

of an indistinct hue, but very bright and general. Below the red was that of a male Pine Grosbeak and above like that of an American Crossbill. The wings and tail were like the common English Sparrow's, as were also the size and shape. The bird was twice seen afterwards by interested people.

Finally, a Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) was seen January 10 on the rifle-range, a fact quite as unusual as the wintering here of the Robins.

It is clear from the foregoing that we were unusually well supplied with birds during last winter. Yet it is safe to say that the same or a similar combination of birds, from the north and south, will probably not be seen for many years to come. It is clear to the writer that the meteorological conditions of last winter must have been very abnormal, hence these unusual wanderings and stayings of birds. In fact, indications seem conclusive to me, that many birds seem to be shifting their range of distribution, as witness the coming in here for the first time of birds like the Grasshopper Sparrow, Prairie Warbler, King Eider, etc.

---

## TWO NEW SUBSPECIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

BY LOUIS B. BISHOP, M. D.

### **Numenius americanus parvus** subsp. nov.

#### CANADIAN CURLEW.

*Type*.— ♂ adult, No. 15743, Coll. of Louis B. Bishop; Crane Lake, Saskatchewan, June 23, 1906; L. B. B.

*Subspecific characters*.— Smaller than *N. a. americanus*, with much shorter bill.

*Summer range*.— Eastern British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, south to eastern Washington, Wyoming, and South Dakota.

*Measurements of type*.— Length, 19.19; extent 36.00; wing, 10.19; tail, 4.48; exposed culmen, 4.15; tarsus, 2.92 inches.

For some years I have been confident that the Long-billed Curlew of western Canada was subspecifically distinct from the



*Measurements of Breeding Birds in Inches.*

Locality.	No. measured.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed Culmen.	Tarsus.
Western Canada	7	♂	10.19(9.98-10.28)	4.42(4.14-4.60)	4.77(4.15-5.70)	2.90(2.75-3.18)
Southwestern U. S.	3	♂	11.01(10.56-11.06)	4.74(4.30-5.05)	5.80(5.48-6.11)	3.39(3.07-3.56)
Wyoming and S. Dakota	3	♂	10.39(10.37-10.44)	4.68(4.44-4.87)	4.86(4.76-4.96)	2.91(2.80-3.01)
Western Canada	3	♀	10.49(9.90-10.81)	4.37(4.11-4.57)	5.78(4.65-6.39)	3.15(2.87-3.47)
Southwestern U. S.	3	♀	11.26(10.56-11.63)	4.94(4.66-5.34)	7.71(6.53-8.63)	3.48(3.28-3.60)
Atlantic Coast	3	♀ <sup>1</sup>	11.64(11.44-11.97)	5.02(4.87-5.15)	7.40(6.80-7.83)	3.52(3.34-3.69)
Wyoming	1	♀	10.69	4.26	6.72	3.36

<sup>1</sup> One, a spring female from New York; the others, from New Jersey and Virginia, but without sex and exact date.



form breeding in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, being considerably smaller with much shorter and more slender bill; but the fact that both forms occur in our Southwest and in Mexico in the migration and in winter has made the demonstration difficult, since the majority of specimens in collections from these latter localities were not taken during the breeding season. However, by the aid of the series in the American Museum of Natural History and the collection of Dr. Dwight, I have been able to find enough probably breeding birds to show the marked difference in size that exists between northern and southern birds. Breeding birds from Wyoming and South Dakota, though intermediate, are nearer the northern race, while the only specimen from California I have seen — taken in January — is referable to the southern bird. On the Atlantic coast the Long-billed Curlew is now practically extinct, and there are very few specimens of it preserved in collections, but the three I have measured so manifestly belong to the southern race that there can be no doubt to which *N. longirostris* Wilson applied, even if Wilson had not stated "the bill is eight inches long." Dr. Woodhouse's *N. occidentalis* having been collected in "New Mexico, upon the Rio Grande," before August 1, on which date Sitgreave's expedition left this point for further west, was evidently the young of *N. a. americanus*. *Numenius americanum* Bechstein also being based on a bird from the Atlantic coast leaves the northwest form without a name, and I have called it *parvus* because of its small size.

