

## GENERAL NOTES

**DARK-BREASTED BRANT AT BOMBAY HOOK, DELAWARE.**—On November 1, 1953, William Jay, I. Ralston, and I saw a Dark-breasted Brant (*Branta bernicla*) feeding on a mud flat at Raymond's Pond. We were able to approach within ten feet of the bird. The black of the breast blended into a brownish black which extended to the base of the legs; the flanks were more diffused. The species is rare on the east coast—Griscom, et al, reported one in the Audubon Field Notes on October 29, 1950 at Brewster, Mass. Since an attempt by the refuge manager to collect the specimen failed, the record must remain hypothetical.

This bird was seen on three occasions, and it is of interest that there is no previous record of brant of any kind on the inland lakes at Bombay Hook.

An examination of skins indicates that the bird was the European subspecies since the underparts were browner.—DAVID A. CUTLER, *King of Prussia, Pa.*

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE AT BOMBAY HOOK, DELAWARE.**—On November 1, 1953 William Jay and I saw a Pink-footed Goose (*Anser fabalis*) on Raymond's Pond at the Refuge. The bird was identified after careful study through a twenty-power telescope at a distance of one hundred yards. The following Geese were present for comparison: Canada, Snow, Blue, and Hutchin's.

The identification was based on the following characters: the bill was black with a broad, irregular pink band; the head was a dark cinnamon brown which blended into a lighter brown neck, and a tan breast; the legs and feet were pink; the flanks were light tan, barred with black and white becoming narrower and stopping near the white under tail coverts; the tail was white with a grey band; the back was a dark pearl grey banded with white feather edges. In flight the bird appeared short-necked and bulky with white on the forewing and blackish on the secondaries.

The bird was present into January and although wary was seen six times by the writer. It is of interest that it was seen first on the same day and at the same location as the Dark-breasted Brant mentioned above.

This is the second record for North America, the first being a specimen collected in Essex County, Mass., September 25, 1925.—DAVID A. CUTLER, *King of Prussia, Pa.*

**EUROPEAN LAPWING IN DELAWARE AND NEW JERSEY**—On March 14, 1953, a European Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) was observed near Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge, Delaware, on a large field covered in some places by several large rain ponds. When first discovered the bird was feeding on a slight grassy ridge, but flew several hundred yards when approached to within about thirty feet, alighting at the edge of one of the shallow ponds. When the Lapwing was first seen there were several Lesser Yellow-legs in one of the ponds, and numerous Killdeer scattered about the field, but the Lap-

wing was feeding by itself. As the throat was white it evidently was still in winter plumage. On the following day David Cutler found the Lapwing in the same field. CHARLES E. PRICE, JR., JOHN C. MILLES, *Woodward Ave., Moylan, Pa.*

On March 8, 1953, one week previous to the above record, Drs. John Robinson, T. and R. Shohl, and W. Yamamoto saw a Lapwing "twenty to thirty miles north of Fortescue, N. J., in a meadow with some large puddles of water standing in it. The bird was about twice the size of the Killdeers which it was accompanying, and its striking mark was a tall thin crest sloping back in line with the forepart of the head. There was a dark wide band around the breast, which ran up along the sides of the neck on each side. None of us knew what he was so we drew pictures of him as far as markings and shape were concerned. Our sketches agreed with the Lapwing when we got back to references. Drs. Archer Dillard and Dale Coman also identified him from our oral description." It is interesting to note that a point 20 to 30 miles north of Fortescue, N. J., would be about 10 to 15 miles across the Delaware River from Bombay Hook Refuge. On the weekend of March 8 a rather heavy snow fell on most of New Jersey, but almost none on Delaware, and it seems likely that this Lapwing went across to Delaware when it was seen again as noted above.—JOHN H. ARNETT, JR., *6200 Ardleigh St., Philadelphia 38, Pa.*

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD AT BOMBAY HOOK, DELAWARE.**— On October 24, 1953, while William Jay, and I were watching Stilt Sandpipers in strong sunlight on an exposed mud flat bordering Raymond's Pond, I noted within ten feet, three male and two female Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). The males were typical, with purplish heads and greenish body reflections, short tails, thin bills and light grey legs. The female was a nondescript grey with characteristic dark eyes. Their note was a harsh "chink" with an occasional squeal such as the Rusty Blackbird utters.

