

Extreme measurements of wing length in millimeters

Males	
20 <i>texensis</i> from California and Arizona	179-193
9 <i>texensis</i> from northern Sonora (Rancho La Arizona, El Alamo, Pílares, Hermosillo)	178-196
10 <i>micromeris</i> from southern Sonora (Guaymas, Obregon, Tecoripa, Tesia, Camoa)	174-193
8 <i>micromeris</i> from Lower California	169-185
5 <i>micromeris</i> from El Salvador	173-180
Females	
10 <i>texensis</i> from California and Arizona	175-185
4 <i>texensis</i> from northern Sonora	171-179
7 <i>micromeris</i> from southern Sonora	166-177
4 <i>micromeris</i> from Lower California	167-178
8 <i>micromeris</i> from El Salvador and Costa Rica	171-175

I am indebted to Dr. L. B. Bishop and Mr. George Willett for the loan of certain specimens and to Dr. Pierce Brodkorb for measurements of the Sonora nighthawks at the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, December 2, 1941.*

An Unrecorded Eskimo Curlew from Colorado.—On a recent visit to Denver, Colorado, A. M. Bailey called my attention to the fact that the Eskimo Curlew had never been recorded from Colorado. There is a specimen of this bird in my collection, received some years ago. The original label had been replaced by one from the collection of Charles D. Klotz, Chicago, Illinois, and bears the inscription “#56 *Numenius borealis*, Denver, (Smith's Lake) Colorado, April 29, 1882—female—collected by D. D. Stone.” On the reverse of the label is marked “from the collection of H. K. Coale.” Another label attached to the specimen bears the inscription “from the collection of Ashley Hine, Chicago, Illinois,” with no other data. The specimen is now no. 6903 in my collection.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, September 16, 1941.*

Available Skeletons of the Passenger Pigeon.—Recently there came to our attention a mounted skeleton of a pigeon in the Department of Zoology of the University of California which had been in use for many years in laboratory demonstrations. A worn label pasted to the underside of the stand read “*Ectopistes migratorius*”! In view of the rarity of skeletal material of the Passenger Pigeon, this identification was checked and inquiry was made as to skeletons still extant.

The skeleton at hand originally came from Ward's Natural Science Establishment, Inc., Rochester, New York, and was acquired by the University of California, probably about 1890. The label on the skeleton bears the words “Western U. S.” and a number, “G-9281.” The latter is a number assigned to the Passenger Pigeon in Gray's “Hand-list of Genera and Species of Birds” (Part II, 1870:235); the “G” denotes skeletal material in the stock of Ward's Establishment. Other data on damaged parts of the label, including apparently a price figure and another stock number, are not decipherable. According to communications from Mr. F. H. Ward, this specimen was one of a series obtained in the public markets in the 1880's (certainly prior to 1889), when Passenger Pigeons were cheaper than domestic pigeons. More specific data cannot be given because of the loss of records by fire.

Through the kindness of Dr. Alexander Wetmore, we are able to list from the records of the U. S. National Museum the available complete skeletons of *Ectopistes migratorius*: Two at the U. S. National Museum; one at the Charleston Museum (South Carolina); two at the Peabody Museum, Yale University; and one at the Science Museum, St. Paul Institute, Minnesota. Our skeleton, complete except for certain skull parts, phalanges, and an injured right ulna, is now catalogued (no. 84315) in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California. This list of seven is doubtlessly incomplete. Mr. Ward writes further that at the time Shufeldt's study of the osteology of the Passenger Pigeon appeared (Auk, 31, 1914:358-362), Ward's had eight skeletons in stock. Shufeldt had one from the collections of the U. S. National Museum, the only skeleton known to him at that time.

No other skeletal material of *Ectopistes migratorius* has been at hand for comparison. The identification of our specimen was checked by comparison with specimens of *Zenaidura macroura* and *Columba fasciata*. Howard's study (Condor, 29, 1937:12-14) of remains of the Passenger Pigeon from

Rancho La Brea has been helpful, and the figures given below compare satisfactorily with those she gives.

