

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 This latter report prompted the recording of unpublished sightings of three Arctic Loons in Galveston Bay of 15 and 18 January and 21 March 1969 and of one individual at the Texas City Dike from late February to 9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.