

ON THE HIATUS EXISTING BETWEEN THE BREEDING RANGES OF THE LOGGERHEAD AND WHITE-RUMPED SHRIKES.

BY G. H. RAGSDALE.

DURING the past two years I have had much correspondence on this subject. I was drawn into the belief that there must be a gap somewhere by Mr. Nehrling's record of the breeding in Harris County, Texas, of the White-rumped Shrike, when I had never known the birds to remain through the summer in Cook County.

The following observers report "no Shrikes breeding" at their respective stations in Texas: W. W. Westgate, Houston; J. A. Singley, Giddings; R. E. Rachford, Beaumont; H. F. Peters, Bonham. Although I have not detected any Shrike breeding in Cook County, and have copious notes on their departure as late as May, and return as early as July, I have a set of eggs taken in Cook County by Mr. E. C. Davis, who saw a Shrike leave the tree in which the nest was. These eggs agree well with a set I have from Colorado, Texas, three hundred miles southwest of Gainesville, but are larger. Mr. Benners, in the 'Ornithologist and Oölogist' (Vol. XII, p. 165), reports taking the eggs of the Loggerhead Shrike in the vicinity of San Antonio, Texas, but the specimen was evidently *excubitorides*. Mr. J. A. Singley wrote me last season that some one took the eggs of the White-rumped Shrike at Graham, Texas, one hundred miles west of Gainesville. These points I consider on or near the southeastern limit of breeding of *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*, in Texas.

Mr. Hardin D. Thweatt of Hickory Plain, Arkansas, while teaching school at West Point on Little Red River, a tributary of White River, Arkansas, made a record of all Shrikes seen, and but few were seen, and that in March, 1887. The only Louisiana record of breeding of the Loggerhead is from Mr. Geo. E. Beyer, of New Orleans. On May 13, 1888, he secured two old and three young, near Franklinton, Lat. 30° 52', from a pine tree near their nest. At Franklinton, May 15, 1887, he secured two adult birds, and was shown the nest in a pine tree, from which a cat

was seen to take the young. On May 29, Mr. Beyer saw a pair at Greensburg, Louisiana, Lat. $30^{\circ} 49'$. On June 5 he shot a pair near Clinton, Louisiana, Lat. $30^{\circ} 52'$, and saw their nest in a pine tree.

It will be remembered that no Shrike was observed by Mr. Beckham at Bayou Sara, Louisiana, but *ludovicianus* was quoted on the authority of Mr. Wederstraudt (Bull. N. O. C., Vol. VII, No. 3, p. 162). Mr. O. P. Hay saw a Shrike at Jackson, Mississippi, "in summer" (Bull. N. O. C., Vol. VII, p. 91). I have shown that the birds return as early as July in Cook County, Texas, and this record only shows, as does Mr. Beckham's, that no Shrike is common in summer in those localities. In 1886, Mr. J. T. Moore of Oxford, Mississippi, reported that he had taken the eggs of both Loggerhead and White-rumped Shrike at Oxford, but that both were very rare. Dr. Rawlings Young of Corinth, Mississippi, reports no Shrikes in that locality in summer. Mr. J. T. Park of Rising Sun, in northwestern Georgia, wrote me that no Shrikes bred there; but Mr. H. B. Bailey has reported the breeding of *Lanius ludovicianus* in Wayne and McIntosh Counties, Georgia, which are on or near the coast.

At Greensboro', Alabama, Dr. Wm. C. Avery, on April 25, 1887, took six eggs of the Loggerhead Shrike from the end of a limb of an old field pine, eight feet from the ground, and saw another nest higher up in a pine tree in the spring of 1888.

Mr. L. M. Loomis reports the Loggerhead as a resident at Chester, South Carolina.

The birds seen by Mr. Fox in Tennessee, and reported in 'The Auk,' Vol. III, p. 317, were probably migrating White-rumps.

I have failed to learn of any Shrike breeding in Tennessee, Kentucky, or Arkansas, Mr. Pindar of Hickman, Kentucky being the only observer to report from that State, and none from Tennessee, and only one from Arkansas. Mr. Goss reports from personal observations the White-rumped Shrikes breeding throughout Kansas.

Mr. O. Widmann reports the Loggerhead as breeding at St. Louis, Missouri, but *bleaching out* in spring and summer, and to the northwest of St. Louis only the White-rumps are reported in summer.

From the foregoing I conclude that the A. O. U. Committee correctly relegated the Loggerhead to the Gulf States, and that it

prefers pine lands for nesting. I also conclude that there is a neutral strip upon which neither form is found during May and June, and further, that about the only way to identify a Shrike of this species is to take it on its breeding grounds during the breeding season.

PICICORVUS COLUMBIANUS (WILS.),
CLARKE'S NUTCRACKER. ITS
NEST AND EGGS, ETC.

BY CAPT. CHARLES E. BENDIRE.

THROUGH the kindness of that indefatigable naturalist, Mr. Denis Gale, of Gold Hill, Colorado, I am enabled to give to the readers of 'The Auk' his observations on the habits of Clarke's Nutcracker during the breeding season, as well as a good pen picture of the nest and eggs, taken by him March 5, 1888, he having, with his usual generosity, presented both to the National Museum collection. Since I described the nest and eggs of this species in Vol. I of the 'Bulletin' of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, July, 1876, page 44, and again more fully in the April and May numbers of the 'Ornithologist and Oölogist,' pages 105-107 and 113-114, no other nest with eggs has been found, as far as I am aware, and the only account I can find of the taking of one since then, which, however, contained young only, is that of Capt. B. F. Goss, of Pewaukee, Wisconsin, published in the 'Bulletin' of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. VIII, Jan. 1883, pages 44 and 45.

Mr. Gale's notes read as follows: "On Feb. 16, 1888, while passing down a mountain trail, my attention was drawn to the peculiar note of alarm given by this bird, *Picicorvus columbianus* — not unlike that of our Jay or Magpie — which was promptly answered by its companion. I discovered the birds in separate trees, about fifteen yards distant from each other, and probably fifty yards from where I was standing. Upon closer inspection I perceived that both birds had twigs in their bills. They watched each other, and me as well, for perhaps ten min-