

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

THE MUTE SWAN IN ONTARIO.— The occurrence of a mute swan (*Sthenelides olor*) in the vicinity of any large community or estate could be assumed to be the result of some local escape and would deserve no particular comment. A specimen of this species now in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology represents an occurrence which cannot be so summarily dismissed. The bird, an adult, was collected on Long Point Bay, Norfolk County, Ontario by Mr. John Bachus, Jr. of Port Rowan in late October, 1934. It possessed no marks of captivity. Both wings are normal though the swan was apparently in a flightless stage since the chord of each wing measures approximately eighteen inches, not twenty-four or more which would indicate full development of the primaries. According to breeders of this species there is nothing irregular about the bird being flightless in October.

The point of interest in connection with this Ontario-taken mute swan is that it cannot be assumed to be a local escape since no captive stock is known to be kept within fifty or more miles of the situation where it was captured. In fact, Long Point Bay is about as close to areas where Mute swans have been reported as feral birds as it is to where captive stock of the species is retained.

The 1931 Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List makes the general

statement that this species is naturalized in New York State (lower Hudson Valley and the south shore of Long Island) and that casual strays occur on the coast of New Jersey. Poole¹, Black², and Hicks³ report occurrences of mute swans in Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio (and West Virginia) respectively. Although the report of Hicks concerns the liberation of swans in Ohio in the autumn of 1934, the year the Ontario bird was collected, the context of his note indicates that the latter could not have been from that flock.

An unrecorded occurrence based on a sight observation at Hamilton, Ontario, since 1934, could not be explained as a local escape. The specimen here recorded and the Hamilton report would appear to make it necessary to deal with the name of this species in any future list of Ontario birds. List-keepers are plagued with numerous histories of occurrence which show every degree in support of validity or invalidity. The case of the mute swan is not clear-cut or of any particular importance but nevertheless the name should be included in any compendium purporting to be complete.— L. L. SNYDER, ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY, TORONTO, ONT.

1.—1929, Auk, 46: 536

2.—1934, Auk, 51: 100

3.—1935, Auk, 52: 301-2

ADDITIONAL GRASSES FOR OTTAWA. LIST¹.— Further collecting in the region within a 30-mile radius of Ottawa has yielded the following names to supplement our list published earlier (*Can. Field-Nat.* 52:53-55, April 1938).

**Agropyron cristatum* (L.) Gaertn. — persisting since 1941, sandy highway shoulder, Dow's Lake.

Bromus Dudleyi Fern. — Wakefield.

**Cynosurus cristatus* L. — introduced in lawn seedings, Ottawa.

Deschampsia flexuosa (L.) Trin. — sandy land, Constance Bay.

**Festuca capillata* Lam. — in lawn, Ottawa.

**Festuca elatior* L. var. *arundinacea* (Schreb.) Wimm. — roadside, Deschênes.

Glyceria canadensis (Michx.) Trin., var. *laxa* (Scribn.) Hitchc. — Eardley.

**Hordeum vulgare* L.—persisting after cultivation.

Muhlenbergia uniflora (Muhl.) Fern. — bog, Eardley.

Panicum linearifolium Scribn. Britannia.

**Setaria verticillata* (L.) Beauv. — city streets, Ottawa; troublesome in Westboro garden.

Some additional stations for species rare in the district may also be mentioned.

Anthoxanthum odoratum — moist meadow Arboretum, Experimental Farm.

Bromus Kalmii — Constance Bay and Almonte.

Phragmites communis — ditch, Bowesville. —W. G. DORE AND H. GROH, OTTAWA.

1.—Contribution No. 795 from the Division of Botany and Plant Pathology, Science Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada.



Dore, W G and Groh, Herbert. 1944. "Additional Grasses for the Ottawa List." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 58(6), 193–193. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.340756>.

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