

Status of the Black-pollled, Bay-breasted, and Connecticut Warblers in Middle America.—In preparing a list of the birds known from Mexico to Panamá, certain published Middle American records were found to be erroneous, affecting to some degree the assumed status of these warblers.

The Black-pollled Warbler (*Dendroica striata*), as is well known, reaches its wintering grounds in northern South America through the West Indies. The A.O.U. "Check-List of North American Birds": 291, 1931, states that it is "casual" in Mexico, without mention of any locality, and this was repeated by Hellmayr in his "Catalogue of Birds of the Americas" (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., 13, Pt. 8: 404, 1935). Dr. Frederick C. Lincoln informed me that, so far as he knew, the sole basis for the "Check-List" statement was one specimen taken by Sumichrast at Tehuantepec City, Oaxaca, Mexico, on October 19, 1869, which had been erroneously reported in the literature as a Bay-breasted Warbler, *D. castanea* (Lawrence, Bull. U. S. Natl. Mus., 4: 15, 1876), according to W. W. Cooke (U. S. Dept. Agr., Div. Biol. Surv. Bull. No. 18: 75, 1904). Curiously enough, despite Cooke's comment, this Tehuantepec specimen was cited by Hellmayr in 1935 as the only Mexican record for *D. castanea* (*op. cit.*: 403), and more recent writers have repeated the reference. Thus, unknowingly, ornithologists have used the same specimen as the basis for supposed Mexican records of two species. The error apparently has persisted because of reliance on the attribution of the Tehuantepec specimen to *D. castanea* in the body of Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America" (Bull. U. S. Natl. Mus., 50, Pt. 2: 594, 1902) and failure to note that at the back of the same volume, in the Addendum (*op. cit.*: 785), Ridgway made a correction, ultimately identifying the bird as *D. striata*. To remove doubt, I inquired of Dr. Herbert Friedmann at the U. S. National Museum, where the specimen still exists, and he confirms that it is definitely a Black-pollled Warbler. This lone Mexican record appears also to be the only specimen from anywhere in Middle America, excluding the West Indies.

The Bay-breasted Warbler regularly winters in Panamá, Colombia, and Venezuela, as Bent points out ("Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers," Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 203: 380, 387, 1953), but it has been taken more frequently in Mexico and Central America than one would suppose from examining Bent, Hellmayr, and Ridgway, who give the impression that the bird is accidental in that area. Ridgway and Hellmayr mention only the erroneous Tehuantepec record and one collected by Skinner in Guatemala, reported without locality (Sclater and Salvin, Ibis, 1859: 11). Actually the Bay-breasted Warbler must often occur on the Gulf coast of Mexico, if, as has been stated, it is regular on the adjacent coast of southern Texas (Williams, Auk, 62: 103, 1945). The American Museum has three examples taken at Brownsville, Texas, just across the Rio Grande, on May 4 and 7, 1909, and Sutton and Pettingill record taking one in Mexico at Gomez Farias, southern Tamaulipas, on April 2, 1941 (Auk, 59: 28, 1942). In Panamá this species is a regular and not uncommon winter resident at least from the Canal Zone eastward, and specimens have been taken during the migration period near the Costa Rican border at Cocoplum, Bocas del Toro. It seems wholly unlikely that these small birds should fly between the Gulf coast of the United States and Panamá—some 1,500 miles—without stopping, particularly as the course would carry them, at convenient intervals of about 500 miles, over the Yucatan Peninsula and the "hump" of Honduras-Nicaragua. In fact there is direct evidence that some, at least, do pause on the Yucatan Peninsula, for Paynter reports collecting three and seeing others on May 6 and 7, 1949, near Chetumal, Quintana Roo (Postilla, 2: 6, 1950). In addition to the Guatemalan record, Salvin and Godman record

in the tabular list of their introduction to "Biologia Centrali Americana, Aves": 1: xv, 1904 (which was published last) specimens from both British Honduras and Costa Rica, received after the main work had been finished. These records seem to have been overlooked by subsequent writers. Further, Salvin reported that this species was collected by Gaumer on Ruatan, one of the Bay Islands on the Caribbean coast of Honduras (Ibis, 1888: 249), and Rendahl lists two taken at San Juan del Norte, a Caribbean port in southern Nicaragua, on October 26 and 27, 1881, by Dr. C. Bovallius (Arkiv för Zool., 12 (8): 35, 1919). There are two Costa Rican specimens in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, one taken October 28, 1950, at El Sauce, Cartago Province, and one April 20, 1952, at La Lola, Madre de Dios, Limón Province. As Bond reports *D. castanea* to be only a "rare transient in western Cuba" ("Check-List of Birds of the West Indies" third ed.: 143, 1950), it is unlikely that the West Indies is the major migration route for the Bay-breasted Warbler. The spottiness of the published reports from Central America and Mexico probably reflects the small amount of collecting done in the coastal Caribbean forests during the brief period when this species pauses in its migration through the area.

The Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) winters in Brazil, and perhaps also in Colombia and Venezuela, where it has been recorded on migration. Between the United States and South America the only published reports seem to be a few from the Bahamas and one supposedly from San José, Costa Rica (Bent, *op. cit.*: 523-524). Judging from the regular occurrence in Florida on migration, the natural assumption is that it uses the West Indies route, yet James Bond says he knows of only one specimen report from the Antilles. On checking the basis for the supposed San José, Costa Rica, record, Dr. Lincoln informed me that according to old files of the Biological Survey such a specimen taken October 6, 1890, was in the Thayer collection, at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Ludlow Griscom, who courteously examined the specimen for me, reports that it is actually a Mourning Warbler (*O. philadelphia*)—a species well-known in Middle America. There thus seems to be no Middle American record of the Connecticut Warbler.

I am very grateful for the hearty cooperation given by Dr. Lincoln, Dr. Friedmann, and Mr. Griscom.—EUGENE EISENMANN, *Linnaean Society of New York*, 11 Broadway, New York 4, N. Y.

The Type Locality of the Florida Sandhill Crane.—Peters (Auk, 1925, 42: 121) separated the Florida subspecies of the Sandhill Crane as *Megalornis canadensis pratensis*, based on *Grus pratensis* F. A. A. Meyer (1794, Zool. Annal., 1: 286, 296). Meyer had simply adopted the name *Grus pratensis* from Bartram's Travels and introduced it into binomial nomenclature in a review of that work. Bartram obtained (and ate) this crane on the eastern part of Alachua Savanna.

Peters erroneously believed that this locality lay within the boundaries of the present Clay County, Florida, and accordingly designated Clay County as the type locality. This designation has been followed in the A.O.U. Check-List (ed. 4) and in other standard works.

However, the locality called Alachua Savanna in Bartram's day lies entirely within the south-central portion of Alachua County, Florida. Its center is about six miles south of Gainesville. Today it is crossed by U. S. Highway 441 and is known by the name of Paynes Prairie. Sandhill Cranes are still resident on Paynes Prairie. Accordingly it is obvious that the proper type locality of *Grus pratensis* Meyer is Paynes Prairie (Alachua Savanna), Alachua County, Florida.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.*