

SOME RARE SPECIMENS OF NEW JERSEY BIRDS

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Although frequently seen in New Jersey some species of birds are represented by few if any specimens. Below are brief accounts of several birds that I collected, which are the first or second specimen records for the species or are the first specimens that substantiate the subspecies breeding in New Jersey. The specimens have been deposited in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) or the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ). I thank Dean Amadon, Robert W. Storer, and Richard L. Zusi for allowing me to examine specimens in their respective institutions, American Museum of Natural History, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, and United States National Museum. Robert C. Frohling has allowed me to report additional specimens taken by him. I also thank Alfred E. Eynon, Frank B. Gill, and Donald Kunkle for reading the manuscript.

GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). I found this second specimen (UMMZ 159,705—skeleton) for New Jersey dead on the Barnegat Bay shore about one mile west of Barnegat Light, Ocean County, on 29 December 1963. It had been shot, presumably by a hunter. The bird was an adult female whose ovary measured 45×15 mms. The bases of one primary in each wing and of two right secondaries and four left secondaries were in sheath. The first specimen was taken near Salem, Salem County, on 21 October 1929 by Joseph Harrison and is in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (Stone, 1937: 103).

COMMON MURRE (*Uria aalge*). This second specimen (AMNH 707, 733) for New Jersey was buried in the sand above high tide line on the shore of Little Egg Inlet about seven miles south of Tuckerton, Ocean County, on 15 February 1959. Its insides were soupy. The first specimen was found dead by Donald Kunkle and others on the beach at Avon, Monmouth County, on 3 February 1946 and is in the American Museum of Natural History (Van Deusen, 1946).

BRIDLED TERN (*Sterna anaethetus*). I saw several of these terns on 12 and 13 September 1960 during and after the passage of Hurricane Donna at Seaside Park, Ocean County. I collected one (AMNH 708, 766) on 12 September on a sand spit in Barnegat Bay just west of the town. It was a female (ovary, 10×3 mms) that was moderately fat and weighed 117.2 gms. The previous New Jersey specimen of the Bridled Tern was a carcass found at Island Beach on 24 February 1951 by E. and Q. Kramer (Fables, 1955).

SANDWICH TERN (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*). I collected this bird (AMNH 708,767) on 12 September 1960 at the same place I took the Bridled Tern. It was an adult female (ovary, 9×3 mms) and weighed 171.5 gms. According to Turnbull (quoted by Stone, 1937: 590) "a specimen [of the Sandwich Tern] . . . was shot on Grassy Bay (back of Five Mile Beach) in August, 1861." Apparently it is no longer extant.

ROYAL TERN (*Thalasseus maximus*). Charles Lincoln and I walked the beach at Island Beach State Park on 17 September 1960 following Hurricane Donna. Among the carcasses we picked up were two Royal Terns, which were prepared as skeletons by Joseph R. Jehl, Jr., and me. Despite numerous sight records in recent years, these appear to be the only preserved New Jersey specimens (UMMZ 156,959 and UMMZ 157,437).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Dendroica virens virens*). This species has been known to occur in summer in Ocean County since it was first discovered there in 1935 by C. A. Urner and independently by J. K. Potter (Stone, 1937:822). Both

Stone (1937) and Urner (according to Fables, 1955) suggested the possibility that these records referred to *D. v. waynei* of the coastal plain from Virginia to South Carolina. On 29 June 1963 I took one of several singing birds in the cedar swamp near Manahawkin, Ocean County. This specimen (UMMZ 159, 752) weighed 8.3 gms, and its left testis measured 7 mms. It is indistinguishable from series of *D. v. virens* in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, the U.S. National Museum, and the American Museum of Natural History. Lowery and Monroe (1968), however, do not recognize any subspecies of *D. virens*. In any case, the breeding range of the Black-throated Green Warbler, as given by the A.O.U. *Check-list* (1957) and by Lowery and Monroe (1968), on the Atlantic coastal plain should be extended north to southern New Jersey.

HOUSE FINCH (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). Although this species has become a common bird in New Jersey (Bull, 1964), I know of only three specimens. I took the first specimen (UMMZ 157,465) on 31 December 1959 at Bound Brook, Somerset County. It was a male with a completely ossified skull, moderate fat, and a weight of 21.6 gms. The other two specimens were taken by Robert C. Frohling at Belle Mead, Somerset County. One (UMMZ 217,953) was a male with incompletely ossified skull taken on 18 December 1963. The other (UMMZ 217,954) was a female with completely ossified skull taken on 4 January 1964.

RED CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra minor*). The Red Crossbill has been known to be a breeding bird of the New Jersey pine barrens since at least 1941 when David Fables discovered a nest (Fables, 1955), but no specimens had been taken before Frank Gill and I collected an adult male (UMMZ 159,778) with two juveniles (UMMZ 159,779 and UMMZ 159,863) on 21 June 1963 near Quaker Bridge, Burlington County. The measurements of the adult male are: bill from nostril, 14.5 mms; wing (chord), 86.1 mms; tail, 49.1 mms; left testis, 5 mms; and weight 29.4 gms. The wing and body feathers were molting. The breeding range of this race is thus extended south to the coastal plain of New Jersey (cf. A. O. U., 1957; Howell et al., 1968).

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