

she blended softly with the neutral grey background of the bare hardwood trees on the island. As I came alongside the island, however, she stood out boldly against the opalescent wintry sky, the abnormally large round head giving the bird a top-heavy appearance. The large size of the bird is, of course, more apparent than real, due to the profusion and looseness of the feathers.

At a distance, the bird appeared to be of a solid grey color, but at fifty yards or so, in the sun light the mottling of the feathers was discernible, although I was unable to detect the small lemon yellow eyes without field glasses. If she appeared huge in the stunted tree growth, she looked a veritable "eagle-owl" as she flew toward the Verdun shore, alighting some 150 yards away on a rise in the ice, near which some tins and refuse had been thrown out, the long wings and tail and dark coloration emphasizing her bulk as she skimmed over the surface of the snow.

Her new lookout was just opposite the city dump and incinerator on the Verdun shore where, presumably, the Great Grey would betake herself after sundown, when the coast was clear and under cover of darkness. This dump is patronized by the city band of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) during the daytime and, incidentally, it may be mentioned that I saw on this date one individual of the latter species arriving at its home in the cornices of the big Roman Catholic church in Verdun, with considerable nesting material in its beak.

As the day was drawing to a close, I left the Great Grey sitting stoically on the ice mound in the full sweep of the cold north wind, a spooky owl form dimly outlined against the evening wind.—NAPIER SMITH.

MOCKINGBIRD WINTERS AT HAMILTON, ONTARIO.—In the morning of November 14th, 1927, a flock of four or five Chickadees became greatly agitated over the presence of a strange bird at a suet bag in an apple tree in my garden. The strange newcomer proved to be less interested in the suet than in the recently frozen grapes which had been left on adjacent vines to attract Robins and Flickers as in a former winter. To these it came almost daily until they were frozen too hard to be crushed by its long, dark bill. In the meantime the writer identified it as a Mockingbird. Among those who have verified that identification is Mr. Thomas Allan who formerly kept Mockingbirds in the cage.

Early in December California grapes were placed on the ground where the bird was accustomed to feed, but, at first, they were taken very

reluctantly. They were too large to be taken whole and too tough to be torn readily. When cut into small pieces they proved to be delectable and, supplemented by pieces of raw apple, boiled potato, yolk of hard-boiled egg and traces of raw meat chopped fine, have constituted his chief diet up to the present (January). Since the establishment of the lunch counter the bird has come into the garden early each morning and has remained with us nearly all the time until evening. On colder days it feeds at intervals of about twenty or thirty minutes and retires to the grape arbour or to a more sunny, sheltered position close to the house. At first it was quite trustful and would remain in the arbour while people moved about freely in the garden, but of late, through unknown cause, it has been decidedly timid, concealing itself or flying from the garden on the approach of anyone. Up to the present the writer has been unable to determine where it spends the night.—GEO. MCMILLAN.

SOME MEASUREMENTS OF THE COMMON CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*).—Through the kindness of Mr. Jack Miner, the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology has recently received a number of crows in the flesh which were captured in his deservedly famous crow-trap. These specimens are of particular interest for comparative studies, being about equally divided as to sex and all having been taken on the same day (February 24, 1928) and at the same place (Kingsville, Ontario). Prior to the specimens being made into skins the writer made rather careful measurements in millimetres of the principal dimensions of each bird. Examination of the skulls and plumages indicates that all specimens may be considered as adults. Below, the measurements are tabulated, the complete measurements of the largest and smallest individual of both sexes being given as well as the averages for each sex.

MALES

	Length	Tail	Wing	Culmen	Tarsus	Mid. Toe Claw
Largest Male....	528	189	319	50	60	49
Smallest Male....	474	172	320	43	58	45
Average for 12 Males.....	489.83	181.17	313.58	46.83	60.16	47.16

FEMALES

	Length	Tail	Wing	Culmen	Tarsus	Mid. Toe Claw
Largest Female..	482	180	315	44	58	47
Smallest Female..	441	165	283	38	53	45
Average for 13 Females.....	465.3	170.61	299.03	42.46	56.67	45

It will be noted that there is a correlation between size and sex, males being larger than females on the average, although the sexes intergrade in size. The difference is less striking, however, when the measurements are converted into inches; for example, the difference in the average length of the two sexes is 24.53 millimeters which is slightly less than one inch.

