

the cause of their fright. At no time did the eagle show any aggression toward the corvids.

The eagle stepped off her kill 22 minutes after securing it. Immediately the corvids converged on it, only to hop away as the eagle returned to it. After pulling at the remains a few times, she stepped away again. One crow took to the air with a pheasant wing but soon landed. Within a minute after stepping away the second time, the eagle rose into the air and flew to a tree 30 m away. As we drove up to examine the kill, she left the tree. Three crows gave chase and one was seen to stoop at her back. Upon examination of the pheasant remains we found the legs were still attached to the synsacrum. About 50 g of meat remained on the partly eaten legs. Feathers and a large blood spot in the snow were the only other remains. We had previously seen the eagle casting away the pheasant's intestines, and the corvids had eaten them. When we returned to the kill site an hour later, the corvids had stripped all the meat from the legs. Although the feathers had blown over a wide expanse, there were corvid tracks around all of them.

We consider this an example of protocoooperation. The corvids appear to search out raptors that have killed and scavenge from them actively. The eagle seemed to benefit by using the reactions of the corvids as a warning of possible danger. It is common to see Marsh Hawks (*Circus cyaneus*) and Rough-legged Hawks (*Buteo lagopus*) try to rob other raptors that are feeding. The behavior of the crows and magpies could have warned the eagle of such an attack.—JOSEPH B. PLATT and STEVE K. SHERROD, *Department of Zoology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84601. Present address of first author: Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850. Accepted 7 May 73.*

Recent specimens of western vagrants at Fire Island National Seashore, Long Island, New York.—The autumn occurrence of typically western North American passerines along the Atlantic and Gulf seaboard—especially on barrier beach or other islands and promontories—is now a well-known phenomenon (see for example, Baird et al. 1958). Conversely many typically eastern species occur as vagrants on the Pacific coast in similar localities (see for example Austin 1971, DeBenedictis 1971). Most such vagrants on all coasts are immature (Drury and Keith 1962, Ralph 1971).

This paper records the occurrence of several western races or species (at least one represented by the first specimen from the East) captured in the course of extensive, practically year-round mist-netting on the barrier beach in Fire Island National Seashore, Suffolk County, New York, more precisely near Fire Island Lighthouse, 40° 38' N, 73° 13' W. Specimens are on deposit in the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) in Washington, D. C., and in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York City. I acknowledge the invaluable help of the following persons with mist-netting: D. B. Ford, T. H. Davis, H. Honig, F. Heath, R. O. Paxton, F. Schaeffer, L. Rems, and (also for MS comments) F. G. Buckley; J. Bull, A. Keith, and P. Post supplied information on certain specimens; N. K. Johnson, J. Weske and R. Laybourne provided other data.

BELL'S VIREO (*Vireo bellii bellii*). An immature female, skull 25% ossified, ovaries not enlarged, was netted 25 September 1970. Identified as the nominate race by R. Laybourne, it is now NMNH No. 566,493. It measures wing chord 55.8 mm, tail 43 mm, bill from nostril 7 mm, and tarsus 17.6 mm. The status of this

obscurely plumaged vireo is unclear in the central and northern portions of the eastern seaboard, largely because of the reluctance of regional list compilers to admit sight records of the species. Since the late 1950s (cf. Audubon Field Notes/American Birds for details) limited numbers have been reported regularly on the Gulf coast and in Florida. North and east of this area it is still unsubstantiated from several states (e.g. Georgia and the Carolinas, Delaware, Maryland). Indeed, New England with its concentrations of experienced observers seems to have only two records, both old specimens (New Hampshire, November 1897, MCZ specimen No. 193,473; and Connecticut, year unknown and probably lost). The species' status in New York State and the New York City region was recently clarified by Buckley and Post (1970, just before the present specimen was taken). That paper also summarized all known records considered valid (sight, banding, and specimen) for the Middle Atlantic States. Since then only one more, besides the present one, has come to light: from Virginia in 1962 (1962, A.F.N. 16: 465). Because the species breeds at least as close as Illinois and is highly migratory, the paucity of records for northern portions of the Atlantic seaboard is surprising. It is admittedly a difficult species to identify in the field; Buckley and Post (1970) discussed characters at length.

