

ably occurs here also, since, from the greater abundance of that species in the New World, it is one that would be expected. From the record one is led to speculate on the possibility of nesting colonies of *Plegadis f. falcinellus* in America in addition to those now known in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, and Cuba. Otherwise, we may suppose that the small flock came from one of the West Indian colonies. Apparently this is the first record of the species for Central America.

While there has been considerable difficulty over identification of immature *Plegadis* from North America, the two species are found to be readily separable once the characters are known. *P. f. falcinellus*, the Eastern Glossy Ibis, has the back, wings, and tail deep oil-green, and the general appearance of the dorsal surface blacker. In *P. mexicana*, the White-faced Glossy Ibis, back, wings, and tail are lighter green, with a definite brassy sheen, and the dorsal surface is distinctly lighter, more grayish brown. It seems necessary to regard the two as specifically distinct in view of the scattered breeding colonies of *falcinellus* through part of the range of *mexicana*.

Theristicus caudatus caudatus, GUIANA IBIS.—Through Mr. Karl Curtis of Gamboa, Canal Zone, the U. S. National Museum has received a specimen shot near San José in the savanna region a few miles from Pacora on September 18, 1950. Baldomiro Moreno, who secured it, reported that he killed it from a flock of four. The species, which ranges in South America from Colombia and Venezuela to north Argentina, has not been reported previously in Central America. Mr. Curtis who has hunted regularly in this area during his 45 years of residence in the Canal Zone writes that this ibis was wholly unknown to him, to the natives, and to his hunting companions.

Sarkidornis sylvicola, SOUTH AMERICAN COMB DUCK.—On the evening of May 29, 1949, at La Jagua Hunting Club, Baldomiro Moreno shot one of these ducks while night hunting for pato real. No one here had ever seen this species though we were told that five had appeared on the marshes two or three days earlier. The specimen, prepared as a skin for the U. S. National Museum, was an immature male, with the comb small and the testes in resting stage. The body was very fat. Mr. Karl Curtis wrote me that on May 20 and 21, 1949, he saw three Comb Ducks together, and one flying alone. The species ranges widely in South America from Colombia and Venezuela to northern Argentina and, as it is strong-flying, may be expected to come with some rarity to the marshes on the savannas of eastern Panamá.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C.*

Land Birds Feeding on Crayfish.—It is known that the diet of the Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, contains an immense variety of vegetable and animal matter. However, recorded instances of the Crow feeding on crayfish, *Cambarus* sp., seem to be few and only a sketchy account is given of such feeding habits by Bent ('Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows, and Titmice,' 1946). I had often observed the Crow wading along small streams, sloughs, and backwaters searching for food but I was always unable to determine the type of food until August 10, 1949, when I saw a pair of Crows at Nobis Slough in Scott County, Iowa, wading along the mud flats covered with about three to four inches of water. They would seize crayfish, throw them up on dry land, and start to peck at various portions of the exoskeleton; it took some time before the vital internal organs were affected. The two Crows were feeding in the company of migrating American Egrets, *Casmerodius albus*.

On May 30, 1949, along Duck Creek in Scott County, Iowa, I observed a female Bronzed Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*, capture a crayfish about three inches long. The Grackle was pecking hard at the carapace but had some difficulty in killing the crustacean. In past years I have observed Grackles feeding on these aquatic in-

vertebrates in a similar manner.—JAMES HODGES, 324 West 31st Street, Davenport, Iowa.

Taxonomic Notes on South American Birds.—When I was at the British Museum of Natural History in London and at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris during the early spring of 1950, I examined a number of currently recognized New World "species" that are not represented in any collection in the United States. The following notes should clarify the status of some of these. But first I wish to thank those in charge of the bird collections in the above institutions for their courtesy and assistance.

Chubbia imperialis (Sclater and Salvin), IMPERIAL SNIPPE.—De Schauensee considers that this bird is "perhaps not a valid species" (*Caldasia*, 5, (23): 444, 1949), but it differs strikingly from *jamesoni* Bonaparte. Upper parts are rufous, broadly barred with black; outer rectrices uniform sepia, not barred; anterior under parts rufous, barred and mottled with black and posterior under parts (posterior to upper breast) white, boldly barred with black. Mrs. Meinertzhagen refers *imperialis* to the genus "*Homoscolopax*" Mathews (*Ibis*, 1926: 514), but I agree with Hellmayr and Conover that it should be included in *Chubbia*.

Otus ingens (Salvin), SALVIN'S SCREECH OWL.—After examination of the type of *ingens* (from Jima, Ecuador) in the collection of the British Museum of Natural History I have no doubt that it is conspecific with "*Ciccaba minima*" Carriker (from Santa Ana, Río Coroico, Bolivia). These two owls should therefore be known as:

Otus ingens ingens (Salvin)

Otus ingens minimus (Carriker)

The sex of the type of *ingens* is not given, but it may well be a female, which would account for its large size (wing, 210 mm.). The type of *minimus* is an adult male and is somewhat smaller (wing, 196 mm.). Although no direct comparison of the two birds has been made, it may be said that *minimus* is on the whole less rufescent than *ingens* and there are fewer and less conspicuous black shaft-streaks on the upper breast and a greater amount of white on the scapulars. There is also some difference in the markings on the quills, which are rather uniformly barred dull cinnamon and black in *minimus*. In *ingens* the primaries are mostly dusky on the inner webs, the outer webs barred blackish and brown, ochraceous and white.

Carriker stated when describing *minimus* that in some respects this owl resembles a large *Otus*, "except for the absence of ear-tufts" (*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 87: 314, 1935). However, short "ear-tufts" are quite evident in the type of *minimus*, the feathers extending over the whitish nuchal collar as in *ingens*.

Pithys castanea Berlioz, RUFOUS-BACKED ANTCATCHER.—The type and only specimen known of this recently described antbird was one of the most interesting specimens that I examined in Europe. The bird differs from the well known *P. albifrons*, the only other species of the genus, primarily in lacking the extraordinary head plumes. In addition, it is larger, has the entire upper parts rufous like the under parts, and has a broad white post-ocular stripe. The bill and feet are similar in both species.

I have no doubt that *P. castanea* represents a primitive *Pithys*. Unquestionably it is properly placed in this genus.

Heterocercus aurantiivertex Sclater and Salvin, ORANGE-CROWNED MANAKIN.—Until recently this species was known from three adult males in the British Museum collected by Buckley at Sarayacu, Ecuador. In 1936, Carlos Olalla and his sons obtained for the Paris Museum six more specimens, including two adult males, at Lago Ciguin, Oriente, Ecuador. I have examined all these.