

GENERAL NOTES

AN EARLY RECORD AND DESCRIPTION OF THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER IN KENTUCKY

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has the Journal (Draper, Vol. 2, ZZ) of Col. William Fleming. He gives a description (pp. 12-13) of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) which is much more detailed than that of Mark Catesby (Natural history of Carolina, Vol. 1. London, 1731:16). The Journal was printed by Newton D. Mereness (Travels in the American Colonies. Macmillan, N. Y., 1916:632). While purporting to be a faithful copy, comparison with the original shows that several words, in one case a sentence, were omitted.

Fleming, born in Scotland on February 18, 1729, was educated as a surgeon at Edinburgh. In 1779 he was a member of the Virginia Commission sent to Kentucky to settle land claims. St. Asaph's, or Logan's Fort, was situated one mile west of modern Stanford, Lincoln County. There are very few definite records of this woodpecker for the state. The Journal contains the following entry:

March 7, 1780. "Rode up to St. Asaphs from Col. Bowmans, I observed a species of the woodpecker which I had not met with before, the Cock and the hen, they are larger than the large brown [juvenile pileated woodpecker?], the cock had a bright red head with remarkably long tuft of feathers on the Crown so that it may be cald the Peacock Woodpecker the body & wings white & black, the hen darker colored the bills of both a great length & white.

"One of these birds was shot by my servant, which I took to be the hen, the feathers on the throat and belly and part of the wing and tail a shining black, it had nine stiff & strong feathers or pinions in the tail forked at the end, the middle one being six inches long from where the feathers begin the whole length being $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches the others on each side shortened in length, its wings ten inches long from the shoulder to the tip 18 long feathers in the wing, the two first and longest black the 3rd tip'd with white and each succeeding one more till those next to the back are all white, both above & below, the front & fore part of the Crown black, from the junction of the upper & lower bills white feathers on each side, leaving a triangle of black feathers from the Eyes and back part of the Crown which is a deep red, the white feathers run backwards as far as the white on the wings intermixed with black so that the bird from the head so far appears speckled, the red part of the crown appears triangular, its legs was an inch & half long, with four toes set forwards & back two each way, armed with strong crooked claws, the two outer ones the longest & 4 inches in length [spread?] the bill white and bony, verry strong & firm at the point shaped like a wedge each $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inch broad and from that a ridge runs both in the upper and lower so that each forms a triangle an inch & quarter broad at the Junction of the upper and lower bills, which is three inches in length, the tounge is six inches in length. The Iris when dead of a bright Yellow so far it differs from any of the species I have seen, the mechanism of its parts being as usual in birds of this kind, it weighed upwards of 1 lb."

The error in sex is obvious.—A. W. SCHORGER, 168 N. Prospect Ave., Madison, Wis.

WOODCOCK AT SEA

On July 6, 1949, at 7:30 A.M., an American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) alighted on the flight deck of the airplane carrier U. S. S. Midway at 39° 55' N, 70° 05' W. This point is 82 miles due south of Nantucket Island, the nearest land, and 108 miles southeast from Montauk Point, Long Island. Only one bird was observed. It flew alongside the ship, attempting to alight for approximately 15 minutes before it succeeded. The flight of the woodcock suggested

fatigue but it kept up with the ship with little difficulty. The weather had been overcast for the preceding 12 hours; at this time additional fog and haze were on the surface, and an 8 knot wind was blowing. The ship was on course 223 and steaming at 17 knots. The bird was on deck for only 45 seconds when it was frightened away. It flew alongside for several minutes again attempting to land, but was unsuccessful. Another large carrier was approximately 2,000 yards abeam, and when last seen the bird was headed in that direction.—WALTER ROSENE, JR., Fish and Wildlife Service, Gadsden, Alabama.

LITTLE GULL AT COLUMBUS, OHIO

On March 22, 1949, at O'Shaughnessy's reservoir, north of Columbus, we had the good fortune of observing a Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). The bird, an immature, was standing in the shallow water at the margin of a small bay, in company with an immature Bonaparte's Gull (*L. philadelphia*) and eight Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*).

We were able to observe the bird through 8× and 10× binoculars and a 20× telescope at a distance of 200 feet over a period of 15 minutes. It was much smaller than the neighboring Bonaparte's and its beak was shorter and smaller. It showed the characteristic dusky nape, as contrasted with the spot behind the eye of the Bonaparte's. Several times when it stretched its wings we were able to see the dark streak down the wing and the black primaries. Its tail had a black subterminal band.

This appears to be the first reported occurrence of this species for Ohio away from Lake Erie.—MARIAN W. THOMAS AND ELDER P. HENGST, Columbus, Ohio.

MOCKINGBIRD IN THUNDER BAY DISTRICT, ONTARIO

On July 20, 1948, while in the grounds of the Mental Hospital, about 5 miles west of Fort William, Ontario, our attention was attracted by an unusual song, shortly followed by the clearly enunciated call of the Whip-poor-will. Our suspicions were immediately aroused, and although the bird was extremely restless, constantly flying from tree to tree, we were eventually able to get a good view and to identify it as a Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*. This is unusually far north for this species, and constitutes, we believe, the first record for this district.—A. E. ALLIN AND L. S. DEAR, P. O. Box 127, Port Arthur, Ontario.

A WINTERING CHAT IN SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

On Jan. 26, 1949 a Yellow-Breasted Chat (*Icteria virens virens*) was found fluttering around in a garage. An item in the local press brought a phone call from a feeding station operator, by the name of H. Crain of 220 McKinley, Grosse Pointe, who reported he had been seeing the chat at his feeder since the first of the year. The specimen was sent to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. H. B. Tordoff determined that the specimen was referable to the race *virens*, and offered the following comments: "It is, as far as I can tell without an exhaustive check of the records, the first occurrence of the species in Michigan in winter. The specimen was a male, in fine plumage. There was some fat, so obviously it had been getting enough to eat. It weighed 26.6 grams, an entirely normal weight. I would say that the bird was in good general physical condition. However, there was an irregular tail moult in progress, and this may have been the result of a former injury. Perhaps the specimen was injured by a car, or in some other way and did not make the fall migration."—CLARENCE J. MESSNER, 308 McKinley, Grosse Pointe 30, Michigan.