

The Cinnamon Teal in Ontario. — Mr. E. A. Roberts, Game Warden of Kent county, and his brother, Mr. L. E. Roberts of St. Catharines, while duck shooting in October, 1939, at Mitchell's Bay, at the end of concession 12, Kent county, Ontario, shot three male Cinnamon Teals, (*Anas cyanoptera*), from a flock of five. One only was saved; mounted by a French woman in Dover township. It was kept in the home of Mr. Roberts in Chatham until January, 1948, when he loaned the bird to the Chatham-Kent Museum, at which time the record came to light.

This information was submitted to Mr. L. L. Snyder, Assistant Director of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, who claimed this to be the first record for Ontario. — A. A. WOOD, Chatham, Ont.

Immature Snowy Egret (?) (*Leucophoyx thula*) at Crescent B.C. — On August 28, 1946, I was watching a flock of ring-billed gulls at the end of Blackie's Spit which is situated at the mouth of the Nicomekl River six miles north of the International Boundary. I noticed a white bird flying in from Boundary Bay. It was something entirely new to me. At first my mind turned to snowy owls and ivory gulls! It passed me at about 50 yards and flew up stream. My prism binoculars, magnification 8, by Ross, London, gave me a very clear view as the afternoon sun was shining full on the bird. Unquestionably it was a small white heron without plumes, as any child could have told with the naked eye.

The bird was entirely white, no markings on the wing tips. In contrast the legs and feet were light orange. There was no black visible to me. There was nothing distinctive about the bill. The bird was decidedly smaller than the great blue herons that were feeding on the mud flats at the same time, and it was larger than the ring-billed gulls.

I understand egrets are apt to wander from their regular range, particularly during the late summer. Taverner (*Auk*, 44: 221. 1927) has recorded this species from Sandy Lake, Alberta. Brooks and Swarth (*Pac. Coast Avifauna*, 17: 128) place the snowy egret in their hypothetical list for British Columbia. Although several species of herons are white in immature plumage, the snowy egret is the only one likely to wander into this Province. They used to breed in Oregon (Gabrielson and Jewett, *Birds of Oregon*, pp. 109-110). On September 16, Miss

Grenfell and Miss Sanderson of Vancouver told me they had seen a strange white bird on Crescent Beach sometime between September 3 and 10, 1946. They were sure it was a white heron. Fannin (Check list of British Columbia birds, p. 14) records that two snowy egrets were taken at Burrard Inlet, May, 1879. The mounted egret in the Provincial Museum, Victoria is said to be a Japanese egret in nuptial plumage. According to Brooks it would be quite impossible (Brooks & Swarth loc. cit.)—M. W. HOLDOM, Crescent, B.C.

Catbird on Vancouver Island, B.C. — The Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) has been recorded from the coastal region of the mainland of British Columbia but, according to Brooks and Swarth (*Pacific Coast Avifauna*, No. 17, p. 112, 1925) there was, then, no definite record of its occurrence on Vancouver Island.

On June 20, 1947, I heard and saw one at Point Holmes, Comox, V.I. The bird was on a southern slope, which is covered with a thick brushy growth, facing the sea. I was first attracted to the bird by its unusual song but the bird was shy and provided only fleeting glimpses.

The evening, of the same day, I went back and had ample opportunity to identify the bird as a catbird; it then sang on an exposed bough so that the distinguishing markings could be plainly seen.

The song was very fine; it generally opened with a perfect imitation of the alarm note of the robin (*Turdus migratorius*). When a killdeer (*Charadrius v. vociferus*) called, nearby, it incorporated this into the song as it did the "chack" note of a Brewer blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) when this bird called. There was a russet-backed thrush (*Hylocichla u. ustulata*) singing, on and off, close by, and some of its notes were used by the catbird. Doubtless other notes were introduced as the song was very diversified but I could not identify any (they were not those of local birds). Except when on the exposed bough the bird kept mainly to cover, singing just the same. On these two occasions I never heard the "meouw" note.

The bird was still in the same place and singing well on the morning of June 27 and then brought into its song the "meouw" note but did not mimic any local bird as before (none were calling) but it still opened with the robin note.



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