

surface as water and responded with a bathing response. Rheingold and Hess found little change in preference after the chicks had 7 days of experience in drinking water, whereas my results suggest a rapid waning of response to nonreinforcing stimuli. This may be a species difference or due to the difference in age of the two kinds of birds. It is interesting that all of the behaviors of bathing, including bill wiping and prolonged preening after the bath appear to have been "released" by the sight of a plastic surface. One of my birds also responded to the sight of falling water, but it may have learned this from having its tail washed under the stream of a faucet. The sensation of wetness also can produce a bathing response, at least in birds that have had experience with bathing in water.—HELMUT C. MUELLER, *Department of Zoology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

**The occurrence of the Black-vented Oriole, *Icterus wagleri*, in the United States.**—On 27 September 1968 I noted a large black and yellow-orange oriole among the dense foliage on the Rio Grande Nature Trail at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend National Park, Brewster County, Texas. The bird foraged in view for about 3 minutes, and watching it from about 50–75 feet through 9× binoculars I was able to see clearly the black head, throat, and chest, the yellow-orange underparts, and black crissum and tail that identified it beyond doubt as *Icterus wagleri*. A search for the bird later the same day and the following morning proved fruitless.

On 28 April 1969 I saw an adult *I. wagleri* again less than 300 feet from the first sighting, and I watched it more than 40 minutes in close association with two Hooded Orioles (*I. cucullatus*) and four Orchard Orioles (*I. spurius*). Many visitors saw and photographed the bird during May and June. I succeeded in capturing, banding (No. 632-25253), and photographing (Figure 1) the bird on 4 July. Examination showed it



Figure 1. Crissum of *Icterus wagleri* caught at Rio Grande Village, Texas, showing diagnostic black under tail coverts.

to be in nonbreeding condition; it lacked any evidence of a brood patch and had no cloacal protuberance. The forehead showed no indication that the bird had been caged. The bill was black with a silver, blue-gray shading on the basal portion of the lower mandible as described by Ridgway (U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 50: 267, 1902). I sent closeup photographs of the chest to Allan Phillips who wrote me (in litt.) as follows: "Your bird certainly is *Icterus w. wagleri* as the subspecies are currently understood, i.e. on the basis of color. I agree the chestnut band is too vague and indistinct for the west coast race, but is exactly like some Guerrero specimens; others have no hint of chestnut at all."

These data represent the first documented records of the Black-vented Oriole for the United States, although there is a questionable sighting by Herbert Brown (Phillips, Pap. Archeol. Soc., New Mexico, 1: 129-162, 1968) from the Patagonia Mountains, Arizona, "years" (see pp. 143-144) prior to 1887. South of the border it occurs "from Sonora, Chihuahua, and Nuevo Leon, south through Guatemala and Honduras and El Salvador (in winter) and northern Nicaragua" (Miller, Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore, Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 33, 1957, p. 284). The nearest Mexican records to Big Bend National Park are about 350 airline miles south in the state of Coahuila where Ely (in litt.) saw one at Las Vacas on 4 July, "and collected specimens there July 23 (pair) and 24 (stub-tailed juvenal). A pair was present in scrub desert, 6500 feet, north of the Sierra Guadalupe, October 11. I observed at least four in tall yucca 'forest' 15 miles southwest of Gomez Farias, April 27."

At Rio Grande Village *I. wagleri* ranged within a one-quarter square mile area of a combination of very dense floodplain habitat and the campground proper where willow, cottonwoods, sycamore, and honeylocust occur scattered over the Bermuda grass lawn. By late July the bird became very shy and could be found only after a considerable search. By 5 August its usual associates had disappeared, and it was last seen on 27 September, exactly one year after its first discovery.—ROLAND H. WAUER, *Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834*.

**The Giant Canada Goose in New Zealand.**—From 19 February to 12 March 1968, I had many opportunities to study and photograph the Canada Geese of New Zealand. The birds that have established themselves successfully on South Island originated from 50 birds imported from eastern United States in 1905 and 10 birds from Vancouver in 1920 (Delacour, *The waterfowl of the world*, vol. 1, London, Country Life Ltd., 1954, p. 157). Imber and Williams (Wildl. Mgmt., 32: 256, 1968) point out that several subspecies of Canada Geese may have been included in these introductions. Delacour (idem: 161) states that *Branta c. canadensis* was first introduced to New Zealand in 1950, and that smaller birds (probably *taverneri*) were also imported from Vancouver in 1920.

All the Canada Geese that I saw on sanctuaries run by various Acclimatization Societies and on lakes in the Alps were very large geese. I know of one collected yearling goose that weighed 10 pounds. Others held in captivity were reported to weigh as much as 18 pounds. Photographs that I took of Canada Geese at a sanctuary near Lake Ellsmere on 17 February 1968 show the major characteristics of the Giant Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*) so well-described and illustrated by Hanson (The Giant Canada Goose, Carbondale, Southern Illinois Univ., 1965). The birds in Figure 1 show the swanlike necks and upright stance characteristic of the subspecies *maxima*. The center goose in Figure 1A appears nearly identical to the one in Hanson's (idem) Figure 32. The fourth goose from the right in Figure 1B has a white forehead similar to those illustrated in Hanson's (idem) Figures 29 and 35. Note in several birds the