

7. In 1943 a few birds were seen, but the song was heard only once—on August 5. Since then they have again become a great rarity. In none of these years was this species seen in the spring.

The area where they occurred was once a salt marsh but had been drained by the Federal Government; the original short grasses, *Spartina* and *Distichlis*, had been replaced by the much taller switch grass, *Panicum virgatum*.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, *Poliophtila caerulea*.—This species has been gradually increasing for some time but, in the spring migration in 1947, it suddenly became common. On May 17 of that year, Paul Baker found a pair of the birds gathering silk of the tent caterpillar and carrying it to the limb of a swamp white-oak tree, about 20 feet above the ground. He showed me the completed nest on May 24. The birds were not around it but were in the tree-tops not far away. On May 28 a bird was on the nest, evidently incubating, but on May 30 the nest was broken and deserted. We searched in vain for a second attempt at nesting, but saw nothing more of the birds until August 19, when one bird was seen near the original nest site.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, *Protonotaria citrea*.—Records of this bird in Connecticut have been very few, as compared to other states that are even farther north. Paul Baker saw one bird in a swampy woodland in Fairfield in May, 1944. On April 29, I found one in the same locality; I knew nothing of Baker's find at the time. On May 5, 1945, Miss Esther Wagner found a second bird in this locality. The two birds, both males and distinguishable by slight differences in their songs, as well as by the territories they selected, remained in the locality at least until June 10, when their songs ceased and they could no longer be found. In 1946, the first bird appeared on May 11 and the second on May 22. The first bird remained until June 11, in the same locality as the year before but the second was found only till May 25. No female bird or nesting activities were noted. The birds have not been found since 1946.

CARDINAL, *Richmondia cardinalis*.—There has been a considerable increase in this species in the last few years. After the records in the winter of 1916-17 (Saunders, 1918: 342), single birds wintered in Fairfield in 1924-25, 1927-28, and 1940-41. A male in song on April 27, 1939, was the first appearance in the breeding season. In 1943 a pair appeared in Fairfield in March and evidently nested successfully, being seen with several young. The family remained through the next winter, and one of the young moulted to the adult male plumage. In 1944, there were Cardinals in many places. I found them in Norwalk, Westport and Fairfield, and they were reported by others in Stratford. Without especially looking for this bird I recorded it on 26 different days in 1944, and on 32 in 1945. Now the birds nest each year in the sanctuary in Fairfield, and probably many other places. While the bird is not abundant, it is by no means rare.

VESPER SPARROW, *Poocetes gramineus*.—This species has been recorded only a few times in winter in Connecticut (Sage and Bishop, 1913: 123). In the winter of 1936-37, a flock numbering at least 18 individuals remained for the winter. They were first seen December 27, 1936, and last seen on February 26, 1937, and on several intervening dates.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Fairfield, Connecticut*.

Additional Bird Records for Panamá.—During 14 months of military residence in the Panama Canal Zone, January, 1942, to February, 1943, inclusive, several species of interest were recorded by the writer. All of the North American species recorded below, except for the Surf-bird, are common in the eastern or southern United States and the writer has had frequent experience with them before and since.

DUCK HAWK, *Falco peregrinus anatum*.—Griscom (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 78: 3,

1935) records this bird once in Veraguas and at Changuinola but does not mention any records for the Zone. Sturgis ('Field Book of Birds of Panama Canal Zone,' 1928) says, "Large falcons apparently of this species have been seen at several places in the Zone but especially at the Pacific canal entrance." I found this falcon to be common from October to February as follows: October 14, Fort Amador, one; October 21, Fort Davis, one; December 28, over Gatun Lake near Gatun, one; also from January 26 to February 22, 1943, at Fort Amador there were one or two seen daily.

GOLDEN PLOVER, *Pluvialis dominica*.—A new record for the Republic. On October 4, 1942, a flock of seven was seen on the parade grounds at Fort Clayton. These birds were leisurely studied at close range and the 'queedle' call was noted as they were put to flight to observe the wings and tail.

SURF-BIRD, *Aphriza virgata*.—Eisenmann (Auk, 65: 605-606, 1948) has published a record for August 14, 1947, for almost the identical locality of the present record. I saw a single bird on September 2, 1942, at San Francisco de la Galeta near Old Panamá. The bird was with Ruddy Turnstones which it resembles in shape and feeding habits.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, *Erolia bairdii*.—Griscom (*op. cit.*, p. 307), "Canal Zone on migration (once)." Found to be common in the fall of 1942, September 19 to October 28, on the rain pools in the grassy parade grounds of several Canal Zone army posts. The birds were in company with Least and Pectoral Sandpipers. All field marks were noted. Recorded as follows: Fort Amador, September 19 to October 1, from two to fifteen birds daily; Fort Clayton, October 14 to 18, less than ten, daily; Fort Davis (Caribbean Side) October 20 to 28, from one to ten daily.

SANDERLING, *Crocethia alba*.—Arbib (Auk, 52: 325, 1935) has the only previous record. It seems indeed strange that such a cosmopolitan bird should not be mentioned at all by either Griscom or Sturgis. I recorded it as follows: September 16, 1942, at Fort Amador, one; November 8, 1942, Palo Seco, C. Z. across the bay, one; and on November 17 and 18 at the mouth of the Río Chico (Panamá Province) there was a flock of five.

