field. The color of the legs of the juvenal Stilt Sandpiper is not always diagnostic; in the case of the 1951 bird, the only noticeable difference was that the color was not as bright as the yellow of the yellow-legs. Various authors give greenish or colors intermediate between green and yellow, and, in the birds seen here, a tinge of green was generally apparent except in the 1951 bird; but to state that green legs are diagnostic, as some writers do, is incorrect.

All the Stilt Sandpipers seen on Vancouver Island, except two on August 19, 1937, showed a decided buffy tinge on the breast and flanks, indicative of juveniles. I originally recorded these two 1937 birds as juveniles also, but later concluded that they were adults which still showed some of the summer barring on the breast and flanks. The bird seen on the latest date, September 11, had more gray in the plumage, presumably due to a more advanced stage of molt.

My experiences as to general behavior of the Stilt Sandpiper concur with the descriptions in Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. 142, 1927:126) and Forbush (Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States, vol. 1, 1925:401). Foraging is done primarily by probing like the Dowitcher; and, like that species, the body is often immersed up to the shoulders. The individuals observed here exhibited a tendency to stay in the same place, the 1951 bird and others being observed for over an hour, during which time they did not move from an area of about 30 square yards. They were generally sedate in actions as compared with the fussy yellow-legs. When its shoulders were immersed, the 1951 bird would on occasions kick with its legs in the endeavor to reach the food, just as some surface-feeding ducks do. Although I could not determine positively that both feet were off the bottom at the same time, it certainly appeared so. On the one occasion when they were seen feeding on a sandy foreshore, the Stilt Sandpipers did not wade in like their companions the Dowitchers, but probed into the water-covered sand.

The 1951 bird was the only one that showed resentment at the presence of another bird feeding near it. There would, generally, be one or more Lesser Yellow-legs feeding in the same area. Sometimes the Stilt Sandpiper would take no notice and both birds would feed peaceably close together; but, on other occasions, when the Yellow-legs settled and started to feed, the sandpiper would at once fly toward it, drop into the water one or two feet away, and assume a very defiant attitude with the head drawn back and depressed into the neck, the beak pointing downward and touching the surface of the water and the body slightly submerged. If the Yellow-legs did not fly off, the sandpiper would fly toward it and both birds would rise in the air a few feet in fighting attitude, the legs and feet being stretched out toward the other as though threatening to strike; but I did not see any actual attempt to strike by either bird. The Yellow-legs would then retire. Once, when a Yellow-legs settled some yards away, the Stilt Sandpiper at once attacked it and drove it away. The fight, if it could be so described, would generally take place close in-shore where the water was only inches deep, but on one occasion the birds drifted out; and, when the Stilt Sandpiper dropped down into water too deep for it to wade, it swam inshore, seemingly quite adept in so doing. In one instance the Yellow-legs, on the approach of the Stilt Sandpiper, lowered one of its wings in a defensive attitude but this did not deter the Stilt Sandpiper, and the Yellow-legs then left without further argument.

Whether it was one particular Yellow-legs that caused these reactions in the sandpiper, it was quite impossible to say; but it would often take no notice of a Yellow-legs flying in and the two species would then feed side by side. There must have been three or four of these encounters during the hour of observation. A juvenal Dowitcher feeding in the same area was never attacked.

When in the aggressive attitude the bird kept up a continuous low sizzling, distinctly threatening note with the beak slightly open. This note would be intensified during the attack together with the noisy call very similar to that of the Yellow-legs. Generally speaking, however, the Stilt Sandpiper is a quiet bird. It seldom makes use of the noisy note similar to that of the Lesser Yellow-legs; and, apart from those mentioned, the only notes heard from it have been the following: (1) when feeding, a low *kurk-wik,* or *quick,* sometimes repeated; (2) on taking wing sometimes, a note like the *kip* of the Lesser Yellow-legs, but much subdued; (3) at another time a very soft *purwee* and a low rolling *gurr* were heard.—THEED PEARSE, *Comox, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, September 14, 1951.*

New Records of Birds from Chiapas, Mexico.—With the appearance of part one of the "Distributional Check-List of the Birds of Mexico" by Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore (Pac. Coast

Avif. No. 29, 1950), I have been able to note that a number of species, listed below, apparently have not been recorded from Chiapas or, although known to occur, have not yet been recorded as breeding species. From my field data some of these gaps can be filled. I am indebted to Dr. Frank A. Pitelka for reading the original manuscript and for making suggestions about additions or detailed information.

