

**Fox Sparrow needs no crutch.** — Feeding in a baited area among Sparrows and Juncos I noticed a Fox Sparrow bobbing and rolling in an unnatural manner and, upon close inspection, the cause of the peculiar motions was the lack of a right leg. However, in spite of the handicap, it was able to hop about in rough brush with agility and needed only occasional help from its wings in especially awkward situations. It had no difficulty in perching or turning about and carried out these movements with leg extended as normal birds do, not from a crouch as one might expect. It was even able to come to rest on an upright stalk without teetering enough to lose balance two out of three attempts.

When feeding rapidly in competition with others it would lose its equilibrium and to recover would stoop until the breast touched the ground and then push up in balance; these movements being performed very quickly accounted for the bobbing and rolling which first brought the bird to my attention. When foraging at leisure, seldom would it be necessary for it to bob.

Most remarkable of all, it would attack fiercely any bird encroaching on its territory and, in addition, it could and did scratch vigorously with its one leg in typical Fox Sparrow fashion at frequent intervals. — J. MITCHELL CAMPBELL, Ottawa, Ontario.

**Townsend's Solitaire in New Brunswick.** — On January 15, 1952, a bird approached our garden by way of the elm trees and took up residence for the winter in two Japanese barberries in the shrubbery under the elms.

The bird was smaller than a robin, grey breast, brownish grey back, forked tail with outer tail feathers white; bill was thrush-like. Looking it up in my books I concluded it must be a Townsend's Solitaire. (*Myadestes townsendi*).

I communicated with Mr. W. A. Squires, Curator of the Natural Science Department of the New Brunswick Museum. He suggested it might be a Mockingbird and sent me a specimen of one that had been picked up in the province years ago. The bill ruled out the mockingbird, and there was no conspicuous white patch in flight. Rather the bird showed two buffish stripes across the wings in flight. A large eye with white eye-ring, and two light buffy patches on the edge of the wing at rest, whitish outline of the tertials all indicated the Solitaire.

On March 19, Mr. George F. Boyer, Dominion Wildlife Officer at Sackville, N.B., definitely identified the bird as a Townsend's Solitaire. He succeeded in getting a good photograph of it at three feet showing the feather pattern clearly enough for certain identification.

We had the bird under observation continuously until March 31. On that day it sang for us, a beautiful long subdued song, touching some of the robin's high notes. I think it had been singing for several days earlier as we noticed its body heaving as it perched. Mr. Boyer tried to trap it for banding but was unsuccessful and the next day it was gone.

The bird was very sparing of its barberries, but when they got too difficult for it to gather we thought of trying dried currants. These he soon ate ravenously, taking almost a quarter of a cupful in two days. We changed his feeding station to a stump where we had a closer view of him. As far as I know he ate practically nothing else until the March sun exposed the leaves on the bank, when he would go to the ground occasionally. He kept a careful eye on the berries and currants, chasing off all comers smaller than himself, and frightening a red squirrel away. His flight was most interesting and should attract anyone's notice, as it was so unusual for a winter bird.

A recent letter from Mr. Squires tells me that Mr. W. Earl Godfrey finds the record acceptable at the National Museum, based on Mr. Boyer's photograph.

Mr. Squires informs me that the most easterly report in Canada for this bird is Manitoba in 1923, and in U.S.A., Long Island, New York, in 1905.

Mrs. A. B. CONNELL,  
Woodstock, N.B.

**Summer observations of the Evening Grosbeak in southern Ontario and Quebec.** — As several species of western birds have recently been displaying an eastward expansion of their nesting ranges, the following observations of Evening Grosbeaks, *Hesperiphona vespertina*, made by me in Ontario and Quebec during the summer of 1951, may be of interest.

MANIWAKI, P.Q.

(1) June 12 to 22, quite common, usually in flocks of from four to twenty birds.

(2) August 13 to 18, slightly less common.  
SOUTHWEST ALGONQUIN PARK, ONT.



June 27 to July 12, comparatively few.

VALCARTIER, P.Q.

July 16 to August 6, fair numbers, still fewer than at Maniwaki.

LAC EDOUARD, P.Q. (north of Shawinigan)

August 7 to 10, several birds were seen in the area.

MATTAWA, Ont.

August 20 to 25, flocks of up to fifteen birds.

W. JOHN SMITH,

45 Second Ave., Ottawa, Ont.

**A Northern Record for *Aplodinotus Grunniens*.** — The freshwater drum or sheepshead, *Aplodinotus grunniens* Rafinesque, reaches its northern limit of distribution in North America in Manitoba waters. In Lake Winnipeg it reaches its greatest abundance in the southern portion, but is considered to be rare in the northern part of the lake.

In 1949 a pair of pharyngeal teeth identified as those of a freshwater drum were sent to the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, the fish from which they came having been caught by a trapper in Little Playgreen Lake, Manitoba. The occurrence of the species in this lake was not surprising since it is readily accessible from Lake Winnipeg. However, in September, 1951, during field studies in the lower Nelson River region for the Manitoba Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Game and Fisheries Branch, the second author heard from the local inhabitants that a bass-like fish was occasionally caught on artificial lures. The species proved to be the freshwater drum. One fresh animal was taken but only the head was procured for a specimen since the owner wished to retain the remainder for food. This particular specimen was caught at the mouth of the Limestone River where it joins the Nelson River (56° 31' N, 94° 07' W). It was reported by the local people that one or two are caught by angling each summer and are apparently in good condition. The head, which measures 134 mm, in length, is deposited in the fish

collection of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology. — W. B. SCOTT, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology* — B. KOOYMAN, *Manitoba Department of Mines and Natural Resources*.

**Erroneous Records of *Empidonax wrightii* in Manitoba and at Belvedere, Alberta.** —

Taverner (1927, *Auk*, Vol. 46, No. 2, p. 224) recorded four flycatchers from Whitewater Lake, Manitoba, as the Wright Flycatcher, *Empidonax wrightii* Baird, with the comment that "in wing measurement these fall between the Least and Wright's but, all have the outer primary shorter than the sixth, the acknowledged characteristic of this species (i.e. *wrightii*) at present." Reference to Taverner's manuscript notes shows that the specimens concerned are National Museum of Canada nos. 20007, 20012, 20112, and 20118. The writer recently examined these. Unfortunately they are all, without any doubt whatever, *Empidonax minimus* (Baird and Baird). While it is true that the tenth primary is very slightly shorter than the fifth in all four this is an extremely variable character in *minimus* and these Manitoba species resemble *wrightii* in no other way. *Empidonax wrightii*, therefore, should be removed from the Manitoba bird list.

From Belvedere, Alberta, also, Taverner (1928, *Nat. Mus. Canada*, Bull, 50, p. 96) recorded *Empidonax wrightii*, commenting that "two birds taken June 3 and 12 have the size and wing formula of this species." Reference to the specimen catalogue and Taverner's field notes shows that two flycatchers of this genus were taken there on June 3 and two on June 12, 1926. Examination of these discloses that of the four, three are unquestionably *Empidonax minimus*, the other *Empidonax traillii*. Taverner's 1926 field notes read, "The boys watched carefully all flycatchers this summer but saw nor heard nothing that suggested the presence of any other small species of flycatcher than the Least". — W. EARL GODFREY, *National Museum of Canada*, Ottawa.





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