

OBSERVATIONS AND NEW RECORDS OF BIRDS FROM
THE BIMINIS, NORTHWESTERN BAHAMAS

BY CHARLES VAURIE

DURING the summer of 1951, Mrs. Vaurie and I were sent to Bimini by the American Museum of Natural History to make a general collection of the insects and spiders found in the Bimini Island Group. We arrived on June 8 and left on August 24, and collected on virtually every day, by day and night, visiting all possible habitats. Since these islands are little known ornithologically I took this opportunity to keep daily records. The birds observed by us and the records of some additional species furnished to me by Dr. C. M. Breder, Jr., have added 35 new species to the list of the birds of Bimini. A few notes on the general behavior and ecology of some species were made.

We wish to express our appreciation to Dr. M. A. Cazier, chairman of the Department of Insects and Spiders, for sending us to Bimini where we were the guests of the Lerner Marine Laboratory of the Department of Fishes and Aquatic Biology of the American Museum of Natural History; to Dr. Breder, director of the laboratory, and to his staff; and to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lerner. I am personally indebted to Dr. Breder, who is interested in ornithology, for permitting me to use his records and those of Mrs. Hickman of Bimini. Dr. D. Amadon and Mr. J. Bond have read the manuscript, and I thank them for their comments and suggestions.

The geographical features of the Biminis are given in a recent paper by Howard (*Ecol. Monog.*, 20: 317-349, 1950). This paper contains an excellent treatment of the vegetation, and of the structure and use of the land. It is well illustrated by a good map and 26 photographs showing almost all the types of habitat, and these figures are referred to below.

The Bimini Island Group is the westernmost of the northern Bahamas and lies on the eastern side of the Gulf Stream on the very edge of the Great Bahama Bank, approximately 60 air miles east of Miami. The islands, which structurally are a part of the Bank, are very low, the highest point of land being about 30 feet, and are arranged in the form of a triangle made up of the three major islands of South, North, and East Bimini. The triangle is about four miles wide by six high.

The base, which faces south, consists of the island of South Bimini. This island, the richest faunistically by far, is the widest, being about one and three quarters of a mile wide at the western end. There is

hardly any soil in the Biminis, with the exception of some parts of South Bimini, which are fertile and maintain a low but very dense woody vegetation which, together with marginal areas provide habitat for several bird species not found elsewhere in the Group. A large part of South Bimini is taken up by an irregular salt-water bay. This bay, now known as Cavelle Pond, was until recent years a fresh-water lake called Duck Pond on earlier maps and reported to be the stopping place of many migratory fowl. Through misguided zeal this lake was connected to the sea and now the natives state that the ducks no longer stop there.

North Bimini forms the western side of the triangle and its apex. It is very long and very narrow, most of it being but a rocky ridge which, except in one or two places, is between 400 and 500 feet wide. The entire human population of the Biminis lives on the southern half of this island. North of the settlement extends a landscaped area consisting of a plantation of Australian pine, *Casurina equisetifolia*, which has few birds. The northern half of the island consists of flat sandy beaches and low shrubs and is fringed by mangroves on the bay side. This part of the island is very low and is often breached by heavy seas. Only the commonest land birds occur on North Bimini.

East Bimini forms the upper half of the eastern side of the triangle, the lower half being open onto the Bank. This island is narrow and solidly covered by red mangrove on the bay side, the eastern shore consisting of long sandy beaches.

The remaining islands are within the triangle and are small; they are merely patches of red mangrove or are almost entirely covered with it. Judging by the amount of calling heard, these islands, and other mangroves throughout the Group, are the home of many *Rallus longirostris*. We did not land and the only species observed flying among these small islands were occasional Gray Kingbirds (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) and White-crowned Pigeons (*Columba leucocephala*). It is interesting to note that one of these islands is called Pigeon Key and was once, it is said, the home of a large colony of *C. leucocephala*.

