

a considerable amount of new nesting material had been carried to the cavity after the first brood had been raised.—G. WILLETT, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, July 23, 1930.*

**The Asiatic Mynah in Los Angeles, California.**—In the present issue of the *Condor*, Mr. George Willett reports the sighting by Dr. Hildegard Howard Wylde and himself of the Common Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*) in Los Angeles. I was able to call at the locality on the following day in company with Agricultural Commissioner H. J. Ryan, and, by permission of the Police Commission, to secure a specimen of the species, collected by Deputy Neville. This specimen is now no. 56175 of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and proves Mr. Willett's diagnosis to be correct.

Commissioner Ryan has devoted great energy to the matter and states that six individuals have thus far been collected and that all reports of other colonies are being followed up with energy. The appeal to the Agricultural Commissioner was made upon the basis of my own three years' contact with the Mynah as naturalized in Hawaii and of the accounts of Dr. Raymond B. Cowles who has had long experience with the species as introduced into South Africa. In both areas the bird is looked upon as a most undesirable alien.

In Hawaii the following charges are laid against him:

Direct attack upon small fruits.

Dispersal of seeds of fruiting shrubs that rendered useless large areas of grazing lands.

Invasion of forest areas to the detriment of native species (though probably these species were doomed anyway).

Obnoxious habits about cities and home grounds.

Add to these charges the possibility of introducing parasites or disease-producing organisms and the danger seems too great to be justified by the pleasure (?) of a new addition to the list of our bird acquaintances.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California at Los Angeles, September 2, 1930.*

**The Cassin Auklet Breeding off the Coast of Oregon.**—During a trip along the southern Oregon coast, a visit to Island Rock off the Curry County coast near Port Orford was made, to study the sea birds nesting there. This rock is about three miles off-shore and comprises about five acres in area where numbers of California Murre, Cormorants, Western Gull, Tufted Puffin and Beal Petrel, with fewer Forked-tailed Petrels, were found nesting, while the presence of a few pairs of Cassin Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) proved of the utmost interest constituting, as it does, the first positive nesting record of this species off the Oregon coast. One adult breeding bird and two downy young were collected as evidence to substantiate the record.—J. C. BRALY, *Portland, Oregon, July 13, 1930.*

**Observations upon Hummingbirds.**—On January 4, 1929, while staying at Monte Robles, near Ramona, San Diego County, California, I noticed a single female Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) flying within a few feet of the ground. As I watched, she flew down and lit in the middle of the path ahead of me. She then seemed to pick something off of the somewhat sandy ground, which had been moistened by a recent rain. Following this, she stuck out her long tongue. She then flew around for a moment but returned within a foot of the same place on the ground. Here again, she went through almost the same motions. On arising the second time she flew off into a grove of near-by oaks. The ground where she had been was examined but it was found quite clean and covered with fine sand.

On March 16, 1929, while in Balboa Park, San Diego, I watched an Anna Hummingbird which lit on some plaster that had been dumped there. While the bird was sitting there it appeared to pick something off the plaster. After remaining there about half a minute it flew away. On examining the plaster closely I could see minute black mite-like creatures running about on its surface.

On July 26, 1930, I observed a pair of Anna Hummingbirds in copulation. When first observed, the birds were playfully chasing each other about and suddenly swooped down to within about eighteen inches of the ground where the leading bird, which

proved to be the female, stopped and faced about. The male approached and the mating was consummated in the air, the birds breast to breast and with the male somewhat under the female. The male then settled down to the ground for a few moments, fanning out his tail and pointing his beak upward, while the female flew to a nearby perch. After a short rest, the male rose and flew after the female who returned to her former position and mating again took place as before. Both acts occurred at a distance of less than ten feet from where I stood so that the actions and positions of the birds were plainly seen.

Search of the literature available to me has failed to reveal any record of hummingbirds feeding from the ground or of their manner of mating.—LEROY W. ARNOLD, *San Diego, California, August 9, 1930.*

**A Northwestern Race of the Mexican Goshawk.**<sup>1</sup>—Until 1921, the Mexican Goshawk stood as a species within which no geographic variation was recognized. In that year, however, Miller and Griscom (Amer. Mus. Novit. no. 25, December 7, 1921, p. 4) separated the Central American race under the name of *Asturina plagiata micrus* and designated as distinguishing characters the smaller size and single complete tail-bar. In the same paper the authors discussed the peculiarities of specimens from northwestern Mexico. More recently Peters has shown (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 69, no. 12, 1929, p. 46) that typical *plagiata* of southeastern Mexico is not a large race, in fact only by a very slight average is it larger than the Central American form, but he considers *micrus* to be distinguishable by this very slightly smaller size, darker ventral coloration and single complete tail-bar. Turning back now to Miller and Griscom's paper it is found that they have included northwestern Mexican specimens in their averages for *plagiata*, and because of this their measurements for that race are very large.

Recently there have come to hand seven goshawks from Sonora which show beyond question that there are three instead of two races of this widely distributed species. Not only are the tail characters mentioned by Miller and Griscom found to hold good, but the size alone is sufficiently greater than *plagiata* to justify the formal separation of these northwestern birds. A brief synopsis of the characters and ranges of the three races follows. I use Peters' measurements for *plagiata*, since he has measured more adult males than I have and his method of measuring the wing is identical with my own, that is, across the chord from carpal joint to the tips of the longest primaries.

*Asturina plagiata plagiata* Schlegel.

Size small (wings of 6 adult males 241-250 mm.); tail with two complete white bars, with usually traces of a third (in typical *plagiata* the two tail-bars are apparently a very constant feature, as I took pains to verify in 1927); underparts paler, the gray bars narrower and the white interspaces wider. Southeastern Mexico, north into Tamaulipas and (*vide* Peters) south to the Toledo District of British Honduras. I have seen no Texas birds and therefore cannot state positively which form occurs there.

*Asturina plagiata micrus* Miller and Griscom.

Size small (wings of 9 adult males 235-247 mm.); tail with one complete bar and usually only traces (or none) of a second; underparts slightly darker, the gray bars wider as well as slightly darker and the white interspaces narrower. Southern Central America, north on the Pacific coast to include all of Salvador and north into the extreme northwestern corner of Honduras (Tela, Lancetilla and Progreso: *vide* Peters). The recent ascription of *plagiata* to Salvador (Peters, *ibid.*) on the basis of a single specimen is in error. Twenty-two birds, collected in many localities throughout that country, are for the most part typical *micrus*. Four or five are intermediate toward *plagiata* but only slightly so.

*Asturina plagiata maxima*, subs. nov.

*Type*.—Male adult; no. 28,146, collection of Donald R. Dickey; San Javier, Sonora, Mexico; April 9, 1929; collected by J. T. Wright; original no. 2996.

<sup>1</sup> Contribution from the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.