GENERAL NOTES

A White-winged Black Tern specimen from Canada.—On 23 May 1971 I noted a White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) feeding with Black Terns (*C. niger*) at a slough near McGowans Corner, New Brunswick. The bird was readily distinguishable from its companions by its conspicuous white upper forward wing surfaces, white rump and tail, and black wing linings. Its upper back appeared dark gray, bill black, and legs reddish. The bird remained in the vicinity until 26 May.

I rediscovered what I presumed to be the same individual on 6 July, 3 miles distant in a freshwater marsh at 45° 55′ N, 66° 19′ W near Portobello Creek at the site of a small breeding colony of Black Terns. Plumage characteristics remained essentially unchanged except that onset of molt was evidenced by white feathering of the forehead, lores, and chin. Vocal utterances were consistently separable from those of the Black Terns, being of a lower pitch and a less squeaky quality. Unlike the Black Terns, the bird did not appear to be alarmed by the presence of several observers during the following few days.

I collected the specimen on 10 July and shipped it whole to the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, Canada, where the preserved skin was deposited in the ornithological collection as No. 57681. W. E. Godfrey confirmed the identification and noted that the bird was a moderately fat female with ovary measurement 6 × 4 mm, largest ovum 2 mm. The stomach contained beetles.

The specimen furnished the first fully authentic Canadian record of this Eurasian species, which winters in Africa and southeast Asia to New Zealand. Morgan and Pearce (Canadian Field-Naturalist, 83: 394, 1969) reported seeing one at Grand Point, New Brunswick, 12 miles east of Portobello Creek, on 27-30 July 1968, and cited several recent observations in the United States. Concerning earlier Canadian sight records, Taverner (Birds of Canada, Toronto, Musson Book Company Ltd., 1945, p. 239) stated when referring to the Black Tern that "Immature plumages retained throughout the following summer have been the basis of occasional records for the White-winged Black Tern, which has been removed from the Canadian list." The only other *C. leucopterus* specimen from the Nearctic Region of which I am aware was taken in Wisconsin in 1873 (Kumlien and Hollister, The birds of Wisconsin, Bull. Wisconsin Nat. Hist. Soc., 3, new series, p. 14, 1903). A specimen from the Neotropical Region was taken on Barbados in 1888 (Bond, Check-list of birds of the West Indies, Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, p. 61, 1956).—P. A. Pearce, *Canadian Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 486, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.* Accepted 10 Mar. 72.

First specimen of Arctic Loon from Texas.[1]—The Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) has been reported from Texas irregularly since the first sighting on Padre Island by B. L. Monroe, Jr. and Francis Weston (Audubon Field Notes, 12: 292, 1958) on 1 April 1958. A second observation for the Middle Gulf Coast was recorded at Rockport on 20–21 June 1960 (A. F. N., 14: 461, 1960). The first record for the Upper Gulf Coast was of two birds at Bayshore on 27 December 1962 (A. F. N., 17: 341, 1963). One was reported for the El Paso region which was noted at Ascarate Lake from 25 November to 5 December 1963 (A. F. N., 18: 62, 376, 1964). On 1 January 1969 the first Arctic Loon for central West Texas was reported at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves County (A. F. N., 23: 505, 1969).

[1] Contribution No. TA 9642 from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Later reports include a bird at El Paso on 1–2 January 1971 (Amer. Birds, 25: 427, 1971), and one loon that remained at the Texas City Dike from early January through early April, 1971 (op. cit. 600). This latter report prompted the recording of unpublished sightings of three Arctic Loons in Galveston Bay of 15 and 18 January and 21 March 1969 and of one individual at the Texas City Dike from late February to 9 March 1969 (loc. cit.).

On 26 December 1970 a suspected Yellow-billed Loon was reported seen on the Balmorhea Lake Christmas Bird Census (Amer. Birds, 25: 419, 1971). The junior author returned to Balmorhea Lake, Reeves County on 3 January 1971 and collected both the suspected loon and the first Texas specimen known to us of the Arctic Loon. The latter specimen is in winter (basic) plumage and cannot be identified subspecifically. Basic data include: weight, ca. 1,870 g; male, left testis 8 × 2 mm; very fat. The bird has been deposited in the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collections, Texas A&M University (TCWC 8571).

The suspected Yellow-billed Loon (TCWC 8570) when compared with material at the National Museum of Natural History was identified as a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), despite the oddly shaped bill (R. C. Banks, pers. comm.).—KEITH A. ARNOLD, *Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, 77843* and JAMES C. HENDERSON, *P. O. Box 5132, Midland, Texas 79701.* Accepted 29 Feb. 72.

Absence of the ambiens muscle in the Common Myna: A correction.—The presence or absence of the ambiens muscle has long been an important character in avian classification. Garrod (pp. 212–214 *in* The collected scientific papers of the late Alfred Henry Garrod (W. A. Forbes, Ed.), London, R. H. Porter, 1881) divided the birds into two groups on this basis. While his classification is no longer used, this character is still important in the technical diagnosis of avian groups because the muscle is usually either present or absent in all members of a family or order. George and Berger (Avian myology, New York, Academic Press, 1966, pp. 418–421) list the occurrence among avian groups.

The myology of many (though by no means all) genera of the order Passeriformes has been described, and the ambiens has always been reported as absent until Berlin (Pavo, 1: 48, 1963) reported it as present in the Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis*. To verify this report I dissected a leg of this species. I found the musculature of the medial surface of the thigh to be typical of passerines and the ambiens muscle absent. The description given by Berlin is brief and it is unclear how the error was made. I think it most likely that he mistook the M. femorotibialis internus for the M. ambiens, as it lies in a similar position along the medial surface of the femur. However, it originates from the femoral shaft rather than from the pectineal process as does the ambiens. Berlin reports that the ambiens "terminates on the knee joint." M. femorotibialis internus inserts on the head of the tibiotarsus at that joint. The usual condition of the tendon of M. ambiens is to pass through the patellar ligament and to form the origin of one or more digital flexors. Occasionally it merely inserts in the knee joint capsule.

Thus on the basis of all forms so far described, the order Passeriformes remains characterized by the total absence of the ambiens muscle.—ROBERT J. RAIKOW, *Department of Biology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213.* Accepted 13 Mar. 72.