers, the Christmas censuses

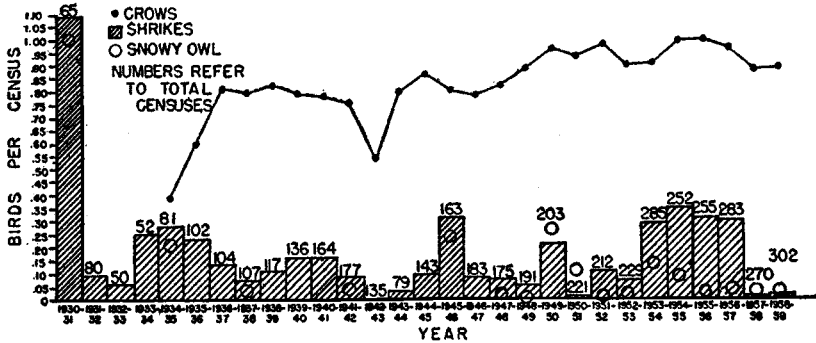


Figure 1. The number of Common Crows, Northern Shrikes and Snowy Owls recorded per Christmas census.

from Audubon Magazine were used for an area bounded by: Quebec, Ontario, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Maryland. The abundance of Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) was determined, and the numbers of Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) are given as a reference. Figure 1 shows the number of shrikes and crows seen per census. An 0 indicates the years when owls appeared up to 1947, but after that date how many were seen per census.

The shrikes and owls appeared in 1950 in great numbers, and both species appeared four years later in 1954. But the shrikes continued to appear through 1957, although the owls decreased. Thus some correlation between the emigrations of the two species occurs, but the shrikes for some reason continued to appear in the three winters from 1955 to 1957. The six intervals between peaks of numbers of owls averaged 3.8 years, while the five intervals for shrikes averaged 4.4 years. Note that owls did not appear either in 1957-1958 or in 1958-1959. It is clear from these data that the two species are not completely dependent upon the same food supply or other cause of emigration.—DAVID E. DAVIS, *Department of Zoology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.*

**A Courtship Display of Scott's Oriole.**—Investigations of ecology of vertebrates conducted for Texas A. and M. College on the Texas Game and Fish Commission's Black Gap Wildlife Area from 24 March to 2 April 1958 afforded me an opportunity to observe behavior of Scott's Orioles (*Icterus parisorum*) as they were settling on their breeding grounds. The Black Gap area lies at the eastern edge of the Chihuahuan Desert about 53 miles southeast of Marathon, Brewster County. Singing males were detected first on the morning of 27 March two miles south of the headquarters. Several were seen at widely scattered points on 28 March, including a greenish-yellow male on a census plot at 2,200 feet elevation, two miles east of the headquarters. On that same plot on 1 April I witnessed a male with bright, lemon-yellow plumage vigorously pursuing the first female I had seen that season. The pursuit was terminated when the female perched in the top of a *Yucca torreyi* some nine feet above the sandy floor of a