GENERAL NOTES

A new form of *Agelaius* from Mona Island, Puerto Rico.—The following new race of *Agelaius xanthomus* from Mona Island, Puerto Rico, is described on the basis of material collected by the writer during the course of an investigation of the avifauna of this island. I propose that it be known as:

Agelaius xanthomus monensis, subsp. nov.

Type: Adult ♂, No. 887, collection Ventura Barnés, Jr., Mona Island, Puerto Rico, April 6, 1944, Ventura Barnés, Jr., collector. (Type presented to the United States National Museum.)

Subspecific characters: Similar to *Agelaius xanthomus xanthomus* (Sclater) of Puerto Rico, but with the lesser wing-coverts paler yellow, and the middle wing-coverts extensively or entirely white, or very pale yellowish white.

Measurements: Males (9 specimens)—wing, 102.2–106.4 mm. (104.4); tail, 77.0–84.4 (81.4); culmen from base, 20.7–22.8 (21.6); tarsus, 23.7–28.3 (25.9).

Females (4 specimens)—wing, 95.5–98.0 (96.4); tail, 73.4–77.6 (74.6); culmen from base, 19.7–20.1 (19.8); tarsus, 23.8–24.9 (24.6).

Type, male adult—wing, 104.6; tail, 81.8; culmen from base, 21.2; tarsus, 26.0.

There exist no differences in measurements between typical *xanthomus* and *monensis*.

Geographic distribution: Known only from Mona Island, in Mona Passage, 48 miles off the west coast of Puerto Rico.

Material examined: Thirty nine specimens of *Agelaius xanthomus* have been examined in the present study, 16 from Mona Island and 23 from Puerto Rico. For comparative purposes, fresh material of the typical race was collected from Cabo Rojo (8), the Lajas lowlands (10) and Guánica (5), all localities found in the extreme southwestern corner of the island.

Discussion: The subspecific characters in *Agelaius xanthomus monensis* are constant in all specimens examined with the exception of one immature female in which the tips of the middle wing-coverts are blackish instead of pure white as in other specimens. In one adult male the shoulder patches are entirely pure white without any trace of yellowish coloration in the upper wing-coverts.

In the juvenile of *Agelaius xanthomus xanthomus*, the yellow of the shoulder patches is lighter and often duller than in the adults, and the young are sometimes almost like fully adult individuals of *Agelaius xanthomus monensis*.

Some recent authors have placed *Agelaius xanthomus xanthomus* of Puerto Rico as a subspecies of *Agelaius humeralis* from Cuba. That these two are closely related there is no doubt though it may be pointed out that the bill in *humeralis* is different, having the culmen more broadened toward the base and slightly flattened as in *Agelaius phoeniceus*, while in *Agelaius xanthomus xanthomus* the culmen is narrower, with more of a rounded ridge. The tawny shoulder patches of *humeralis* and the yellow ones of *xanthomus*, while displaying related colors, at the same time are completely and definitively distinctive with no variation in which the two approach one another. Even the juvenile birds carry the same differences in coloration found in the adults, though the extent of the shoulder patches is much less. The females of both have shoulder patches smaller than in the males, but in *xanthomus* this sexual difference is slight while in *humeralis* it is considerable.

Agelaius xanthomus xanthomus of Puerto Rico is now found in the coastal littoral where it is abundant and well distributed. I presume that the new form *monensis* may have come originally from the main island to Mona, either in wanderings or through the force of some tropical storm. Due to geographical isolation after the bird adapted itself to the rocky, cactus-covered plateau of Mona, the color of the shoulder patches changed from the deep, rich, golden yellow color of the birds of the main island to the much lighter yellowish white or entirely white condition now characteristic of *monensis*.

I wish to acknowledge to Dr. Alexander Wetmore my sincere appreciation for the examination of my specimens and for his critical comments relating to them, some of which are included in this work. Let these lines convey to him my thanks for his kindness.—VENTURA BARNÉS, JR., *Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.*

A pale mutant Mourning Dove.—On July 31, 1944, two fledgling nest-mates of the Mourning Dove were collected at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. The larger of the two was a male and of a very light color, while the smaller bird was typically dark and a female. Skins of both birds were prepared and are now in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History (A. M. N. H. nos. 308356 and 308357, respectively).

The wild parents of these specimens appeared to be quite normal. The mutant superficially resembles the juvenile stage of the domestic ring-dove in color, and the beak and claws were lighter than those of the normal sister. Closer inspection of the mutant reveals the characteristic Mourning Dove color pattern; each spot or band which, in the normal, is black is represented here by a drab facsimile. The effect is somewhat similar to that of the "dominant opal" color factor found in certain strains of domestic pigeons.

We have found no other report of a similar color mutant in this species, and no similar specimen exists in the collection of the American Museum. A light-colored example of *Zenaida aurita* from Cuba (A. M. N. H. no. 690) somewhat resembles it, but is darker.

We are indebted to Dr. Ernst Mayr for helpful comments and to Mrs. Guinevere C. Smith for assistance in preserving the skins.—C. F. GRAEFE AND W. F. HOLLANDER, *Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, New York.*

Red-eyed Vireo with vocal defect.—On June 15, 1942, in a low, tamarack-bordered, deciduous woodlot at Rose Lake Wildlife Experiment Station, near East Lansing, Michigan, I heard a strange, wheezy song consisting of two or three frequently repeated husky whispers. Though the jerky, unmusical notes suggested an *Empidonax* flycatcher, the song was so unlike that of the more familiar Michigan members of that genus that a detour was taken through the woods in anticipation of discovering something unusual. A tree-top view of the singer disclosed a vireo-like bird, with distinctly vireo-like feeding and singing habits, thus putting the new flycatcher theory completely at rest.

A check-up the following morning, with 8× binoculars, found the bird still present, still singing its peculiar husky song. A fairly satisfactory view of the singer disclosed what appeared to be a Warbling Vireo, flaunting a conspicuous white feather in the position of the upper tail coverts; but the song, broken up into choppy notes, uttered in a series of two's and three's, was totally unlike the continuous song of that species.

Still dissatisfied, I returned on the third morning in company with a member of the Rose Lake Station staff, who collected the specimen. On examination it proved