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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—James Bond and S. Dillon Ripley, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,* and *Peabody Museum, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.*

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

Pidgeons over this City, that has been known for many Years past, so early in the Season."—CONSTANCE D. SHERMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Cattle Egrets on the Dry Tortugas.—The first known observation of Cattle Egrets *(Bulbulcus ibis)* on the Dry Tortugas, Florida was 1 January 1958. The Cattle Egret was again observed on 7 and 8 May 1960. On 7 May nine individuals were counted on Garden Key, and on 8 May 19 were seen. Since the island is only about one third by one sixth of a mile in size and sparsely vegetated, an exact count was easily possible. The Cattle Egret does not appear in Sprunt's (1951) "A List of the Birds of the Dry Tortugas Keys."

A cold front traveling east passed the Tortugas at about 1:00 A.M. on 8 May. The southerly winds favorable to northbound migrants that prevailed during the previous day were replaced by northwest winds. In addition, electrical storms and heavy precipitation appeared. A large number of migrants appeared on Garden Key, and the number of species seen rose from 33 on 7 May to 77 on 8 May. Perhaps it is also worthy of note that although no Green Herons were seen on 7 May, about 10 were present on 8 May. This information is mentioned to demonstrate that the birds appearing 8 May were evidently part of a migratory wave that had departed from Cuba, the Yucatan Peninsula, or some other southern point during a period of favorable weather. Since it seems unlikely that the additional 10 birds on 8 May would have come from the mainland to the north or from the Florida Keys (Key West is about 68 miles to the east), one is forced to conclude that they were northbound migrants forced down on the Dry Tortugas along with the other migrant species.

These observations suggest a hypothetical route by which the Cattle Egret may have invaded the United States and provide strongly suggestive information in regard to the migratory activity of the species. Although it is well established that the species withdraws in autumn from breeding areas in the northern states and that the majority appear to winter in Florida, it has not been determined whether the Florida breeding population is migratory or sedentary. The season of these observations is certainly not typical of the postbreeding wandering of the herons. Therefore, we must ask whether this represents merely haphazard wandering or part of an annual migratory pattern.—IRA JOEL ABRAMSON, *1070 South Shore Drive, Miami Beach, Florida.*

Clay-colored Robin in Texas.—In May 1959 a Clay-colored Robin *(Turdus grayi)* was reported in Bentsen State Park three miles west and three miles south of Mission, Texas. The bird was first seen on 14 May by Mrs. L. H. McConnell, wife of the park manager. During the following week it was observed by a number of ornithologists both from the lower Rio Grande Delta and from out of state. Among the observers were Luther Goldman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., and Alexander Sprunt IV of Charleston, South Carolina.

Bentsen State Park is about 600 acres in extent and lies just west of a large bend of the Rio Grande. The vegetation is typical of the "river brush" of this area—the more heavily wooded sections being composed of large ebony *(Pithecolobium flexicaule)*, mesquite *(Prosopis)*, native ash *(Fraxinus berlandierana)*, elm *(Ulmus crassifolia)*, and anaqua *(Ehretia anacua)*, mixed in with the usual catclaw *(Acacia greggii)*, huisache *(Acacia farnesiana)*, granjeno *(Celtis pallida)*, brasil *(Condalia obovata)*, allthorn *(Koberlinia spinosa)*, and other small shrubs.