Brewer's Blackbirds were again observed on these dates, with a substantial increase noted during their five and a half months presence at Bombay Hook.

October 24, 1953 —	5	
November 29, 1953 —	25	
December 6, 1953 —	165	
December 27, 1953 —	30	(Christmas Count, seen by several parties.)
April 11, 1954 —	70	

The birds were usually seen with Red-wings and Starlings on short grassy fields near farm stock. I had the good fortune to see, for comparison, a male Rusty Blackbird with the flock, which was unusual since almost all my observations of the latter species have been in or near swampy woodlots.

Brewer's Blackbird's normal range is west of the Mississippi but in recent years it has been reported extending east and breeding in the Chicago area. These observations constitute state records for Delaware and it is difficult not to believe that the species has been overlooked in the past.

Other records in the east during the same period, which in most instances were first area occurrences, are noted below.

- Exton, Penna. — Dec. 19, 1953 (120) P. B. Street  
Jan. 16, 1954 ( 1)
- Monticello, N. Y. — Sep. 26, 1953  
to ( 2) K. and N. Niven  
Oct. 10, 1953
- Jamestown, N. Y. — Dec. 26, 1953 ( 1) C. Beal,  
R. A. Sundell.
- Tallahasee, Fla. — Nov. 21, 1953 (First Peninsular Fla.  
record)  
H. M. Stevenson  
and J. Champion
- Cedar Point, Ohio — Feb. 27, 1954 ( 1) Schaefer..
- Jackson County, Ind. — Jan. 4, 1954 ( 2) Mumford.

—DAVID A. CUTLER, *Kingwood Road, King of Prussia, Pa.*

#### OTHER UNUSUAL RECORDS

COMPILED BY JOHN H. ARNETT, JR.

Addenda to 1952 (Cassinia No. XXXVIII)

**YELLOW RAIL.** *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. Mickleton, N. J., September 25  
"Caught during mowing of hayfield; photographed and released". (W. Middleton for Carl Bresler).

**BLACK-NECKED STILT.** *Himantopus mexicanus*. Wildwood, N. J., August 13  
"The observer saw the bird at rest and in flight, and is familiar with the species". (McLaughlin for D. A. Zimmerman).

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**EARED GREBE.** *Colymbus auritus*. Bombay Hook, Del., November 29 and December 6 (Goldstein, Brooke and Lamplugh).

**AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER.** *Puffinus lherminieri*. Stone Harbor, N. J., one found by Vant Sant, skin in collection of D. Cutler; Tinicum, Pa., August 2 "at about 20 feet", (C. Price and J. Miller); Brigantine, N. J., one found dead by E. Finkel, skin in collection of D. Cutler.

**EUROPEAN CORMORANT.** *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Barnegat and Point Pleasant, N. J., March 14 "in breeding plumage" (12), plus (5) immature, (D. Cutler).

**LOUISIANA HERON.** *Hydranassa tricolor*. Tinicum, Pa., May 15 (J. Miller).

**GREEN HERON.** *Butorides virescens*. Penn Manor, Pa., November 15 (E. Finkel).

**CATTLE EGRET.** *Bubulcus ibis*. Ocean City, Md., April 25 (D. Cutler); present at Cape May, N. J., in May (Choate).

GLOSSY IBIS. *Plegadis falcinellus*. Tinicum, Pa., May 10 (2) (Kramer, C. Price and J. Miller); Tinicum, Pa., May 24 (J. Miller).

