September, 1939, Theodore E. Howard told the writer that he was staying with Jerry Nunn at Harperville, a village between St. Laurent and Woodlands in Manitoba. Several times he and Nunn saw a mother skunk and her family of five out for a walk. Every time, number 4 of the young skunks, which could be identified by its being lame, was in its fourth place in the line.

This raises several questions. Is it part of the same dominance that accounts for the original choice of individual teats in feeding? Has the order of choice of teats any numerical connection with the choice of position in travelling? Is a definite position regularly assumed when the young are later on feeding upon carrion or other food? Is there any connection between the actual order of birth and the places assumed when feeding and travelling? Certain other members of the weasel family travel in line ahead, at least sometimes, so perhaps valuable information could be supplied by breeders of mink, fisher, etc., along these lines. — L. T. S. NORRIS-ELYE, Winnipeg, Man.

Hooded Warbler in Quebec. — On May 3, 1947, I saw a Hooded Warbler *(Wilsonia citrina)* at Baie d'Urfee, east of Ste. Anne de Bellevue, P.Q. As it flitted from twig to twig of the low saplings above the flood-waters of the Ottawa River, the bird was carefully observd to be a warbler of generally yellow coloration with a black crown which continued behind the neck and met a black collar. The eye was within the yellow patch, enclosed by the black hood. On the following day, a Hooded Warbler, apparently the same individual, was seen in the same *locale* by Mrs. Isabel Zagallo, of Portugal, a guest; Mr. W. E. Whitehead, Lecturer in Entomology at Macdonald College; Mrs. Gray; and myself.

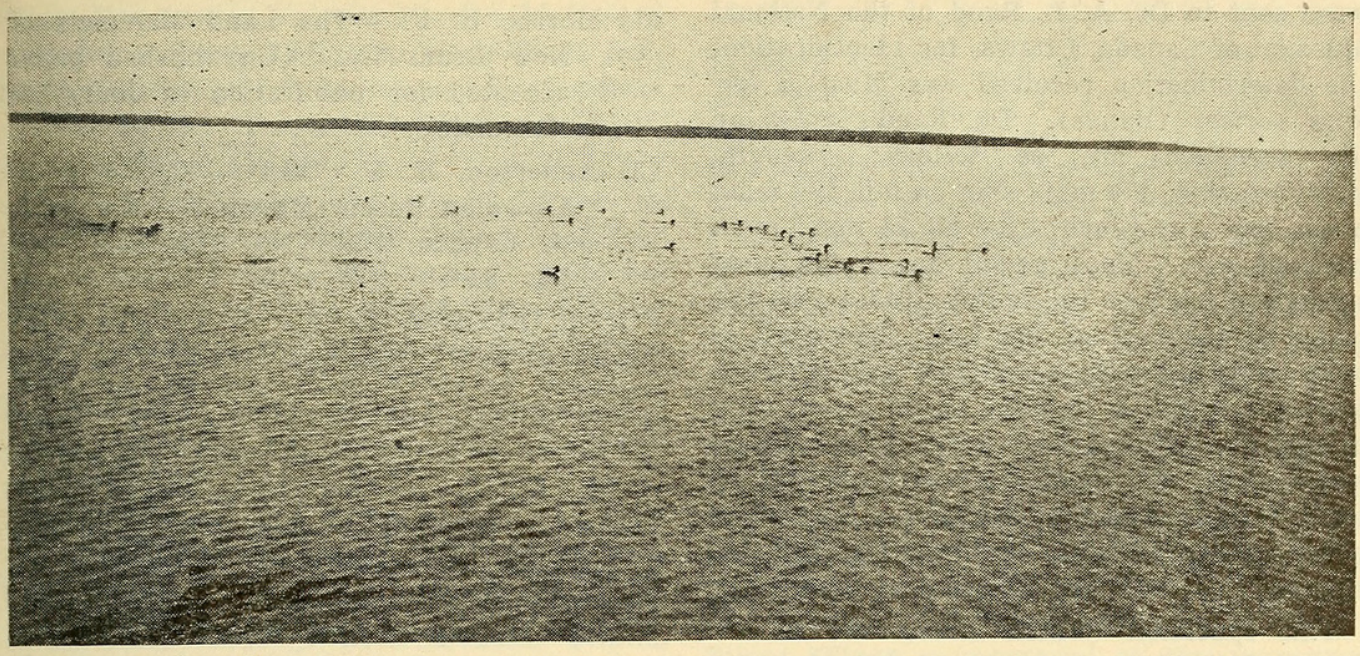
I know of no other recorded instance of the occurrence of the Hooded Warbler in the province of Quebec. — P. H. H. GRAY, Macdonald College, Quebec.

