

tree across the street and remained there for some time, allowing me to examine it carefully through 8x binoculars at a distance of about sixty feet. I noted the red-shafted feathers and also the V-shaped red patch on the back of his head, thus indicating that it must have been a hybrid. As it flew away, I again noted the red-shafted feathers in flight. A few days later I again observed another bird about a block away and it disappeared in a hollow tree. This probably was the same bird. Temperature on the date of the first observation was eight degrees below zero. I have searched for the bird since, but failed to find it. This is my first record of this species in central Iowa in nineteen years of careful observation.—WALTER M. ROSENE, *Ogden, Iowa.*

**Bird Notes from Morris County, New Jersey.**—On March 14, 1936, while driving slowly along the cement road running between Florham Park and Morristown, New Jersey, I observed a female Old-squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) in full winter plumage, swimming and diving in the flood water that covered the marshes directly next to Ely's Aquatic Farm. The bird was within 100 feet of the road and appeared to be absolutely unsuspecting. It showed no fear when I left the car, and I was able to study it carefully at this range with 8x glasses. So close was I to the bird that I could follow with the naked eye its course under the water by the small trail of bubbles that came to the surface when it submerged. It was diving continually, the dives following each other at approximately twenty seconds. The duration of submergence averaged twelve seconds. The bird was still present the next day at the same spot and was as easily observed. This is an unusual record for this vicinity.

On March 22, 1936, I had under observation a pair of Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), male and female, on the Passaic River within a quarter mile of the Chatham Bridge on the Morris Turnpike, Chatham, New Jersey. I first noticed the male resting quietly on the water. The bird became alarmed when I started inching forward on my stomach and flew fifty yards or so upstream. It rapidly drifted back down again to its former position, and I noted for the first time a darker bird—its mate—which it joined. They evidently lost their suspicions and both of them commenced diving, the two of them submerging together. During the period of submergence I was able to creep much closer, concealing myself as well as possible, and was rewarded with a fine, clear view of the birds. I had Peterson's *Field Guide* with me, and a comparison of the plate with the living bird made exact identification possible. After observing them for ten minutes I continued to creep forward with a view toward getting a glimpse of four American Mergansers (*Mergus merganser americanus*), which were farther upstream. My movements frightened the two birds and they flew quickly up the river out of my sight. The Hooded Mergansers are rare transients in this vicinity.—PAUL MURPHY, *Summit, N. J.*

**A Herring Gull Attacked by a Bald Eagle.**—On January 31, 1936, Mr. O. K. Scott and the writer saw an immature Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* subsp.) kill and devour a first-year Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) on the ice of the Merrimac River at Newburyport, Massachusetts. When first seen, the eagle was standing on the ice about twenty feet from the gull, which was sitting quietly. As we watched, the eagle flew up into the air and over the gull, looking down at it. The gull remained sitting on the ice but threw back its head and raised its beak upward toward the eagle, at the same time spreading its

wings somewhat. The eagle alighted about twenty feet away, and the gull resumed a normal sitting position. This performance was shortly repeated. The eagle rose a third time, and this time alighted on the gull, then almost at once released it. The gull must have been incapacitated before we arrived on the scene, and it was now very badly injured. It flopped along on the ice for a few yards, when the eagle again rose and came down on it, after which the gull did not move. The young eagle stood on the gull looking disinterestedly about for fully half a minute, then slowly and half-heartedly began to pluck and eat the bird. At this point we heard the muffled crack of a small firearm and the eagle with one flap of his wings jumped vertically into the air about four feet, carrying his prey with him, and making his upward leap with apparent ease, as if unencumbered. Several more shots were fired, but the eagle paid them no attention.—HUSTACE H. POOR, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Effects of the Severe Winter of 1935-36 on Bird Life in the Fort Wayne, Indiana, Area.**—In common with the rest of the Middle West, the Fort Wayne area has just passed through its most severe winter in many years. For more than two months the ground was blanketed with snow. Ice froze from two to three feet deep on every quiet body of water. Frost pierced the ground everywhere to a depth of four feet or more. The belated break finally came on February 23, and when it came, it came with a suddenness and a completeness that is most unusual in this area.

In our immediate vicinity, bird life came through the siege of arctic weather surprisingly well. The chief reason for this was that at no time was the food supply of the wintering birds sealed away from them by ice. Weed seeds, berries, and fruits were available in normal abundance at all times. Crusted snow made access to the ground difficult, and in large areas almost impossible, but species that feed normally on the ground suffered not so much from lack of food as from the difficulty of finding gravel suitable for use in grinding their food.

All of the normal winter residents here were present in their usual abundance. In addition, such species as Mourning Doves, Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Grackles stayed over in their usual small numbers, and a normal percentage of these individuals survived. Meadowlarks and Bob-whites were present as usual in all favorable areas, and these species did as well as usual. Meadowlarks were present constantly in an area around my feeding station on the edge of town, yet at no time did they find conditions bad enough to make them other than irregular visitors there. Even a few Carolina Wrens stayed out the winter in our area, which is very near the northern limit of their range.

Had it not been for the presence of some of our rarer winter visitors in unusual numbers, this last winter would have been little different from many others, so far as bird life is concerned. The influx of birds from less fortunate areas was the most interesting feature of the period. The most conspicuously unusual occurrence was the influx of water birds. The sewage-laden Maumee River was open for several miles below the city. Ordinarily it has little to attract the various species of winter ducks, but this winter large numbers of American Golden-eyes and American Mergansers found a haven in its carp-infested waters. Red-breasted Mergansers, Old-squaw, and Herring Gulls also were present in small numbers. In the city all of the rivers were frozen solid, except for a small patch of water in the St. Joseph River kept open by the discharge from a power plant. Here a