

threaten survival. I was, therefore, surprised to find a one-legged, adult male Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) in one of my traps in Fayetteville, New York, on 7 May 1963.

The bird was kept for seven weeks prior to sacrifice for anatomical examination. During this period it was as lively as any of six normal cowbirds in neighboring cages and appeared to do about as well with its one leg as its fellows did with two. It ate well (diet of finch seed mixture) and maintained its weight of about 50 g.

Examination revealed that the right leg was completely missing and there was no indication that it had been lost by accident. The skin was entirely normal and there was no scar tissue at the point where the femur would have left the body in a normal bird (Figure 1, A). Autopsy revealed a somewhat defective development of the right ilium and ischium and, apparently, a complete absence of the pubis (Figure 1, B). There was also no trace of the musculature normally associated with the proximal end of the femur.

That a cowbird with one leg led an apparently normal existence is interesting when one considers some aspects of this bird's life. Feeding is done on the ground, where the bird is subject to attack by predators and to harassment by other cowbirds (they are conspicuously quarrelsome among themselves); the male acquires and defends a territory. This bird, an adult, had presumably made at least one round trip to its winter range (southern United States or perhaps northern Mexico). Further, when the defect is congenital it must be a handicap to the young in the nest.

Although I have trapped thousands of birds, including at least 1,500 cowbirds, this is the first time I have seen such a gross congenital defect.—REGINALD D. MANWELL, *Department of Zoology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York.*

First House Finch collected in North Carolina.—On 26 February 1963, I collected a male House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) in my yard at Zebulon (about 35 km east of Raleigh), North Carolina. It was first observed on 22 November and returned on 5, 7, and 9 December 1962 and 26 January 1963. On these dates the bird was too wary to be obtained. All observations were during inclement weather and coincided with a temporary increase in the number of Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) in the feeding area. Apparently the House Finch was associating with a flock of wintering juncos which visited the feeders only in severe weather. The bird was taken during a snowfall and there was a 10 cm accumulation of snow on the ground. It had appeared quite suddenly among 20 to 25 Purple Finches (*C. purpureus*) at my sunflower-seed feeder.

The finch was prepared by David A. Adams, Curator of the North Carolina State Museum at Raleigh, who tentatively confirmed my identification.

At the U. S. National Museum, George E. Watson identified it as a male *C. m. frontalis*, "probably not fully adult since the red on the forehead is not well developed." Watson added that: "This is said to be the subspecies which is established in southern Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey, although very few specimens have been critically identified." The specimen is now U.S.N.M. no. 477529 and appears to represent the first record for North Carolina.

Although the House Finch is virtually nonmigratory in its native Mexico and far western United States, a pattern of migration seems to be developing in the dispersal of the introduced Atlantic coast population (Cant and Geis, *EBBA News*, 24: 102-107, 1961). Cant and Geis cite recoveries of banded birds as evidence that some House Finches which spend the summer in the Connecticut-Long Island area winter in the

Philadelphia area. During the winter of 1962–1963, House Finches apparently moved southward in considerable numbers, with first records being made also in the District of Columbia and Virginia, as noted by Pyle (*Atlantic Nat.*, 18: 32–33, 1963). Pyle notes additionally that there is no evidence that House Finches associate regularly with Purple Finches, which agrees with my observations.

I am deeply indebted to George E. Watson and David A. Adams for valuable assistance and advice on preparation of this note.—ELOISE FRETZ POTTER, *P. O. Box 487, Zebulon, North Carolina.*

Notes on the birds of Webb County, Texas.—On 3 April 1961 I became acquainted with the Desiderio Treviño ranch, 37 miles (60 km) northwest of Laredo, Webb County, Texas. I visited the ranch again from 27 to 29 March 1962. The property included several miles of frontage on the Rio Grande and a large *Phragmites*-covered island, as well as extensive *Opuntia* and *Koeberlinia* desert. A wooded floodplain extended approximately 100 yards (95 m) from the river to the surrounding cliffs. Cottonwoods (*Populus* sp.), willows (*Salix* sp.), and other broad-leaved trees bordered the river. My field work was concentrated in this lowland.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus couchii*).—I saw three pairs along the north shore of the river on 27 March 1962 and took a large adult male (wing, 123 mm; tail, 105 mm), whose testes were somewhat enlarged. I also observed several pairs on 28 and 29 March. This species was apparently more common than the scattered, upriver records would indicate, and probably breeds regularly in this area.

Green Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas luxuosa*).—I saw a flock of approximately 12 birds feeding while moving gradually upriver on 28 March 1962. I took a small adult male (wing, 113 mm; tail, 130 mm), which had dark eyes and somewhat enlarged testes. Wolfe (*Check-list of the birds of Texas*, 1956: see p. 51) considered the Green Jay a resident upriver to Webb County.

Black-headed Oriole (*Icterus graduacauda audubonii*).—I observed one pair flying about the ranch house on 3 April 1961. I also saw at least six pairs along the river from 27 to 29 March 1962 and heard others whistling. I took a large adult male (wing, 104 mm; tail, 108 mm), which had the testes somewhat enlarged, on 28 March 1962. Wolfe (*op. cit.*: 71) stated that this species is casual in the area investigated.

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus cucullatus*).—I saw several birds along the river 3 April 1961, and numerous pairs as well as single birds on 27, 28, and 29 March 1962. Most of the birds I observed were singing from the tops of *Phragmites*. I took an adult male, which had partially enlarged testes, 28 March 1962. This specimen is large (wing, 89 mm; tail, 96 mm) and has the deep orange underparts typical of the nominate race. According to the A.O.U. Check-list (fifth edit., 1957) *I. c. cucullatus* is known in the United States from only two specimens, one from Marathon in Brewster County, Texas, and the other from Val Verde County, Texas.

The specimens mentioned are presently at the University of Oklahoma Museum of Zoology. Except as noted below, I made subspecific identifications with the aid of the University of Oklahoma Museum of Zoology collection. I wish to express my appreciation to Mrs. Bertha Treviño, for graciously allowing me to visit her ranch; George M. Sutton and Warren Pulich, for critically reading the manuscript; and Kenneth C. Parkes for subspecific identification of *I. c. cucullatus*.—LEWIS W. ORING, *Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.*