Cerulean Warbler *(Dendroica cerulea)* **at Ottawa.** — On May 24, 1947, a male of this species was seen in the woods beside the Rideau River in Lot 20, R.G., Gloucester Township, Carleton County. It was watched at close range for several minutes through a pair of Ross 7x50 binoculars as it fed in the underbrush, then just breaking into leaf. The bird was compared on the spot with the illustration and text in Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds". It was blue above with two white wing-bars, and white below with a narrow black line across the upper breast. This black line was clearly seen and made the bird unmistakeable. In addition two bluish warblers with which it might have been confused were also seen earlier the same day, a parula warbler and a male black-throated blue warbler, the latter at the same place. This is the second record of the cerulean warbler for the Ottawa area. — E. V. GOODWILL, Ottawa.

An Instance of Killer Whales Feeding on Ducks. — While watching a half-dozen killer whales that were travelling along our rocky shoreline, at Triple Island, British Columbia, in January, 1946, my wife and I noted that they were feeding on ducks, mostly white-winged scoters, which they successfully chased and caught.

A whale would spot a duck and start after it, the duck taking flight when it saw the large dorsal fin approaching. The ducks were unable to gain altitude quickly enough and were snapped up while they were flying, their wings still pattering on the water as they tried to escape. Approximately a dozen ducks were taken in this manner in a very short time, after which the others took off. The whales left soon afterward, probably in search of more ducks. We noted that it was necessary for the whales to turn on their backs in order to seize the ducks. — GORDON C. ODLUM, Triple Island Lightstation, Prince Rupert, B.C.

Summer flocking of the loon, *Gavia immer* (Brun.). — In winter loons are sometimes seen in large gatherings which can hardly be called flocks, numbering from 40 to 100 birds, but are more usually seen singly or in small parties (Bent, 1919, U.S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 107, p. 58). In spring migration, from early April to early May it is common to see loons in flocks sometimes containing as many as 40 individuals on Okanagan Lake in British Columbia. (Munro, 1945, Auk, 62, pp. 38-49). But during the breeding season, from May to August and September it is believed each pair remains on a territory it has established, and does most of its feeding there. Occasional intruders into these territories are resented with more or less vigor. These intruders, single birds, pairs, or small parties, apparently in search of food, are considered to be non-breeders.



Part of a flock of loons (*Gavia immer*) **on File Lake, Manitoba, June 24, 1946. The whole flock numbered over 100 birds. Photograph by Dr. J. M. Harrison.**

Recently Dr. J. M. Harrison of Ottawa, communicated verbally some interesting notes on summer flocking of loons in their breeding range. Dr. Harrison's work in recent summers has been in the Flin Flon area of central western Manitoba. This is Precambrian country, dotted with many small lakes and a few larger ones. Loons nest commonly through the area; usually a pair has a wide area about its nest exclusively for itself. But on two large clear lakes in which the fishing is especially good, Dr. Harrison has seen loons congregate in large flocks in July 1943, and June and July 1946. The lakes are Lake Athapapaskow 8 miles east of Flin Flon and File Lake, about 50 miles east of Flin Flon. He has seen congregations of up to 60 birds on the former and of more than 100 birds on the latter. The loons were seen flying to the lakes in the early morning; during the day the size of the flock increased, until about 3 P.M. when the maximum number of birds was present, after which the birds began to leave the lakes. Apparently only the few local nesting birds spent the night on the lakes. There seemed to be little coming and going during the day, and no signs of the loons carrying fish from the lakes were seen; the birds appeared to come to feed.

Though a number of pairs of loons were nesting on these lakes (the earliest date on which young were noted in 1946 was on June 19) no aggressive behavior was seen.

This behavior suggests several things: that the adults may congregate at good fishing places to get food for the young, though against this is the fact that no food was seen to be carried; that these are non-breeding birds, such as Munro mentions, that congregate to feed, though if this were the case one wonders why they would leave the lake; or it may be that one or the other of a pair with young may leave them for part of the day.—A. L. RAND, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.

First New Brunswick Specimen of the Northeastern Long-tailed Ermine (*Mustela frenata occisor* (Bangs)). — Early in 1947 the writer was given the flat stretched skin and the skull of a weasel which had been trapped in the basement of a house at Nashwaaksis, N.B. (just outside Fredericton) in late November 1946. At about the same time the manuscript of a forthcoming paper by Dr. R. F. Morris (1) was read. From this paper it appeared that the animal was probably *M. f. occisor*, although Morris states that the species "—probably occurs but is much less common than the Bonaparte Weasel". Morris also states that "In 1873 Adams described two species of weasels in New Brunswick and his measurements indicate that one was the Bonaparte Weasel and the other the Long-tailed Weasel"; and also that "In 1896 Cox also recorded the latter species from Sunbury County—".