

with dull chestnut except toward the larger end where they are increasingly spotted and blotched with the same.

Catharus aurantiirostris russatus. Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush. A nest and two partly incubated eggs collected on May 13, 1932, apparently are the first of record. The nest was located eight feet above the ground in a small tree. It is a compact structure of moss, much like that of *Myadestes ralloides melanops* described above, but it has a few bits of dried leaves and plant stalks woven into its base and side. The cup is neatly lined with black, hair-like rootlets. The outside dimensions are $5\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ inches. The cup $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. A single egg of the pair was preserved. It is pale greenish-white, thickly and almost uniformly speckled with light reddish brown; it measures 23.4×17.3 mm. The collector's field notes state that the second egg was similar in color and measured 23×18 mm.

Tanagra musica elegantissima. Blue-hooded Euphonia. The eggs of this tanager have been described on several occasions but I find no reference to its nest. An example collected on May 13, 1932, was located fifteen feet above the ground in the crown of a tree and is a masterpiece of camouflage. It is constructed of green moss and surmounts a large shapeless mass of the same material. The nest measures $4 \times 3\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ inches and has a pouch-shaped cup, three inches in depth but only one inch in diameter at the rim. Pale, hair-like rootlets line the cup. The two creamy white eggs are spheroidal in shape and thickly dotted, especially at the larger end, with small sharply defined spots of very dark purplish-brown and dull chestnut. Incubation was begun. Measurements: 17.6×13.8 and 18×14 mm.

Piranga bidentata sanguinolenta. Crimson-collared Tanager. Two nests collected on March 19 and May 10, 1932, are loosely constructed of dry twigs, small roots and tendrils. Fine grass stems line both cups and a few horse hairs are woven into the sides of one. Outside dimensions of these nests are $5 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the cups $3 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. One of the nests was located three feet above the ground in a tangle of bushes and vines; the other was found seven feet above the ground in a coffee tree. The eggs, in clutches of three and two, respectively, were partly incubated. They are pale blue and rather lightly speckled, chiefly toward the larger end, with reddish-brown intermixed with dark lavender. Measurements of one clutch: 23.1×17.8 , 23.4×18 , 22.5×17.2 mm.

Atlapetes gutturalis brunnescens. Yellow-throated Brush-Finch. A nest collected on April 11, 1932, is made entirely of grass and straw-like materials, finest in the lining, and measures $5 \times 4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Its cup is shallow and ill-defined. This nest, unlike others of the species that have been described, was built on the ground. The two immaculate white eggs are slightly glossy and were faintly tinged with blue when found. Measurements: 23.5×16.3 and 23×16.5 mm.

Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis. Rufous-collared Sparrow. A nest and two incubated eggs collected on February 23, 1933, are especially noteworthy in that previous breeding records of the species in Central America have been limited to the period from April to September, inclusive. This nest, found on the ground at the base of a precipice, is a loosely made structure of coarse straw, grass and leaves. The cup is lined with very fine grass stems and skunk hair. Outside dimensions of the nest are $4\frac{1}{2} \times 5 \times 3$ inches, the cup $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The two eggs are bluish-white, generously and almost evenly speckled with lilac and reddish-brown. Measurements: 20×16 and 20.5×16 mm.—EMMET R. BLAKE, *Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, Illinois, March 29, 1956*.

Land Birds at Sea Off Southern California.—A number of occurrences of land birds at sea off southern California were recorded in May of 1951 (Wisner, *Condor*, 54, 1952:62-63). On September 25, 1953, an entirely different group of land birds was observed on board the research vessel E. W. Scripps at latitude $32^{\circ} 34.6'N.$, longitude $117^{\circ} 21.5'W$. The nearest points of land were Point Loma, 8 miles northeast and the Coronados Islands, 8.5 miles to the south. The ship was surrounded by a heavy fog, and visibility aboard was reduced to about one-half mile. The foggy condition had prevailed for several days prior to these observations. The sea was calm and the air temperature about $72^{\circ}F$. The ship was at anchor during the night at this location prior to the following recordings.