BRANT. *Branta bernicla*. Lake Ontelaunee, Pa., January 4 (E. L. Poole); Absecon Bay, N. J., May 31 (30-40) (Finkel).

SNOW GOOSE. *Chen hyperborea*. King of Prussia, Pa., May 24 One "in flock of Canada Geese", (D. Cutler).

BLUE GOOSE. *Chen caerulescens*. L. Ontelaunee, Pa., October 31-December 27 (E. L. Poole).

EUROPEAN WIDGEON. *Mareca penelope*. Penn Manor, Pa., February 8 (Sehl, Reynolds and Archer).

PINTAIL. *Anas acuta*. Tinicum, Pa., December 26 (38,000) (Delaware County Christmas Census).

EUROPEAN TEAL. *Anas crecca*. Bombay Hook, Del., March 15 (D. Cutler).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL. *Anas carolinensis*. Tinicum, Pa., May 31 (J. Miller).

GREATER SCAUP DUCK. *Aythya marila*. Tinicum, Pa., May 31 (J. Miller).

AMERICAN EIDER. *Somateria mollissima*. Cape May, N. J., October 25 "female, or immature male," (Finkel).

BLACK VULTURE. *Coragyps atratus*. Marsh, Chester Co., Pa., February 1 (2) (P. B. Street).

GOSHAWK. *Accipiter gentilis*. Bethayres, Pa., February 1 (McNeil); King of Prussia, Pa., April 12 (D. Cutler).

OSPREY. *Pandion haliaetus*. Banded at Medomak, Me., August 6 1939, shot in Cuba October 8, 1953, (J. M. Cadbury); banded at Erma, N. J., July 25, 1937, found dead at Tattnell Co., Ga., March 29, 1953, (J. Gillespie).

PIGEON HAWK. *Falco columbarius*. Lake Ontelaunee, Pa., September 1 (E. L. Poole).

FLORIDA GALLINULE. *Gallinula chloropus*. Shark River, N. J., January 11 (Finkel); Tinicum, Pa., December 26 (9) (Christmas Census); Bombay Hook, December 27 (Christmas Census).

OYSTER-CATCHER. *Haematopus palliatus*. Beach Haven, N. J., April 12, (Wyckoff).

WILSON'S PLOVER. *Charadrius wilsonia*. Holgate, N. J., August 15 (Finkel).

GOLDEN PLOVER. *Pluvialis dominica*. Tinicum, Pa., October 3 (181) (D. Cutler); October 25 (100) (J. Miller); November 3 (3) (J. Miller); Bombay Hook, Del., September 20 (Finkel), and November 3 (Jay); Marshallton, N. J., October 21 (50) (R. Fowler); Milford, Del., November 25 (3) (Matthews).

KNOT. *Calidris canutus*. Lake Ontelaunee, Pa., September 6 "first local record in 38 years . . . very well seen", (E. L. Poole).

PURPLE SANDPIPER. *Erolia maritima*. Brigantine, N. J., May 31 (9) (Finkel).