Fregata magnificens. Magnificent Man-o'-war Bird. Breeds in great numbers on the sea coast; large colonies observed breeding from October to March on several islets of the Mar Muerto, near Arriaga.

Hydranassa tricolor. Tricolored Heron. Observed from September to April and found breeding in September, in 1942, 1944 and 1950, in the salt marshes of the Mar Muerto, Arriaga; observed also in December, January and February on the Chiapas River, near Tuxtla Gutierrez.

Nycticorax nycticorax. Black-crowned Night Heron. Small breeding colonies found from September to November of several years in the marshes of the Mar Muerto, Arriaga; observed also on the rivers near Tuxtla Gutierrez, near which the species apparently breeds as nestlings hardly capable of flight have been found on the Rio Sabinal.

Ixobrychus exilis. Least Bittern. One male collected on September 3, 1949, at El Cocal, Tuxtla Gutierrez; another individual seen on December 22, 1950, near La Chacona, Tuxtla Gutierrez.

Jabiru mycteria. Jabiru. One female collected at Rio de Chiapa, Chiapa de Corzo, February 15, 1947; and a pair seen at Punta Lin, La Gloria, Arriaga, November 25, 1950.

Cairina moschata. Muscovy Duck. Individuals observed at Punta Lin, La Gloria, Arriaga, in November of several years; small flocks seen at Rio Jatate, Ocosingo, in April, 1944, and at Rio de la Venta, Quechula, April, 1945.

Spatula clypeata. Shoveller. Small flocks seen daily during a stay at La Gloria, Arriaga, from November 20 to December 10, 1950.

Oxyura jamaicensis. Ruddy Duck. I identified two females and one male killed by a local hunter, January 13, 1951, at Punta Lin, La Gloria, Arriaga.

Elanoides forficatus. Swallow-tailed Kite. Breeds regularly from April to July in the neighborhood of Villa Allende. It arrives in March and leaves in early September. Also I found it breeding near Pueblo Nuevo Solistahuacan in May, 1951.

Buteo albonotatus. Zone-tailed Hawk. I collected one immature male, September 20, 1947, near Tuxtla Gutierrez, and one adult male, December 5, 1950, at La Gloria, Arriaga. This hawk is seen frequently during autumn and winter near Tuxtla Gutierrez, Cintalapa, Ocozocoautla, and Suchiapa. In November I have seen it many times killing nestlings of the Roseate Spoonbill on islets in the Mar Muerto, La Gloria, Arriaga.

Buteo swainsoni. Swainson Hawk. Very large flocks have circled over Tuxtla Gutierrez and Villa Allende on their southward flight during autumn of some years, as in 1947 and 1949.

Falco columbarius. Pigeon Hawk. One male collected December 4, 1950; several individuals seen daily during a stay at La Gloria, Arriaga, from November 20 to December 10, 1950; again four individuals seen at the same locality, January 13, 1951.

Penelope purpurascens. Crested Guan. Very common, the year around, in the forests of Chiapas, except possibly those of the highlands; seen and collected at El Ocote, Ocozocoautla; El Mercadito, Cintalapa; Rio de la Venta, Quechula; El Jordan, Ocosingo; La Angostura, Villa de Acala.

Columba speciosa. Scaled Pigeon. Found to be more or less common from March to August at El Ocote, Ocozocoautla, for many years; recorded breeding there in May.

Ara militaris. Green Macaw. Small flocks of three or four were seen occasionally at La Gloria, Arriaga, from March 15 to 30, 1943. Again I saw one pair on March 11, 1951, at the same locality.

Chordeiles minor. Nighthawk. I collected two males, April 24, 1949, and one female with a newly hatched chick, July 2, 1949, at Santa Julia, Ocozocoautla. I found another pair breeding on June 25, 1947, at Meseta de Copoya, Tuxtla Gutierrez. Around Tuxtla the species is seen often in spring and summer.

