

stormy condition in the Aransas Bay region. It is possible that the Flamingo flew in ahead of the hurricane. There is also the possibility that the bird had been in this region for several weeks. Mr. Gordon Gunter, of the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, told me afterwards that some three or four weeks previously Mr. George A. Ratisseau had reported seeing, at a great distance and not very clearly, what he thought was possibly a Flamingo among a group of Roseate Spoonbills, near his Jolly Roger Camp on Copano Bay.

The Flamingo may have been a stray from the Bahama region or it might have come from Yucatan. The latter supposition seems to be the most plausible one.—
CONGER N. HAGAR (MRS. JACK HAGAR), *Rockport, Texas*.

Notes on certain birds of the lower Florida Keys.—During the writer's assignment at Key West, Florida, for the Fish and Wildlife Service from February 1939 until October 1942, notes were made on the avifauna of the Lower Florida Keys, which include those keys lying from about the Bahia Honda bridge southwesterly to the Marquesas, including the Great White Heron and Key West National Wildlife Refuges.

Although much time and study was devoted to the Great White, Ward's, and Wurdemann's herons, about 160 species and subspecies of birds were recorded. As comparatively little information has been published on the area, the following species have been selected as of special interest. Terrestrial bird life was disappointing until it was realized that the area is maritime, consisting of hundreds of keys scattered along the Gulf and Atlantic Ocean with many miles of water.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*).—Although we found no nests on the Marquesas Keys, which lie about twenty miles off Key West and comprise the westerly extremity of the Key West Refuge, we did see birds there as follows: February 20, 1940, one adult bird flying directly over our skiff late in the afternoon. On July 16 of the same year, one bird alighted on the marl flat and commenced feeding, and later in the day Joe Warren, my patrolman, and I saw four birds off Little Creek near Eastern Harbor of the Marquesas, one of which may have been the bird recorded earlier. On April 18, 1941, Joe Warren counted six birds at the Marquesas, and on June 18 of the same year, I saw one in flight there.

On July 25, 1942, one bird, apparently an adult, was seen feeding about a pond in Key West. On August 13, 14, 15, 25, and 29, 1942, one bird, probably the same individual, was seen feeding about the ponds of Key West, generally in the evening around 8 P. M. It was at times quite tame, allowing a close approach.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*).—Wintering regularly, as far as I could determine from natives, this western hawk has been recorded by the writer in Key West, on Stock Island, Sugarloaf and Noname Keys. Those seen appeared to be of the light phase or possibly intergrades. They were tame, appeared sluggish, and were easily approached. Birds, perched on poles along the highway, would fly from pole to pole in front of an approaching car or pedestrian.

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*).—I have only a few records of this rare bird in the area. Two birds were seen soaring near Porpoise Key on March 16, 1939, both in the white phase. One bird in the dark phase was seen soaring near Key Largo, off the mainland, on January 1, 1940. At one time it dived toward the earth for a short distance. A bird in the dark phase was seen at Boca Grande Key, in the Key West Refuge, on October 17, 1940.

Mangrove Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris insularum*).—Apparently a permanent resident although seldom seen during the winter months. An abundant nester about

Key West and on most of the other keys in that area. This rail is an excellent swimmer and at times very approachable, and as little has been written regarding it, I found it an interesting subject of study.

White-crowned Pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*).—Wintering in Cuba and other West Indian islands, this bird reaches the keys generally in early or middle May and leaves for the south in September. A few winter. They nest on many of the keys and feed at certain choice spots containing their favorite diet of wild fig, Natal plum, sea grape, etc. Although shot in great numbers in Cuba during the winter, continual protection along the keys will help to restore this very interesting species which has such a limited nesting area in this country.

Eastern White-winged Dove (*Melopelia asiatica asiatica*).—On May 19, 1940, I observed one of these birds at close range near the Inn on Big Pine Key. Its markings were very distinctive. Natives stated that they found them occasionally mixed with flocks of Mourning Doves. However, investigations showed the bird to be very scarce.

Maynard's Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor maynardi*).—This shy but interesting bird was found to be rather rare along the Lower Keys although its secretive habits may account for my scarcity of records, all of which, except one, were made on Sugarloaf Key about twenty miles northeasterly from Key West, in May, June, and August of 1939 and June and August of 1940. On June 24, 1941, a dead bird was examined on Cudjoe Key, which had apparently been killed by a car on the highway. The notes of this bird were somewhat like those of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, common in the area, but there was enough difference to be easily recognized.

