

in the spectrum. Since these colours are of prismatic origin, it would appear that they demonstrate some minute structural variations in the feathers of the head, neck and upper breast of the Bronzed Brackle of this region.

SEX RATIO AND SEASONAL CONDITION OF GONADS

An additional observation relative to the sexes and season seems worthy of note. Since there is reason to believe that no selective factor operated in the capture of these birds, the series would seem to represent a fair cross-section of grackles moving north into Ontario during late March. The sex ratio of these birds was 48.5% males and 51.5% females. Mr. Manly Miner informs me that it was the practice to leave six or eight birds in the trap to serve as decoys and that males were selected for this purpose. An approximately fifty-fifty sex ratio in this catch seems apparent.

No great development of the gonads was noted in sexing the specimens. Of the nine females preserved as specimens, the observations recorded at the time range from "ovary, 4 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, not conspicuously granular, flattish and kidney coloured" to "ovary, 11 mm. long, 5 mm. wide, granular and becoming clear". Of the eight males preserved, the remarks range from "testes, 2 mm. long, 1 mm. wide, colour dark", to "testes, 7 mm. long, 4 mm. wide, colour fairly clear".

BEAK ABNORMALITIES

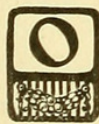
Two of the specimens in the series, both males,

are notable for their peculiar beaks. In one (R.O.M.Z. No. 30. 3.30.4) this member is rather heavy, but not extremely so (12 mm. in depth at the anterior end of nostril) and curves decidedly downward most pronouncedly along the culmen but also gently along the gonys. The superficial appearance of the beak suggests the beak outline of certain exotic cuckoos or coucals (*Centropus*). Further, the beak has a slight clockwise spiral twist from base to tip which is quite obvious when viewed dorsally along the line of the culmen. The culmen length is but slightly larger (approximately 2 mm.) than would be regarded as normal for a bird possessing its other linear measurements.

The other specimen (R.O.M.Z. No. 30. 3.30.15) has at some time met with an accident in which approximately six mm. of the tip has been broken from the lower mandible. The profile of the culmen of this specimen is, like the above, curved downward, especially toward the tip. The outline of the gonys is, however, straight from the base to the point where the member was broken off. If the broken tip of the lower mandible was in conformity with the downward curve of the upper mandible, it would indeed have been very abnormal in shape. It would appear, on the other hand, that the downward curve of the upper mandible has been increased since the break occurred, perhaps because of the absence of an occluding surface. The beak is normal in both depth and length.

EXTENSION OF RANGE OF *Tamias striatus griseus* MEARNS

By H. U. GREEN



ON SEPTEMBER 5th, 1935, while studying the terrain along the course of the Vermilion River, Manitoba, for evidence of beaver migration from the Riding Mountain National Park, I observed several specimens, evidently a family group, of the Gray Eastern Chipmunk, *Tamias striatus griseus* Mearns, in a hardwood stand near the town of Dauphin. The altitude was approximately 940 feet. Three specimens were collected: (No.M.294 ♀ T.L.250-T.V.80-H.F.29) (No.M.295, ♀ T.L.240-T.V.98-H.F.31) (No.M.296 ♂ T.L. 245-T.V.95-H.F. 33) Identification was then definitely determined.

No further specimens were observed in this locality, and, with the exception of a single individual, (No. 289, ♂ T.L.243-T.V.99-H.F.29), collected on July 19th, 1935, about a mile away, *T. s. griseus* has not been previously seen in the Dauphin district although the area has been well trapped for small mammals during recent years.

On August 9th, 1933, I collected a specimen of *T. s. griseus*, (R.M.No 156, ♂), determined by Dr. R. M. Anderson, on the eastern escarpment of the Riding Mountain above Norgate at an altitude (since determined) of approximately 1400 feet, and a further specimen, (R.M.No.229, ♀), on the north shore of Clear Lake, Riding

Mountain National Park, on September 17, 1933, at an altitude (since determined) of about 2200 feet. These records were reported in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* 48:50, 1934.

Anthony, *Field Book of North American Mammals*, 1928, gives the range of *T. s. griseus* as "west of the Great Lakes, in the upper Mississippi valley,". Seton (1909), I am authoritatively informed, records *T. s. griseus* as "abundant in the woods to the south east part of the country (Manitoba) and west to Portage la Prairie (Manitoba)", and, further that "Stuart Criddle (1929) lists it as 'tolerably common' at Aweme, Manitoba."

The Norgate record, however, is not actually new, for I am advised that a specimen of *T. s.*

griseus, determined by A. H. Howell, was collected at Riding Mountain, Manitoba, by Robert Adamson on July 9th, 1900. The village of Riding Mountain is only a few miles from Norgate. The Clear Lake record, though, establishes, tentatively, the known distribution of this form some 20 miles to the west of Norgate, and the Dauphin record extends its range 50 miles north west of Norgate and about 40 miles north of Clear Lake.

It would seem, in view of the fact that *T. s. griseus* has never been observed or collected between Dauphin and Clear Lake, an area constantly traversed by the writer, that a slow migration along the Manitoba escarpment is progressing towards the north.

FIFTY YEARS AFTER

By G. E. FAIRBAIRN



WHILE hunting for land shells on May 25th, 1936, on the escarpment on the west side of the city of Hull, Que., the writer came across a few dead specimens of *Polygyra multilineata*. Most of the specimens were in a good state of preservation; some of them certainly not more than two years dead.

It was felt that such a find justified a search for live specimens and accordingly, on May 29th, the locality was visited again and an intensive search made which yielded four live and several dead specimens, about ten feet from the top of the escarpment and one hundred feet from the Aylmer Road.

As the species is not native in the Ottawa District it is thought this record will be of interest to students of molluscan distribution. An attempt was made in 1886 to introduce the species, as recorded by Latchford (*Ottawa Field-Naturalist* 1: 107-108, 1887-88). Latchford says, in part: "It is well known that many land shells which occur in Western Ontario, some of them very beautiful, are not found in this vicinity. An attempt has been made to establish these species here. Through the kindness of M. G. W. Dean of Kent, Ohio, and Mr. Geo. J. Streater of Garrettsville in the same state, I was enabled to place in the woods at various points around Ottawa, and in my garden in the city, a number of living shells, including *M. thyroides*, *M. multilineata*, *Triodopsis tridentata*, *T. palliata*, *Patula solitaria*, *P. perspectiva*, *Zonites ligera* and *Stenotrema hirsutum*.

"I was unable to visit afterwards the localities outside the city in which the shells were placed, but of those which were under my eye at home I observed that *Zonites ligera*, *Patula solitaria* and *P. perspectiva* all died. The others lived. *M. multilineata* seemed to flourish best, and in November young shells four-tenths of an inch in diameter were found by the dozen in the corner in which five adult individuals had been placed in the month of June.

"The other species which lived, with the exception of *H. tridentata*, did not appear to multiply. I may say that the gentlemen who obtained the shells in Ohio were kind enough to furnish me with information as to the peculiar habitat of the different species, and I tried to establish each in a station suited to it. I was able to do this in the woods much better than at home, and it is not improbable that the majority of the shells thus disposed of may establish themselves here."

The specimens found this year may be descendants of the ones placed around Ottawa in the year 1886 by Mr. Latchford, as mentioned in the article quoted above.

The soil where the specimens were found is a light sandy loam and leaf mould. Lower down on the slope there are many slabs of shaly limestone. There is a second growth about ten feet high of maple, willow, blackberry and raspberry bushes along the escarpment. The upper part of the bank is fairly dry, becoming moist toward the bottom where



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