

There is one previous United States winter record—February 14, 1943, at Coral Gables, Florida (Fla. Nat., 16 (3): 41, 1943).—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia*, and ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, S. C.*

**A Neglected Description.**—In 1866, Enrico Benvenuti published a paper in the 'Annali del R. Museo di Fisica e Storia Naturale di Firenze per il 1865,' (n. ser., 1: 197–209) in which he described four supposedly new hummingbirds from New Granada and "*Dendroica Piccioli*" (p. 207) from Brazil. It appears probable that there was an earlier separate account of these birds published in Florence in 1863 (which I have not seen); at any rate, the same birds were described in the 'Revue et Magazin de Zoologie' (15: 206–208, 1863) under a slightly different title from that of 1866, with more abbreviated descriptions, and with the supposed warbler named "*Sylvia Piccioli*" (p. 207). Coues noted the papers and the new names in his bibliography under the Mniotiltidae and Trochilidae, and in the section containing the titles relating to ornithology of "the rest of America," other than North America (Bull. U. S. Geol. Geog. Surv. Terr., 5 [2]: 284, 1879; 5 [4]: 550, 681, 682, 1880).

The four hummingbirds were described against the advice of Count Salvadori, and all were properly relegated to synonymy by Elliot (Ibis, (3) 6: 10, 1876). "*Dendroica Piccioli*" has otherwise escaped attention as far as I can discover, although "*Sylvia Piccioli*" was queried by Hartlaub (Arch. Naturg., 30 (2): 20, 1864) as possibly belonging to *Hylophilus* or *Nemosia*. The suggestion was excellent.

Since the paper in the "Annali" is more complete than that in the "Revue et Magazin," it furnishes the better clue to the identity of the supposed warbler. There is a short diagnosis in Latin, followed by a longer description in Italian. The two versions agree in most details and indicate a bird from Brazil about the size of *Sylvia atricapilla*; with the top and sides of the head ochraceous brown; throat yellow; back grayish olive; middle of the belly white; bill and feet plumbeous. The Italian text says that the under parts otherwise are whitish, weakly tending toward vinaceous, much duller on the sides of the breast and tending toward olive gray on the flanks; the Latin account calls the sides of the belly "pallide-violaceis"! The short diagnosis in the "Revue et Magazin" omits any description of this region of the body.

Granted that the Italian description is the most accurate, the only bird from Brazil or elsewhere in America to which it can apply is *Thlypopsis sordida*, one of the tanagers (placed occasionally in *Nemosia*). Even there the reputed vinaceous tinge is a little fanciful but not wholly misleading, and in other particulars the description is quite recognizable. Since no exact locality was given other than Brazil, it is probable that Benvenuti had a trade-skin, probably a "Rio-skin" or a "Bahia-skin"; both kinds are known of this species. In order to dispose of the name, therefore, I propose Rio de Janeiro as type locality for Benvenuti's bird (both from the 1863 and 1866 references) and indicate its position in the synonymy of *Thlypopsis sordida sordida* (D'Orbigny and Lafresnaye).—JOHN T. ZIMMER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

**Florida Cardinal, *Richmondena cardinalis floridanus*, as Honey-Gatherer.**—Evidently the Florida Cardinal is a honey-lover, although I have seen them sip it from but one kind of flower. At St. Petersburg, Florida, in a hedge of what is commonly called "turk's cap" or "sleepy hibiscus," *Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *penduliflorus*, I noted considerable commotion caused by two or three Cardinals. The birds were hopping from one branch to another in a most business-like manner, nipping off the red blossoms with which the ground below was lavishly strewn.

Approaching as near as possible without frightening the birds away, I watched them repeatedly snip off a blossom, hold it in the uptilted beak for a second or two and then drop it to earth and move on to another blossom where the performance was repeated. After watching this activity for some time, I examined many of the discarded blossoms and found that in every one of them the calyx was slashed just where the petiole was attached to the sepals—a neat, deep incision about the length of the Cardinal's beak.—PHYRNE SQUIER RUSSELL, *Natural History Museum, Stanford, California*.

**Cardinal, *Richmondena cardinalis*, Wintering in North Dakota.**—On November 7, 1948, I saw a male Cardinal at Fort Yates, Sioux County, North Dakota. Fort Yates is on the west bank of the Missouri River about 60 miles south of Mandan. Numerous additional sight records were secured during the following weeks. In December, I placed a feeding shelf outside a kitchen window and within a few days we had two bright males and one female feeding regularly at the shelf. This was the greatest number seen at any one time. One male was banded on January 8, 1949. I last saw a male bird on March 7. No summer records were secured. Mrs. K. H. Lee, a reliable observer, stated that several of these birds spent the winter of 1947–48 in Fort Yates. According to Dr. S. O. Kolstoe, an accomplished ornithologist, about a dozen Cardinals spent the winter of 1947–48 on the campus of the North Dakota Teachers College at Valley City in Barnes County, 60 miles west of Fargo. It has not been determined whether any Cardinals are spending the present (1949) severe winter in that state.—HENRY C. KYLLINGSTAD, *1419 Santa Cruz Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico*.

**Doubly-occupied Nests of the Eastern Cardinal, *Richmondena cardinalis*.**—On March 1, 1948, the junior author began making regular observations on a pair of Cardinals that eventually nested in a yard in Warrensburg, Missouri. The male soon established his territory and defended it against all other male Cardinals. The territory included an area approximately 120 feet wide by 250 feet long in the yards of two adjoining residences. By the last week of March, the female accepted the male and remained in his territory.

The pair began nest building on March 27. The nest was built in a rambler rose bush that climbed the side of the front porch. Cardinals had nested in this same rose bush for the past two years, and the present pair used the lower part of a nest that remained from the preceding year as a substrate for the new nest. The nest was a typical Cardinal's nest in all other respects. It was completed by March 31.

The first egg was laid on April 2 but, although the female was frequently on the nest on April 3, a second egg was not found in the nest until April 4. There is, however, the possibility that a Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*, could have removed an egg had one been laid on April 3. On April 4, a Cowbird egg also appeared in the nest, but the female Cardinal began incubation and did not pay any attention to the Cowbird egg. The female was often frightened from the nest by the passage of persons through the door of the house located a few feet away, but she returned as soon as they had left the area.

On April 11, a second pair of Cardinals appeared in the vicinity. The two males fought considerably on April 12, but on that day another Cardinal's egg appeared in the nest. The following day, two more eggs appeared in the nest. One of these was thought to be a Cowbird's egg, but it was so similar in appearance and size to the eggs of the Cardinal that its identity could not be determined with certainty.