

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

LAND BIRDS OCCASIONALLY CONVEYED ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.—On the 1st July, 1939, I sailed on *S.S. Melmore Head* from Three Rivers, Quebec, for Dublin. We carried a considerable deck cargo of lumber. Just after passing the Straits of Belle Isle I noticed a Redpoll Linnet (*Acanthis linaria*)—either female or immature, as it lacked the red on its breast—hopping about among the lumber. Some sailors told me they had seen the bird come aboard at Three Rivers. We fed it on bread crumbs but three days out of Belle Isle the weather turned cold and next morning we found the bird dead.

On the 19th August I sailed from Liverpool on the *S.S. Letitia* for Montreal. Just off the Irish coast I noticed a Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba Yarrellii*), either female or immature, on the stern of the ship. I was informed it came aboard when the ship was anchored in Belfast Lough on the 18th August. The passengers fed it on bread crumbs and we saw it every day till we entered the Straits of Belle Isle. It then disappeared, probably flying to the coast of Labrador then only two or three miles distant. Up to the moment of its disappearance it seemed well and lively.

These instances show that land birds, probably immature specimens especially, must cross the Atlantic on ships much more frequently than we would expect, and places like the coast of Donegal and Belle Isle should be the localities where such specimens are likely to be found. Incidentally, does the above record make the Pied Wagtail a Canadian bird?—C. P. MARTIN.

On the subject of other waifs on shipboard at sea, see Merriman and Taverner's articles, *Canadian Field Naturalist* XLVII, pp. 139-140, 1933. Rapid transit facilities are likely eventually to carry many more of these wanderers to and from our shores. The determining factor of survival en route appears, short of violent storms, etc., to be the supply of fresh water available rather than food or weather conditions.—ORNITH. ED.

A NORTHERN OCCURRENCE OF THE ANGLER (*Lophius piscatorius* Linn.) ON THE COAST OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.—A recently-caught dead specimen of *Lophius piscatorius*, the Angler or Monkfish, was shown to me on August 12, 1939, at Great Mecatina Island, Saguenay County, Quebec. Great Mecatina

Island lies in north latitude $50^{\circ} 48'$, west longitude $58^{\circ} 52'$, near the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. I was informed that this specimen of the Angler had been caught near that island, on August 11, 1939, on a "trawl" or set-line, set for codfish. Residents of Great Mecatina Island and vicinity said that they had never seen such a fish before, so it must be rather rare there. Presumably this place is near the periphery of its range. The specimen, which was about three feet long, was identified by me with the aid of the "Field Book of Marine Fishes of the Atlantic Coast," by Charles M. Breder Jr.—HARRISON F. LEWIS.

SONG SPARROW FEEDS FIVE COWBIRDS.—On 10th July, 1939, at Ma-me-o Beach, Pigeon Lake, about 28 miles west of Wetaskiwin, Alberta, while in company with William M. Barnett, we saw a Song Sparrow, (*Melospiza melodia*), industriously feeding five young Cowbirds, (*Molothrus ater*), on the beach. It would seem there had been wholesale adoption here and the foster-parent was certainly "working her (or his) head off" to keep up with the demands of the family.—W. A. D. LEES.

BIRD NOTES FROM QUEBEC.—Amongst the birds of unusual occurrence in the district, which my wife and I collected this spring, were the following:

EASTERN MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*).—An adult male collected by the writer at Cap Rouge, Quebec, on April 17, 1939. There was still snow on the ground at many places, but the bird was on a steep bare bank of the St. Lawrence river. A remarkable fact is that I collected the same species within a hundred yards of the same spot on April 12, 1923, when the same conditions of snow on the ground and of bare bank of the river existed. I never saw a Dove in the district during the intervening years, though in the field practically every week, winter and summer.

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*).—An adult male collected by my wife and an adult female by myself at Isle aux Grues, Quebec, on May 7, 1939. With white suits on, we drifted amongst cakes of ice and came so near the birds that



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