The bay between the islands is very shallow and at low tide some areas are completely exposed, these flats becoming then the feeding ground of gulls, herons, and shore birds. At present there is no standing fresh-water anywhere in the Group. We know of four ponds, all small and all more or less brackish, one of which is situated at the southern end of South Bimini and attracts a good variety of passing birds. The small fresh-water pond shown on Howard's Figure 24 (*op. cit.*) is now strongly brackish and the stand of cat-tail, *Typha*, the only one in the Group, is dead.

From the tip of South Bimini a chain of rocky islets extends along the edge of the Bank. The two largest, Turtle and Piquet Rocks, respectively about four and five miles from South Bimini, are the home of colonies of terns (*Sterna anaethetus*, *S. fuscata*, and *Anous stolidus*). These two islets, which are about 350 feet long by 100 at their widest and about 20 feet high, are very badly eroded and are bare of vegetation except at the top where there are patches of some low red succulent plant. They were visited twice.

Gun Key at the end of the chain and about nine miles from South Bimini was visited once. Although fairly large, about one and one half miles long, this island is narrow and its arborescent vegetation very scanty. The only land birds found were a pair of *Tyrannus dominicensis* which on June 15 had a nest in a clump of low and dying trees, the only trees on the island other than half a dozen palms.

DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY OF BIRD POPULATIONS

In the Biminis, land birds are not evenly distributed and are relatively uncommon. Of the 12 species, breeding or probably breeding in the Group, only the three commonest, apparently, breed on the southern half of North Bimini. These, in order of abundance, are: *Columbigallina passerina*, 10 or more pairs; *Tyrannus dominicensis*, six pairs; *Mimus polyglottos*, four pairs. This part of the island is very much disturbed by the relatively dense population of 1100 people, and nothing remains of the original vegetation with the possible exception of a few shrubs. On the northern half of this island another species, *Chordeiles minor*, occurs (at least one breeding pair), but *T. dominicensis* and *M. polyglottos* are apparently absent. This part of the island is uninhabited but, as stated, is mostly sand with low strand and coastal rock plant communities.

On South Bimini all 12 species breed, and it is possible that *Zenaida aurita* or *Z. macroura* may breed there also. This island, the largest single land mass in the Group, presents the greatest variety of habitat and is moreover uninhabited and relatively undisturbed except for a few desultory efforts at cultivation. On the western end of this island, which we covered minutely on almost every week-day, the following species had nests or established territories in an area about 1.5 miles wide by 2.5 long: *Columba leucocephala*, three pairs; *Columbigallina passerina*, 30 or more paired individuals wandering through the area; *Coccyzus minor*, one pair; *Chordeiles minor*, six or more individuals flushed or flying; *Calliphlox evelynae*, two pairs; *T. dominicensis*, four pairs; *M. polyglottos*, two pairs; *Vireo crassirostris*, five pairs; *V. altiloquus*, three pairs; *Tiaris bicolor*, five pairs; and *Loxigilla violacea*,

two or three pairs. This represents, of course, only a part of the population of South Bimini, but the area sampled is the richest and most varied. The only breeding species apparently lacking in this area was *Coereba flaveola* although, as far as we could tell, the area was well suited for it. The only species which appears to be relatively commoner on North than on South Bimini is *M. polyglottos*.

East Bimini was not visited often enough to survey its bird life, and then only at its northern tip, but as already stated, the available habitats are very limited. At least one species, *C. leucocephala*, breeds in the whiteland plant communities (see Howard, *op. cit.*) at the center of some keys. Inaccessibility seems to be a determining factor in the nesting of this species.

TERN COLONIES

The tern colony on Turtle and Piquet Rocks consists of a little over 200 individuals divided about as follows: 115–120 *Anous stolidus*, 75–80 *Sterna anaethetus*, and 10–15 *S. fuscata*. We visited the colony twice. On June 15 all three species were incubating. On July 12 only *Anous stolidus* was incubating, of which we found 20 individuals sitting on their eggs. Other unattended eggs were about but we could not identify them. None of the three species used nesting material although the single egg sometimes rested among a few bits of shell and stone. We could see no clear-cut preferences in nesting sites; the egg was either hidden in a rock crevice or laid in the open, but more *Anous stolidus*, perhaps because they were more numerous, had chosen the latter.

