

Occurrence of the Saw-whet Owl in Florida.—On 31 October 1965 at 1000 hours we observed and collected a Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) in adult plumage and in apparently good physical condition at Ponte Vedra, St. Johns County, Florida. The bird flew from beneath a truck to a cross beam in a garage adjoining a large, fresh-water, wooded swamp dominated by cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*). We found a regurgitated pellet and a freshly killed, partially eaten cotton mouse (*Peromyscus gossypinus*) beneath the truck. The bird was sent to Henry M. Stevenson for deposit in Florida State University Museum, Tallahassee (specimen no. 4092b). Dr. Stevenson found that the skull had been shattered and the gonads destroyed in collecting. Total length (before skinning) was 210 mm.

This specimen was the most southerly record made during what R. O. Paxton (*Aud. Field Notes*, 20: 4, 1966) has described as the most massive fall invasion of the species ever documented. More than 100 Saw-whet Owls were banded in the Middle Atlantic states, including an unprecedented 29 at Kent Point, Maryland, on 17 October 1965 (F. R. Scott and D. A. Cutler, *Aud. Field Notes*, 20: 25, 1966). The only record farther south given in *Audubon Field Notes* for the 1965 fall migration season was that of a dead bird found on 25 October at Bodie Island, North Carolina (J. F. Parnell, *Aud. Field Notes*, 20: 29, 1966).

Alex Sprunt, Jr. (*Florida bird life*, New York, Coward-McCann and National Audubon Society, 1954; *Addendum to Florida bird life*, New York, Coward-McCann and National Audubon Society, 1963) does not list a record of this owl for Florida. The A.O.U. Check-list (fifth edit., 1957) indicates winter occurrence of the species at Fort Myers, Florida, but H. M. Stevenson (*Florida Nat.*, 36: 126, 1963) thinks this may be in error since he was unable to find any basis for it. Our specimen may therefore be the first authentic record for Florida.—FREDERICK H. LESSER, *Lee County Mosquito Control District, Fort Myers, Florida*, and ALLEN R. STICKLEY, JR., *U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Gainesville, Florida*.

Recent wintering records of the Kirtland's Warbler.—Harold Mayfield (*The Kirtland's Warbler*, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Cranbrook Inst. Sci., 1960; see pp. 35–36) lists 71 specimens of the Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) taken on the wintering grounds in the Bahamas from 1870 to 1919. The specimens were secured on various islands, the majority (45) from New Providence. Two sight records, one on Cat Cay on 28 April 1907 and one on Inagua on 8 March in some year between 1935 and 1940, were admitted (J. Van Tyne in Mayfield, *loc. cit.*). In 1949, Mayfield and Van Tyne spent 59 man-days searching without success for this species on New Providence and Eleuthera. However, D. Challinor, Jr. (*Wilson Bull.*, 74: 290, 1962), recorded a male Kirtland's Warbler on Hog Island, near Nassau, on 27 March 1957, and on 26 February 1941 P. B. Street saw 3 on New Providence.

In 1959 the Florida Audubon Society began making regular trips to the Bahamas. Usually several members saw the Kirtland's Warbler each year; on each tour there were qualified observers who were familiar with the species on the breeding grounds in Michigan. A list of these records follows. *Grand Bahama*, 14 November 1959 (1 bird), 19 November 1960 (3), late December 1961 (1), 24 November 1962 (1), 16 November 1963 (1; reported by D. Blanchard, *Jack-pine Warbler*, 43: 39–42, 1965), 13 November 1964 (2), 16 October 1965 (2), and 22 October 1966 (2); *Eleuthera*, 11 November 1961 (1) and 30 November 1963 (1).

Additional recent records from Grand Bahama, compiled from the notes of Cherry Hund, Shanda Magee, C. Russell Mason, Dorothy Rand, Dora Weyer, and Marian and Karl Zerbe, are as follows: 1961, December (2); 1964, 12 February (5), 24

March (2), 27 March (1), 27 April (1 male, 1 female), 5 August (1), 29 August (2 males, 1 female), 2 October (3), 27 November (1 male, 1 female); 1965, 9 February (1 male), 15 February (1 male), and 17 February (3); 1966, 21 October (2).

The August records are of interest since according to Mayfield (*op. cit.*: 39) most of the birds are thought to remain in Michigan until late August or early September.

On Grand Bahama almost all birds were seen in areas of Caribbean pine (*Pinus caribaea*) with an understory of poisonwood (*Metopium toxiferum*) and palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). The winter habitat is generally reported as being scrub growth only. The Eleuthera records were from scrub growth, but this and many other islands of the group are devoid of pines.

On several occasions an individual warbler landed on the lower section of a pine trunk and then worked its way upward, circling the tree and probing beneath the bark much as a Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) does. After reaching the branched portion of the tree, the warbler would fly to the base of another tree and repeat the performance. Mayfield and others (*pers. comm.*), who have observed the species in Michigan, have not seen this type of feeding behavior there.

A 1,500-acre tract of large pine near Freeport, Grand Bahama, has been set aside as a wildlife sanctuary by the Freeport Garden Club and the Colonial Research Institute in cooperation with the Florida Audubon Society. Additional areas should be established on Grand Bahama before increased urban development eliminates all suitable wintering locations.—MARGARET H. HUNDLEY, *Florida Audubon Society*, P. O. Drawer 7, Maitland, Florida.

Polynesian rat predation on nesting Laysan Albatrosses and other Pacific seabirds.—In September, 1963, the Smithsonian Institution began a study of Kure Atoll, the westernmost atoll in the Hawaiian Leeward Islands. As part of this program, predator-prey interactions between the Polynesian rat (*Rattus exulans*) and seabirds were observed.

Green Island, the only permanent land in the atoll, supports a dense growth of *Scaevola taccada* surrounding an open plain where the low-lying plants *Tribulus cistoides*, *Solanum nelsoni*, *Boerhavia diffusa*, and *Eragrostis variabilis* are found. C. H. Lamoureaux (*Atoll Res. Bull.*, 79: 1-10, 1961) describes the botanical aspects of the island in detail. There are 14 species of sea birds which nest on the island (see K. W. Kenyon and D. W. Rice, *Condor*, 60: 188-190, 1958). Only two native mammals, the Polynesian rat and the Hawaiian monk seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*), occur there.

The Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*) is the most conspicuous bird on the island during its breeding season, which extends from November through July. Approximately 5,000 of these birds use the island, and about 1,000 pairs generally breed each year. Large-scale banding programs and studies of individual nesting pairs permitted regular observation of these birds through two consecutive breeding seasons.

The other workers on the program and I frequently encountered injured Laysan Albatrosses and noticed dying and dead adults with large gaping wounds in their backs; 12 such birds were found in the 1963-64 breeding season. In 1964-65, similarly injured birds were also seen. Over 50 individuals were found and many others may have been concealed by the dense *Scaevola*.

The open wounds were always found on the birds' backs, either slightly anterior to the uropygial gland, or forward between the scapulae. Small holes, one to two inches in diameter, were occasionally found. At this stage, wounds were sometimes obscured by feathers, and the injury did not cripple the bird (Figure 1). More often,