

varied so much in both size and degree of freshness as to indicate that they were probably laid by different females over a considerable period of time. The three in the other nest did not vary greatly and might have been laid by a single bird.

The Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) has been recorded laying eggs in a nest prior to laying by the host species (Bent, Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus., 1958), but this does not seem to have been reported for the Red-eyed Cowbird. The largest number of eggs found in a single nest was three (Friedmann, The Cowbirds, 1929). Near a greenhouse in the horticultural garden on 2 July, I found five eggs of the Red-eyed Cowbird in a weathered, nearly flat nest (probably *Pipilo fuscus*). Two of these were broken, two were bleached white, while the fifth was spoiled, but still retained the bluish cast present in newly laid eggs. This obviously long-abandoned nest probably acted as a dump nest, such as is well known in pheasants and some ducks.

The Red-eyed Cowbirds in the Chapultepec Park population begin laying by at least early April. An egg taken from a Song Sparrow nest 8 April contained an embryo approximately half developed, and fresh eggs were found as late as 2 July. Sixteen eggs collected in the park measure 17.2 to 18.4 (av. 17.78) by 21.6 to 24.4 mm. (av. 22.91).

A second species previously unreported as a host for the Red-eyed Cowbird is the Mexican Cacique (*Cassiculus melanicterus*). On 13 July 1956 John and Richard Campbell and I collected a nest about five miles southwest of Navarrete, Nayarit. The nest contained three eggs of the cacique and one of the Red-eyed Cowbird. Dr. Friedmann (*in litt.*) informed me that Dr. Travis Meitzen collected a nest of the Mexican Cacique at Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, 11 June 1945 that contained four eggs of the host and one of the Red-eyed Cowbird. The use of the deep nests of the caciques by the cowbirds as a place to deposit their eggs is an interesting extension of their well-known preference for other species of orioles of the genus *Icterus*.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *University of Minnesota, Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

The Black Noddy at Los Roques, Venezuela.—In the spring of 1862 the renowned British ornithologist Osbert Salvin (1864) discovered a colony of Black Noddies (*Anous tenuirostris*) on a little islet off British Honduras known as Southwest-of-all Cay, and collected there a series of skins and eggs for the British Museum. These specimens formed the basis of a new subspecies, *A. t. americanus*, described by Mathews (1912) as "*Megalopterus minutus americanus*." There was no further information on the Caribbean race of the Black Noddy until an individual was caught and photographed in mangroves at Bonaire in 1952 and recorded by Voous (1957). In 1956 and 1957 specimens were collected on Los Roques (Bequevé, Los Canquises, and Sarquí) in late May and early July, and it was presumed by Phelps and Phelps (1959) that the species was breeding there at the time.

On 26 and 27 March 1960 we had the privilege of going ashore on two islets, Esparquí and Carenero, of the Los Roques archipelago in company with Dr. William H. Phelps and Mr. William H. Phelps, Jr., while aboard their yacht "Ornis." We soon noticed that the Noddy terns flying overhead or perching in the mangroves that densely cover these sandy cays uttered two very different calls, and it was apparent that two species were present. In addition to the hoarse, rooklike growling of the Brown Noddy (*A. stolidus*) was heard the high-pitched, rattling *tek-kerrek* of the Black Noddy.

We watched numerous Black Noddies dipping into the sea or along the edge of the tide, picking up pieces of sea wrack, weed, fragments, or vegetable material. The nests were situated for the most part higher than those of *stolidus* and are recognizably different. Whereas the Brown Noddy on Los Roques makes a bulky nest composed mainly of twigs well out on the surface of a branch, that of the Black Noddy is a comparatively compact pad of vegetable material in a crotch. It commences by being neat, clean, and rather brightly ornamented with colored streamers of weed, but soon becomes matted, dull, and splattered with droppings. Nests of the two species were often in the same tree. Betts (1940) describes the nest of *Anoüs tenuirostris tenuirostris* in the Seychelles Islands as being very similar, composed of a pad of seaweed, lodged high up in forks of branches of banyan trees. The nesting material is picked up at high-water mark by the birds just as we saw it done in the southern Caribbean.

Both Noddies were beginning to breed at this season, but of the many nests examined, only two of each species contained an egg. Two eggs of the Black Noddy, both fresh, were collected, and adults were secured at or near the nests. The eggs resemble, but are much smaller than, those of the Brown Noddy. One (YPM coll.) measures 40 x 30 mm., the second (Phelps coll.) 43 x 27 mm. We have no doubt that an egg found "on the bare rock on El Soldado" off Trinidad, and believed by Belcher and Smooker (1935) to be that of a Black Noddy, pertains to *stolidus*. This egg measures "50 x 34 mm.," and lies within the size range of eggs of the Brown Noddy, which average 52 x 35 mm., according to Bent (1921).

We are in agreement with Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy of the American Museum of Natural History, who informs us (*in litt.*) that in his opinion "the two large noddies all over the world, namely the Brown and the Black, each represent one species."

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Eighteenth-Century Observation of Flight of Passenger (?) Pigeons over New York City.—Hugh Gaine, an Irish-born printer and bookseller, who landed in New York in 1745 "without basket or burden," ran a print shop across from the Old-Slip Market and established the "New-York Mercury." On Monday, 11 March 1754, on page 3, he recorded: "Yesterday we had the greatest Flight of