COMMON TERN, *Sterna hirundo*.—Griscom mentions two records for the Canal Zone but none for the Republic. The four following observations were made by the writer: June 15, 1942, a single at Fort Amador; July 31, 1942, at Río Hato (Coclé Province) no less than 30 birds; December 17, 1942, in Colon Harbor, several; and on December 29, 1942, on Gatun Lake near the locks a flock of nine.

CABOT'S TERN, *Thalasseus sandwichensis*.—Griscom (*op. cit.*, p. 309) mentions two records for Darién. I observed one bird on a small sandbar less than five yards offshore at Río Hato, Coclé Province. It was in company with the Common Terns on July 31, 1942.

BANK SWALLOW, *Riparia riparia*.—Griscom (*op. cit.*, p. 355) says, "A transient rarely recorded." Sturgis (*op. cit.*, p. 348) simply says it is a migrant. It was recorded by the writer once in the spring—four birds in a large flock of migrating Barn Swallows on April 17, 1942, between Frijoles, C. Z. and Barro Colorado Island. In the fall, the bird was recorded in large numbers from September 16 to October 28.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER, *Vermivora pinus*.—New for the Canal Zone, although there is one previous record for the Republic by Griscom, (*op. cit.*, p. 366) for Port Antonio, Río Chepo, March 7, 1927, now in Coll. Havemeyer. On December 30, 1942, four of these birds were observed in a mixed flock of North American warblers at Caño Saddle, C. Z., on the northwest shore of Gatun Lake.

The following species are recorded by Griscom for the savannahs of western Pana-

ma east to the Canal Zone. These savannahs really extend almost 50 miles farther east to the Río Chepo and these species were found common in this latter area.

1. AUDUBON'S CARACARA, *Polyborus cheriway audubonii*.
2. PANAMA PIPIT, *Anthus lutescens parvus*.
3. RED-BREASTED BLACKBIRD, *Leistes militaris*.
4. PANAMA MEADOWLARK, *Sturnella magna subulata*.

The following species apparently crossed the continental divide. They have been recorded only for the slope noted in parentheses. (It may be noted here that the low height of the continental divide, an important factor in locating the canal at this point, seems no barrier to many sea birds such as Man-o'-war Birds and Brown Pelicans.)

1. SCLATER'S WARBLER, *Basileuterus delatirii mesochrysus*.—(Pacific). At Camp Piña (10 to 15 miles southwest of Gatun) December 17, 1942, a single bird; Caño Saddle, C. Z., on Gatun Lake, two birds on December 30, 1942.
2. SHORT-LEGGED WOOD PEWEE, *Myiochanes brachytarsus*.—(Pacific). At La Verbena, C. Z., on October 20, 1942, one.
3. BLACK-TAILED MYIOBIUS, *Myiobius a. atricaudus*.—(Pacific, also Almirante). June 9, 1942, a single at Juan Mina, C. Z., on the Río Chagres.
4. BODDAERT'S TANAGER, *Tachyphonus rufus*.—(Caribbean and the whole of Darién.) A female was seen December 27, 1942, at Chiva Chiva, C. Z.
5. YELLOW-BELLIED SEEDEATER, *Sporophila nigricollis*.—It was recorded as a summer immigrant only in the Canal Zone. A flock of 30 of these birds was seen, August 1, 1942, by the writer at Río Hato Air Base in Coclé Province 70 miles west of the Zone.—THOMAS A. IMHOF, 307 38th St., Fairfield, Alabama.

NOTES AND NEWS

THE Wilson Ornithological Club announces that applications for the 1950 Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Grant of \$100 are being received by the Chairman of the Grant Committee, Dr. Charles G. Sibley, Department of Natural Sciences, San Jose State College, San Jose, Calif. Information may be obtained from the June, 1948, issue of 'The Wilson Bulletin.' Details and application blanks may be obtained from the Chairman.

DR. Eugene Eisenmann, 11 Broadway, New York 4, N. Y., is preparing an annotated list of the birds of Barro Colorado Island, Canal Zone. Information is wanted on seasonal status, nesting dates and distribution.

THE editors of 'Audubon Magazine' have long believed that professional and amateur ornithologists should write popularized accounts of their researches and of conservation problems to arouse greater interest and understanding among people outside the biological field. To stimulate more popular ornithological writing, 'Audubon Magazine' is now paying from \$15.00 to \$75.00 for all accepted articles ranging from 1,500 to 2,500 words, although shorter or longer material may be acceptable. Articles on bird ecology, migration, behavior and food habits, personal experiences in attracting birds, birds and other wildlife of a region, and local wildlife conservation projects are particularly desirable.—JOHN K. TERRES.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR 1950 SELECTED BY THE A. O. U. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

- Robert E. Bailey, Mus. Vert. Zoology, Univ. Calif., Berkeley 4, Calif.
Julian J. Baumel, Biol. Dept., Univ. Florida, Gainesville, Fla.