

with the close of July indicated the conclusion of another nesting season on the mountain top.

However, on August 8, 1946, Dr. George M. Lawson of the University staff told me of finding what he thought was a new hummingbird nest in an oak tree near the spring-fed swimming pool. The nest was shown me the next day near the tip of one of the branches and about fifteen feet above the ground, but no birds were seen. On August 12, the female was on the nest incubating. August 20, the nest appeared deserted, but a final visit on August 23 before I left the station disclosed the beaks of the young pointing up at an angle; their bodies could not be seen.

During the last part of July and the first half of August, the wild bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*, was found blooming here and there on the mountain as the most conspicuous flower of that season, but by the time the young hummingbirds were observed on August 23 even this, the last of the conspicuous summer flowers, was practically through blooming at the higher altitudes. It would seem as though the food of the young hummers would have to consist largely of small insects obtained primarily from sources other than flowers or else the parents were going several miles to lower levels where the *Monarda* blossoming period was a little more prolonged.

In a paper on the birds breeding in the mountains of Virginia, H. H. Bailey (Auk, 29: 81, 1912) reports the Ruby-throat as abundant but without signs of a second brood. Much of his data was obtained from the Mt. Lake area. Ellison A. Smyth, Jr., in his paper on the birds of Montgomery County, Virginia (Auk, 29: 518, 1912), mentions having records of several nests and gives data on one nest started May 15, incubation commenced June 5, the young nearly fully fledged June 20 and feeding on *Tecoma* blooms June 28. He does not refer to any second or late broods, but says hummingbirds were abundant about the *Tecoma* during July. Blacksburg, the center of his observations, is about eighteen miles south of Mt. Lake.

In the warmer low-country south, Arthur T. Wayne (Birds of South Carolina: 98) says that in the vicinity of Charleston he has taken fresh eggs as early as April 23 but that the greater number of birds breed about May 4. He states that two broods are raised, and of the second, fresh eggs may be found by June 25. And O. E. Bayard, in his paper on the birds breeding in Alachua County, Florida (Auk, 30: 145, 1913), gives the nesting dates there as from May 10 to June 25.

Thus it would seem that an August nesting record of the Ruby-throat from one of the highest mountains of southwestern Virginia is worthy of note.—THOMAS SMYTH, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.*

Brewster's Booby collected in the United States.—On September 20, 1946, at 4:30 p. m., while the writer was returning from a refuge patrol trip, an unfamiliar bird was observed resting on the Colorado River about fifty feet north of the trash rack of the All-American Canal Intake at Imperial Dam, Imperial County, on the California side of the river. From a distance, the bird was first mistaken for a crippled cormorant, but on closer approach in the outboard motor boat, it was recognized as a booby. The boat passed within three feet of the bird, which seemingly paid little attention to the intruder. After drifting away and turning the boat about, a second slower run was made to the booby. It was easily stunned with an oar for it made no attempt to fly. The stunned bird was taken to the writer's residence where it succumbed during the night. The booby was not in the vicinity a few hours earlier in the afternoon when the patrol trip was started.

Upon posting, the bird was found to be a male; the stomach was empty; and it appeared to be emaciated with a slight diarrheal condition. The prepared skin was sent to Dr. H. H. T. Jackson and Dr. John W. Aldrich, Fish and Wildlife Service,

National Museum, Washington, D. C., where Dr. Aldrich kindly verified the specimen as a Brewster's Booby, *Sula leucogaster brewsteri*. This is believed to be the first United States record of the Brewster's Booby supported by a specimen.

About ninety airline miles northeast of Imperial Dam, Gale Monson (Brewster's Booby in Arizona, *The Auk*, 63 [1]: 96, 1946) photographed an immature Brewster's Booby in the Bill Williams arm of Lake Havasu, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, in Mohave and Yuma counties, Arizona in August, 1943. Grinnell and Miller (Distribution of the Birds of California: 558, 1945) include the Brewster's Booby in their "Supplemental List of Introduced Species and Those of Uncertain Occurrence," and further state:

" . . . The Brown Booby is much the more likely of these two species to straggle up into California, for it breeds commonly in the Gulf of California. Obviously neither species can yet be added on regular status to the California state list.

Note—The colors of plumage and soft parts in *Sula* are so variable that reliance for identification of species upon anything less than a bird in hand is hazardous. . . . "

Neither Peterson (Field Guide to Western Birds, 1941) nor Hoffmann (Birds of the Pacific States, 1927) includes the Booby in his publication. Swarth (A Distributional List of the Birds of Arizona, 1914) makes no mention of it.

Between 1:30 and 2:30 p. m. on September 8, 1946, Mr. Alfred G. Hess, Yuma, Arizona, observed an unfamiliar brown bird diving for fish with an Osprey in the spillway pool below Laguna Dam (five miles south of Imperial Dam) on the California side. This particular bird repeatedly dived under the surface of the water for fish from a height of fifteen to twenty feet above the water. Mr. Hess, being an amateur bird student, reported his observation of this unknown bird to the Fish and Wildlife Service office at Yuma. This bird may have been a booby, and if such was the case, it would indicate that the booby could have been in the vicinity for twelve or more days before being collected.

Future observations during the summer months may prove the Brewster's Booby to be more common along the Lower Colorado River than suspected. Van Rossem (A Distributional Survey of the Birds of Sonora, Mexico: 33, 1945) states that the Brewster's Booby is common or even abundant in the Gulf, and it has been recorded in México at El Golfo and the mouth of the Colorado River about fifty and seventy airline miles, respectively, south of Imperial Dam.—FRANK B. McMURRY, *Fish and Wildlife Service, 436 Federal Building, Salt Lake City 1, Utah.*

The Western Lark Sparrow in the Eastern States.—As is now well known, the Eastern Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus* Swainson) is a bird of limited range in the states west of the Alleghanies, replaced from the Great Plains westward by the much commoner and more widely ranging *strigatus*, a very distinct subspecies, so much paler in both adult and immature plumages that it is recognizably distinct in life under favorable circumstances. Care and expert knowledge are, however, required, as immature specimens are always paler and duller than adults. In the last two decades particularly, it is curious how frequently the Lark Sparrow occurs in the Atlantic seaboard states, chiefly in August and early September northward. From what follows, it will be seen that the assumption that these birds are all typical *grammacus* is unwarranted, and a reëxamination of specimens of record might be worth while.

On September 12, 1946, a Lark Sparrow flashed across the road at Ipswich, Massachusetts, in front of my car which was immediately stopped. The sparrow obligingly