

flow of tropical air northwestward from Yucatan into south Texas and on northward into Oklahoma between 19 and 24 April 1961. Thus, conditions favorable to rapid north-northwestward movement from the known wintering areas of the species involved occurred at about the time of our unusual observations. It would seem that these weather conditions might have been the cause for the displacements in direction, distance, and time which are described above.—W. MARVIN DAVIS, *College of Pharmacy, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, 23 October 1961.*

Grasshopper Sparrow wintering in central Missouri.—On 14 January 1961, David Snyder, James Gilmore, and I visited an area approximately 16 miles south of Sedalia, Benton County, Missouri, for the purpose of listing birds wintering in grassland.

A visit to a one-half acre pond surrounded by tall grasses and weeds located in the center of a timothy (*Phleum pratense*) stubble field, revealed the presence of two Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum*). A male was mist-netted, photographed, sacrificed for food habits study, and preserved as a study skin. According to Widmann (1907. "Birds of Missouri," *Trans. Acad. of Sci., St. Louis*, 17:1-296) and Bennitt (1932. "Check-list of the Birds of Missouri," *Univ. of Mo. Studies*, 7(3):1-81) this seems to be the first record of a Grasshopper Sparrow wintering in Missouri. The area of collecting had a great variety of tall and short grasses and many weeds and herbaceous plants. The dominants were: foxtail (*Setaria*), millet (*Echinochloa*), spike-rush (*Eleocharis*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), cord-grass (*Spartina*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), big bluestem (*Andropogon Gerardi*) and false loosestrife (*Ludwigia*).

On a subsequent visit to the area on 24 January 1961, when the temperature was -10 F, we found one Grasshopper Sparrow, which again eluded our nets.—DAVID A. EASTERLA, *Missouri Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Stephens Hall, Columbia, Missouri, 15 December 1961.*

Red Phalarope in West Virginia.—On 3 November 1961, I was informed by Mr. Norville Hall that he had just seen a phalarope on one of the ponds in Oglebay Park, near Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia.

Later, in the company of James Denham, Miss Dorothy Broemsen and Mr. Hall, I observed the bird at close range. It was identified as an adult Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) in winter plumage.

The next morning, Mr. Denham returned to the impoundment, was unable to locate the bird at first, but eventually found it dead at the mouth of the spillway of the dam. The specimen was retrieved and put in refrigeration.

Several days later a study skin was prepared and internal examination revealed that the bird was a female showing signs of emaciation. The identification was verified by Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes of The Carnegie Museum, where the specimen has been deposited.

So far as is known, this is the first record of the Red Phalarope for West Virginia.—GEORGE H. BREIDING, *Oglebay Institute, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia, 20 March 1962.*

Specimens of unusual Indiana birds.—Over the past several years, the Purdue University Wildlife Laboratory Collection has acquired a number of interesting bird specimens from Indiana. Some of these represent first records (those marked with an asterisk), and others are of birds sufficiently uncommon in the state to warrant notice.

I wish to thank Willard Kaehler and Kenneth C. Nettles for donating waterfowl specimens they shot or obtained from other hunters.

*Brant (*Branta bernicla*).—On 26 October 1957, ten of us observed two Brant at Michigan City, Laporte Co. One bird, incapable of flight because of a fresh shot wound, was captured by hand. It was an immature male weighing 1,079 grams and bore little fat; the testes measured 3×12 mm and the bursa 10×15 mm. Raymond Grow and August Verhoestra had seen three Brant at Michigan City on 19 October.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*).—Twelve specimens of this duck were shot from 27 January 1955 to 30 December 1961 at Whiting, Lake Co., or Michigan City, along the southern shore of Lake Michigan, where the species appears to be a regular winter visitor. All were taken in December or January and, except for two sick birds, had heavy fat. Four adult males weighed from 1,124 to 1,282 grams (avg. 1,222); two immature males weighed 965 and 1,213 grams; three adult females weighed from 1,008 to 1,140 grams (avg. 1,093).

*Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*).—On 3 January 1961, Charles M. Kirkpatrick and I collected an immature female at Michigan City. It weighed 437 grams and had little fat.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*).—Willard Kaehler obtained five specimens from hunters between 16 December 1956 and 26 November 1959. Four were shot at Whiting and one at Gary, Lake Co., along Lake Michigan. Two immature males weighed 1,180 and 1,205 grams; two immature females weighed 1,071 and 1,162 grams.

*Common Scoter (*Oidemia nigra*).—On 8 December 1959, John Louis observed a sick bird of this species at Gary; Louis found the bird dead there on 10 December. An immature male was shot at Whiting on 15 November 1960 by G. Brown; it weighed 746 grams, had testes measuring 2×10 mm, and bore little fat. Kaehler shot an immature female at Whiting on 19 December 1960; it weighed 814 grams and had scarcely any fat.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*).—A female was obtained by Kenneth Nettles from boys who had been plinking with pellet guns along Lake Michigan, at Whiting, on 13 September 1961. It had heavy fat and weighed 128.8 grams.

*Purple Sandpiper (*Erolia maritima*).—On 30 January 1958, five of us collected a female at Michigan City. It weighed 67.5 grams, was moderately fat, and had a bursa 2.5 mm in length.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).—Seven were found feeding along the beach at Michigan City on 30 October 1959. A fat female weighing 60.9 grams was collected. The stomach contents included midge larvae of the family Chironomidae, fragments of an amphipod of the genus *Gammarus* (probably *limnaeus*), mayfly nymphs, and remains of an isopod (*Asellus communis*). According to William R. Eberly, who made the determinations, midge larvae and amphipods were most numerous.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*).—Two were found on a small, overflow pond in a cornfield 15 miles N of Greencastle, Putnam Co., on 16 June 1958. The bird collected was a male weighing 240 grams; it had testes measuring 3×7 mm and no fat was present. The head was in heavy molt and was only partially black.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, Department of Forestry and Conservation, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, 2 April 1962.