

**Northern breeding record for Reddish Egret.**—A pair of Reddish Egrets (*Dichromanassa rufescens*) was found raising young in Pine Island Sound, more than 100 miles north of any previous Florida record in this century and 3 months later than its normal winter breeding time in Florida Bay. On 4 March 1970 on Hemp Key, opposite Fort Myers, Hal H. Harrison, Erard A. Matthiessen, and I sighted two Reddish Egrets, both in the dark phase. Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) and Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) were then nesting on the key, and Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) and Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) were building nests.

We next visited the key with Andrew J. Meyerriecks on 13 March. Despite a careful search we saw no sign of the birds until we were leaving. Then from the boat we flushed one bird from a clump of red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) in which about 8 feet over shallow water, we found a nest with one blue egg. The only other herons in the vicinity were Great Blues with larger nests and eggs. The Reddish Egrets, however, did not return. They were to prove extremely shy.

When we returned on 29 March the nest contained two eggs, warm from incubation. While one bird returned and perched near the nest, it was not seen incubating. We returned with a blind on 9 April. The nest then contained two hatchlings in grayish down. This time, from the blind, I saw one of the birds return, and on 16 April when Harrison photographed the young, Matthiessen also saw a bird return to the nest. Both times the birds left the nest without being seen and did not return until 20 minutes after the return of other birds now nesting all around them. These were mainly Snowy Egrets (*Leucophyox thula*), Louisiana Herons (*Hydranassa tricolor*), and Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). Both parents returned and circled overhead when Charles LeBuff banded the young 28 April.

Bent (Life histories of North American marsh birds, U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 135: 157, 1926) reports the Reddish Egret once bred abundantly in Tampa Bay, but says that they had virtually disappeared from Florida by 1903. Sprunt (Florida bird life, New York, Coward-McCann, Inc., 1954) says that the birds did vanish completely from the state between 1927 and 1938. The A.O.U. Check-list (Check-list of North American birds, fifth Ed., Baltimore, Amer. Ornithol. Union, 1957) gives the species' only Florida breeding ground as in the keys, near Tavernier. Palmer (Handbook of North American birds, vol. 1, New Haven, Connecticut, Yale Univ. Press, 1962) notes they breed in the spring in Texas, but in the winter in Florida when, he writes, they are extremely rare except in the breeding area. In this connection it might be noted that from one to four Reddish Egrets appeared at various times throughout their winter breeding season on Sanibel Island, across the sound from Hemp Key.—GRIFFING BANCROFT, *Captiva, Florida* 33924. Accepted 9 Jul. 70.

**Traill's Flycatchers of the "fee-bee-o" songform wintering in Peru.**

—On the basis of differences in song and habitat Stein (New York State Mus. Sci. Serv. Bull., 371: 1–63, 1958; Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc., 107: 21–50, 1963) proposed that the two songforms of the Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) represent sibling species, both included by the A.O.U. Check-list (Check-list of North American birds, fifth Ed., Baltimore, Amer. Ornithol. Union, 1957) under the subspecific name *E. t. traillii*. As an extension of this work I investigated the wintering distribution of each songform.

During December 1967 and January 1968 I located members of the "fitz-bew" songform in Panama and studied their behavior (Gorski, Auk, 86: 745, 1969). By playing recordings of vocalizations of both songforms taped on their Connecticut

breeding grounds in the summer of 1967, I was able to locate populations wintering in Gamboa, Canal Zone, and La Jagua and thus to provide the first evidence that birds wintering in Panama gave "fitz-bew" vocalizations.

I visited Peru in October and November of 1968 to try to identify the songform wintering there. Although museum specimens and the available literature (Meyer de Schauensee, *Birds of South America*, Narberth, Pennsylvania, Livingston Publ. Co., 1966, p. 353) indicated that Traill's Flycatchers (*sensu lato*) winter in Peru, there was no direct evidence that these birds were of the "fee-bee-o" songform. As the "fitz-bew" occurs in Panama, which is about in the center of the reported wintering range of the Traill's Flycatcher, it seemed possible that Peru, nearer the reported southern limits, would yield the "fee-bee-o."

Two Peruvian specimens identified as *E. traillii* in the American Museum of Natural History were labeled as taken in Cuzco on 30 November 1914. Several other specimens were labeled from localities in the more tropical zone of southeastern Peru (Astillero, La Pampa, and Candamo). I decided to investigate the Cuzco area as well as I could on 26-30 October 1968. The area is mountainous and contains habitats considerably different from those in the tropical parts of Peru. I surveyed Cuzco and areas within 30 km of the city without finding any *Empidonax*.

