

Secreting myself nearby, I presently saw another wren, presumably the female, skimming low over the sedge, carrying food. She dropped into the vegetation near one of the singing perches. After a wait of half an hour during which time the female made three trips to the same general area, I decided to investigate. The female flushed when I was several feet away and it was some few minutes before the carefully concealed nest was located in a dense clump of sedge. It was entirely hidden from above. Examination showed it contained seven partially fledged and helpless young. After replacing the young in the nest, the spot was marked so that on our next visit pictures of them being fed might be obtained.

On July 5th, F. H. Emery, C. E. Molony and the writer returned to the marsh, equipped with photographic paraphernalia. Imagine our surprise, when within a yard of the nest, the young bolted with the exception of one which we caught and managed to photograph. Three others were located in the grass by following up their tiny squeaks.

The nest was composed of sedges and fine grasses and a few dry cat-tail leaves interwoven into a ball-shaped mass and situated in a dense clump of small-leaved sedges, 12 inches above the ground. It was lined with cat-tail down and feathers of the Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus torquatus*) which is a common bird there. The nest measured 4 inches in height and 3½ inches in width. The entrance was 1¼ inches in diameter and faced in an easterly direction. The ground beneath the nest was quite dry, the water of the marsh proper being 25 feet away. A thorough search of the surrounding area revealed no false nests.

One of the young was collected as a record and it, along with the nest, is now in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology at Toronto.

The writer wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Mr. J. L. Baillie of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology for his constructive criticism and for information on early Toronto records. — C. E. DEVITT, *Toronto, Ont.*

RED WING CONCENTRATION. — Near a roadway over which I have often travelled, not far from my home lies a small marsh. As a feature on the landscape it is very insignificant, one could walk completely around its outer edge in less than three minutes. In summer it stands out as a patch of waving cat-tails in the midst of cultivated fields; and in winter, as a spot of brown crumpled reeds surrounded by blank whiteness. Alone, unlike any other habitat for miles

around, such a spot becomes an object of interest — a good place to drop off and examine while motoring by, and an objective on a snowshoe tramp over the fields. Here, when the surrounding fields were flourishing with field-loving birds I have found the black duck, the sora rail, the American bittern and many red-winged blackbirds, and in winter, when all about was barren of life, the tracks in the snow of European hare, the cottontail, the field vole and the deer mouse, the unmistakable trail of the pheasant and the less certain marks of the song, swamp and tree sparrows seeking shelter in the rank though friendly herbage. So that my pond, or slough as it would be called in the west, is a little world of its own, differing as it does so markedly from the surrounding country in both animal and vegetable life.

On June 3rd, 1935, I visited the spot to examine its life more than casually. Without going into all that was found the most noticeable thing was the number of red-winged blackbirds that had made this tiny oasis their home. I have mentioned the size of the marsh — some 50 yards in diameter, deduct from this about 30 yards of open water in the center, there is left a very limited area growing in cat-tails. Yet in this area I found 35 nests of the red-wing. Some of these were partly built, some finished, many contained eggs or young or both. A careful check was as follows:

Empty nests, unfinished or finished	8
Nests with eggs	16
Nests with young and eggs	5
Nests with young	6
	<hr/>
	35
	<hr/>
Total number of eggs	66
Total number of young	28
	<hr/>
	94
	<hr/>

Considering the small area examined this shows a surprising concentration of population. Although this species can generally be considered a common bird, never in all the many marshes I have waded were their nests so numerous and so close to each other as in this. Nests were often within a few inches of their neighbours. Yet strange to say I only counted fifteen red-wings of both sexes in the whole marsh. And, as it was evening, I have reason to believe all inhabitants of this marsh should be here. It is of course well known that the red-wing is polygamous. But one cannot help but wonder how many seasons this tiny marsh could ac-

commodate the red-wings returning in spring to their home territory even making all allowances for migration casualties. Grant that only roughly 50% of the birds return the following spring, we ought to find some some sixty birds trying to nest in this already crowded area. However that remains to be seen. At present, conditions as they are present a very good example of how a species, especially if it be at all gregarious, will concentrate in a suitable habitat even though decided limited. — STUART L. THOMPSON.

BIRD NOTES FROM GRAND MANAN, NEW BRUNSWICK. — Through the courtesy of Mr. Allan Moses of North Head, Grand Manan, I have the following interesting records to report.

Quiscalus quiscula quiscula. PURPLE GRACKLE. — Apparently adult male, taken on Kent's Island. (an islet south of Grand Manan), November 20, 1931, by R. Griffin, now mounted in the Moses collection. I had the pleasure of examining this specimen through loan and can fully corroborate the identification. There is a strong suffusion of purple instead of brassy bronze on back and wings, and the distinctive "peacock" semicircles are very conspicuous along the edges of the scapulars and on sides of breast. This subspecies occurs in many of the reports of early Canadian ornithologists but all that have previously been subject to verification have proved to be misidentifications of *Q. q. aeneus*. This seems to be the first definite record of the subspecies in Canada.

Spatula clypeata. SHOVELLER. — Changing from juvenile to adult male plumage, Nantucket Island (near Grand Manan), January 5, 1935, now deposited in the National Museum of Canada. This is the only representative of the

species that Mr. Moses has seen in the Grand Manan area. Harold Herrick in his *Partial List of the Birds of Grand Manan*, 1873, lists it as "rare" and George Boardman, *Birds of the St. Croix*, 1900, cites it as "very rare; accidental". Gilpin, 1882, reports a specimen from Halifax, and Downs, 1888, dismisses it as "rather rare migrant" in Nova Scotia. Chamberlain, 1887, makes no mention of the species in the eastern provinces. Individual specimens have been taken at Romaine, Canadian Labrador and the Magdalen Islands. This about completes the references to the species in the Maritime Provinces. — P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa*.

Deroceras hyperboreum Westerlund on BAFFIN ISLAND. — One lot of more than ten specimens of this species (or variety of *D. agreste* according to some authorities), was collected at Lake Harbour, Baffin Island, on the 17th of September, 1935, by Dr. W. J. Brown of the Entomological Branch of the Department of Agriculture. The specimens were presented to the National Museum.

The presence of *D. hyperboreum* in this locality is not unexpected since it has been found as far to the north at other points but to the knowledge of the writer it has never been specifically recorded for Baffin Island until now.

Collectors having an opportunity to work in the north are urged to get as many land and fresh-water mollusca as possible since so little is known of their distribution in that area. Specimens will be gratefully received by the National Museum and in all cases will form valuable additions to its collections. — A. LA ROCQUE.

REVIEW

THE MARINE FISHES OF NOVA SCOTIA, by V. D. Vladykov and R. A. McKenzie. *Proc. N. S. Inst. Sci.* 19:17-113, 1935. Reprint for sale at \$1.50.

This paper consists of keys for the identification of 151 species of fish found in the waters of Nova Scotia, with a brief discussion of the status of each species in local waters, its

commercial importance if any, abundance and general range.

This publication should be a great convenience to anyone interested in the fishes of the Atlantic coast of Canada. By bringing together the scattered information on the occurrence of fishes in the waters off the coast of Nova Scotia, it makes an important contribution to Canadian ichthyology. — J. R. DYMOND.



Thompson, Stuart L. 1936. "Red Wing Concentration." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 50(8), 141–142. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339929>.

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