This colony is not successful as it is constantly raided by the natives who, although they can distinguish the Noddy by name, call all three species "egg birds." It is conveniently situated, unfortunately, on the edge of the richest conch bed which is visited daily, weather permitting. As conch is the chief food staple of the islands, eggs provide a very welcome addition. Equally welcome are the chicks, if any egg is overlooked and succeeds in hatching. The boatman who landed us on July 12 requested us to bring him half a dozen, but we found only one Noddy chick after three hours of searching. Nevertheless, the birds have come back every year, the only possible explanation, I think, being that they represent an overflow from some isolated and successful colonies. When we left on August 24 we passed quite close to the colony which seemed deserted except for two or three Noddies.

Another tern colony consisting of about a dozen pairs of *Sterna albifrons* is located on a small sandy and rocky point at the southwestern end of South Bimini. This small colony apparently is not disturbed and the birds had young on August 10. This species probably breeds also, in small numbers, on Gun Key.

ÉCOLOGY

A few ecological observations may be briefly mentioned. As stated, *Columba leucocephala*, probably because of persecution, is found only in the wilder areas or in those with the densest vegetation. *Columbigallina passerina*, although seen daily in good numbers, was almost never seen on the beaches proper; once a single individual was observed feeding below the high water mark on drifted sargasso weed. *Tyrannus dominicensis* occurs almost everywhere except in the dense underbrush or tangled scrub where conspicuous perches are lacking. It is the only species breeding on desolate Gun Key and the only one found to nest in the Australian pines. As the summer wears on, an important item in its food, perhaps the bulk of it, is cicadas caught on the wing. *Mimus polyglottos*, although nesting elsewhere in marginal areas, is definitely commoner near houses. *Calliphlox evelynae*, *Tiaris bicolor*, and *Loxigilla violacea* nested on the margins of the scrub, the last preferring trees or tall bushes, and *T. bicolor* the thicker bushes in more open areas. *Coereba flaveola* was observed only when feeding on the spectacular scarlet orange blooms of *Cordia Sebestana*.

But the most interesting ecological situation is presented by the two species of land birds which are most closely related, *Vireo crassirostris* and *V. altiloquus*. The first, a somewhat smaller bird, ranges widely wherever dense scrub or thickets occur, but it breeds also in good numbers in the same habitat as *V. altiloquus*. This latter was found only in the thickly-wooded part of the ridge on the western end of South Bimini. In this area the trees, consisting largely of second growth, are small, and in places grow so closely as to form impenetrable thickets, but there are also a few large trees mostly of the families Ficaceae and Sapotaceae. It is only in these larger and taller trees (none over 25 feet high) that *V. altiloquus* breeds, feeds, and sings, while *V. crassirostris* is found directly below in the thickets and dense undergrowth. We never saw *V. altiloquus* close to the ground or *V. crassirostris* in the top of the trees. Competition for food and nesting sites is thus avoided.

BEHAVIOR AND PREDATION

These observations concern only a few instances of interspecific relationships, such as aggressiveness, tameness, and predation. As is well known, *T. dominicensis* is a very aggressive species; and on North Bimini, because the land is so narrow, it constantly sallies out over the sea and bay, sometimes for considerable distances, in pursuit of large species such as *Fregata magnificens*, *Larus atricilla*, the large herons, and Brown Pelicans. It was not unusual to see a Frigate-bird attacked simultaneously by as many as three Kingbirds and suffer ap-

parently direct blows to the head and upper back. The attackers would then often turn on each other after the large bird finally escaped. The Frigate-birds made no effort to defend themselves against the small Kingbirds but occasionally pursued and attacked the large *Thalasseus maximus*. Another species attacked by *T. dominicensis* is *Ceryle alcyon*, and in some localities *M. polyglottos*. On South Bimini the latter and *T. dominicensis* loudly and vigorously defended their respective territories against each other, but on North Bimini some *modus vivendi* had apparently been reached, for they ignored each other even when flying or feeding in the same territory. In the Biminis smaller birds are not molested by either species. Both defend their territories most aggressively against members of their own species.