Caprimulgus maculicaudus. Spot-tailed Whip-poor-will. I collected one specimen at Santa Julia, Ocozocoautla, April 24, 1949; it was sent to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Panyptila sanctihieronymi. Swallow-tailed Swift. Common in spring and summer around Tuxtla Gutierrez, where flocks may be observed in the afternoons, mainly after rainy weather, and also in the early mornings. The call of this swift is easily identified; it is very similar to the call of a domestic

chick lost from the hen. In spite of difficulty in securing specimens, I have no doubt in referring these swifts to the above species, and not to *cayennensis*, because of the large size. One female collected from a large flock on August 2, 1944, has the following measurements: wing, 188 mm.; tail, 88; culmen, 7. This Guatemalan species has not been recorded from Mexico previously.—MIGUEL ALVAREZ DEL TORO, *Museo Zoologico, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico, September 25, 1951.*

Additional Records of Cuculus in North America.—The status of the genus *Cuculus* in North America has been reviewed by Deignan (Condor, 53, 1951:154-155) on the basis of three specimens from Wales, St. Paul Island, and St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. After re-examination of these specimens, it was concluded that *Cuculus canorus bakeri* is not represented in the North American fauna and that all three specimens must be referred to *Cuculus saturatus horsfieldi.*

Since this study was made in the interest of the A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, I should like to add two more records for consideration. One of these is a second specimen from St. Lawrence Island, collected by Howard Ataglook near Gambell on July 14 or 15, 1935. This was previously identified (by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser) as *bakeri* and was so recorded in my list of the Birds of St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, Appendix 5, in "Archeological Excavations at Kukulik, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska," by Geist and Rainey, volume 2, Miscellaneous Publications of the University of Alaska, 1936.

On June 29, 1937, Mr. John Steenis, a member of our Fish and Wildlife Service field party investigating the Aleutian Islands, collected a cuckoo at Rat Island. Dr. S. Dillon Ripley kindly examined the specimen and referred it to *Cuculus saturatus horsfieldi,* and it is so recorded in my unpublished manuscript on the fauna of the Aleutian Islands.

Recently I forwarded the second St. Lawrence Island specimen, referred to above, to Mr. Allen J. Duvall, at the United States National Museum, for further examination. Mr. Duvall reports as follows: "Bert Deignan and I have examined the specimen of *Cuculus* transmitted under your letter of August 26. We are of the opinion that it is not *C. canorus* but *C. saturatus horsfieldi.* The bird in question is the same race as the specimen taken by Mr. Steenis in the Aleutian Islands and we, therefore, now have five specimens, all referable to the same species."—OLAUS J. MURIE, *The Wilderness Society, Moose, Wyoming, October 15, 1951.*

Aberrant Heermann Gulls at Pacific Grove, California.—Because of interest in aberrant Heermann Gulls (*Larus heermanni*) which was stimulated by the paper by Hubbs and Bartholomew (Condor, 53, 1951:221-227), we paid particular attention to this species during two hours of observation of water birds at Mussel Point, on Monterey Bay, close to the Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove, California, on October 8, 1951. Counts of Heermann Gulls perched on the rocks within a range of about 100-200 yards from our point of observation yielded up to 213 individuals. In addition to these there was a flow of scattered birds and small groups flying east or west close enough to observe adequately the wing pattern. For part of the time there was a large concentration of this species offshore. At first these gathered at some distance to the east, circling, alighting, resting on, or rising from the water in close formation, apparently feeding on some organism which made a sudden appearance at the surface. This mass of birds gradually moved westward opposite to us, then came in close to the rocks. In general, this behavior of large numbers of Heermann Gulls is not unusual in late summer and early autumn in the Monterey region. In the present instance we could do no more than guess at the number in the group and agreed it might have been 1000 or 1500. Individuals in this dense concentration could have been drawn from among those previously counted on the rocks or from among those which had been flying past us. Any attempt to arrive at a more accurate estimate of the total number of all Heermann Gulls seen would be futile.

Among those flying past, alighting on, or springing up from the rocks, and in the feeding flock over the water there were at least five individuals with white wing patches such as those described by Hubbs and Bartholomew. It might be supposed that because of local wandering, and because no two white-patched birds were seen simultaneously, some of these five were repeat observations of the same individuals. But we found that symmetry and asymmetry in the presence and size of the patches rendered the birds distinguishable. The five distinct patterns were as follows: equal size patches on each wing, patches on each wing but decidedly larger on right, patches on each wing but decidedly larger on left, patch on left wing but none on right, patch on right wing but none on left. Individuals