

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

to be a more or less typical Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), with the characteristic red iris, with possibly less distinct head markings than usual in the adult vireo, and with one white feather protruding from the rump. Subsequent comparison of the specimen with skins in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology at Ann Arbor, failed to verify the previous impression that the head markings were a little obscure. The bird was apparently a normally plumaged male with well-developed, 8×5 mm. testes, and the conspicuous white feather, rather than indicating albinism, seemed to be a normally colored under tail covert that had slipped through the rec-trices to occupy a dorsal position. The specimen is in the Rose Lake Wildlife Experiment Station's modest collection of birds.

Thus on three consecutive days in mid-June, this bird was noted singing its peculiar, abrupt and husky, flycatcher-like song (at times the notes were suspiciously suggestive of the familiar *chebec* of the Least Flycatcher). Once the identity of the bird was definitely established by collecting, however, it was realized that the sequence of phrases was not unlike that of a Red-eyed Vireo, but that the quality and pitch were so far off that the song had not been recognized. At times the bird could be seen trying to sing, with its throat vibrating, but with only faint, barely audible, wheezy sounds coming forth. Then, with further efforts, louder notes would be produced, occasionally becoming suggestive of a vireo but quickly relapsing into a hoarse whisper, as of a bird with a very sore throat. The bird had not previously been noted during occasional trips in that vicinity in May and early June, so whether it had merely escaped notice earlier, was a newcomer, or had suddenly developed a throat defect affecting its song, was not known. Though it was apparently not the only Red-eyed Vireo in the woods, it was not determined whether or not this bird had a mate.—GEORGE J. WALLACE, *Department of Zoology, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.*

Autumnal duelling among Mockingbirds.—For ten minutes shortly after sunset on the evening of October 1, 1944, near a small lake on the AAF Tactical Center's 'New Area,' at Orlando, Orange County, Florida, Major Henry I. Baldwin and I watched two Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) in what appeared to be a sort of border-dispute. When we first saw the birds they were facing each other, about a foot apart, on close-clipped lawn not far from the foot of a large tree. There was no shrubbery close by, hence the dispute could hardly have arisen over food-supply, roosting place, or the preceding summer's nest-territories. Their heads and tails were lifted high, their wings dropped. They looked at each other as if bent on fierce combat, but when one started to lunge, the other side-stepped, or side-hopped, shifting the bout several inches to right or left. Thus moving back and forth along a 'battle-front' about four feet long, they continued to feint without once (a) actually lunging full-tilt at each other; (b) scratching or pecking each other or striking out with their wings; (c) uttering any sort of cry of threat or warning. Both birds appeared to be in excellent feather and general condition. Three times during the ten-minute period one bird or the other lost interest momentarily, hopping *back* from the 'battle-front'; but the other gave quick pursuit with wide-spread wings and tail, and instantly both returned to their original positions and the feinting began again.

A third Mockingbird scolded occasionally from a live oak tree about 30 feet away but did not interest itself in the duel so far as I could see. In the distance several Mockingbirds sang intermittently. The passing of an automobile broke up the encounter.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Major, Air Corps, AAF Tactical Center, Orlando, Florida.*