

September, 1939, Theodore E. Howard told the writer that he was staying with Jerry Nunn at Harperville, a village between St. Laurent and Woodlands in Manitoba. Several times he and Nunn saw a mother skunk and her family of five out for a walk. Every time, number 4 of the young skunks, which could be identified by its being lame, was in its fourth place in the line.

This raises several questions. Is it part of the same dominance that accounts for the original choice of individual teats in feeding? Has the order of choice of teats any numerical connection with the choice of position in travelling? Is a definite position regularly assumed when the young are later on feeding upon carrion or other food? Is there any connection between the actual order of birth and the places assumed when feeding and travelling? Certain other members of the weasel family travel in line ahead, at least sometimes, so perhaps valuable information could be supplied by breeders of mink, fisher, etc., along these lines. — L. T. S. NORRIS-ELYE, Winnipeg, Man.

Hooded Warbler in Quebec. — On May 3, 1947, I saw a Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) at Baie d'Urfee, east of Ste. Anne de Bellevue, P.Q. As it flitted from twig to twig of the low saplings above the floodwaters of the Ottawa River, the bird was carefully observed to be a warbler of generally yellow coloration with a black crown which continued behind the neck and met a black collar. The eye was within the yellow patch, enclosed by the black hood. On the following day, a Hooded Warbler, apparently the same individual, was seen in the same *locale* by Mrs. Isabel Zagallo, of Portugal, a guest; Mr. W. E. Whitehead, Lecturer in Entomology at Macdonald College; Mrs. Gray; and myself.

I know of no other recorded instance of the occurrence of the Hooded Warbler in the province of Quebec. — P. H. H. GRAY, Macdonald College, Quebec.

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) at Ottawa. — On May 24, 1947, a male of this species was seen in the woods beside the Rideau River in Lot 20, R.G., Gloucester Township, Carleton County. It was watched at close range for several minutes through a pair of Ross 7x50 binoculars as it fed in the underbrush, then just breaking into leaf. The bird was compared on the spot with the illustration and text in Peterson's "A Field

Guide to the Birds". It was blue above with two white wing-bars, and white below with a narrow black line across the upper breast. This black line was clearly seen and made the bird unmistakable. In addition two bluish warblers with which it might have been confused were also seen earlier the same day, a parula warbler and a male black-throated blue warbler, the latter at the same place. This is the second record of the cerulean warbler for the Ottawa area. — E. V. GOODWILL, Ottawa.

An Instance of Killer Whales Feeding on Ducks. — While watching a half-dozen killer whales that were travelling along our rocky shoreline, at Triple Island, British Columbia, in January, 1946, my wife and I noted that they were feeding on ducks, mostly white-winged scoters, which they successfully chased and caught.

A whale would spot a duck and start after it, the duck taking flight when it saw the large dorsal fin approaching. The ducks were unable to gain altitude quickly enough and were snapped up while they were flying, their wings still pattering on the water as they tried to escape. Approximately a dozen ducks were taken in this manner in a very short time, after which the others took off. The whales left soon afterward, probably in search of more ducks. We noted that it was necessary for the whales to turn on their backs in order to seize the ducks. — GORDON C. ODLUM, Triple Island Lightstation, Prince Rupert, B.C.

Summer flocking of the loon, *Gavia immer* (Brun.). — In winter loons are sometimes seen in large gatherings which can hardly be called flocks, numbering from 40 to 100 birds, but are more usually seen singly or in small parties (Bent, 1919, U.S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 107, p. 58). In spring migration, from early April to early May it is common to see loons in flocks sometimes containing as many as 40 individuals on Okanagan Lake in British Columbia. (Munro, 1945, Auk, 62, pp. 38-49). But during the breeding season, from May to August and September it is believed each pair remains on a territory it has established, and does most of its feeding there. Occasional intruders into these territories are resented with more or less vigor. These intruders, single birds, pairs, or small parties, apparently in search of food, are considered to be non-breeders.



Odlum, George M. 1948. "An instance of killer whales feeding on ducks." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 62(1), 42–42. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.341027>.

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