- PECTORAL SANDPIPER. *Erolia melanotos*. Tinicum, Pa., December 26 (2) (C. Price, J. Miller, Q. Kramer, and J. Fowler).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER. *Erolia bairdii*. Lake Ontelaunee, Pa., August 21-September 6 (1 to 4) (E. L. Poole).
- CURLEW SANDPIPER. *Erolia ferruginea*. Tinicum, Pa., May 16 (C. Price and E. Rigby).
- DOWITCHER. *Limnodromus griseus*. Bombay Hook, Del., November 28 (6) (D. and H. Cutler).
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT. *Limosa haemastica*. Holgate, N. J., August 15 (5) (Finkel); Bombay Hook, Del., October 18 (Street and Conway).
- RUFF. *Philomachus pugnax*. Slaughter Beach, Del., August 23 (Matthews); Tinicum, Pa., September 10 and 13 (J. Miller).
- SANDERLING. *Crocethia alba*. Lake Wallenpaupack, Pa., October 11 (Street).
- AVOCET. *Recurvirostra americana*. Lake Ontelaunee, Pa., October 31 "Feeding on sandbar and swimming in deep water", (Street and Arnett).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL. *Larus philadelphia*. Atlantic City, N. J., August 16 (1 immature) (Finkel).
- KITTIWAKE. *Rissa tridactyla*. Shark River, N. J., January 17 (4) (Wyckoff and Van Sant).
- FORSTER'S TERN. *Sterna forsteri*. Indian River, Del., November 15 (2) (Matthews).
- ROYAL TERN. *Thalasseus maximus*. Stone Harbor, N. J., August 19 (5) (Lamplugh).
- CASPIAN TERN. *Hydroprogne caspia*. Stone Harbor, N. J., August 19 (13) (Lamplugh).
- BLACK SKIMMER. *Rynchops nigra*. Brigantine, N. J., December 26 (21) (Stasz for McLaughlin); Bombay Hook, Del., August 21 (D. Cutler).
- SNOWY OWL. *Nyctea scandiaca*. Thompson's Beach, N. J., December 6 (Arnett and J. Robinson); Seaside Park, N. J., November 29 (Choate for Oliver Tatum).
- LONG-EARED OWL. *Asio otus*. Southampton, Pa., December 8 (10) (Reimann).
- PILEATED WOODPECKER. *Dryocopus pileatus*. Northern Bucks Co., Pa., April 23 (2) (Thomas and Brady).
- RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. *Centurus carolinus*. New Lisbon, N. J., September 29 (John Cadbury); Center Bridge, Bucks Co., Pa., November 7-19 (Thomas)
- RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Riverton, N. J., September 26 (1 immature) (Reynard).
- BARN SWALLOW. *Hirundo rustica*. Cape May, N. J., December 17 "came into barracks of U. S. Coast Guard Station", (J. Potter for R. T. McCartney).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. *Sitta canadensis*. Pocono Lake, Pa., May 16 "pair at nest found by E. S. Cary on May 9" (Street).

BROWN CREEPER. *Certhia familiaris*. Princeton, N. J., about May 18 "pair feeding young in nest, discovered by Todd Newbury", (C. Rogers).

HOUSE WREN. *Troglodytes aedon*. Tinicum, Pa., November 12 (Finkel); Delaware Co., Pa., December 26 (3) (Christmas Census).

HERMIT THRUSH. *Hylochichlaguttata*. East Falls, Philadelphia, Pa., April 18 "Singing." (Weyl).

BICKNELL'S THRUSH. *Hylocichla minima bicknelli*. Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa. May 25. Banded by J. M. Cadbury.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO. *Vireo philadelphicus*. Langhorne, Pa., May 16 "six birds at once about 70 feet up in a black oak. The yellow underparts were clearly seen, and the song was noticed to be less frequent than that of the Red-eyed Vireo" (McIlvain); Exton, Pa., September 16 (Street).

LAWRENCE'S WARBLER. *Vermivora lawrencei*. Morris Park, Pa., August 16 (Devlin).

CAPE MAY WARBLER. *Dendroica tigrina*. Exton, Pa., January 31 and Exton, October 28 (2) (Street).

CERULEAN WARBLER. *Dendroica cerulea*. Wissahickon Creek, Phila., Pa., June 13 (2 singing males) (Jay and Finkel); Wissahickon Creek, June 27 (female feeding young Cowbird) (Devlin).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. *Dendroica pensylvanica*. Wissahickon Creek, Pa., June 20-27 (Devlin).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER. *Dendroica striata*. Exton, Pa., October 28 (Street).

PINE WARBLER. *Dendroica pinus*. Bombay Hook, Del., December 27 (2) (Christmas Census).

