

GENERAL NOTES

Comments on the identification of Stoddard's Yellow-throated Warbler.—When George M. Sutton (1951, *Auk* 68: 27-29) described a new subspecies of the Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica stoddardi*) from the coast of northwest Florida, he emphasized that it differed from other populations of the species known to him in its "exceptionally long, slender" bill. He also examined three long-billed specimens of this warbler from the coast of Maryland and one from Miami, Florida, but these birds were "not nearly slender-billed enough for *stoddardi*." Of the 24 specimens of *stoddardi* Sutton examined, 23 were collected in Walton County, Florida, and one at Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. Specimens collected later in coastal Alabama showed Baldwin County to be the western limit of the race, as specimens from Mobile County were referred to *D. d. dominica* (Imhof 1976, *Alabama birds*, University, Alabama, Univ. Alabama Press). The known eastern limit is now indicated by typical specimens collected at McAllister Landing, Bay County, Florida, on 20 June 1964 (Tall Timbers Research Station 3407) and Pinelog Creek, Washington County, Florida, on 4 April 1952 (TTRS 1303). All of these specimens of *stoddardi* were collected during the breeding season; thus no information exists regarding the winter home of this form.

Sutton's published measurements gave only the length of the exposed culmen of the four above-mentioned specimens from Maryland and Miami, referred to as "*D. dominica*", and of 24 specimens of *D. d. stoddardi*, but the "slender-billed" character was quantified nowhere in the paper. In their study of competition between the Yellow-throated Warbler and the Pine Warbler (*D. pinus*), Ficken et al. (1968, *Evolution* 22: 307-314) worked chiefly on the Delmarva Peninsula with representatives of the population of Maryland birds measured by Sutton. They pointed out the similarity between that population and *stoddardi*, adding that they "would be considered as members of this subspecies [*stoddardi*] if they were collected in the Florida panhandle." Although they presented bill lengths of various populations of *D. dominica*, no data were given for bill depth or width.

Hoping to clarify this taxonomic quandry, I borrowed from the National Museum of Natural History 37 specimens of *D. dominica* from the Delmarva Peninsula and took the following measurements (mm): tail length, wing length, length of bill from nostril, length of culmen from true base, and depth and width of bill (both at mid-nostril). The same measurements were then made on nine specimens in the Tall Timbers Research Station Collection that were taken in the range of *D. d. stoddardi* in spring and early summer. Plumage coloration was also noted in both groups. Respective bill measurements appear in Table 1. Differences in wing and tail length between the two populations were of the same order of magnitude as were bill measurements. That is both averaged somewhat longer in the Delmarva birds than in *stoddardi*, but with much overlap between the two populations. None of these differences is statistically significant. In coloration *D. d. stoddardi* tended to be slightly darker gray on the back and a few specimens had more black pigment anteriorly, but most specimens probably could not be referred to a particular population on the basis of either coloration or measurements.

TABLE 1. Range and mean of bill measurements in two forms of *Dendroica dominica*.

	Delmarva Peninsula	<i>D. d. stoddardi</i>
Number of specimens	37	9
Bill from nostril	9.8-11.8 (10.93)	9.9-11.4 (10.68)
Culmen from base	15.7-18.1 (16.94)	14.1-17.1 (16.19)
Bill width	2.8-3.7 (3.28)	2.8-3.5 (3.16)
Bill depth	3.2-3.9 (3.64)	3.1-3.7 (3.40)

Although a more extensive taxonomic study in the future may show reliable differences in these two populations at the subspecific level, the point I wish to make is that no individuals can be referred to a given population in the field and very few can be identified in the hand. The winter home of *D. d. stoddardi* is unknown, and it appears unlikely that a January specimen collected in South Carolina (Dingle 1961, Auk 78: 640), northeast of the breeding range of this form, would be a representative of that race. Its exposed culmen of 15 mm is equally representative of the Delmarva population. The same comment would seem to apply to specimens labeled *stoddardi* in the Florida State Museum (FSM) and taken in Alachua County (FSM 9381), Levy County (FSM 3653), and Leon County (FSM 7827), Florida.

I extend my thanks to Robert L. Crawford for assisting me with the color comparisons and Wes Biggs for information regarding the specimens in the Florida State Museum.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, *Tall Timbers Research Station, Rt. 1, Box 160, Tallahassee, Florida 32312*.

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Northernmost record of the Mangrove Cuckoo on the Gulf coast.—On 11 November 1981 we observed an adult Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*) at St. George Island State Park, Franklin County, Florida. The cuckoo was flushed initially from oak scrub (3-5 m tall) about 150 m inland from St. George Sound and flew only 10 m to a "head high" perch on the edge of an oak. The late-morning light conditions (1100-1115) were ideal. We observed the bird with binoculars and spotting scope at distances down to 4 m during a leisurely 15-min. study and noted and sketched the following field marks: maxilla entirely dark brownish-black; lower mandible yellow with dark tip; black mask through eye; iris dark; orbital ring yellow upperparts neutral grayish brown, secondary edges and upper tail coverts lightly buff; underparts buffy cinnamon from chin to undertail coverts, slightly deeper on belly and vent; underside of tail black with broad white tips; no "rufous" flash in wings during flight.

The cuckoo perched upright and was alert but unusually tame, allowing our close approach from various angles. The third and fourth primaries of the right wing (left not seen) were pale and worn (unmolted); otherwise the plumage was unblemished. The possibility of the bird being a Gray-capped Cuckoo (*Coccyzus lansbergi*), an intra-South American migrant, or an erythristic Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) was considered during the observation period, thus prompting our cautious and detailed notes.