The observations were made between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. The first bird, a Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris*, probably *plesius*; specimen damaged in capture) was found feeding on a moth that had become lodged in some electrical cable on deck. The wren's actions indicated that it had already become adapted to shipboard life, as it flitted about with complete composure. At the same time a Brewer Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) and a Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) were observed to be aboard. The sparrow seemed to be shy and retired to a secluded spot when disturbed.

The tanager flitted into the air from time to time to capture insects. Its condition, however, was apparently weakened by the sojourn at sea, since it was easily captured by hand. The wren and the sparrow were less easily taken. While the writer was in pursuit of them, a Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus swainsonii*) and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula cineraceus*) appeared. Fortunately, the vireo soon flew by at close range and was captured by hand while in flight. The kinglet was taken in a similar manner.

On top of the deck house, a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) had alighted. When frightened, it circled the ship repeatedly but returned unnoticed. The dove lacked its upper tail coverts and was easily recognized as the same bird when rediscovered. It did not return from a second flight.

The specimens of the tanager, vireo, kinglet, and wren are deposited at the San Diego Natural History Museum, where the identifications were verified by Mr. Laurence M. Huey.—ANDREAS B. RECHNITZER, *Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, April 10, 1956.*

Footprint of a Bird from the Miocene of Louisiana.—Through Dr. Julia Gardner of the United States Geological Survey there came to me for study a slab of sandstone of Miocene age from near Bentley, Grant Parish, Louisiana, that shows two fossil footprints in bold relief on the surface of the rock. The specimen, which is the property of the finder, Mr. B. N. Eubanks of Dry Prong, Louisiana, was forwarded by him for identification to the Louisiana Geological Survey at Baton Rouge and was sent to Washington for study by Dr. Grover E. Murray, Chairman of the Department of Geology at Louisiana State University. According to information received from Dr. Murray, the tracks come from the Catahoula Formation, which is attributed to the Lower Miocene.

While the two casts are generally similar (see fig. 1) they differ slightly in size. Apparently, they come from two sets of tracks that trend in the same general direction but tend to cross, as the impressions are at a slight angle with one another. Seemingly, the lower footprint is from a left foot and the upper one from the right side, as indicated by the relative lengths of the two lateral toes. The upper track is more heavily formed and is slightly larger. The impressions show three anterior toes clearly, while in the upper one at the rear on the left there is a faint, rounded depression that may be an indication of a hind toe. Separate phalanges are not indicated except for the narrowed points on certain of the toe-prints that represent short claws. Rather broad fusion at the bases of the toes in both tracks indicates the presence of small webs. Since only the two units in two apparently separate trackways are present, there is no indication of the length of the stride. The approximate length of the longest track, including a very faint indication of claw on the distal end of the middle toe, is 97 mm. The dimension across the spread of the lateral toes is 79 mm. The smaller track measures 86 mm. in length and 71 mm. in breadth.

The preservation of tracks in fossil form is intriguing to the mind and attractive to the eye, as well as an interesting puzzle, particularly to persons of hunter training who in their outdoor excursions examine the ground for footprints and other sign as they pass along. In the present instance there seems to be no reasonable doubt that the animal concerned was a bird and not a reptile. The casts are distinctly avian in appearance, and the Miocene locality makes their identification as avian reasonable.

The species apparently was one of considerable weight to judge from the evident depth of the impression made by the foot, and one with strong and heavy, but relatively short, toes armed with rather small claws. After some consideration of foot-form in such large living birds as tinamous, screamers, vultures, fowls, cranes, caryamas and thick-knees, and of various fossil species where the foot is known, it is thought that the proportions of the toes relative to one another, the amount of apparent basal webbing, the heavy form, and the spread of the track suggest a condor-like species. The spread angle of the toes in relation to one another especially agrees with this group. The toes appear heavier and those at either side shorter in relation to the central one than in the cranes, another group that offers some resemblance, and the toes spread too widely for the fowl-like species. The size is that of a medium-sized vulture and the general resemblance of the impressions to the foot of such a bird is striking. Turkey Vulture and Black Vulture tracks usually show an impression of a hind toe, which is less evident in the larger kinds, as is well shown by Olaus Murie in his *Field Guide to Animal Tracks* (1955:329, fig. 175a) in an impression of the track of the California Condor. The fossil imprint is somewhat smaller than the foot of the King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*).

While footprint specimens have had scientific names given to them, particularly where found in