

tarsal feathering contrasts rather markedly with the white of the lower belly and under tail-coverts.

This is, apparently, the first adult Saw-whet Owl ever taken in West Virginia. The species obviously breeds in the state, for a young bird only recently out of the nest was captured at Cranesville, Preston County, on June 22, 1932 (Auk, 50: 361, 1933); an immature female was taken in the Cranberry Glades, Pocahontas County, on June 12, 1936 (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 84 (3021): 409); and three young birds were seen near Alpena, Randolph County, in June, 1934 (Brooks, 'A check-list of West Virginia birds,' Bull. 316, 1944, Agr. Exp. Sta., West Va. Univ., Morgantown, West Va.).

Kennison Mountain is just southwest of the Cranberry Glades which is the most southern point in the Appalachian highlands at which the Saw-whet Owl has actually been found breeding, but the species certainly is to be looked for farther south.—RALPH M. EDEBURN, *Dept. of Zoology, Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia.*

Northern Record for *Klais guimeti* in Central America.—Some years ago I obtained a female of *Klais guimeti* (Bourcier) from C. F. Underwood. It was collected by him at Catacamas, Olancho, Honduras, on October 17, 1937. I cannot find a record of this species being found so far north, and apparently this occurrence extends the range at least 250 miles farther from the locality of the previous most northern record in Nicaragua. For some time I have believed that this single female represents an undescribed race, but I have hesitated to segregate it,—awaiting additional material. Twelve years have passed and apparently no other specimen has been obtained from Honduras.

The upper parts are conspicuously richer in coloration, being iridescent orange, instead of the green to golden green of females taken at various localities from Caracas, Venezuela (type locality of *Trochilus guimeti* Bourcier) to Costa Rica. Thanks to the courtesy of Mr. Todd of the Carnegie Museum and Dr. Zimmer of the American Museum of Natural History, supplemented by own my large series from Ecuador, there lies before me a series of 22 adult females of the species—including five from Venezuela, five from Ecuador, and 12 from Costa Rica. Not one of them has the orange upperparts of the Honduras bird, although some from Costa Rica are "brassy" gold. In addition, the pileum of my specimen, like two females from Costa Rica, is much greener than any of the others. This character is darker as one proceeds south, the pilea of the Venezuelan birds being dark green. The name, *Mellisuga merrettii*, proposed by Lawrence, based upon an adult female from Panamá, must also be considered. Obviously a series from Honduras is required to warrant the proposal of a new subspecies.—ROBERT T. MOORE, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California.*

Observations on the Racquet-tips of the Motmot's Tail.—Even though it is now generally known that the shape assumed by the two central tail feathers of the Motmots is dependent on the pattern of structural weakness in the feather itself and not on the bird's instinctive choice of pattern (Beebe, *Zoologica*, 1 (5): 1910), one repeatedly finds in the literature on the Momotidae the statement, apparently based chiefly on Beebe's reports ('Two Bird-Lovers in Mexico,' 1905, and *op. cit.*, 1910), that the bird "plucks" the radii from the shaft as soon as feather growth is complete (Armstrong, 'Bird Display,' 1942: 28, and Stresemann, 'Aves: Handb. der Zool.,' 1934: 831).

This statement seems, from my own observations, a misrepresentation of the case. In 1937, I transported from Europe to Australia two Motmots from Brazil (probably