An incubating *M. polyglottos* drove off all intruders, even cats, dogs, and humans, but just the same its nest was robbed by some unknown predator. *Larus atricilla* was not aggressive except when feeding on the flats, when it would invariably chase off any *Butorides virescens* in sight as well as any shore birds such as *Arenaria interpres*, the gull emitting a peculiar croaking note all the while.

These were the only instances of aggressiveness noted and in contrast we were often charmed by the confiding nature of some species. We seldom could appear on the territory of *V. crassirostris* without being closely followed, sometimes at arm's length, the bird often singing *sotto voce* all the while. All our movements were scrutinized, and the swing of our insect nets with which we could have easily caught the bird was quickly recognized as harmless. *Tiaris bicolor* was equally tame, and on one occasion one perched briefly on my shoulder. These two species, it is true, were found only on uninhabited South Bimini, but another species, *C. passerina*, is almost as tame in the settled part of North Bimini as it is on South Bimini. Of course, the Ground Dove is always gentle. This dove apparently drinks freely, for on the last-named island it regularly fluttered in and out of a well four feet wide by seven or eight deep, and into another, equally deep but only a foot and a half wide. Dr. Breder has also related to us the extraordinary tameness of some wintering warblers such as *Dendroica palmarum* which take up residence in houses.

The natives do not molest the small birds, but all the large birds, with the exception of *L. atricilla* which enjoys sentimental protection, are considered good food. Human predation not only blights the tern colony but has probably reduced the population of herons and has reduced to a very low point the population of *C. leucocephala* which is said to have been very large.

On land the chief predator, in addition to man, would seem to be snakes which are abundant throughout the Group outside of the

settled areas. We saw several species of large and small boas, all very active at night in trees and bushes. This factor is made more serious because there are apparently very few small mammals (a marsh rabbit is reported but the only mammal seen was a mouse), and there is but one species of frog, moderately abundant. Lizards, which however are rather small, are abundant and may destroy the eggs of the smaller birds. Another possible predator is the land crab which is innumerable, omnivorous, and a good climber.

Finally a factor, hard to assess but which on occasion completely destroys certain habitats, is the prevalence of severe storms. In recent years the Biminis have been swept by several hurricanes and numerous minor storms.

LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE BIMINIS

Forty-four species have been recorded from the Biminis and, as stated in the introduction, our observations and those of Dr. Breder have added another 35, making a total list of 79 species. In the list below these new records are indicated by an asterisk (*). Forty of the previously recorded species were included in the general lists of the birds of the Bahamas by Cory ("Catalogue of West Indian Birds," 1892) and by Riley ("The Bahama Islands," Macmillan, New York, pp. 358-368, 1905). The other four were recorded by Friedmann *Auk*, 65: 142, 1948), and Bond ("Check-list of the Birds of the West Indies," 1950).

All the species recorded from the Biminis are listed below. As well over 50 of these species are migrants from North America or visitants from North America or the larger Bahamas, these are merely listed with, in the case of the species observed, the first date on which they were seen if migrants, or the actual date if seen but once or twice. In the case of some of the species that were not seen, relevant information including new records is given if available in the literature or supplied by Dr. Breder or the natives. A number of species which showed no evidence of breeding were present regularly or fairly often but at irregular intervals throughout our stay. These non-breeding species, some of which have been discussed recently by Eisenmann (*Wilson Bull.*, 63: 181-185, 1941) are indicated by (S) and the minimum and maximum numbers of individuals seen on any occasion are given. Breeding species are indicated by (B) and are discussed briefly in the list or preceding text.

