

Florida Keys. The specimen is no. 11543 in my personal collection.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, March 23, 1953.*

Summer Foods of the Burrowing Owl.—An investigation of the food habits of the Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) in the agricultural region of Mesa Valley, Maricopa County, Arizona, in the summer of 1944 involved the collection and analysis of 405 pellets. The technique for analysis of the pellets followed the procedure described in United States Department of Interior Wildlife Leaflet Number 222 (1942) for food remains of this type. The writer is indebted to Dr. H. H. Knight, of Iowa State College, for his assistance in identification of insect remains.

A total of 48 food items occurred 1,355 times in 405 pellets collected in the months of June, July, and August. The five major food items in order of frequency of occurrence were: scorpions (Scorpionida), 284 (63 per cent); lamellicorn beetles (Scarabidae), 277 (62 per cent); locusts (Locustidae), 250 (55 per cent); ground beetles (Carabidae), 149 (33 per cent); pocket mice and kangaroo rats (Heteromyidae), 101 (22 per cent).

The occurrences of food remains in the pellet samples by months in per cent were as follows: June (245 pellets), Scarabidae, 71, Scorpionida, 70, Locustidae, 60, Carabidae, 44, Heteromyidae, 18; July (104 pellets), Scorpionida, 76, Locustidae, 75, Scarabidae, 71, Carabidae, 34, Heteromyidae, 30; August (56 pellets), Scorpionida, 61, Scarabidae, 54, Heteromyidae, 46, Locustidae, 45, Carabidae, 11.

A comparison of the summer foods by months showed a general similarity in the foods taken. The relative standing of the food types probably reflected the variation in availability. Such food items as scorpions, lamellicorn beetles, and grasshoppers continued to be staple foods throughout the summer.

In an agricultural area such as the Mesa Valley, the beneficial effects of natural insect control, as exercised by the Burrowing Owl, represented an asset rather than a liability to the land owner. As a result it seems logical to assume that the encouragement of the presence of Burrowing Owls, rather than their persecution, should be a part of any wise land use program.—FRED A. GLOVER, *Wildlife Management Department, Humboldt State College, Arcata, California, January 10, 1953.*

Evidence for the Suppression of the American Race of the Pintail.—The American Ornithologists' Union Check-list and many other current reference works continue to divide the Pintail, *Anas acuta*, into two subspecies: *A. a. acuta* Linnaeus of the Old World and *A. a. tzitzihoa* Vieillot of the New World. According to Hellmayr and Conover (Cat. Birds Amer., 1 (2), 1948:357), "the American Pintail is supposed to differ from the European and Asiatic bird by larger size, longer bill and tail, and more greenish speculum." These authors present measurements of 12 adult males from Europe and Asia and of 18 from North America. They concluded that *tzitzihoa* was not separable on the basis of size. They also found the variation in color of the speculum to be unrelated to geographic distribution.

Hørring and Salomonsen (Medd. om Grønland, 131, 1941:8), although having only five American specimens available, were also unable to distinguish *tzitzihoa*. Several other ornithologists have come to the conclusion that *tzitzihoa* is invalid but have not published their findings, and the name continues to appear in much of the current literature.

In his "Key to the Wildfowl of the World" (2nd Ann. Rept. Severn Wildfowl Trust, 1949:pl. 9), Peter Scott considered *tzitzihoa* "very doubtfully distinct." In a later, revised edition (1951) of this key, Scott granted recognition to the American subspecies on the basis of larger size. I have been informed by Mr. Scott that this change was based on inadequate evidence and that he now agrees that *tzitzihoa* cannot be separated from *acuta*.

In order to satisfy my own curiosity as to the taxonomic status of New World Pintails, I measured a somewhat larger series than that available to Hellmayr and Conover. These birds comprised the full-plumaged adult males in the collections of Cornell University, the American Museum of Natural History, and Carnegie Museum, a total of 31 Old World and 23 New World birds. The measurements obtained are shown in the accompanying table. It may readily be seen that although New World birds average slightly greater in tail length, overlap is such that identification of single specimens is impossible. None of the other measurements shows any significant difference. Like Hellmayr and Conover, I was unable to find any consistent difference in the color of the speculum.

Measurements in Millimeters of Adult Males of *Anas acuta*

Wing (flattened)																
257-258	259-260	261-262	263-264	265-266	267-268	269-270	271-272	273-274	275-276	277-278	279-280	281-282	283-284	285-286	287-288	289-290
Old World (mean 269.0)																
	2	4	2	3	4	1	6	4	1	1	1			1		
New World (mean 271.9)																
1		1	1	3		5	2	1	4	2	2					1
Tail																
149-152	153-156	157-160	161-164	165-168	169-172	173-176	177-180	181-184	185-188	189-192	193-196	197-200	201-204	205-208		
Old World (mean 173.9)																
1	1	3	2		4	9	2	2	2	1		1	1			
New World (mean 181.2)																
	1		1		3	2	3	3	2	4			1	1		
Culmen																
47-47.5	48-48.5	49-49.5	50-50.5	51-51.5	52-52.5	53-53.5	54-54.5	55								
Old World (mean 51.7)																
1			2	4	2	4	3	6	1	4				4		
New World (mean 51.7)																
	1		2	2		2	2	1	5	3		2	1	2		

It thus seems apparent that there are no grounds on which to base continued recognition of the subspecies *tzitzihoo*. The binomial, *Anas acuta* Linnaeus, should therefore be used for all holarctic Pintails unless the proposal of Delacour and Mayr (Wilson Bull., 57, 1945:19) that *Anas eatoni* of the Crozet and Kerguelen islands be considered conspecific with *acuta* receives general acceptance.

Although transoceanic movement of Pintails is probably on too small a scale to affect to any appreciable extent the genetic constitution of either of the major continental populations, it is of interest to recall that such movement is definitely known to take place. A Pintail banded as a juvenile in Iceland was killed at Bradore Bay, Quebec, and another, banded in winter at Los Baños, California, was killed in the spring of the same year at Indian Point, Siberia (Cooke, Bird-Banding, 16, 1945: 125). Two Pintails banded at Hamilton Inlet, Labrador, have been recovered in the British Isles (Cooch, Canadian Field-Nat., 66, 1952:111-112).—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 25, 1953.*

Wintering Palm Warbler at Berkeley, California.—On the morning of January 23, 1953, the writer's attention was attracted to a small warbler feeding along leafless branches of a basswood (*Tilia* sp.) on a busy thoroughfare a block from the campus of the University of California at Berkeley. Its conspicuous and constant flitting of the tail plus an oft-repeated *tchep* note indicated that it was a Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*). In precisely the same row of trees on January 26 the bird was again found, and this time it was observed closely for nearly an hour. Ward C. Russell and I watched the bird at a distance sometimes as close as 15 feet as it actively fed in the trees, in a nearby blackberry tangle atop a garage, and in a flower box of a two-story apartment house. It exhibited a decided preference for the basswood row to which it returned intermittently. On several occasions it made rapid flycatcher-like dashes after flying insects, and on this date it was last seen pursuing an insect over a house top.

On February 2, however, presumably the same bird was noted just across the street from the original site of observation. This time it was somewhat less active than previously, probably due to a heavy fog. It was sitting almost motionless in a hawthorn bush with several English Sparrows. Soon it began to move about in search of food and was collected by Russell.

The bird, a female, weighed 9.3 gms. and had only a little fat. It gave every indication of being in excellent physical condition, and it had a stomach full of insect remains. While preparing the skin we noticed a louse fly (Hippoboscidae) leave the skin. This specimen has been identified as the nominate form, *palmarum*, and is now number 127035 in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate