

and La Tabatière. These Gulls were seen chiefly while coastal seal-fishing was being carried on (in December and January), and the greatest numbers were observed at places where captured seals were being cut up. They greedily ate billed Gulls and 3 young Herring Gulls on clotted blood and bits of flesh and blubber. Several juveniles were noticed among them. The occurrence was so unusual in the region as to excite general remark. After the close of the seal-fishing season, the Ivory Gulls gradually departed. The last one recorded at Harrington Harbour was seen soon after the middle of February.

On March 12, 1940, I saw the adult Ivory Gull that was then confined in a large enclosure at the Quebec Zoological Garden. It was being fed smelts and ground meat and was said to have a good appetite. It appeared active and healthy and flew readily about its cage. The bright orange tip of its beak, being the only color in its ensemble, was very conspicuous. It is unfortunate that this individual did not long survive.

The flight of Ivory Gulls along the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence extended at least as far west as Natashquan. A juvenile specimen taken there on or shortly before January 2, 1940, was sent to the National Museum of Canada.—HARRISON F. LEWIS.

A NESTING COLONY OF RING-BILLED GULLS (*Larus delawarensis*) IN THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER NEAR GANANOQUE, ONTARIO.—Through the kindness of Dr. Gordon Byers, of Montreal, Lewis visited, in his company, on May 24, 1940, Black Ant Island, in the St. Lawrence River, about four and one-half miles south of Gananoque, Ontario. About 200 adult Ring-billed Gulls and 2 adult Herring Gulls were seen at that time on the reef at the western end of this small island. Dr. Byers, who is the proprietor of the island, stated that the Ring-billed Gulls had nested a great many enquiries concerning the identity there annually for many years, but no nests or eggs were observed during this visit.

On July 3, 1940, Hennessy visited Black Ant Island, where he found both Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls nesting. He estimated that he observed, on and about the island, 300 adult Ring-billed Gulls, and 12 adult Herring Gulls. He found the young Gulls at that time to be of the right size for banding and, with the assistance of his father, banded 158 young Ring-billed Gulls. All Gull nests observed were on a

small rocky reef which is cut off, west of the principal part of the island, by a narrow, shallow passage, and therefore actually forms a separate island, though not usually so reckoned.

Although there is apparently no certain record of the nesting of the Ring-billed Gull in New York State, it may be of interest to remark that the nesting colony of this species at Black Ant Island, Ontario, is less than a mile and a half from Grindstone Island, New York.—HARRISON F. LEWIS and T. S. HENNESSY.

NATURAL CONTROL OF THE CECROPIA MOTH—During the spring and early summer of 1939 the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology received of the cecropia moth (*Platysamia cecropia*). The Toronto newspapers, being likewise harassed by the public, published short articles, together with photographs, on the cecropia moth. It was apparently a "peak year" for this moth.

During this time a number of larvae, which were obtained from eggs deposited by female moths sent to the Museum, were placed out-of-doors on some small willows and Manitoba maple in such a manner that a check could be made on their numbers. Towards the end of the summer most of the larvae had been destroyed, possibly by birds, and, of the remainder, all were heavily parasitized. From this we anticipated a great reduction in the population of the cecropia moth for the summer of 1940; such proved to be the case. Only eight enquiries concerning the cecropia moth were received by the Museum in the summer of 1940.—F. A. URQUHART and C. E. CORFE.

ANOTHER SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN QUEBEC.—On October 30, 1939, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) was observed, alive but struggling in a weakened condition, in a ditch within the town limits of Noranda, Quebec. It was taken up and brought to Mrs. L. C. Bent of the local branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals who attempted to revive it but without success, and the next morning it was dead. The remains were given to Mr. J. A. Hedge who mounted it. Later Mrs. Bent communicated the interesting occurrence to the national collection where it is now preserved.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is a most spectacular bird regularly inhabiting the southwestern States, its northern limit being about southern Kansas. Though actually not larger than a Kingbird it has a deeply forked swallow-tail



nearly ten inches long. In color, the body is a symphonic arrangement of pearl gray, rose pink, and white, with shoulder and underwing patches of scarlet. The flowing tail is beautifully and strongly patterned in black and pinkish white. Altogether it is more like a delicate drawing from a Japanese screen than a real bird of northern climes.

There are several other records of occurrence in Canada, the most extraordinary being two from York Factory on Hudson Bay taken forty-four years apart, 1880 and 1924, both of which are in the National Museum. Specimens have been taken at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba; Pointe des Monts, Quebec; and Clarendon Station, Alma and Grand Manan, New Brunswick. Besides these actually taken, there are creditable sight records of this quite unmistakable bird reported from southern Manitoba in 1899, 1908 and 1930.—P. A. TAVERNER.

RECENT WESTERN RECORDS OF BLACK DUCK. (*Anas rubripes*).—On September 23rd, 1940, D. A. Ross, B.S.A., while engaged in biological investigations for Ducks Unlimited (Canada) collected a Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) which was in company with four Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), on Big Lake, Township 109, Range 5, W. 4th, Athabaska Delta, Northern Alberta. The sex was not determined. The specimen has been deposited in the National Museum, Ottawa.

Another Black Duck was seen by Ross on August 6, 1940, on Fletcher Channel, Athabaska Delta, also in company with Mallards.

Judge A. E. Bence of Battleford, Saskatchewan reports "Last fall I shot a drake (Black Duck) feeding with Mallard on the stubble. This year I got a double in the marsh—one was a female Black Duck, the other a Mallard."

A Black Duck male was banded 40-678957 by W. G. Leitch at Imperial Beach, Last Mountain Lake, Saskatchewan, on October 23, 1940. It was taken with 13 Mallards in a trap.

R. D. Harris, banding waterfowl at Jackfish Lake, Big Grass Marsh near Langruth, Manitoba, records banding an adult female Black Duck 39-668949 on September 23, 1940; an adult male, 140-611054 on October 10, 1940; and an

immature male, 140-611079 on October 11, 1940. All were accompanied by Mallards in the traps. —B. W. CARTWRIGHT.

LATE NESTING OF RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*).—The Red-eyed Vireo is a common summer resident in Nova Scotia, and over a period of sixteen years the average date of "first seen" in the spring is May 26th, while the average date of "last seen" over a period of 6 years is September 11th. Regarding its nesting my records show that on June 18th, 1913, a nest containing four eggs was found, and that would appear to be a normal date for a first nest.

On August 10th, 1940, a pair of these birds was seen near Hazel Hill, Guysboro County, Nova Scotia, actively engaged at building a nest. This was reported to me by Martin H. Bushell, an enthusiastic young bird student of Hazel Hill; in addition to sending me a detailed description of the birds and nest, he included a very good pencil sketch showing the nest and the sitting bird. The nest was in a birch tree and the pair seemed to be working with feverish haste. On August 16th the observer examined the nest which at that date was found to contain two eggs and on August 30th it held three very young vireos. The nest was kept under surveillance and on September 9th the young left and were last seen perched near the nest-site and taking food from both parents.—R. W. TURTS.

We are indebted to Dr. J. B. Tyrrell for information which has enabled us to discover that Chief Factor James Anderson's Back River Journal was published in 1920 by the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Toronto as a part of their Transaction No. 20. While the publication in the Canadian Field-Naturalist is thus deprived of any claims to originality, we feel that it is amply justified because of the stress laid on natural history in its annotations, and perhaps also as making the journal available to a different group of individuals and institutions.—EDITOR.





Taverner, P. A. 1941. "Another Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Quebec." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 55(5), 77–78. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.340308>.

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