

GENERAL NOTES

Cowbird History.—*A very interesting record of Cowbird migration was obtained from two birds banded at Rochester, New York. Number 69453, an adult female banded June 29, 1923, returned June 8, 1924, repeating June 10, and was recaptured April 25, 1925.

In the trap with this female on April 25, 1925, was a male to which I gave No. 69854. Now comes the remarkable occurrence; this adult male No. 69854, banded in the spring of 1925, was reported by Ellis Lowell as shot near Mont Belvieu, Texas, on August 15, 1926. That some Cowbirds return year after year to the same breeding-area is proven by No. 69453 returning twice to Rochester. On the other hand, No. 69854 evidently was a migrant from the South in 1925, but not in 1926, as he was found in Texas in midsummer (August 15).†

Cowbirds breed in Texas and near Rochester, New York, and one wonders which was his birthplace.

On account of the fact that the southern portion of the nesting-range of the Cowbird is also part of the wintering area of the species, groups occurring there would be likely to contain both residents and migrants, that is, part of the birds would be migratory and part nonmigratory.

Is it possible that a certain individual may be migratory one year and a resident another year? My experience, while not conclusive, would suggest this probability.—R. E. DORSEY, Highland Park, Rochester, New York, December 17, 1926.

An Expedition to Northern Labrador.—Dr. O. L. Austin of New York and his son, O. L. Austin, Jr., who is a member of this Association, are planning to make a four months' trip this summer to northern Labrador and possibly Baffin Land in their auxiliary schooner, the "Ariel." They will continue their ornithological researches begun on that coast last summer, and plan to visit most of the bird rookeries in the region. Puffins, Razor-billed Auks, Black Guillemots, Arctic Terns, and Kittiwake, Herring, Glaucus and Great Black-backed Gulls breed there in abundance. Other species such as small shore birds, ducks of several species, a few Hawks and Owls, and many northern passerines nest along the coast in easily accessible places. The expedition also plans to take motion pictures of the domestic habits of the wild life encountered, as far as possible, and

* Mr. Horsey raises an interesting question in this paper, but to our minds, he leaves it still a question, even as to this particular case that he cites. There is, of course, no inherent impossibility in his assumption that the Cowbird taken in the middle of August had bred in the immediate neighborhood, but it seems to us that, as a possibility, that hypothesis is more remote than either one of two others — first, that the bird had bred in its northern home and migrated early to the South; and second, that it had been detained in Texas by some accident during the preceding winter until the migrating instinct had passed and had spent the summer there in a state of celibacy. It is possible, too, that a bird thus detained by force of circumstances against its will or instinct might breed in an isolated instance, but this would not imply that a migrating bird exercised its own option in breeding so far from its previous summer home. By the way, can August 15th properly be called midsummer, ornithologically speaking. Is it not rather early autumn, or even approaching mid-autumn for some species. Has Mr. Horsey any information as to when the first migrant Cowbirds from the North reach Texas.

THE EDITORS.

† Mr. Charles L. Whittle calls my attention to the remote possibility of 69854 having migrated from the north in 1926 and arriving in Texas by August 15th. Our last sight record for Rochester in 1926 is August 18th and might suggest an early migration. This is unusual, however, as my fourteen years' sight records show that Cowbirds usually leave Rochester the end of October, my latest date being December 2, 1917.