NORTHERN (BULLOCK'S) ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula bullockii*). An immature female was netted 30 November 1969. Now AMNH No. 793,547, it measures: wing chord 91 mm, tail 69 mm, bill from nostril 13.5 mm, and tarsus 25 mm. Extremely pale, with a white belly and gray, unstreaked back, it was thought to be *bullockii* when captured. Initial comparison with skins at the AMNH confirmed this identification, although A. R. Phillips (written notes attached to specimen) felt it was possibly *galbula* × *bullockii*. L. L. Short (similar notes attached to specimen) disagreed, indicating that it was unlikely other than *bullockii*. The disagreement points up the difficulty of identifying *bullockii* in other than adult or immature (black throat-stripe) male plumages. We have handled many fall immature female Baltimores that gave us pause for a second look in the hand; in the field they might well have been called Bullock's. Additional problems are raised by the two forms' hybridizing in the Great Plains (cf. Sutton 1938, Sibley and Short 1964, Rising 1970), although introgression is apparently not taking place much beyond the zone of hybridization. As extralimital hybrids or introgressants are possible, additional specimens should be taken, especially of birds in obscure plumages. *I. g. bullockii* is regular in winter along the Gulf coast and in Florida, and perhaps even as far as Georgia—although always in limited numbers (cf. A.F.N./Amer. Birds for many records). Although it seems to be known from all coastal states north of the Carolinas except perhaps Delaware, it is decidedly rarer there than along the Gulf. Snyder (1964) summarized the race's status in, and the four extant specimens from, Massachusetts. There are also a 1969 specimen from Nova Scotia (1970, A.F.N. 24: 485) and an apparently lost 1889 Maine specimen. Adult males have been photographed in New York, but this is the first specimen; other states in the region still lack specimens. What appear to be genuine Bullock's occur in the New England and Middle Atlantic States every fall or winter, almost always at feeding stations, some surviving to assume bright plumage in April or May.

WESTERN Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*). An adult male with black saddle and red face netted 20 November 1970 is now AMNH No. 802,430. It measures wing chord 94 mm, tail 63 mm, bill from nostril 11 mm, and tarsus 23 mm. This is the third extant New York State specimen, and one of very few eastern records for an adult male. This species is probably one of the most regular of western vagrants

eastward, being recorded annually (sometimes in both spring and fall-winter) in the area between the Maritimes and Florida and the Gulf coast. Specimens or at least sight records now exist from almost every state or province along the Atlantic and Gulf seaboard. Sight reports generally present little problem, although each fall at Fire Island we net at least one Scarlet Tanager (*P. olivacea*) with one or two narrow (sometimes wide), white, yellow, or even orange wing bars. Whether these birds represent variation within *olivacea* or occasional hybridization with, or introgression from, *ludoviciana*, is unknown. Davis (1972) discussed band and field identification of fall wing-barred tanagers.

DARK-EYED JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis cismontanus*, *sensu* Miller 1941). An immature male, skull not ossified, was netted 19 November 1972. It measures wing chord 76 mm, tail 66.6 mm, bill from nostril 6.5 mm, tarsus 20.3 mm, and is now NMNH No. 566,494. R. Laybourne, J. S. Weske, and I compared it with a large series at the NMNH, and it seems reasonably typical of this largely hybrid population (between *J. h. hyemalis* and *J. oregonus montanus*, *sensu* Miller 1941); N. K. Johnson confirms this identification. The sides are grayish buff with traces of rusty, not sharply delineated from the hood on the sides of the breast; the back, especially the secondaries and coverts, are rusty red-buff, with a fairly sharp line separating the back color from the head color; the head is dark sooty black (in this respect seeming closer to *Montanus* than to *hyemalis*) with some slight rusty on the occiput. Overall the bird was immediately distinguished from accompanying *hyemalis* by the red back. When first netted it was thought to be *montanus*, probably a female.