As we already have the "Eskimo" and "Hudsonian" Curlews, "Canadian" and "American" would seem appropriate English names for the races of *N. americanus*.

***Molothrus ater dwighti* subsp. nov.**

NORTHERN COWBIRD.

*Type*.— ♂ adult, No. 15759, Coll. of Louis B. Bishop; Crane Lake, Saskatchewan, June 24, 1906; L. B. B.

*Subspecific characters*.— Similar to *Molothrus ater ater*, but considerably larger and with more slender bill.

*Summer range*.— Saskatchewan to North Dakota.

*Measurements of type*.— Length, 8.69; extent, 14.44; wing, 4.61; tail, 3.51; culmen, .76; bill from nostril, .53; depth of bill at base, .48; tarsus, 1.13 inches.



*Measurements of Breeding Birds in Inches.*

Locality.	No. measured.	Length.	Extent.	Wing.	Tail.
		<i>Adult Males.</i>			
Saskatchewan	9	8.19(7.75-8.69)	13.98(13.62-14.44)	4.54(4.43-4.62)	3.28(3.15-3.51)
North Dakota	7	7.99(7.50-8.25)	13.71(13.50-14.25)	4.31(4.21-4.50)	3.27(3.00-3.56)
Connecticut	8	7.72(7.25-8.00)	13.37(13.25-13.56)	4.27(4.13-4.44)	3.17(3.06-3.42)
		<i>Adult females.</i>			
Saskatchewan	4	7.37(7.25-7.44)	12.43(12.12-12.62)	3.96(3.89-3.99)	2.91(2.87-2.94)
North Dakota	2	7.47(7.31-7.62)	12.62(12.50-12.75)	4.07(4.00-4.14)	2.88(2.82-2.95)
Connecticut	8	7.15(7.00-7.25)	12.21(11.87-12.50)	3.85(3.71-3.98)	2.78(2.64-2.94)
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			
		<i>Adult males.</i>			
		<i>Adult females</i>			



The Cowbird breeding in Saskatchewan is considerably larger than that frequenting our Eastern States, as is shown by the subjoined measurements of breeding birds. The bird breeding in eastern North Dakota is intermediate, but somewhat nearer that in Saskatchewan. The bird inhabiting Alberta, Manitoba, and northern Montana is doubtless the northern race, but I have not seen specimens from those localities.

As *Fringilla pecoris* Swainson was based on "The Cowpen Bird" of Catesby, and *Oriolus fuscus* Gmelin and *Oriolus ater* Boddaert on birds taken in New York, neither name can be applied to the unrecognized race. Therefore I have taken the liberty of calling it after my friend, Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., though giving a proposed subspecies his name is but a poor tribute to his ornithological ability, knowledge and zeal.

---

## THE INCREASE OF AUSTRAL BIRDS AT ITHACA.

BY ALBERT H. WRIGHT AND ARTHUR A. ALLEN.

SITUATED at the head of Cayuga Lake, Ithaca lies about midway between the Susquehanna basin and the Austral territory along the south shore of Lake Ontario. To the south, the Inlet and Six Mile Creek Valleys lead to the divide and have their origins in the same marshes with the headwaters of the Susquehanna. To the north, Cayuga Lake and the Seneca River form a natural highway to this Lake Ontario strip. This area, due to the isolating Transition and Canadian territory to the south, undoubtedly receives its Austral birds from those migrating up the Mississippi Valley. Thus it is possible for Austral forms appearing at Ithaca to be either coastal species working their way up the Susquehanna or Mississippi birds coming down Lake Cayuga from the north. With certain birds the direction of invasion seems quite apparent, with others, it is difficult or impossible to state with certainty.

The purpose of this paper, however, is not so much to determine the probable route of migration as to show the encroachment of Austral forms within recent years and their remarkable appearance



Bishop, Louis B. 1910. "Two New Subspecies of North American Birds." *The Auk* 27, 59–63. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070985>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54324>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070985>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/87068>

**Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

**Sponsored by**

Smithsonian

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.