

in the Navasota River bottoms between April 3 and May 11, in 1940 and 1941; two specimens of the northern Water-thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*) were taken on April 29 and 30, 1941; one specimen of the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) was found dead on the college campus on May 4, 1941. A Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) was collected by Wendell Swank and Petrides on May 13, 1949. Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) are common in spring, definite records on April 28 and 30, 1950, being available. A singing male Swainson Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsoni*) was collected at Peach Creek in the Navasota River thickets on April 22, 1949. Other individuals were seen in the same locality on April 21 and 26, 1950. There is a good chance that they breed there, at least in years of low water. This is probably true also of the Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*), which is common there in spring. Between April 20 and 30, 1950, Kentucky, Orange-crowned (*Vermivora celata*), and Nashville (*V. ruficapilla*) warblers, Louisiana Water-thrushes (*Seiurus motacilla*) and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) were seen there. Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) flocks were observed in Bryan on about April 10, 1950. The Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) is probably a regular spring migrant, arriving in late April and early May.

Vagrant species.—Three Wood Ibises (*Mycteria americana*) were sighted over the Navasota River bottoms on September 3, 1950.—GEORGE A. PETRIDES and W. B. DAVIS, *Department of Wildlife Management, Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station, Texas, December 16, 1950.*

An Unusual Occurrence of the Saw-whet Owl.—On February 3, 1950, we collected an adult female Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*). The bird was found sleeping in the afternoon in an exposed outer branch of a tamarisk tree (*Tamarix gallica*) near the southeast edge of the Salton Sea north of Westmorland, Imperial County, California, at an elevation of 200 feet below sea level. This is the first record for the Imperial Valley. The specimen is now no. 1238 in the Cardiff Collection.—EUGENE E. CARDIFF and BRUCE E. CARDIFF, *Bloomington, California, July 26, 1950.*

An Unusual Concentration of Elegant Terns in Southern California.—On August 27, 1950, Herbert Clarke and I found eight Elegant Terns (*Thalasseus elegans*) at the Playa del Rey Gun Club near Los Angeles, California. Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:127) list these birds as rare and irregular in their distribution in California. Consequently I was surprised to find thirty-two of them when I returned to the Playa del Rey Gun Club on September 6, 1950. Also there were sixteen on the beach near the Ballona Creek breakwater only a quarter of a mile away. One bird was taken and is now in the collection of the Allan Hancock Foundation at the University of Southern California. A feature of this species which is at once noticeable is the comparative slowness and length of the bill as compared to both the Caspian and Royal terns. The bill of the Elegant Tern seems almost one-half again as long as the head whereas the bills of the Caspian and Royal terns (both proportionately about the same length), seem to be three-quarters the length of the head.

The call notes of the Elegant Tern recalled at once those of the Least Tern. They are of the same quality but are not as high in pitch. They may be described as a nasal "karreeek, karreeek." The call is loud but it is unlike the calls of the Caspian and Royal terns. The Royal Tern sounds somewhat like a high-pitched Caspian Tern. The Elegant Tern sounds like a low-pitched Least Tern. The call is repeated often both while on the ground and in the air. It may be given as a single note, a double note, two or more double notes, or as a combination of these.—ARNOLD SMALL, *Department of Zoology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, September 15, 1950.*

The Genus *Cuculus* in North America, a Reconsideration.—At the request of Dr. Alexander Wetmore, in his capacity as Chairman of the A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, Mr. Wilson C. Hanna of Colton, California, has again forwarded to Washington, for re-examination, the specimen of *Cuculus* sp. from Wales, Alaska, recorded by him in 1947 (Condor, 49:42).

It is the writer's view, in which Dr. Wetmore concurs, that Mr. Hanna's bird represents not an immature *Cuculus canorus* subsp., but an adult hepatic-phase female of *Cuculus saturatus* Blyth (formerly *optatus* Gould), and even a well-marked one with respect to the deep red-brown bars of the upper parts, the strong barring of the rump and upper tail coverts, and the broad blackish bars of the under parts. Its wing length (flattened) of 197 mm. clearly places it with the longer-winged northern race, *Cuculus saturatus horsfieldi* Moore (see Junge, *Temminckia*, 2, 1937:202).

This discovery has led us to reexamine the two other North American specimens of *Cuculus*,