	<i>Zenaidura macroura</i> (M.V.Z. no. 71585)	<i>Columba fasciata</i> (M.V.Z. no. 54522)	<i>Ectopistes migratorius</i> (M.V.Z. no. 84315)
(1) Length of coracoid	34.1 mm.	37.2 mm.	31.6 mm.
(2) Length of carpometacarpus	23.2	33.1	29.8
(3) Length of tarsometatarsus (greatest)	21.1	28.3	28.3
(4) Breadth of proximal end of tarsometatarsus	5.0	7.1	6.4
(5) Breadth of distal end	5.1	7.7	6.6
(6) Breadth of shaft	2.2	3.6	2.3
Ratio of item 4 to item 3	23.7 per cent	25.1 per cent	22.6 per cent
Ratio of item 5 to item 3	24.2	27.2	23.3
Ratio of item 6 to item 3	10.4	12.7	7.8

—FRANK A. PITELKA and MONROE D. BRYANT, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, January 16, 1942.*

Birds New to Bryce Canyon National Park.—On January 2, 1941, a large Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was observed near the north boundary of Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah. This constitutes the first record of this species from the park insofar as I have been able to determine.

On May 27, 1941, a heavy rainstorm created several ponds near the rim of Bryce Canyon, and it was on one of these ponds near Swamp Canyon that seven Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*) were observed feeding. The following day the pond had decreased in size considerably and the birds were gone. This is the first known occurrence of this species in the park.—RUSSELL K. GRATER, *Zion National Park, Utah, October 25, 1941.*

Purple Martins Using Leaves in Nest-building.—Hilda W. Grinnell reports in the minutes of the meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club for August, 1935 (Condor, 37:291-292) a nest of a Purple Martin (*Progne subis*), found by Alden Miller, which contained many clipped leaves of the California laurel (bay). Mr. Miller was sure that the leaves were taken by the martins, and the question was raised "as to whether the birds had in view the same idea which causes the housewife to put bay leaves into the nests of her sitting hens."

I have never seen any of these leaves, but note that they are described as aromatic. Since reading of this finding, I thought it might be of interest to report my observations of a colony of Purple Martins situated where I reside near McMillan, Luce County, Michigan.

The first bird house was erected here in the spring of 1915, and the Purple Martins were the first birds to examine it, but none nested until 1922, when 7 pairs used the houses erected for them. In the past few nesting seasons the colony has had over 30 pairs. During most of this period of time the houses have been in an area no larger than 60 by 25 feet.

In the course of the first few nesting seasons, the leaves of a pear tree were used by the martins in their nests and leaves of some apple trees were employed to a small extent. These trees are in a small orchard about 200 feet to the west of the colony. Beginning with the year 1928, the balm of Gilead trees have been of the greatest service to the martins in nesting. There are several of these among a group of trees standing on the north side of the colony. In this group are also some evergreens, 3 Juneberry, 2 mountain ash, and 1 each of apple, basswood, bird cherry, and black cherry. Also within 100 feet of the martin houses there are a few maples. To the east, and a little north and also a little south, not over 40 rods from the houses, is cut-over land in which there are beech, birch, elm, poplar, and other broadleaf trees.

I have listed the chief broadleaf trees that are within 80 rods of the martin houses in order that readers may know that the martins have several kinds from which to select material for the nests. The martins are seen at times on the basswood, maples, cherries, and others, and they may tear off parts of some of the large leaves of these trees for their nests. But their main choice, at least since the year 1928, has been the balm of Gilead. Many times I have seen a martin at a great height, feeding in the air, and then have watched it descend, alight on a balm of Gilead and get a leaf to take to the nest as it relieves its mate. Both sexes take part in gathering leaves, and it has appeared to me that leaves are taken from the time that no more other material is needed in nest-building until the eggs hatch.