The order followed and the nomenclature are those of Bond's check-list and the terms of relative abundance are used in the same manner. The vernacular names used are those given by Bond in his 'Field guide to birds of the West Indies' (Macmillan, New York, 1947).

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN.

(S) *Pelecanus occidentalis*, BROWN PELICAN.—One to two individuals throughout our stay.

(S?) *Phalacrocorax auritus*, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—Seven to eight large cormorants, probably this species, on June 16, 19, and July 12.

(S) *Fregata magnificens*, AMERICAN FRIGATE BIRD.—Two to eight individuals throughout our stay.

(S) *Ardea herodias*, GREAT BLUE HERON.—One individual at irregular intervals. The local name is "Gaulin," but it is also called "Arsnicker" as are all other herons with the exception of the Little Green Heron.

(*S) *Casmerodius albus*, YELLOW-BILLED EGRET or AMERICAN EGRET.—One to two individuals at irregular intervals.

(*) *Hydranassa tricolor*, LOUISIANA HERON.—One individual, June 22.

(*) *Florida caerulea*, LITTLE BLUE HERON.—One individual in white plumage washed with gray on June 20.

(B) *Butorides virescens*, GREEN HERON.—Common and breeding in the red mangrove throughout the Group. The local name is "Poor Joe" because, so it is said, there is so little to eat on it.

(B) *Nyctanassa violacea*, YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Common; immatures but not adults were usually very tame.

Ajaja ajaja, ROSEATE SPOONBILL.

(*) *Phoenicopterus ruber*, ROSEATE FLAMINGO.—Reported by the natives in the "1920's," and three individuals in the spring of 1948 or 1949 by Dr. Breder.

(*S) *Falco sparverius*, AMERICAN KESTREL.—According to Dr. Breder's notes this species occurs "all year" on North Bimini but is commoner in winter. One individual was seen on South Bimini on July 2.

(B) *Rallus longirostris*, CLAPPER RAIL.—Common and breeding in the red mangrove throughout the Group. Very vocal up to the end of June, a few starting to call again about August 14. They often called at night, even on cloudy, moonless nights. The local name is "Mud Hen."

Charadrius hiaticula, NORTHERN RING-NECKED PLOVER or SEMPALMATED PLOVER.—First seen on July 22.

(*) *Charadrius melodus*, PIPING PLOVER.—First seen on August 6.

Charadrius wilsonia, WILSON'S PLOVER.—First seen on July 22. Apparently only a migrant in the Biminis.

Charadrius vociferus, KILLDEER.—A flock of 20 reported by Dr. Breder between October 30 and December 9, 1949.

(*S) *Squatarola squatarola*, BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—Three to eight individuals not in breeding plumage present throughout our stay.

(*) *Himantopus himantopus*, STILT.—One individual on June 24–27.

(*S) *Arenaria interpres*, TURNSTONE.—Ten to 15 individuals, not in breeding plumage, were present throughout our stay.

(*) *Tringa melanoleuca*, GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.—One individual on July 9 and 13.

(*) *Tringa flavipes*, LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.—Two individuals on July 2.

(*) *Tringa solitaria*, SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—One individual on August 13 in company with the following species of sandpiper.

Actitis macularia, SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—First seen on July 22.

(*) *Calidris fuscicollis*, WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—Six individuals on August 17.

(*S) *Larus atricilla*, LAUGHING GULL.—Twenty or more individuals present throughout our stay but no evidence of breeding. However, on August 5 and for several days afterwards we saw adults feeding begging immatures, the latter being present from then on.

(**)* *Gelochelidon anglica*, GULL-BILLED TERN.—Seen but once (at very close range) on July 8 in company with *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, the difference in the size of the bill being conspicuous.

(**)* *Sterna hirundo*, COMMON TERN.—First seen on August 5.

(**S*) *Sterna dougallii*, ROSEATE TERN.—Two to five individuals throughout our stay.

