

flying mergansers than when the mergansers remained on the water and dodged, swam, and dived to evade the gulls. The fact that I saw no gulls try to rob mergansers of their fish until after the male mergansers stopped frequenting the reservoir is also of interest.

After February 21, the mergansers came less and less frequently to the reservoir, and I noted no further action involving these birds and the gulls.—DONALD LAMORE, 3C Parkway Road, Greenbelt, Maryland, November 8, 1952.

**Whooping Cranes in Kansas in 1952.**—Although the Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) was once a reportedly common migrant in Kansas, few or no records have been published for the past several decades. In 1952, I was fortunate in acquiring records of two, and possibly seven, of these large cranes in Kansas.

Mr. M. Wayne Willis, wildlife artist residing in Wichita, Kansas, informed me that he saw a Whooping Crane eight miles north and six miles west of Wellington, Sumner County, Kansas, on the afternoon of 23 March, 1952. Mr. Willis observed the crane, with four Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*), flying over a maize field. The five cranes landed in the maize field, according to Mr. Willis, and began feeding, presumably upon the maize.

On the morning of 31 October, 1952, I was asked to inspect an unidentified bird being held captive in Sharon, Barber County, Kansas. The bird was a crippled Whooping Crane. Two boys from Sharon had found the crane the previous evening in a pasture eight and one-half miles southwest of Sharon. The crane seemed to be in good health, except that its right wing hung so that the tips of the primaries touched the ground.

Federal authorities were notified, and the injured crane was placed in the custody of Mr. John B. Van den Akker, Director, Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Jet, Oklahoma, on the evening of 31 October. The bird died the following day while en route to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. The crane is preserved as a skin and complete skeleton (KU 31198) in the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History.

On 4 November, 1952, Mr. Fritz Zvlonic, a farmer, informed me that he had seen five "big, white cranes" standing in his pasture, which is two miles north and three miles east of Sharon. After questioning Mr. Zvlonic regarding the appearance of the birds, I am fairly certain that they were Whooping Cranes. He accurately described the birds, mentioning the red on the head, generally white plumage, and black wing tips. Mr. Zvlonic was uncertain as to the date on which he had observed the alleged cranes, but estimated it as 20 October, 1952.

The localities where Whooping Cranes were reported in 1952, in Kansas, are of approximately equal latitude (37° 15' N). The Sandhill Cranes arrived at this latitude on or about the same dates; in 1952, I observed flights of Sandhill Cranes three miles north and one mile east of Sharon, Kansas, on 30 March, and on 19 and 31 October.—THANE S. ROBINSON, *Biological Survey of Kansas, University of Kansas, Lawrence, January 22, 1953.*

**Cinnamon Teal and Avocets in Florida.**—On March 8, 1953, we saw one adult male Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) on Lake Alice at Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida. It was with a large flock of Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), Shovellers (*Spatula clypeata*), and Gadwalls (*Anas strepera*). There are apparently only two

published records of this species in Florida, although Thomas W. Hicks tells us he observed single males of this species in the winter several years ago on the St. Johns River at Jacksonville, Duval County, and on Reedy Lake at Frostproof, Polk County.

On the morning of February 15, 1953, we observed two Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) at Cedar Key, Levy County, Florida. The birds were resting on a sandspit along the causeway connecting the key with the mainland, along with several Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), Forster's (*Sterna forsteri*), Royal (*Thalasseus maximus*), and Caspian (*Hydroprogne caspia*) terns, Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*), and Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*).

All during the previous night exceptionally high winds were blowing in from the Gulf of Mexico. These winds probably accounted for the Avocets' presence so far east. When we attempted to frighten the birds from the sandspit, they were unable to make any headway into the wind. This appears to be the third record of Avocets on the west coast of Florida, and one of less than a dozen records for the state.—DALE W. RICE AND EDWARD L. MOCKFORD, *Biology Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, March 18, 1953.*

**Smith's Longspur: an addition to the Louisiana list.**—On December 13, 1952, while walking across the old Municipal Airport, located just north of Shreveport, Louisiana, in a section of Bossier Parish lying west of the Red River, I flushed a single Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*). I was able to recognize it by the combination of its typical longspur "clicking" call notes and its pipit-like tail-pattern. Although I flushed it several times and covered a considerable part of the area, no other individuals were found that day. There are no previous records of the Smith's Longspur in Louisiana.

One week later I returned to the airport and soon flushed a flock of about 35 birds of this species. On the following day, December 21, I collected a female from the flock; it is now in the collection of the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University. The flock remained in the area for several weeks and was augmented with additional birds for a short period in January. I was able to make an almost exact count of the flock while it was in flight on January 25, 1953; there were 45 or 46 birds present, which seemed to be the peak of their numbers here. By February 22 the flock numbered about 33, and on March 1 only 10 longspurs remained. I next visited the airport on March 8, but was unable to find any birds of this species.

During the course of my visits to the area, it became apparent that the Smith's Longspurs showed a strong preference for a small part of the airfield which had a dense growth of a particular kind of grass that occurred only sparingly on the remainder of the field. Richard K. Spears, of the Botany Department of Centenary College, has informed me that this grass is a species of *Aristida*. This provided such dense cover that I was seldom able to see the birds until after they flushed.

This airport has not previously been searched by a bird student in winter. In view of the considerable number of Smith's Longspurs which occurred in this one area, particularly in the month of January but also through a good part of the winter, and since the species was found in December, 1951, at Lonoke, Arkansas (Coffey, *et. al.*, 1952. *Audubon Field Notes*, 6:138), it seems likely that the Smith's Longspur will prove to be of regular occurrence in winter, at least in small numbers, in the north-western corner of Louisiana.—HORACE H. JETER, 4534 *Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana, March 26, 1953.*