

visitor until April 15, 1940. The bird fed with a flock of Slate-colored Juncos and was often observed at a distance of no more than three feet. Mr. Saunders has given a detailed description of the bird and, based on his great familiarity with the western juncos, has called it *montanus*. Two years later, a junco came to this same feeding station for one day only, but Mr. Saunders is quite certain that it was the same bird, for the description tallied exactly with that of the former visitor and the bird seemed to act as if it were quite familiar with the station.

It is a rather striking fact that, whenever a bird of the *oreganus* group reaches the East, it appears to be *montanus*. This race seems to have a greater tolerance for diverse conditions of environment than others of the group and so may wander more freely than the others, and, too, from the northern breeding ground of this race, the northern coniferous forest stretches eastward to form an almost unbroken and easy pathway to the East Coast.

I am deeply grateful to Dr. Miller, Mr. Griscom, Dr. Friedmann and Mr. Saunders for the material and information which they have so graciously provided.—CHARLES K. NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, N. Y.*

**Escaped paroquets found breeding in Florida.**—In April or May, 1926, the late Charles E. Doe, Curator of Birds at the University of Florida, found three pairs of paroquets which he said were the Carolina Paroquet, in Grapevine Hammock, on the Kissimmee Prairie, Okeechobee County, Florida. Later he returned to this same hammock and found two paroquet nests, both in holes in living oaks. In one nest were three eggs and in the other, two eggs which he collected and labeled as eggs of the Carolina Paroquet. Shortly after finding these three pairs of birds and taking the two sets of eggs, he told me the story. He never, so far as I know, collected any birds; he certainly would have mentioned it to authenticate these eggs. In December, 1946, I visited the Museum at Gainesville, Florida and Doe showed me the set of three eggs which certainly are those of some species of paroquet—white and without luster. He told me that he sold the set of two to a Mr. Parsons of Providence, R. I.

It perhaps can never be definitely known, whether he collected genuine sets of the Carolina Paroquet or the eggs of an escaped species of paroquet imported from outside the United States, but the probabilities are that the latter is the case, since there was reported from Miami an escape of Mexican Paroquets which were seen in the wilds by several observers. Quite possibly it was this species which he discovered breeding, but this is only my assumption.

It is unfortunate that specimens of the breeding birds were not collected so as to leave no doubts as to the identity of these two sets. I know of no other breeding records for either the Carolina Paroquet or escaped introduced species of paroquets in Florida.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida.*

**Fresh-water nesting of the Gull-billed Tern in Florida.**—In Howell's 'Florida Bird Life' he does not mention the Gull-billed tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*), as a breeder but as a rather rare visitor. Thus it was a great surprise when I found it nesting in numbers on Lake Okeechobee, on seven islands, in May and June, 1943. While studying the birds of that region on May 7, 1943, Wray H. Nicholson and Donald J. Nicholson, found four or five nests; one with two fresh eggs and the balance with a single fresh egg each. The birds were just commencing to breed on three small grassy islands bordered with a narrow fringe of sandy beach. The nests were made of debris and were quite elaborate. Again on June 7, 1943, we visited this lake and found scattered colonies on seven islands as widely apart as 30 miles. Fully 85 to 90 nests were seen, the majority with three eggs each, others with two and

single eggs each, and a number ready for sets. No eggs had yet hatched. On two islands close together not less than 75 pairs were nesting, and among them were a few nests and eggs of the Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum antillarum*), and Black-necked Stilts.

This is the first fresh-water breeding record for this rare tern in Florida, and there is but one other fresh-water breeding record, that of Texas. Elsewhere in Florida this tern has been reported breeding in but two localities—Mosquito Lagoon by R. L. Longstreet and near Pensacola by F. Weston; and at both places few nests were found. These constitute the only actual nesting records for the Gull-billed Tern in the state. Elsewhere in the state I saw one of these terns near Narcoosee on a canal in April, 1945, and a dozen birds several different times flying over the brackish marshes seven miles west of Indian River City, Brevard County, and on the Indian River at Titusville, in May and June of 1944 and 1945.

Two specimens of breeding Gull-billed Terns found at Lake Okeechobee were presented to the U. S. National Museum, and were identified by Dr. Alexander Wetmore.—DONALD JOHN NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida.*

**Wintering of the Gray Kingbird in Florida.**—On January 30, 1945, a Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis dominicensis*) was seen silently feeding on a small farm at Lakeport, Glades County, Florida, which village is located on the western border of Lake Okeechobee. The bird was watched for some time by Wray H. Nicholson and Donald J. Nicholson. When finally it was shot, a skin was made of this unusual specimen, which later was presented to the U. S. National Museum. The bird was silent during the time it was observed. In Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, and their Allies,' on page 49, Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., is quoted: "It is by no means impossible that it may appear in the future, but the probability is that any bird seen after December 1 is a belated migrant and not a wintering specimen." It is difficult to imagine that the bird found as late as January 30 and apparently well-established miles from salt water could be classified as anything but a wintering bird, especially since the species appears each spring in April—a period of about two months later. Therefore it should be considered, under the circumstances, as our first authentic specimen of a wintering bird. It is odd that it should be found 40 to 50 miles inland on fresh water.

According to Sprunt, Dr. H. C. Burgess saw a Gray Kingbird at Royal Palm Park, December 26 to 28, 1917, indicating that the species does occasionally winter in southern Florida. With these two definite winter records, further debate regarding a wintering status is superfluous.—DONALD JOHN NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida.*

**Curlew Sandpiper on Galveston Island**—On April 13, 1947, when Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton, my son Stephen, and I were driving along the beach of Galveston Island, we noticed, among a flock of Sanderlings feeding on the beach, a Greater Yellowlegs and a strange, dark-appearing bird. The Yellowlegs flew away at our approach, but the Sanderlings and the other bird remained. When frightened by our coming too near, this bird would fly off with the Sanderlings and settle with them a few yards down the beach. We examined it repeatedly during about 40 minutes with 18× Zeiss binoculars, as well as 8× Bausch & Lomb binoculars, from a distance of about 50 yards. It was a tall, rangy bird (much taller than the Sanderlings) that reminded one of a Stilt Sandpiper. The head, neck, and breast were red with a grayish tint; the back and wings were grayish brown, so that the bird looked quite dark; the brown of the back (plainly visible every time the bird flew away)