

## GENERAL NOTES

**First photographic record of the Brown Jay in the United States.**—The Brown Jay, *Psilorhinus morio*, breeds from northeastern Mexico (Nuevo León and Tamaulipas) south through Central America to northwestern Panama, and is regarded as a permanent resident throughout its range (Selander 1959, Auk 76: 385). Gary Waggerman and Richard Jones, of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, saw three Brown Jays along the Rio Grande approximately 10 miles west of Roma, Texas on 7 June 1974. Donald Delnicki, Gary Waggerman, and I went there 8 June 1974 to confirm the sighting and to obtain pictures. We saw five Brown Jays with 7 × 35 binoculars at a distance of 30 feet. All identifying characters were seen in good light. Two individuals were presumably adults based on the dark colored bills, and three were immatures based on the yellow bills. Pictures I took of adult and immature birds and submitted to The Auk were confirmed by Eisenmann. This is the first authenticated record for this species in the United States. A prior uncorroborated sighting was made on 15 June 1972 at Falcon Dam, Texas by Wally Sumner (1973, Birding 5: 10).—WAYNE A. SHIFFLETT, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Alamo, Texas 78516. Accepted 9 Jul. 74.

**Two specimen records of the Brown Jay from southern Texas.**—The collection of the Delaware Museum of Natural History contains two specimen records of the Brown Jay (*Psilorhinus morio*) from southern Texas, a skin taken in 1897 and a set of six eggs taken in 1900. The skin (DMNH 7164) came to the attention of Hubbard several years ago in the H. H. Bailey Collection. Niles recently unearthed the egg set while arranging the J. G. Gordon Collection at the museum. Inasmuch as there are three recent sight or photographic records of this jay from the Rio Grande Valley in southern Texas (Webster 1972, Amer. Birds 26: 877; Shifflett, above), we felt the specimens should be recorded and evaluated.

The skin bears an original label of the small price tag type, on which most of the collector's pencilled notes have been inked over—apparently by Harold H. Bailey, who catalogued the specimen as his number 12068. The specimen was apparently sexed as a male, judging from the fact that the female symbol (♀) is lying on its side. The date is written as "Feb. 27-97" (= 27 February 1897) and the locality as "Bville (= Brownsville), Texas." The collector is given as "A. P. Smith," and the "make" of the skin and the handwriting and style of labelling do not differ from other skins Smith collected now at the Delaware Museum. In pencil is the notation "Moras?" or "Moros?", which may have been the collector's attempt at *morio*. The specimen itself is somewhat worn on the tips of the remiges and rectrices, but not unduly so; the absence of more worn (or broken) feathers, the undamaged bill and forehead, and the normal length (versus overgrown) claws suggest that the bird was wild. The pale bill and mottling of pale and dark in the legs and feet suggest immaturity. We have assigned the specimen to *P. m. morio*.

The data for the egg set are written in blue ink on the original slip as follows (punctuation added): "Set mark 24/6, Name Brown Jay ["Mexican" added before this in black ink and scientific name given above it as "*Psilorhinus morio morio*"]; Collected for F. B. Armstrong; Locality, Brownsville, Texas; Date, Apr. 25th, 1900; No. of eggs in set 6; Identity sure; Incubation fresh; Nest, of twigs on small tree in big woods near town, 14 ft. from ground." On the back of the label, also in Armstrong's writing but in a different blue ink, is the statement: "A Mexican Jay