(**B*) *Sterna anaethetus*, BRIDLED TERN.—Common.

(**B*) *Sterna fuscata*, SOOTY TERN.—Common.

(**B*) *Sterna albifrons*, LEAST TERN.—Common.

(**S*) *Thalasseus maximus*, ROYAL TERN.—Two to five individuals seen every day, except on August 7 when 16 individuals, some of them apparently immature, appeared.

(**S*) *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, SANDWICH TERN.—Three to 25 individuals throughout our stay.

(**)* *Chlidonias niger*, BLACK TERN.—One individual in piebald plumage on August 5.

(**B*) *Anous stolidus*, COMMON NODDY.—Common.

Rynchops nigra, BLACK SKIMMER.

(**B*) *Columba leucocephala*, WHITE-CROWNED PIGEON.—Fairly common. The local name is "Wild Pigeon."

(**)* *Zenaidura macroura*, MOURNING DOVE.—Seen but once, a pair, on July 20.

(**)* *Zenaidura aurita*, ZENAIDA DOVE.—Seen "all year," according to Dr. Breder but not seen by us. Notes of either this species or the preceding one were heard by us occasionally on South Bimini, and the natives refer by name to a breeding "Wood Dove." According to Bond (personal communication) there is evidence that this species and the preceding one wander about in the Bahamas.

(**B*) *Columbigallina passerina*, GROUND DOVE.—The commonest land species in the Biminis. The local name is "Tobacco Dove."

(**B*) *Coccyzus minor*, MANGROVE CUCKOO.—Probably breeding, as two birds always called from the same spot in the red mangroves near Cavelle Pond but were never seen. Occurs also at the eastern end of South Bimini and probably elsewhere.

Crotophaga ani, SMOOTH-BILLED ANI.—This species may not be established in the Biminis. It was not seen by us and during the past four years has been observed but once by Dr. Breder—one individual on March 25, 1949.

(**)* *Speotyto cunicularia*, BURROWING OWL.—Dr. Breder reports that on his return to Bimini on October 16, 1951, he found that one very tame individual had taken up residence on the laboratory grounds.

(**B*) *Chordeiles minor*, NIGHTHAWK.—Common. The notes are 'Kayrřekřř' as in the populations of *gundlachi* observed in Cuba, not the nasal 'peent' of nominate *minor* from North America.

(**B*) *Calliphlox evelynae*, BAHAMAN WOODSTAR.—Fairly common.

Ceryle alcyon, BELTED KINGFISHER.—First seen on July 17.

Sphyrapicus varius, YELLOW-BILLED SAPSUCKER.—Said to be a common winter resident. We saw much evidence of the characteristic markings; the trees most often selected are Australian pines and, strange to say, coconuts.

(**B*) *Tyrannus dominicensis*, GRAY KINGBIRD.—The commonest species of land bird after *C. passerina*. Natives state that it is a summer visitor only. The local name is "Pipiri."

(**)* *Callichelidon cyaneoviridis*, BAHAMAN SWALLOW.—First seen on August 14 and daily thereafter in company with the following species. According to Bond (personal communication) these individuals were probably transients from Grand Bahama or Abaco.

(*) *Hirundo rustica*, BARN SWALLOW.—First seen (1 adult) on August 3; immatures appeared a week later. Abundant in November, according to Dr. Breder.

(B) *Mimus polyglottos*, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD.—Common.

Dumetella carolinensis, CATBIRD.—Said to be a common winter resident.

(*) *Turdus migratorius*, AMERICAN ROBIN.—One individual reported by Dr. Breder on the laboratory grounds between October 30 and December 9, 1949.

Poliophtila caerulea, BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—First seen on August 16. Very tame.

