

**Two Interesting Additions to the Known Avifauna of Colorado.**—Although previous field work in the vicinity of the Cimarron River, Baca County, Colorado, had proved that region to be a most interesting one, and had resulted in numerous additions to the known avifauna of the state, the writer did not look forward to obtaining specimens and the nests of two new varieties of birds within the short period of six days, between May 28 and June 3, 1923.

*Colinus v. texanus.* Four specimens taken several miles north of the Oklahoma boundary proved to be identical when compared with birds from Brownsville, Texas, and conformed in every respect with the descriptions of *texanus*. One of these birds was taken as it flushed from a nest containing eight eggs, which establishes a breeding record for this form in Colorado. Of interest in this connection is an example of *texanus* taken at Holly, Prowers County, Colorado, by Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln. This bird appears to be typical in every respect. Other examples taken in the same locality and by the same collector appear to be intermediate between *texanus* and *taylori*. Mr. Lincoln evidently failed to recognize the specimen as *texanus*, since it is identified as *taylori*.

*Milvulus forficatus.* Of a more surprising nature was the taking of three specimens of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. These birds were among a total of seven observed. Not less interesting was the discovery of a nest under construction, and while it was necessary to leave the region prior to eggs being deposited, this evidence, together with the actions of the birds, appears to warrant the recognition of the species as breeding in Colorado.

These records are not without a degree of importance as furnishing further evidence of the extension of the Lower Sonoran Zone into that portion of Colorado.—ROBERT J. NIEDRACH, *Denver, Colorado, June 14, 1923.*

**Notes from Silver City, New Mexico.**—Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). A male was taken in my yard in Silver City on September 25, 1922. It was in company with Western Chipping Sparrows, evidently in migration.

Western Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina montana*). On November 21, 1922, a flock of 12 of these birds was seen on Ninth street. Almost daily until May 9, 1923, these birds were seen in greater or smaller numbers in various parts of town, a flock of at least 100 being seen on February 27, 1923. I took a specimen from a flock of four, 25 miles northwest of Silver City on November 16, 1919, and these are the only records I have in the past ten years.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*). At Warm Springs Ranch, 25 miles southeast, on May 20, 1923, I saw a full-plumaged male of this species. It was in company with Black-headed Grosbeaks. I was within 20 feet of this bird and the white rump and rose breast were conspicuous. I should have taken it but for over-anxiety. I am thoroughly familiar with the species, having collected it in Ohio.

Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*). A beautiful adult female of this species was taken three miles north of town on January 23, 1923.—R. T. KELLOGG, *Silver City, New Mexico, June 9, 1923.*

**Corrections as to the Summer Avifauna of Bird Island, Texas.**—The editor of The Condor has called to my attention several points in a previous paper (Cahn, Notes on the Summer Avifauna of Bird Island, Texas, and Vicinity, Condor, xxiv, September, 1922) which have been criticized in correspondence. Some of these demand correction, and others call for further statements. Several breeding records, based upon what may be considered 'circumstantial evidence'—old nests no longer occupied, and young birds already out of the nest—are considered inadequate to support the breeding hypothesis. In this the writer is willing in some cases to concur, and these records are withdrawn until such time as future investigation may add more stable evidence of the local breeding of these birds.

To those unfamiliar with the region, as well as to future workers in the field in question, a word is perhaps due: It seems very evident that the conditions along the coast of Texas vary considerably from year to year in so far as bird life is concerned.

This statement is emphasized by the fact that hardly any two authorities completely agree as to the species which occur, or as to their relative abundance. Furthermore, the region is so enormous, that the possibility of finding nests of the many breeding species is purely a matter of chance—or persistence. As an example of the variation that may occur from one year to the next, compare the following:

Pearson (Auk, xxxviii, October, 1921, pp 513-523) touched on Bird Island in 1920, a year almost to the day before I visited it. He reports the Royal Tern on Big Bird Island to the extent of about 3456 nests on May 23, containing eggs. This would represent some 6912 birds. In 1921 I found only about 500 individuals on the island, and the first egg was laid on June 2, the day I left the island. Pearson reports about 892 nests of the Cabot Tern, and numerous nests and eggs of Gull-billed and Caspian terns, as well as many young Caspians. I found neither nests, nor eggs, nor young of either species. Pearson reports a colony of 50 adult White Pelicans on Little Bird Island, together with 18 young and 14 eggs on May 23, 1920. On May 30, 1921, I observed a flock of 7 on Big Bird Island, and another flock of 46 on June 1, and there were neither nests nor eggs nor young at that late date. This comparison is offered to show how greatly conditions may vary from year to year, and not in any way to cast doubt on Mr. Pearson's records, which I accept as absolutely sound. I wish merely to point out the danger of criticizing records when such variations occur.

Laughing Gull. The rarity of four eggs to a nest is pointed out, and the fact that I list 20 per cent of the nests of the species as containing this number. This figure is but an estimate on which three of us agreed; it is only an opinion. Not being an oologist, I did not know that four eggs was considered so rare, or I would have photographed such a nest instead of those containing three eggs, which was the typical number. Reed (North American Birds Eggs, p. 35) lists the species as laying three, four, or five eggs.