In working out the percentages of the various dimensions from the average measurements, using the length as the divisor, the corresponding figures were the same for both sexes when carried only to the second decimal place.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto.*

THE SMOKY SHREW AT LONDON, ONTARIO.—

The past season appears to have been a pretty good one for *Sorex fumeus*. There are two areas near London where it occurs and one of these was trapped this fall, one specimen being taken on October 27 and two each on October 29 and November 1. These were on a springy hill where the tree growth is hemlock, cedar, tamarack, pine, beech and maple; and the other locality where it was first taken in this district, and which is a black spruce sphagnum swamp, was not visited. It seems curious that so few of these animals are taken in the Province. My experience at London would lead me to conclude that they are not uncommon animals but when I get away from London I am never able to find any at all, so it may be that Middlesex is a specially good county for them. The two locations are nine miles apart and some of the intervening territory has been trapped without success.—W. E. SAUNDERS.

BREWER MOLE IN ONTARIO.—On December 16 I visited a farm half a mile west of Mount Brydges and fifteen miles west of London where these animals have been found in the past. Apparently 1928 has been a good breeding season because

their runs and hills were very numerous in several fields. In one place the hills were not connected by surface runs and earth in the hills was nearly black, leading one to surmise that in this particular part of the field the mole might have been the star-nose mole, instead of Brewer mole, but the latter is the common one of the district. Mr. West, on whose farm they occurred told me that the cat brought in two of these during the summer, one of which was a particularly fine, large specimen. This animal has been noted in an area about five miles across and doubtless occurs in many other parts of the township, (Caradoc), the soil of which is largely sandy and is noted for its potatoes.—W. E. SAUNDERS.

MALLARDS TARDY IN MIGRATING.—Colin C. Campbell, Reston, Man., reports that hundreds of Mallards remained feeding on hauled-out grain around the Reston district until December 28. They have not been seen since that date. The birds were coming from Oak Lake and Plum Lake, which, owing to the mild weather were still open until towards the end of the month. Mr. Campbell estimates that there were in all between one and two thousand Mallards making the lakes their headquarters and spreading around the district to feed on the spoilt grain. The area occupied by the ducks was free of snow.—A. G. LAWRENCE.

OCCURRENCE OF THE EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*) AT PETIT ROCHER, N.B.—According to an item which appeared in the *Bathurst Northern Light*, of Bathurst, New Brunswick, and which was reproduced in the *Campbellton Graphic* of May 24, 1928, a specimen of the European Starling was found dead on May 6, 1928, in Petit Rocher, New Brunswick, by Sydney DesBrisay, and identified by Mr. James McIntosh, of Bathurst.—HARRISON F. LEWIS.

OFFICIAL CANADIAN RECORD OF BIRD-BANDING RETURNS

Published by authority of the National Parks of Canada Branch, Department of the Interior
Canada

In the following returns upon banded birds it will be noted that some returns may be thought to indicate, from the date of capture, violations of the Migratory Birds Act of Canada and the United States. The great majority of returns, which seem to indicate violations, are from birds accidentally caught in traps set for fur-bearing mammals, from birds caught in fish nets, killed by oil, or from birds found dead from unknown causes. Appropriate action has been taken in connection with the few returns which indicate illegal shooting.

RETURNS UPON BIRDS BANDED IN 1920

BLACK DUCK, No. A.B.B.A. 37,318, probably banded by H. S. Osler, at Lake Scugog,

Ontario, during the fall of 1920, was killed at a place on the north side of Pocomoke Sound, Maryland—reported on November 22, 1927. This band was issued to H. S. Osler, who cannot account for its use.

RETURNS UPON BIRDS BANDED IN 1922

MALLARD, No. 1,403, ad., m., banded by Gussie Innes, at Kinalmeaky Farm, Headingly, Manitoba, on November 11, 1922, was shot at Wylie, Pennington County, Minnesota, about 60



Snyder, L. L. 1929. "Some Measurements of the Common Crow." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 43(2), 41–42. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338981>.

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