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*).—This West Indian species was first found by me on July 4, 1939—on a wire near my home in Key West. As I had seen a number of them in Cuba some years before, I was delighted to renew the acquaintance. My records are for July and August, 1939; August, 1940; July, 1941; and June and July, 1942. Generally one individual was seen but on August 6, 1939, and June 26, 1942, two birds were recorded. Search was made for a possible nest but without success. The comings and goings of this bird were somewhat of a mystery to me and I could hear its loud notes as it approached my home from a distance. It appeared to have a somewhat regular route and favorite feeding grounds on the island. Its notes were rather musical in tone and not at all like those of a Florida Grackle, for instance—a species common about the area. At times the Ani notes were loud and repeated, reminding me somewhat of certain notes of the Willet, and were uttered on the wing as well as when perched. The bird also has a whining note and others that might be expressed as *whew-whew*. In Cuba this is called "Jewbird" and is quite common in many areas there.

Cuban Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor gundlachi*).—The discovery and collection of birds of this race during the breeding season on the Lower Keys is described in *The Auk*, 60 (1): page 105, January, 1943. Although it is now believed that this is the breeding race on the Lower Keys, the actual finding of eggs and further collecting is necessary to substantiate this statement. Their notes appear slightly different from those of the northern races.

Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*).—Although listed as a straggler from the west, this species might well be classed as a regular winter visitor along the keys. Birds have been recorded near the Seven Mile Bridge, on Cudjoe Key, Key West, and on Boca Grande Key in the Key West Refuge. My earliest arrival date is October 13, 1940, and my last date in the spring is April 1, 1939. They may also be seen from November to March. Key West, being the terminus, so to speak, of the highway keys, is therefore a final gathering place for the winter of a number of such species. This bird is frequently seen in the company of the following species.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*).—This is another so-called straggler from the west and more common during the winter months than the Arkansas Kingbird. It is a delightful find for visiting bird students. My earliest record of arrival is October 20, 1940, and my last record on May 2, 1942. They have also been recorded in all the months from November to April. On December 19, 1941, fifteen birds were counted in Key West, most of them about a cattle field near Fort Taylor where it was their custom to congregate to feed on the many insects there. On and about the wires and trees near the postoffice building was another favorite gathering place. All my records are about Key West.

Key West Vireo (*Vireo griseus maynardi*).—This, the breeding race of the White-eyed Vireo along the Florida keys, is apparently a permanent resident. It is common on many of the keys and especially about Key West, Stock Island, Boca Chica Key, and Big Pine and Noname keys. Like its northern relatives it is very tuneful; some notes remind one of certain calls of the catbird, towhee, wren and chat. One native calls this bird 'spider.'

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo calidris barbatulus*).—A summer resident; my first recorded date of arrival from the south is May 9, 1941, and my last in the fall, September 4, 1942. The dark 'whisker marks' are discernible at close range and differentiate it from the Red-eyed Vireo. It was common about Stock Island, Big Pine, Sugarloaf and Geiger's keys, and also recorded on Hawk and Bay keys of the Great White Heron Refuge. Its song is somewhat similar to that of *Vireo olivaceus* but appeared louder and more 'jerky' and just as emphatic.

Golden Warbler (*Denroica petechia gundlachi*).—The discovery of breeding birds, nest and egg, and the collection of male and female, which were identified by Dr. John W. Aldrich of the Fish and Wildlife Service, is recorded in *The Auk*, 59 (1): 114, January, 1942. This occurred in June and July of 1941 on the Bay Keys of the Great White Heron Refuge. Since then, a male and female were seen on June 16, 1942, on these same keys, and on July 14, 1942, an adult female was noted on the same keys. On August 6, 1942, a male and female, as well as an immature bird, being fed by an adult, were found on Big Mullet Key in the Key West Refuge, which is several miles from the Bay Keys. A letter received from Mrs. Frances Hames states that she found one bird, in song, on one of the Bay Keys on May 30, 1943. I consider it, therefore, a regular nester on certain keys in that area. Additional investigations may determine it as a common breeder.

Maynard's Red-wing (*Agelaius phoeniceus floridanus*).—This, the race known to inhabit the extreme lower portion of the Florida mainland and the keys, is a permanent resident. It is common along the main highway keys and on a number of the keys of the Great White Heron and Key West refuges, having been found on Little Pine Key and southwestwardly to the Marquesas. A nest on Saddlebunch Key contained one young, just hatched, and part of an eggshell on May 30, 1939. On Boca Chica Key, a nest contained one egg on July 24, 1942.—EARLE R. GREENE, 22 Virginia Court, New Orleans, Louisiana.

White Pelican at James Bay, Canada.—In the latter part of June, 1943, Samuel Hardisty, an Indian, found a dead White Pelican in the vicinity of Hannah Bay, which is the southernmost tip of James Bay, the southern arm of Hudson Bay, Canada. The bird when found was in an advanced stage of decomposition, but Mr. Hardisty picked it up with the intention of taking it to Moose Factory, Ontario, for identification. Unfortunately, Mr. Hardisty's dogs consumed the bird en route and only a piece of the upper mandible was saved and taken to Moose Factory,