General Notes

April 1960]

Although the Argentine race is technically the "new" one and must be named, it is, of course, the well-known one and well represented in museums. I shall therefore reverse the usual descriptive comparisons and describe the characters by which the Bolivian (nominate) race is distinguishable from the Argentine.

To generalize, the Bolivian specimens are everywhere paler, with lighter brown and rufous colors. Specifically, in the Bolivian birds:

1. The long, anterior crest feathers are more gray-brown, less blackish, with the longest feathers relatively broader. In all specimens of this species, the anterior crest feathers are dark, the posterior rufous; in Bolivian birds there are more long rufous (*i.e.*, fewer dark anterior) feathers in the crest.

2. The upperparts in general (nape, sides of face and neck, back, rump, upper tail coverts) are paler rufous.

3. The tertials are paler, more rufescent (less blackish) brown.

4. The rectrices are paler, the central pair having shafts hardly darker than the webs (in Argentine birds the shafts of the central rectrices are blackish brown).

5. The general tone of the underparts is paler, but this is more subtle than the difference in dorsal coloration; best marked on throat and under tail coverts.

6. The throat and under tail coverts are not only paler rufous, but have the light tips of fresh feathers less whitish, contrasting less with the ground color.

The darker bird, which occupies the range as given by Peters (loc. cit.) for the species as a whole, may be called:

Pseudoseisura lophotes argentina, new subspecies.

Type: Carnegie Museum No. 137487; adult male in freshly molted plumage, collected at La Cocha, Tucumán, Argentina, 9 August 1956, by Claes Chr. Olrog.

The type specimen is one of a small collection of Argentine birds obtained by Carnegie Museum through the generosity of Dr. F. W. Preston. Specimens in the American Museum of Natural History were examined through the courtesy of Dr. Dean Amadon.—KENNETH C. PARKES, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Penn-sylvania.

A Texas Record of the Black Brant.—The A.O.U. Check-list (5th ed., 1957, p. 64) lists the Black Brant (Branta nigricans) as of only casual occurrence in Texas. Wolfe (Check-list of the Birds of Texas, 1956, p. 14) gives only one record of a bird shot in Tom Green County in 1884 and a sight record near Brownsville in 1938. On 28 December 1956, I was goose hunting in Wilbarger County, Texas, about 15 miles south of Vernon. An adjacent hunter, whose name I did not learn, shot a black goose from a flock of Canada Geese (Branta canadensis) that had been decoyed to a typical wheat field pit blind. This goose was picked out and shot because it was observed to be entirely different from any of the other geese in the flock. Recognizing that any brant was an unusual species for Texas, I secured the bird as a specimen. It was still warm when it came into my possession. A colored photograph of this bird has been identified by Dr. John W. Aldrich as being Branta bernicla nigricans. Unfortunately, neither I nor the taxidermist sexed this specimen. The mounted bird is now in my possession.— J. C. HENDERSON, Box 5132, Midland, Texas.

Two Significant Calling Periods of the Screech Owl.—In 25 years of casual and serious studies made on the common Screech Owl, Otus asio naevius, in my neighborhood of Kripplebush in Ulster County, New York, I have been able to piece together definite information on the calls of the local population of this little