

In 1899 (Proceedings A. N. S. P.) Stone reviewed the types of birds in the Academy's collection and, when dealing with *C. melanurus*, completely ignored its wholly black tail and relegated it, without comment, to the synonymy of *Cassicus cela flavicrissus* Selater. That it should be a synonym of that bird is impossible for all forms of *C. cela* have a bicolored tail, yellow on the basal part, black on the distal. Hellmayr, following Stone, also placed *melanurus* in the synonymy of *flavicrissus*, but in a footnote, remarked on the wholly black tail as a reason for doubting Stone's allocation (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., 13, pt. 10: 27, 1937).

Recently I became interested in this type and, when I found it could not be matched by any known species, had it relaxed. It was quickly apparent that the "wide band immediately above the under tail coverts, yellow" had been ingeniously glued in. Without the yellow on the under parts, the specimen is a perfectly good example of *Archiplanus l. leucoramphus* (Bonaparte), known from Colombia and eastern Ecuador. It should of course, be placed in the synonymy of that bird, which was described in 1845.

Zimmer's *A. l. peruvianus* is said to have the concealed white collar confined to the neck but in Cassin's type this collar is very much more extensive, showing "*melanurus*" definitely to be a synonym of the nominate form. Fortunately all this results in no nomenclatorial changes.—RODOLPHE MEYER DE SCHAUENSEE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Forster's Tern in North Carolina.—Regarding the Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*), the revised (1942) edition of 'Birds of North Carolina' (Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley) records only five instances of its occurrence in the state, all in the autumn. "The Forster's Tern," it states, ". . . is today apparently one of the rarest of our terns" and is "known to occur only as a rare autumn migrant." With this in mind, the following observation should be of interest.

The mainland of eastern North Carolina ends in a narrow coastal strip of marshes and sounds, through which runs the Inland Waterway on its course between New York and Jacksonville. Seaward from the Waterway, protecting it from the fury of the Atlantic Ocean, lie the offshore island beaches, a principal feature of the middle eastern seaboard. Wrightsville Beach, fifty miles northeast of the South Carolina border, and seven miles east of Wilmington, North Carolina, is a typical habitat of this sort.

On February 2, 1941, while crossing the bridge and causeway over Wrightsville Sound, I noticed two medium-sized terns with deeply forked tails, feeding in the marsh area. Their bills were mostly black and their eyes were surrounded by black areas on the sides of their heads. I noted them as Forster's Terns pending further confirmation. The next day, February 3, I visited Carolina Beach, ten miles farther south. Along a stretch of outer beach five miles long, I saw about twenty birds with the same characteristics. My next trip to the seacoast in the Wilmington area was on February 7, 1941, when I visited it in the vicinity of Fort Fisher near the mouth of the Cape Fear River. There I saw five or six birds, of which one, an immature female Forster's Tern, was collected. When I returned to Wrightsville Beach on February 10, there were five birds present. The specimen was added to the Fuertes Memorial collection at Cornell University where its identification was confirmed by Dr. Arthur A. Allen.—GERALD ROGERS, CAPT., A. C., *Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.*

Canada Jay in Connecticut.—On December 30, 1944, while hunting in the highlands of North Colebrook, Connecticut, less than a mile south of the Massachu-

setts border, Ralph C. Morrill saw a Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) fly from a stand of spruce two hundred yards away to a small maple about seventy-five feet from him. The bird flew back and forth a few times across a small ravine where slash remained from the previous year's logging of white pine, then back to the spruces. Mr. Morrill later learned that a deer had been shot there. Perhaps this jay, as frequently happens in the north woods, had been attracted to the viscera.

As far as I have ascertained, this constitutes the most southerly New England record of this species, and the first from Connecticut. At least twenty Canada Jays have previously been reported casually from Massachusetts (E. H. Forbush, *Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States*, 2: 385, 1927; A. C. Bagg and Samuel A. Eliot, *Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts*, 1937; *New England Bird Bulletin* through 1944). Of these the most southerly were at Westfield, where Robert K. Smith saw two in February, 1926, and one on January 28, 1931 (Bagg and Eliot, p. 398). Mr. Morrill's observation, therefore, pushes the New England boundary of this bird's range about six miles farther southward. He has long been acquainted with the Canada Jay in Maine.—STANLEY C. BALL, *Peabody Museum, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.*

Black-crowned Night Heron in Washington, D. C.—In 1911, there came to the tall trees that border the large outside flight cage in the National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C., many pairs of the Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*). Possibly the captured species in the cage attracted them, but no doubt the large buckets full of fish that are fed daily to these captive birds were an added inducement to stay near-by and form a colony of breeding pairs. At this date, August, 1944, the colony has increased to some fifty nests and has maintained itself for about thirty-three years of unbroken activity. Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, told me that he had observed the colony first in 1911.

In the evening, the adult nesting pairs leave their colony and fly in a straight line toward the Potomac River, and at times, when the demands of their young are heavy, the parent birds fish by night and day. We have observed the courtship, nidification, and care of the young, and have pointed out to zoo visitors the plumage patterns of the immature and adult, the nuptial dress of the species, the act of the parents feeding the young by regurgitation, the pale dull blue eggs on the frail platform nest of sticks, and the fledglings sitting on the rim of their nests looking upon the exotic birds in the near-by cage.

I have seen the birds passing across the skies above the city and 'quawking,' as the gloom of the evening enveloped the nation's capital, but most Washingtonians do not look up and see them; for after all, the colony has been resident in the city for some thirty years, and is accepted as commonplace.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

Bald Eagles and Woodcocks in central-western Illinois.—The accumulation of Bald Eagles, which gather yearly south of the Mississippi River Dam between Keokuk and Hamilton, has become almost constant because of the protection afforded these birds. Twenty-five to thirty birds normally gather south of the great dam and hunt along the river for ten to forty miles. More than twenty individuals have been seen recently, and Saturday, February 3, the writer counted nine mature Eagles sitting on the rocks that break the water below the dam. No doubt this accumulation will continue as it has for years, as long as the usual abundant supply of fish is available.