

insectivorous diet and preference for pastures and agricultural habitat, appears to have a greater chance of success, but its southward progress has been slowed, if not halted, in southern Peru. It will be of great zoogeographic interest to learn if this species succeeds in spanning the Atacama Desert or is more successful in occupying Argentina and crossing the Andes to central Chile.

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Variation in the Everglade Kite.—Ridgway (Baird et al. 1874: 208-209) proposed the name *plumbeus* for the Everglade Kites (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) of Florida and the West Indies (= Cuba and the Isle of Pines). Compared with the nominate race of South and Central America, he stated that in *plumbeus* the general coloration is glaucous plumbeous rather than blackish plumbeous, and the wing coverts are paler, inclining towards brownish. This would be the adult male; Ridgway did not realize that the female always retains a mottled plumage. Friedmann (1933; 1950: 130-140) when describing the Antillean population as a separate race, *levis*, and when writing the account of *Rostrhamus sociabilis* in the "Birds of North and Middle America" stated that the species does not vary geographically in color. This he did indirectly by describing the nominate race and then remarking for each of the others: "All plumages similar to corresponding plumages of typical *sociabilis* . . ." I have carefully compared material, especially adult males, from Florida and South America and, like Friedmann, can detect no variation in color associated with area. The glaucous bloom of the male of this kite is very subject to change or loss as a result of feather wear (in life and perhaps in museums) or of the presence of dirt and grease. Presumably Ridgway's limited material varied for such reasons.

Racial size variation does exist. It pertains to the overall size of the birds as reflected in wing length; some independent variation also occurs in the bill size.

Neither is great and I conclude that only three subspecies, rather than four as at present, should be recognized. They are the following:

(1) *Rostrhamus sociabilis sociabilis* (Vieillot) 1817. The type locality is Argentina and the range is suitable habitat in South and Central America, north through Honduras. The smallest of the three races, its bill is medium sized. Friedmann (1950: 130-140) had available six males and three females. As the latter average only slightly larger, I have combined the data for the sexes. Friedmann's measurements are thus for nine specimens: wing 325-350 mm; exposed culmen 24-26.5 mm. With a much larger series I find half a dozen with wing length greater than 350 mm; they range up to 360 mm. Three of these are from Argentina, and I suspect that in this species, as in so many others, size increases in the more temperate parts of the range. This is true towards the north as well. In this connection it is of interest to consider Monroe's (1968: 71) comments on a series he assembled from Honduras.

"Honduran specimens are indistinguishable from Florida specimens of *R. s. plumbeus* Ridgway in size, the only character by which the latter differs from the nominate race *R. s. sociabilis* (Vieillot). Wing measurements of *sociabilis* (♂, < 341; ♀, < 350) are taken from Friedmann (1950: 133). The Honduran birds (11 skins) measure as follows: ♂, 353.0-383.0 (371.2); ♀, 345.0-372.0 (360.0). These individuals are much too long-winged for the nominate race [but see above] and must be referred to *plumbeus*, restricting the range of the nominate race to South America and southern Central America north to Nicaragua. The wing measurements approach the larger Mexican race, *R. s. major* Nelson and Goldman, but the culmen measurements of the Honduran birds (< 29.0) fall below the range of variability of *major* (> 30.0)."

G. H. Lowery, Jr., has kindly measured the culmen in five of these Honduran specimens; the range is 28.1-29.9 mm. Although as Monroe said, this is below the usual range of variation of the culmen of *Rostrhamus sociabilis major*, the Honduran birds are intermediate towards that race in culmen length as well as in wing length. The range of variation in the culmen in *major* as given by Friedmann is 29.5-33 mm.

Rostrhamus sociabilis sociabilis and *R. s. major*, therefore, intergrade in Honduras and to a lesser extent in the Central American countries to the south of Honduras. Hellmayr and Conover (1949: 46) had earlier remarked: "The few specimens that have been recorded from Central America are intermediate in size to the Mexican race." One should not pull these intermediate Central American birds out of context by assigning them to the distant Florida race, *plumbeus*. Their resemblance to that race does point up the slight nature of geographical variation in the Everglade Kite.

(2) *Rostrhamus sociabilis major* Nelson and Goldman 1933; type locality, Catemaco, Veracruz. The range of this race is southeastern Mexico, the Peten lowlands of northern Guatemala, and Belize (formerly British Honduras). This is a large race, the bill especially so. In general size it exceeds the following race only slightly, if at all, but the bill is longer and a bit heavier. Friedmann gives for eight birds: wing 365-382 mm and chord of culmen, as noted above, 29.5-33 mm. Other available measurements fall within these limits.

(3) *Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus* Ridgway 1874; type locality, Florida. I consider *R. s. levis* Friedmann 1933, type locality Cuba, a synonym of *plumbeus*. The range is Florida, Cuba, and the Isle of Pines. This, like *major*, is a large race, but the bill is no longer than in the (smaller) nominate race.

Friedmann separated *levis* from *plumbeus* on the basis of a slightly larger bill. Additional material shows extensive overlap between the two populations. Friedmann's measurements for 14 Florida skins are, wing 340–373 mm, culmen 22–25 mm, and for five from Cuba and the Isle of Pines, wing 350–371 mm, culmen 25–26 mm. Four birds from Cuba and the Isle of Pines in The American Museum of Natural History (all females) measure: wing 351–383 mm, culmen 25–26.5 mm. I find for 14 Florida birds in The American Museum a range of 24–26 mm in culmen length, somewhat higher than Friedmann's figures. Six measure 25 mm, three 25.5 mm, and two 26 mm.

Thus Everglade Kites from Cuba and the Isle of Pines probably average a little larger than Florida birds in all dimensions but at most only a few individuals can be identified on this basis. Taxonomic separation does not seem advisable. But even if *Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus* is no longer considered to be an "endangered subspecies" wholly endemic to the United States, it may, nevertheless, be endangered throughout its range. In any event, every effort should be made to save the threatened Florida population of this remarkably specialized raptor.

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Food storage and winter territory in Red-headed Woodpeckers in northwestern Louisiana.—Kilham (1958a, 1958b) described winter territory and food storing behavior of Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) in Maryland. Aside from Kilham's observations, little is known about these two aspects of this species' behavior in other parts of its range. This note provides additional information on these behaviors.

In late December 1973 and early January 1974, I studied Red-headed Woodpeckers south of Shreveport, Louisiana in a small oak-pine woodland where the understorey had been cleared for grazing, which gave it an open parklike appearance. Four oak species were dominant (*Quercus stellata*, *Q. phellos*, *Q. falcata*, and *Q. shumardii*) but a few pines (*Pinus echinata* and *P. taeda*) and hickory (*Carya* sp.) were scattered among the oaks. The woods was surrounded by grassland on three sides. It extended for about 400 m north-south and was divided by a road. To the