PALM WARBLER. *Dendroica palmarum*. Penn Valley, Pa., January 5 (Livingston); Newtown, Pa., January 1-8 (Thomas).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. *Icteria virens*. Bombay Hook, Del., November 28 (D. and H. Cutler); Newtown Square, Pa., December 16 (Underdown for J. B. Carson); Delaware Co., Pa., December 26 (2) (Christmas Census).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. Bombay Hook, Del., July 26 (one female) "apparently the first report for the state", (R. Miller).

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE. *Cassidix mexicanus*. Fortescue, N. J., December 6 (14) (Arnett and J. Robinson).

WESTERN TANAGER. *Piranga ludoviciana*. Franklin, N. J., January 2 to March 10 feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cherepy, "Identified at close range, and photographed". (See Cover—Ed.).

SUMMER TANAGER. *Piranga rubra*. Wissahickon Creek, Phila., Pa., May 6 (J. M. Cadbury); Germantown, Phila., Pa., first week in May (Arnett).

CRESTED CARDINAL. *Paroaria coronata*. New Hope, Pa., October 3 (1 pair) "undoubtedly escaped cage birds, but evidently breeding", (Thomas and McIlvain).

BLUE GROSBEAK. *Guiraca caerulea*. Bombay Hook, Del., May 3 (D. and H. Cutler and Finkel); Collingswood, N. J., May 4 (McLaughlin); Carpenter's Woods, Phila., Pa., May 9 (W. Reynolds); Mt. Holly, N. J., "feeding young in month of July", (L. Corn); Evesboro, N. J., July 26 (J. Bruce); Barnegat Light, N. J., October 4 (D. Cutler).

DICKCISSEL. *Spiza americana*. Bordentown, N. J., August 19 singing adult, (McLaughlin); Pitman, N. J., November 2-15 (Hitchner); Exton, Pa., November 8 (Street); Bombay Hook, Del., November 15 and December 27 (D. Cutler).

EVENING GROSBEAK. *Hesperiphona vespertina*. Bridgeton, N. J., March 17 (5) (Quickmire and Matlack).

PURPLE FINCH. *Carpodacus purpureus*. Banded as adult male at Ardmore, Pa., January 13, 1948, found killed by cat by T. S. Hennessy at Point Leamington, Grand Falls, Newfoundland, September 11, 1952 (Groskin).

PINE GROBEAK. *Pinicola enucleator*. New Hope, Pa., February 6-8 (18-20) (Chas. Platt, Jr.).

REDPOLL. *Acanthus flammea*. West Chester, Pa., (2) February 7 (D. Cutler); Tinicum, Pa., February 7-March 14 (6) (D. Cutler); Holgate, N. J., February 8 (20-25) (Brooke and Lamplugh); Wenonah, N. J., February 9 (8) (W. Middleton); Pocono Lake, Pa., February 12 (2) (Street); Tinicum, Pa., February 12 (25 plus) (Price and J. Miller); Penn Manor, Pa., February 14 (5) (Sehl, Reynolds and Archer); McMichael's, Pa., (200-250) and Reeder's, Pa., February 23 (43) (Street, Darby and Livingston).

RED CROSSBILL. *Loxia curvirostra*. Philadelphia, Pa., January 22 (12) (Hebard); West Chester, Pa., February 7 (1) Wurster); Hawk Mt., Pa., October 31 (35) (Street and Arnett).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. *Loxia leucoptera*. Pitman, N. J., February 6 (Hitchner); West Chester, Pa., February 7 (6) (D. Cutler); Haverford, Pa., February 8 (4) (Oakley and May); Swarthmore, Pa., February 10 (3) (Way); Pocono Lake, Pa., February 12 (3) (Street).

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW. *Ammospiza caudacuta*. Tinicum, Pa., May 23 (Finkel).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. Paradise, N. J., March 3 (6) (Manners and Potter).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR. *Calcarius lapponicus*. Bombay Hook, Del., December 6 (2) (D. Cutler and Jay).

SNOW BUNTING. *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Tinicum, Pa., November 1 (10) (J. Miller).