

the first winter record of a Kentucky Warbler in New York State. — Fred N. Hough, Accord 1.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) collected in Dutchess County, New York. — On March 16, 1953 a Solitaire was collected in the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York. The specimen is preserved as a study skin in the Vassar College collection at Poughkeepsie. The bird was a female with an ovary which measured 5.5 by 3.0 millimeters. It was first observed on March 4, 1953 by Mr. George Decker of Dover Plains, N. Y. Mr. Decker watched the bird on several different days between March 4 and March 16. In every case the bird was seen in the late afternoon in one restricted area, usually sitting quietly in the top of a dead oak at the edge of an abandoned field. There were occasions, however, when the bird could not be found.

The only other record for the State of New York is a bird collected on November 25, 1905 by J. A. Weber in King's Park, L. I. (Dwight, 1906, Auk, 23:105-106). King's Park is approximately 75 miles south of Dutchess County.

Mr. Chandler Robbins was kind enough to check the files of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and reports that three other specimens have been taken in Eastern United States: one at Waukegan, Illinois on December 16, 1875 (Nelson, 1876, Bul. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1:40); another by Herbert L. Stoddard at Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, about February 20, 1910 (Ward, 1912, Bull. Wis. Nat. Hist. Soc., 10:47); and a third by Alan Rusch in Dodge Co., Wisconsin on December 6, 1952 (Strelitzer, 1953, Passenger Pigeon, 15(2):65).

In addition there are three sight records for eastern United States: one seen several times in Ohio between December 26, 1938 and January 14, 1939 (Campbell, 1940, Bull. Toledo Mus. Sci., 1:127-128); another seen at Hudson, Wisconsin in December, 1942 (Robbins, 1943, Passenger Pigeon, 5(1):3-4); and a third seen by many observers at Blue Island, Illinois from December 27, 1953 to January 17, 1954 (Barter, 1954, [Ill.] Audubon Bull., No. 89:6).

A study of these records indicates that most are for the winter months of December, January, or February in the states of Wisconsin (3 records), Illinois (2 records) or Ohio (1 record). The New York records are for November and March. This period, from late November to mid-March, also agrees with the three records listed in Roberts' Birds of Minnesota. — John L. George, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie.

Some interesting band returns — It is generally supposed by many people that as fall approaches a strictly southerly movement of birds takes place. Among banders cooperating with the Federal Wildlife Service, this idea is being discarded. For some time it has been surmised that as fledglings take wing and a waning food supply makes competition keen, many birds move north in search of food. Whether this is so, and if so why, has not been determined to the satisfaction of ornithologists, who are now and will be for some time to come, engaged in the study of what seems to be a contrary movement.

The bulk of my personal banding operations have been conducted on the islands of Lake Champlain near Keeseville where an average of 750 to 800 Herring and Ring-billed Gulls are banded as downy young. Because of their size, these birds provide a better incidence of band recovery than the small land birds. This has meant that I have accumulated a fair number of returns, enough to show that many birds are moving north. Two other banders are active in this area: Mrs. R. E. Mason of Essex and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McGregor of Ellenburg Depot, the former giving good coverage to the south of my operations, the latter to the north. Both of these teams are engaged, however, in banding smaller species.

In interpreting the information in the following recovery records, it should be recalled that the area to the north of Keeseville is sparsely settled with the exception of the Montreal area. In the following list which is designed to compare north and south movements, all banding was done on Four Brothers Island in Lake Champlain.

