

been reported only once previously for Churchill, on June 26, 1957 by Mrs. E. Beckett (1958 *Can. Field-Nat.* 72:145-146).

These observations were made while the writer was employed as a field assistant to W. E. Rees by Dr. J. B. Falls of the Department of Zoology, University of Toronto.

JOHN LAMEY

383 Rimilton Avenue
Toronto 14, Ontario
Accepted April 5, 1967

Bird Notes from James Bay in Late November

THE JAMES BAY REGION of Ontario has been actively investigated ornithologically only in the summer months. Virtually no field study has been done in that area in late autumn or winter. W. E. C. Todd (1963) made his latest visit to the region on 4 November 1912. With this in mind it may be of interest to mention some observations made by Donald H. Baldwin and myself, at Moosonee and Moose Factory, Cochrane District, Ontario, during the period 24 to 27 November 1965.

Although we were primarily interested in the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) population, which totalled three individuals (Barlow, 1966), observations were made on all species and are presented here. All specimens are in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum. The project was financed by a grant to Dr. Jon C. Barlow by the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show.

Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*

One individual of this species was seen at Moosonee on 25 November. The Moose River was completely frozen between Moosonee and Moose Island and the gull was feeding with about thirty Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) at the garbage dump serving Moosonee and the nearby Royal Canadian Air Force Base. The latest previous record for the region

is that of a flock of ten at Attawapiskat on 10 October by Dr. George Stirrett (Manning, 1952). Attawapiskat is approximately one hundred miles north of Moosonee on the west coast of James Bay.

Evening Grosbeak, *Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*

Two birds from a flock of fifteen were collected at Moose Factory on 26 November. The two specimens, a male (ROM 96307) and a female (ROM 96308), are both birds of the year based on incomplete skull ossification.

This record apparently represents the first occurrence of the species in the James Bay region. The previous most northerly Ontario record is that of a male (ROM 79696) taken on 13 November 1951 in Lamarche Township (northeast of the town of Cochrane), Cochrane District. Todd (1963, p. 646) mentions summering Evening Grosbeaks only as far north as Cochrane.

Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza georgiana ericrypta*

A solitary female Swamp Sparrow (ROM 96309) was collected on 26 November at Moose Factory. The skull shows very little ossification, hence the bird may represent a late nesting. The weather in the area was seasonably cold and the ground and river were solidly frozen. However precipitation had been light and the snow cover on the ground was less than four inches so that grass and low willows remained exposed. The bird weighed 17.9 grams and the gizzard contained grass seeds and fine gravel. It was apparently in good health.

The specimen is referable to the race *ericrypta* on the basis of bright colour and back streaking.

The latest previous record for the Moose Factory area is a male (ROM 28418) taken on 9 October 1937.

Other species noted were 50 Common Ravens, 2 Gray Jays (*Perisoreus canadensis*), 15 Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), a Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*),

and a Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).

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ROLPH A. DAVIS

Department of Ornithology
Royal Ontario Museum
University of Toronto
100 Queen's Park, Toronto 5
Accepted April 5, 1967

A Dragonfly New to Canada

ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1964 I caught a mature male of the dragonfly, *Sympetrum ambiguum* (Rambur) (Odonata: Libellulidae), in Point Pelee Park, Ontario. To encounter this species in the extreme south of Ontario is not surprising: it has been recorded as far north as Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maine (Needham and Westfall *Dragonflies of North America*, Univ. of California Press, 1955). Its capture in Point Pelee Park raises the number of species of *Sympetrum* recorded in Canada to 13 and of those in Ontario to nine. The specimen is in the Canadian National Collection of Insects in Ottawa.

PHILIP S. CORBET

Entomology Research Institute
Canada Department of Agriculture
Ottawa, Ontario
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Say's Phoebe, *Sayornis saya*, in Nova Scotia

ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1966, several members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society went

to Seal Island, Shelburne Co., for the fourth of what promises to become an annual series of fall visits. Almost the first bird we saw on landing was identified as a robin by about half the group, and as a phoebe by the remainder. It took a couple of minutes to realize that it was neither, but a Say's Phoebe, the first for Nova Scotia. The bird was extremely active, flitting about the houses, fences, and beach boulders, and by the time our gear was unpacked, it had vanished. As this is the most easterly report of this species, it seemed desirable to obtain the specimen. It was collected later by C. R. K. Allen, and the skin was sent to the National Museum of Canada in Ottawa. It was identified as a member of the subspecies *S. saya saya*, and is the first Canadian specimen from east of Quebec.

This record is one of the most interesting examples to date of what we have come to expect of extreme southwestern Nova Scotia at this season. Almost regularly, western vagrants turn up in this area in the fall. Some have probably not come very far, for example, the Brown Thrashers that occur regularly in New Brunswick but are normally a rarity in Nova Scotia. Others, such as Dickcissels, Lark Sparrows, and Grasshopper Sparrows probably come from farther west. The Say's Phoebe undoubtedly came from a very long way. It is suggested that a possible reason for the frequency with which such wanderers appear in this region is a geographical funnelling of mis-oriented birds into a few restricted areas. It is as though the peninsula of Nova Scotia acted as a giant Heligoland Trap, with the promontories and islands at the tip serving to collect the birds.

CHRISTOPHER W. HELLEINER

Nova Scotia Bird Society
c/o Nova Scotia Museum of Science
Spring Garden Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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