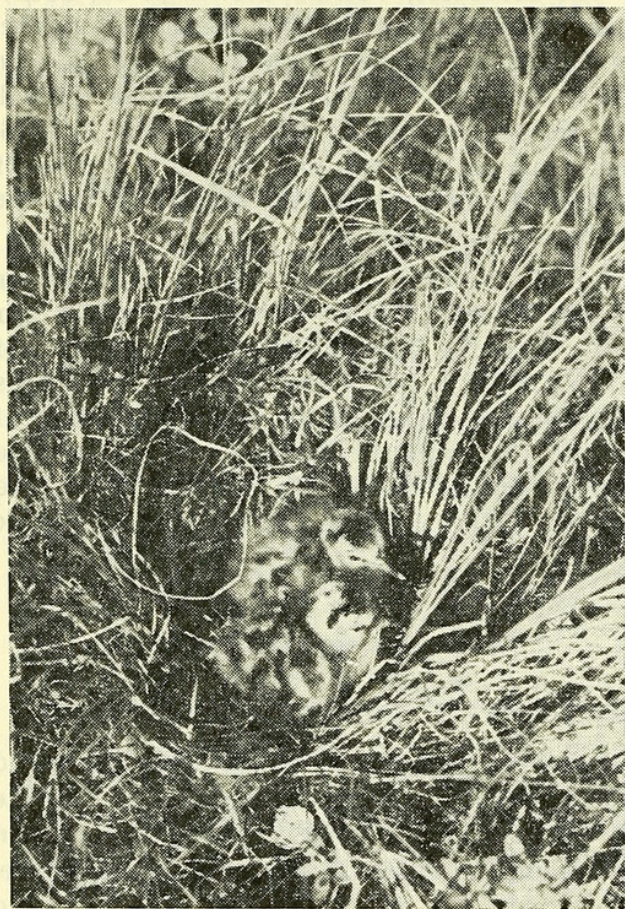


nests of the Curlew, Golden Plover, Smith's Longspur and others, we returned to the Stilt Sandpiper's nest to take photographs of the birds. The Sandpiper was very cooperative and readily returned, walking through the grass and approaching her nest by a circuitous route. The picture taking was interrupted by a rising wind and rain and we set out across the tundra toward the roadway. We had gone only a short distance when a pair of Godwits appeared and flew about calling and acting as though very much concerned over our presence. That place would receive a thorough searching on the morrow!



Hudsonian Godwit nest at Churchill, Man.

Next morning the weather broke clear and we started out. With us were two young people who were attached to the Defense Research Laboratory. They were interested in ornithology and wished to take pictures at the Stilt Sandpiper's nest which we had located. I led the way toward the place where the Godwits had acted so concerned the previous afternoon and when we came near, the birds appeared as before, acting very much perturbed as we entered a moderately wet grass-grown marshy area. We all felt that here must be the location of their nest

and we started a systematic search. We had covered quite a large area when suddenly my eye caught a glimpse of broken egg shells on a low hummock. Bending over, I discovered a little downy baby hidden in the grass blades on the edge of the nest! Overjoyed at the discovery I called to the others who were nearby and, directly, on approaching the spot, Ann discovered another downy youngster a few feet from the nest! The parent Godwits flew about coming close to us and making quite a fuss. We carried the cunning downy youngsters from the marshy place to a nearby border of tundra where the girls could kneel down and hold the young on the mossy turf, giving me an opportunity to take pictures of the Godwit parents as they came near to see what was happening to their captive babies. One of the parents flew about alighting a little way from us, then taking wing again and coming to alight a little nearer to her cheeping babies. The old bird kept up a frequently repeated call note. When the bird alighted on a near mound, wings held high above the body, the white of the upper tail coverts showed in striking contrast to the darker coloration of the back, and the rusty red coloration of the breast completed a beautiful picture. After a little while we released one of the youngsters and the parent came closer, calling to the chick which went to her and cuddled under the protecting body. Finally, we took the two youngsters back to the nest where we photographed them and then left them to the care of the handsome and deeply interested parent.

The discovery of the nest of the Hudsonian Godwit with downy young, was a thrilling experience and the high spot of two summers of photographing the birds of Churchill.

**R. T. CONGDON, M.D. and
MRS. CONGDON, Wenatchee, Wash.**

Dead opossum on Point Pelee, Ont., shore.
—On October 3, 1949, during a visit to Point Pelee National Park, I discovered the carcass of a mammal amid driftwood and other debris on the east beach only a few hundred yards from the extreme southern tip of land. It had apparently been cast upon the shore along with other drift material. (I was accompanied on this trip by Mr. R. J. K. Murphy, Assistant Zone Forester, Department of Lands and Forests, Chatham.)