As visiting the southeastern tropical zone was not feasible, I chose to visit Iquitos on the Amazon River. The first *Empidonax* encountered came in response to the playing of a "fee-bee-o" recording (made in Litchfield, Connecticut) at 10:00 on 31 October approximately 7 km southeast of Iquitos between San Juan and Quisto Cocha. Vegetation in the area was transitional from a lowland scrubby area with some standing water and an open "grassy" area composed primarily of *Andropogon*, *Xyxis*, and *Cyperus*, while common shrubs and small trees were of the genera *Vermonia*, *Veruena*, and *Clibadium*. Scattered palms occurred throughout this grassy area which gradually merged with a semiforested drier hillside on which the most abundant tree was *Inga dulca*. The responding bird appeared to favor the drier areas of the site, which was an abandoned homestead with 2 to 3 years of growth.

I identified the responding bird as a male "fee-bee-o" by its initial behavior. It approached within several meters of the speaker and emitted a soft and infrequent "fee-bee-o," a "wee-oo," and a series of distinct "pit"s. Hoping to test this bird with the "fitz-bew" song, I left the area immediately and returned at 13:45. I played the "fitz-bew" song for 15 minutes without obtaining a response. The "fee-bee-o" call was again played and an *Empidonax* came within 3 m of the speaker, but uttered only a "wee-oo" and very soft "kitter"s. The bird then moved off about 60 m and emitted a series of "pit"s. Shortly after this episode it began to rain, and almost all conspicuous avian activity ceased. It was not feasible to tape record the responses of the birds.

The next day I played vocalizations along the drier hillside referred to above. With the playing of "fee-bee-o" the bird responded immediately with a series of "pit"s. It stayed hidden in the low shrubbery that covered the ground beneath the small trees. As the playing continued, the bird emerged from the vegetation and approached the speaker and model more closely. It emitted very vigorous "pit"s and tail-pumped. Soon it flew off into the crowns of the trees surrounding the hillside and "pitted" for several more minutes. Further playing failed to elicit responses. Measured approximately by the bird's movements in response to the changing position of the speaker, the area it occupied appeared to cover about 2000 m<sup>2</sup>, roughly similar to the "fee-bee-o" is territorial size in Litchfield, Connecticut.

On 3 November at 09:40 a relatively large number of "fee-bee-o"s were located

on the road to Santa Clara approximately 5 km southeast of Iquitos. Vegetation here was similar to that in the first site studied but included the genera *Balsa*, *Ochroma*, and *Croton* among the secondary plants. I counted nine individual "fee-bee-o"s along a line of trees bordering a dirt road for approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  km. After numerous tests with the "fitz-bew" playback the birds were located by playing the "fee-bee-o" song at each apparently suitable habitat. In each case the bird appeared only briefly and emitted either a very subdued "fee-bee-o" or, more frequently, a series of "pit"s. At times during the playing three birds could be heard "pitting" in response to the "fee-bee-o"s from the speaker. The birds appeared to respond intensely or aggressively for an initial period of about 10 minutes, but soon retired, still emitting a few "pit"s, to the crowns of the line of trees. A series of trials was then made playing only the "pit" call, which I found in Connecticut, as suggested by Stein (Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc., 107: 29, 1963), to be given only by "fee-bee-o"s and never by "fitz-bew"s (Gorski, MS). In several cases a bird flew within  $\frac{1}{2}$  m of the speaker and model. The only special movement accompanying its "pitting" was the tail-pump and in one case a crest raise and slight "kitter" sound. The responding birds seemed momentarily extremely curious about the sounds, but soon left the vicinity of the speaker. Attempts to measure the total area traversed by individual birds were complicated by the number of birds in the line of trees. Denseness of the undergrowth also hindered an adequate survey, but the birds seemed to be spaced about 60 m apart along the line of trees, which were separated from the road by a grassy field.

It was not feasible to obtain tape recordings of the calls of any of the Peruvian birds and no specimens were collected, but on the basis of the behavioral and vocal response to recordings played, I am sure the birds in Peru belonged to the "fee-bee-o" songform.

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**Injured Calliope Hummingbird lifted by another.**—One day about mid-June of 1968, during the early part of the usual nesting season of the species in this locality, a female Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) flew against a window in my office and fell to the ground, where it lay stunned and motionless. Almost immediately a male bird of that species darted down and hovered above her. Grasping her bill in his, he lifted her without apparent difficulty almost directly upward. About 3 feet from the ground the stunned bird slipped from his grasp and fell, whereupon he repeated the procedure with the same result. After lifting her about 3 feet for the third time and losing her, the male bird flew to a nearby shrub and perched there.

A few minutes later I picked up and examined the motionless female, and found her still alive. After a few minutes of rest in my wife's hands, the bird recovered and flew off normally.—WINTON WEYDEMAYER, *Fortine, Montana 59918*. Accepted 16 Jun. 70.