Because *montanus* itself is quite variable (with Miller (1941) dividing it into very different-looking "northern" and "southern" populations, both of which have been taken in the New York City area (Buckley 1959)), sight records of "Oregon Juncos" in the East must be viewed with considerable circumspection. Whatever Miller's *montanus* is, it has been taken more than a few times in the East, in many states and provinces along the Atlantic seaboard (cf. 1957, A.O.U. Check-list; 1947-73, A.F.N./Amer. Birds; and various regional lists and publications). It is reported seen annually by experienced observers from the Maritimes south to Florida and the Gulf coast, occasionally even in small flocks of 5-12, especially in New England. Almost certainly these birds are not *hyemalis*, but they are not *ipso facto* some population of *montanus*. Many, perhaps most, are *cismontanus*, which is either inadequately represented in collections proportional to its actual frequency of occurrence in the East, or, more likely, many specimens already labelled "*montanus*," "*hyemalis*?" or "*hyemalis* × *oregonus*" are in fact *cismontanus*. The A.O.U. Check-list (1957) following Miller (1941) notes occurrences of this form (not necessarily specimen!) from southern Michigan, southern Ontario, eastern New York, Massachusetts, Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Griscom and Snyder (1955) knew only of the single Massachusetts specimen referred to in the Check-list; Bull (1964) could give no information on the supposed New York skin, and Murray (1953) states that the Virginia record consisted of two birds identified alive by Aldrich and Duvall, then banded and released. Thus hard data on the occurrence of *cismontanus* in the Middle Atlantic and New England States were lacking. Recently Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) looked closely at junco specimens from the Buffalo, New York area and found at least three *cismontanus*. The New Jersey specimen referred to by Fables (1955) is now AMNH No. 708,119, and Bull (pers. comm.) tells me that he has now

uncovered others in the course of examining material for his forthcoming book on New York State birds.

Whether all dark-eyed juncos represent one species or several, much more material from the East needs to be examined critically before the relative statuses of the several forms involved can be clarified. In the meantime, field separation of juncos ought to continue, but probable non-*hyemalis* individuals should be recorded as "Oregon-types," or in the British manner, as "showing the characters of" Oregon Juncos.

FOX SPARROW (*Passerella iliaca altivagans*). An adult female, weighing 28.4 g, skull fully ossified, ovaries slightly enlarged, was netted 12 May 1971. It was collected because of its extremely dark coloration for a spring bird; it was also over a month later than the last departure date of most Fox Sparrows in the New York City region. The specimen, NMNH No. 566,277, measures wing chord 82.5 mm, tail 74 mm, exposed culmen 11.2 mm, bill from nostril 8.5 mm, tarsus 24.1 mm, hind toe and claw 7.8 mm. After careful examination of the Fox Sparrow series at the AMNH by the writer, and at the NMNH by the writer, R. Laybourne, and J. Weske, we concluded that it was *altivagans* (*sensu* Swarth 1920, the last revisor of the species); N. K. Johnson concurs after comparing it to the MVZ series. It was immediately separable from nominate *iliaca* by dorsum and cheek color, and from the closer *schistacea* by measurements and a slightly more brownish dorsal cast than is usual for that race. Measurements, color of breast spotting and dorsum, and extent of dorsum streaking, separate it from all other races treated by Swarth, leaving only Oberholser's (1946) *zaboria*, the race most likely on geographical grounds to occur in the East (besides the nominate). However breast color, faint dorsum streaking, and cheek color clearly eliminate it, although if any tendency towards integration with another race is present, it is towards (slightly) the rustier *zaboria* rather than the slatier *schistacea*.

This is the first known eastern North American occurrence of this form, which normally breeds in British Columbia and southwestern Alberta, and winters in central northern California, although it has straggled to Manitoba and southeastern Arizona (Phillips et al. 1964: 211). What was described as a "very dark" Fox Sparrow spent most of the winter of 1971-72 in Fargo, North Dakota, but was never collected (1972, Amer. Birds 26: 622). *P. i. schistacea* is also likely to occur on the Great Plains or even farther east, so future extralimital "dark" Fox Sparrows should be collected for racial determination.

The spring occurrence of a western vagrant heretofore unknown from the Atlantic seaboard is extremely unusual, suggesting that this bird wintered somewhere in the Southeast and was on northward return migration when intercepted. Small though increasing numbers of typically fall-winter western species are being detected along the Atlantic seaboard in spring, at many of the same coastal localities where they occur in fall.

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Common Rose Finch, a first record for North America.—On 4 June 1972 Dau collected an adult male Common Rose Finch *Carpodacus erythrinus* (UA 3280, fat and with left testis 6 × 5 mm), feeding alone on a grassy hummock near Old Kashunuk Village, Clarence Rhode National Wildlife Range, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska (at 61° 17' N, 165° 42' W). The specimen was identified by Gibson and forwarded to Roxie C. Laybourne, Bird and Mammal Laboratories, National Museum of Natural History, who confirmed it to be *C. e. grebnitskii*.

The species has a very wide range in the cooler parts of Eurasia. This form breeds from Anadyrland and Kamchatka, in northeastern Siberia, to northern Sakhalin Island, northern Mongolia, and northeastern China and winters to south-