Common Tern. The suggestion is made that this should be the Forster Tern, and that there is but one authentic record for the species breeding in Texas. Unfortunately, I did not find any Forster Terns, though I know both species. As to the breeding of the Common Tern, Bent (Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns, p. 248) records it as breeding at Matagorda (whether this is the town, island, or peninsula, I am unable to say), less than a hundred miles up the coast to the north, while Pemberton (Condor, xxv, 1922, p. 39) lists it as breeding commonly at Bahia Grande, eight miles west of Point Isabel, some sixty miles to the south of Bird Island.

Mourning Dove. I list this species under the heading of *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*, and it is suggested that this is the Western Mourning Dove. As I am no longer in Texas, it is impossible for me to verify this suggestion, and I have no A. O. U. data on the subspecies in question.

Black Vulture. I list the species as more common than the Turkey Vulture, and it is suggested that most authorities have found the converse to be true. I regret the discrepancy, but it was not true in my case. This may be due, however, to a couple of individuals 'hanging around' the locality, possibly because of a nest in the vicinity, which were therefore seen and recorded time after time.

Marsh Hawk. Data is asked for on the breeding of the species. Two nests were found, one on May 28 and the other on May 30, both on the mainland and nearly opposite Little Bird Island. The former contained three half-feathered young, the latter two rotten eggs.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. When I wrote the sentence, "No breeding evidence at hand, though the species is known to breed near Corpus," I had before me a statement to that effect. That is what caused me to emphasize the fact that I could not substantiate the previous record. As all my Texas literature is now inaccessible to me, I am unable to give the reference at this time.

Phoebe. I list this as a breeding species based on two old nests found on an uninhabited shack on Padre. I admit the bare possibility that these nests might belong to another species, and therefore withdraw the breeding record of the species.

Cowbird. Both the Cowbird and the Dwarf Cowbird occur in the region. but the Dwarf is *more* common than its larger relative, not *less* common as in my paper.

Blue Jay. It is suggested that the species occurring in the region is *florincola*,

the Florida form, instead of the common form, *cristata*. As this may be true, and as I am unable to verify the suggestion, I withdraw the record of *Cyanocitta cristata cristata* and substitute for it *Cyanocitta cristata* subsp.?

Crow. It is suggested that the crow of the region is the Southern Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus*, of Howell, 1913. This may be true, but as it has not as yet been passed on by the A. O. U. Committee, I do not feel at liberty to anticipate the action of the Committee, and therefore follow the lead of Pearson (*op. cit.*, p. 521). It is hard enough to keep up with the changes of modern zoological nomenclature without attempting to jump ahead of it!

Cardinal. This is an error. It should read the Gray-tailed Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis canicaudus*, instead of the common Cardinal, subspecies *cardinalis*.

Painted Bunting. It is suggested that this should be the Texas Painted Bunting, a subspecies, a suggestion that I am unable to verify.

Texas Chickadee. I based the breeding record on the presence of young birds already out of the nest. As there is a bare possibility that these babies *might* not have hatched on the island, I withdraw the breeding record.

In conclusion, let me say that until a mass of careful, up-to-date work is done on the avifauna of Texas, it is almost useless to attempt to compare records. The field is still practically untouched, and the lines of overlapping of eastern and western, northern and southern varieties are still undrawn with any degree of certainty. There is a great piece of work to be done in Texas, and it is to be hoped that local ornithologists (of whom there are several) may, in the not too far distant future, give us some really constructive work on Texas ornithology.—ALVIN R. CAHN, *Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, June 25, 1923.*

Green-tailed Towhee in the Blue Mountains of Washington.—On July 19, 1923, while working south of the Wenatchee Ranger Station (Asotin County), elevation 5500 feet, my attention was called to a bird by a song which did not fit into the usual program of my territory. At first, it was thought to be the song of the Slate-colored Fox Sparrow; yet it had in it the quality of the Western Lark Sparrow. The notes were followed across the upper canyon of Wenatchee Creek, only to have them cease when the desired locality was reached. The following morning the search was renewed and a male Green-tailed Towhee (*Oreospiza chlorura*) was taken. The bird was in full breeding condition, but in somewhat worn plumage.

In all, three singing males of this species were heard in this canyon, which was one of many similar ones tributary to the Grande Ronde River.—WM. T. SHAW, *Pullman, Washington, July 24, 1923.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The phenomenon of albinism among birds is now so very well known that we doubt the value of printing further records of albinos. Indeed we do not invite further contributions to this magazine of such records, *unless* there be accompanying observations of some significance, such as upon the behavior of other birds toward said aberrant individuals, or upon the results of their breeding. We might suggest further that such albinos as are met with had much better be left alive than collected. The intrinsic value of an albino blackbird, for instance, is much greater for potential information alive than when turned into a study-skin. Normally colored birds make far more instructive specimens from nearly every point of view.

The August, 1923, number of the National Geographic Magazine contains a noteworthy contribution from William L. Finley, entitled "Hunting Birds with a Camera". The best 36, we judge, of all the pictures taken by Mr. and Mrs. Finley, either themselves alone or in collaboration with Mr. H. T. Bohlman, are here reproduced in admirable style. The text gives briefly some of the circumstances in the interesting history of these remarkable pictures.

We marvel at the productive activity displayed by the ornithologists of Australia. Book after book comes out, of superior technical merit or else of good popular character. The Emu holds, perhaps, foremost rank among the ornithological