HERRING GULL. Banded July 29, 1954, recovery Nov 30, 1955, Savannah, Georgia. 14 birds banded June 11, 1955: recoveries: Arundel, Quebec, Oct 1, 1956; Cte. Saguenay, Quebec, Sept 2, 1955; Sorel, Quebec, Sept 15, 1955; St. Jean, Quebec, Sept 23, 1955; Granby, Quebec, Sept 24, 1955; Cap-de-la-Madeline, Quebec, Sept 17, 1955; Cote Ste. Catherine, Quebec, Aug 17, 1955; Willsboro, New York, July 3, 1955; Orlando, Florida, Dec 28, 1955; Althol, Massachusetts, Aug 4, 1955;

Wellesley, Massachusetts, Aug 25, 1955; Wareham, Massachusetts, June 25, 1956; Athol, Massachusetts, Aug 4, 1955; Natchitoches, Louisiana, May 5, 1956. Four birds banded June 24, 1956: recoveries: Verdun, Quebec, Sept 23, 1956; Rochester, New York, October 21, 1956; Montreal, Quebec, Aug 6, 1956; Montreal, Quebec, July 22, 1956.

RING-BILLED GULL. Banded June 11, 1955, recovery: Durzea, Pennsylvania, June 15, 1956.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. Banded June 11, 1955, recovery: Bilwas-karma, Nicaragua. — Thomas A. Lesperance, Keeseville.

North Country bird notes — In the past 20 years, I have averaged more than one trip a year between Nyack and Canton, in St. Lawrence County. Thus I have come to know the North Country rather well — but as a tourist, not a birder. My birding has been casual, wayside observation. Even so, this summer's trip confirmed a few interesting points noted in earlier years:

1. The Upland Sandpiper seems to be increasing in abundance in a triangle bounded roughly by a Lowville-Watertown-Antwerp line. Up to three years ago, I had never seen this bird along the way. Then I saw two near Evans Mills; the next year, I saw two again in the same general area. On last June 27, one was flying across Route 12 just south of Lowville and another was perched on a wire south of Antwerp; on July 2, a bird was seen again near Lowville, perched on a stump. If so many Upland Sandpipers can be seen from a fast-moving car passing through the area, how many might a real search reveal?

2. The Black Tern may frequent the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, but I have never seen it there until this summer, when I saw two ranging over a small marsh on the "officially closed" portion of Route 37-B between Massena and Waddington. My only previous St. Lawrence Valley terns had been on the Canadian side upriver from Prescott.

3. The tail of Hurricane Audrey, which lashed the Canton area for 36 hours on June 29-30, had more effect on birdlife than I have ever seen in several hurricanes at Nyack. Wind velocity was on the moderate side — for a hurricane — but several huge trees and many branches were brought down. Being in the nesting season, this storm could be expected, I suppose, to cause more disturbance to birds than more severe storms in the autumn. In any event, three Warbling Vireos that sang near the house in Canton on June 28 were silent or absent thereafter. Sidewalks were dotted with nests, many of them from this year but none with eggs. A day or two after the storm, an abnormal number of young birds were around the lawns, especially Flickers, Robins and Grackles. At least two Robins appeared a few days too young to be thrown on their own devices, and at Ogdensburg, I did see a nestful of naked young robins that had been thrown to the sidewalk.

According to the newspapers, Hurricane Audrey was revitalized in northern New York when it struck a strong low-pressure area. I saw wind velocity figures that indicated an acceleration from 40-50 mph. winds at Syracuse to above 80 mph. at Plattsburgh. — Robert F. Deed, 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack.

The Red-headed Woodpecker in northern New York — There is considerable evidence that the Red Headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) is increasing as a summer resident in northern New York. Prior to 1951 I saw this species on only one occasion, despite the fact that I travel extensively in the area and have done so since 1935. Beginning in 1951 the Red-headed Woodpecker has been noted fairly regularly, particularly in Jefferson County. It arrives in May and is not usually seen after September. A number of nesting sites have been located, most of them in Jefferson County, but there is at least one near Lowville in Lewis County, and one was discovered in 1955 near Gouverneur in St. Lawrence County. North of Watertown, in the general vicinity of Perch Lake, there are probably at least four nesting sites.

In northern New York the preferred habitat of this species consists of open groves in dry upland areas. Mature trees, such as elm, maple, and basswood with dead stubs situated in old pasture land constitute a typical nesting site.

The Red-headed Woodpecker is relatively common in parts of western New York,