(B) *Vireo crassirostris*, THICK-BILLED VIREO.—Common. Although Bond states (*Birds of the West Indies*, p. 302, 1936) that the iris is grayish in the adult of this species, all the individuals seen by us, adult as well as juvenile, had a blackish or very dark brown iris. In the geographical representative, *V. griseus*, the iris is whitish. *V. crassirostris* sang much later into August than did *altiloquus*. The song and call notes are quite variable and not easy to describe; some scolding notes are similar to the "mewing" note of *Dumetella carolinensis*. At close range the heavy bill is conspicuous, and the legs and feet are bluish gray. The yellowish eye-ring, lores, and frontal band, and the yellowish wash of the underparts are more strongly defined in the adult than in the young.

(B) *Vireo altiloquus*, BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO.—Common. Probably has more than one brood, for on August 20 a pair was seen feeding young not long out of the nest.

(B) *Coereba flaveola*, BANANAQUIT.—Observed only twice, on July 17 and 31, at the eastern end of South Bimini where it probably breeds. Although we found this species to be rare, our observations probably do not reflect its true status as it is well known to the natives under the name of "Banana bird" and is said to be fairly common in winter. Dr. Breder reports it as being present "all year." Possibly the species is more retiring during and just after the breeding season, but this does not explain its absence from the western end of the island which would seem to be equally suitable for nesting.

Mniotilta varia, BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.—First seen on August 16. All warblers, with the possible exception of this species and the Redstart, are called "Chip Chip" by the natives.

Limnoihlypis swainsonii, SWAINSON'S WARBLER.

(*) *Helmitheros vermivorus*, WORM-EATING WARBLER.—First seen on August 18.

Parula americana, PARULA WARBLER.

Dendroica tigrina, CAPE MAY WARBLER.

(*) *Dendroica caerulescens*, BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—Reported on May 4, 1947, by Mrs. Hickman.

Dendroica coronata, MYRTLE WARBLER.—Reported on November 20, 1949, by Dr. Breder.

Dendroica dominica, YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER.—First seen on August 16. All individuals seen had the underparts white from the lower breast down and the superciliary stripe appeared to be entirely white.

Dendroica discolor, PRAIRIE WARBLER.—First seen on August 14, and it was the commonest warbler thereafter.

Dendroica palmarum, PALM WARBLER.—Common winter resident according to Dr. Breder.

Seiurus aurocapillus, OVEN-BIRD.—Reported on May 4, 1947, by Mrs. Hickman.

Seiurus noveboracensis, NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH.—Reported on May 4, 1947, by Mrs. Hickman.

Seiurus motacilla, LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH.—First seen on August 17, common thereafter, chiefly in the mangroves.

Geothlypis trichas, YELLOW-THROAT.—The head, wings, and upper parts of the body of one rather freshly dead specimen were found on June 9. Both sexes reported on May 4 by Mrs. Hickman and a large wave of this species on May 14 by Dr. Breder.

Setophaga ruticilla, AMERICAN REDSTART.—First seen on August 17 (females or immature males). Both sexes reported in 1947 on May 4 by Mrs. Hickman and a large wave on May 14 by Dr. Breder.

Agelaius phoeniceus, RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—According to the natives this species is seen only in the spring and in the fall when it is more abundant. According to Bond (personal communication) the Bahaman race (*bryanti*) "is known to nest among mangroves, where the bird might escape detection." However, despite a continuous search which included mangroves, we failed to find it. It may have bred formerly around Cavelle Pond, but now apparently it is only a migrant, or a wanderer from the larger Bahamas.

(*) *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, BOBOLINK.—A dead and dried specimen was found on June 9. According to Mrs. Hickman "Bobolinks arrive a little before May 1 in large numbers, some dying, and all evidently exhausted."

(B) *Tiaris bicolor*, BLACK-FACED GRASSQUIT.—Common. The extent of the black markings of the males varies individually. The song is weak but insistent, two or three 'ticks' followed by a short trilled 'zeeeeee.'

(*B) *Loxigilla violacea*, GREATER ANTILLEAN BULLFINCH.—Fairly common. The note heard most often was very similar to the buzz of a cicada.

Ammodramus savannarum, GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.

American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York, November 1, 1951.