

with a small Gaspereau herring in the collection of Mr. C. W. Nash, Provincial Biologist, there is no reasonable doubt but that it belongs to that species.

Surprising as the conclusion is, there seems no other possible explanation but that the fish were carried from Lake Ontario, the shore of which is approximately twelve miles from where the specimens were found.

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DIRCA PALUSTRIS L. IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—In the summer of 1918, while visiting at Loggieville, a small town at the mouth of the Miramichi river, and four miles below Chatham, I met with a strange shrub growing in small open spaces among white spruce and balsam firs, which clothe densely the low sandy plain, that everywhere skirts the shore and extends many miles inland. It grew in small dense hazel-like clumps, and rose to the height of four or five feet. No flowers were to be seen, nor was any fruit found, either on the bushes or on the ground beneath. Samples were taken and submitted to Mr. J. M. Macoun, head naturalist to the Geological Survey, who pronounced it this species. The large ovate leaves of a pea-green colour, the pale ashy bark, the stout stems branching freely and tree-like, and the jointed branches themselves were all somewhat universal and attracted the attention. Familiar with the botany of northern New Brunswick for many years, and having collected all over it, I readily spotted the stranger. It must be very rare. The light spongy snow-white wood and the thick tough bark that easily separates into thin lace-like layers of a delicate complex structure, recalling that of the Lace Tree of the West Indies, to which the Leatherwood is a near relative, were exceedingly interesting features whose examination afforded me a very enjoyable afternoon. Authorities assign a swamp habitat to this species, as its specific name implies, but these slightly undulating plains are largely dry, indeed very dry, in midsummer; at all events the clumps I found were upon a parched sandy soil.

Though common in central and eastern Ontario and in the valley of the St. Lawrence as far as Ste. Anne, Champlain Co., it is rare eastward. In "Preliminary List of the Plants of New Brunswick," Bull. No. IV, Nat. Hist. Soc. of N.B., 1885, by the Rev. (Dr.) James Fowler, professor emeritus of Queen's University, Kingston, the author assigns two stations to N.B., namely, Keswick Ridge, York Co., and Hillsboro, Albert Co. In "Catalogue of Canadian Plants," published the following year, Prof. John Macoun was able to add no further stations to its distribution in the Maritime Provinces. It does not seem to have ever been reported from Prince Edward Island or Nova Scotia.

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A LATE RECORD FOR HORNED LARKS.—On January 8, while on a C.N.R. train, I saw a crow in a sheltered ravine about five miles east from Ottawa. A little farther on I was surprised to see two horned larks, feeding on seeds of exposed weeds in the vicinity of a farm building. The larks were plainly seen, both on the ground and in flight. Later, near L'Orignal, I saw a more familiar bird at this season, a horned owl. I have heard of no crows in the vicinity of Montreal since Nov. 24, although it is not unusual for a few to winter in favourable localities, but the presence of horned larks seems worthy of recording, as I have no record of their occurrence at Montreal during December and January. Possibly they remain later at Ottawa. Of course I was unable to determine the subspecies, but my notes show that the more northern birds *O. a. alpestris* never stay as late as our summer resident *O. a. praticola*, and that late November records of *praticola* are for single birds or couples, while *alpestris* has always been found in considerable flocks.

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