The carcass was in an advanced stage of putrefaction and practically all the hair and

fur had sloughed off. I tentatively identified it as an opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) and removed the head for further checking.

Upon presenting the skull to the Royal Ontario Museum, Mr. S. C. Downing informed me that it definitely was an opossum skull and that my original identification had been correct.

This incident might raise the interesting question as to the possibility of an opossum, dead or alive, crossing Lake Erie from Ohio to Ontario, by land and water, aided by lake currents, through the Erie Island Archipelago. — C. HAROLD ZAVITZ, *Aylmer, Ont.*

An Indigo Bunting in Alberta.—The Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*, must be a very rare visitor to Alberta, since Taverner, in his "Birds of Canada" mentions only one record for this province and one for Saskatchewan. Professor W. Rowan informs me that he had a bird of this species obtained at Sullivan Lake, Alberta, and this record is presumably additional to that mentioned by Taverner.

In view of these facts the following recent observation of an Indigo Bunting seems worthy of being reported. On June 21, 1952, while staying at Elkwater, at the foot of the Cypress Hills in southeastern Alberta, I twice caught brief glimpses of a bird which appeared, to the naked eye, blue above and whitish below. I returned to the spot, an area of bushes and trees, with 8 x 30 binoculars and soon had another good view of the bird. It appeared to be a little larger than a Yellow Warbler, was blue all over, darker above than below, except for the wings which were a very dark brown. The bill was dark grey and was about the shape of a Song Sparrow's. The bird was clearly a male Indigo Bunting, probably not quite mature in view of the wing colour. Its call was a sharp "tsit." I looked for the bird again later the same day and the following morning, but did not see it again. It would hardly appear to be possible to confuse this species with any other, but I may add that I am quite familiar with the Mountain Bluebird and have seen the Lazuli Bunting, the only western birds which at all resemble the Indigo Bunting in the field.—E. O. HOHN, *Department of Physiology, University of Alberta.*

New Records of Millipeds from Southern Ontario.—It was recently my privilege to identify the millipeds in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology and Palaeontology. The following list, although

representing only part of that collection, is of interest because the records are new for the localities indicated. More extensive collections, made especially during the late summer and early fall months and with care to get small specimens, should yield interesting information about the northern limit of distribution of Canadian species, some of which are known as far south as Texas and Tennessee.

Cleidogona sp. Fort Severn, Ont., July 21, 1940, larvae, willow swale.

Dixidesmus branneri (Bollman 1887). Potageville, York Co., Ont., June 8, 1934.

Scytonotus granulatus (Say 1821). Peterborough, Ont.

Oriulus venustus Wood (1864). Palermo, Ont., Sept. 26, 1936; Kettleby Kabin, York Co., Ont., June 3, 1934.

Aniulus bollmani Causey 1952. Palermo, Ont., Sept. 26, 1936; Seaforth, Huron Co., Oct. 29, 1940, sugar maple woods. This species has been incorrectly referred to as *Aniulus impressus* (Say) by many writers.

Uroblaniulus immaculatus (Wood 1864). Palermo, Sept. 26, 1936; King Twopence, York Co., Ont., Sept. 20, 1941; Palermo, Ont., Sept. 26, 1936; Rattlesnake Point, Milton, Halton Co., Ont., Nov. 1, 1941; Cache Lake, Algonquin Park, Nipissing Dist., Ont., July 1935 and Aug. 8, 1936.

Uroblaniulus canadensis (Newport 1844). Turkey Point, Norfolk Co., Ont., Aug. 25, 1940; Seaforth, Huron Co., Ont., Sept. 29, 1940.

Uroblaniulus sp. Sanfield, Manitoba, July 16, 1939, larvae; Manitoulin Is., Ont., larvae.

Ptyoiulus sp. Rattlesnake Point, Milton, Halton Co., Ont., June 29, 1940.

Polyzonium bivirgatum (Wood 1864). Rattlesnake Point, Milton, Halton Co., Ont., Nov. 1, 1941; Cache Lake, Algonquin Park, Nipissing Dist., Ont., July 1935 and Aug. 8, 1936.

Polyzonium mutabile Causey 1951. Minesing, Ont., May 19, 1934. This species is known to occur also in Illinois and Wisconsin.

—NELL B. CAUSEY,
Fayetteville, Arkansas.

The Clay-colored Sparrow in Southeastern Ontario.—On July 1, 1951, while watching a pair of Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*) at their nest in an old, bushy pasture near Merrickville on the Rideau River (Lanark County), my wife drew attention to an unfamiliar song and we soon traced the source to a Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) perched in the top of a hawthorn bush about twelve feet from the ground. It continued to



Zavitz, C. Harold. 1952. "Dead opossum on Point Pelee, Ontario, shore." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 66(5), 144–145. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.341445>.

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