FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Reddish Egret and Bronzed Cowbird in California.—An immature Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*) was obtained at the mouth of Chemehuevi Wash, along the shore of Havasu Lake, San Bernardino County, California, on September 9, 1954. It had been seen at the same place five days earlier. Although there are a few reliable sight records for California, this is the first specimen. It is now in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (No. 135902).

An adult female Bronzed Cowbird (*Tangavius aeneus*) was taken at the McDougal-Wariner Ranch, adjacent to the small settlement of Bard, Imperial County, California, May 12, 1955, with the assistance of Bruce K. Harris. It is the first specimen from the state, and it is also in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (No. 135903). Earlier, on April 30, 1955, two males were seen at the same place by Burt L. Monroe, Jr., and the writer. I have previously reported seeing this species in the state (Condor, 56, 1954:229).—GALE MONSON, *Yuma, Arizona, November 22, 1957.*

Blue Goose Observed at the Salton Sea, Imperial County, California.—On December 14, 1957, Edward J. O'Neill, of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and I were observing a large flock of Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea*) on a large fresh water pond near the southern end of the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Imperial County, California. While we were watching the geese a single engine civilian aircraft flew over the area at a moderate elevation. As the airplane approached, the geese rose en masse, wheeled about the area, and returned to the pond.

When the flock landed, Mr. O'Neill noted a darker goose on a bank about 200 yards from us. Using a 20× spotting scope we identified this bird as a Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). This goose was observed for the better part of an hour. At first it was at the edge of the group of Snow Geese on the bank, but after a half hour it joined the Snow Geese and was finally lost in the middle of the flock.

According to Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:72), the Blue Goose "is a rare winter visitor to the San Joaquin-Sacramento Valley. Two occurrences have been definitely recorded." One of these was near Stockton on about February 1, 1892, and another specimen was taken in the vicinity of Gridley, Butte County, on December 15, 1910. A check through subsequent literature available to me shows no further records of this species for California.—JAMES R. SAMS, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, California, December 19, 1957.*

The Subspecific Identity of the Oystercatcher in Uruguay.—Hellmayr and Conover (Cat. Birds Amer., pt. 1, no. 3, 1948:21) designate Santa Catharina, Brazil, as the southern limit of the distribution of *Haematopus ostralegus palliatus*. The same authors (*op. cit.*: 24) affirm the existence of the subspecies *durnfordi* on the Uruguayan coast, ranging southward to southern Argentina (Deseado). G. W. Teague (Com. Zool. Mus. Hist. Nat. de Montevideo, 4, no. 72, 1955:4–5) lists sight records of the species obtained in Cabo de Santa María, on the beaches of La Paloma, Isla de la Tuna, and Isla Grande in the Department of Rocha, Uruguay. He considers the specimens seen to belong to the race *durnfordi*. However, Murphy (Oceanic Birds of South America, 2, 1936:976), noting the sight records published by Wetmore and Burmeister, says "this information gives no clue . . . as to the boundary between the ranges of the two Atlantic subspecies of South America, namely *palliatus* and *durnfordi*." Later on (*op. cit.*: 977), he adds: "In the absence of specimens, it is impossible to fix the identity of Oyster-catchers recorded from southern Brazil and Uruguay."

For a better understanding of the Oystercatchers found in Uruguay, I would like to present the results of a study of some specimens collected by me in the Department of Maldonado. On March 1, 1954, I obtained two Oystercatchers; one was collected in the peninsula of Punta del Este and the other 10 kilometers west in Punta del Chileno, near Laguna del Diario. The specimens taken were from small groups of six or eight. I observed these groups in the summers of 1953 and 1954. Apparently, these birds constituted a homogeneous population that was found from Barra del Arroyo Maldonado to Punta Ballena, including the beaches and rocks of Punta del Este and the islands of Gorriti and Lobos, along 20 kilometers of the Atlantic coast.

In the absence of comparative material I tentatively identified the specimens collected as *palliatus*. One was sent to Emmet R. Blake of the Chicago Natural History Museum. He reported that it should

be considered as *palliatus,* although it was not wholly typical of that form because of the slight intensification of its dorsal pigmentation.

On July 12, 1957, I saw twenty-six individuals along the coast of the peninsula of Punta del Este. The temperature at that time was below zero and was extremely low for that locality. I collected three specimens which I added to my private collection. One, an adult male, was sent as a gift to the Chicago Natural History Museum. Mr. Blake verified that this bird was also *palliatus,* as were the others.

Therefore, Uruguay may be included in the range of *H. o. palliatus,* and we may now consider this race as a permanent resident in this country. To what extent this subspecies intermingles with *durnfordi* may be demonstrated by future research.

I am grateful to the Chicago Natural History Museum and especially to Emmet R. Blake for the valuable assistance given me.—Rodolfo Escalante, *Montevideo, Uruguay, November 11, 1957.*

Snowy Plover Nesting on Lower Klamath Refuge, Siskiyou County, California.—On June 21, 1957, an adult Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), accompanied by one downy young, was seen on the 12-12A Dike near the south end of the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. This evidence of nesting is of interest in view of the fact that the Snowy Plover has in the past been seen locally so rarely that its status has been considered that of an accidental visitor. Jewett included this species in a general bird list for the Klamath Basin Refuges (Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Leaflet 238). The only other record of the species from our files is an observation of one bird on June 11, 1954, on Tule Lake Refuge. Since the Tule Lake and Lower Klamath refuges are only three miles apart and are separated by a low ridge, the difference in locality is not considered significant from the standpoint of distribution.

Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:137) give the northernmost breeding record in California as near Eureka, Humboldt County. This is a coastal location. The same authors cite Dawson (Birds of California, 3, 1924:1314 ff) for the northernmost interior record, Goose Lake, Modoc County. Goose Lake is only 60 airline miles to the east of Lower Klamath. However, the record there is one of occurrence only; it is not a breeding record.

In the spring of 1957, units 12 and 12A of the Lower Klamath Refuge offered excellent shorebird habitat. These units had been drained late in the previous year, but neither could be drained completely. Each retained hundreds of acres of shallow pools interspersed with islands of higher ground. As evaporation and ground loss removed this residual water, broad expanses of mud flat were exposed. Large flocks of migrating dowitchers, Least and Western sandpipers, and Dunlin, as well as smaller numbers of Black-bellied Plovers were attracted to the area. In addition, a considerable population of resident shorebirds, including Killdeer, American Avocets, and Black-necked Stilts, became established and nested successfully prior to complete disappearance of the water.—LeRoy W. Giles and Ben H. Crabb, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Tulelake, California, November 12, 1957.*

Columba vitiensis anthracina (Hachisuka), a Reconsideration.—In the course of a study of the birds of Mindoro, we have had occasion to examine two specimens of the Metallic Wood Pigeon (*Columba vitiensis*) from small islands off Palawan Island in the Philippines. The specimens are in the collection of S. Dillon Ripley.

One of them represents the type of *Janthoenas vitiensis anthracinus* Hachisuka, described in 1939 (Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, 59:152) from Lumbucan Island, a subspecies not previously recognized in the literature on the birds of the Philippine Islands. A female from Comiran Island agrees with the type in differing considerably from the Philippine population, *C. v. griseogularis.* These specimens are darker below with the chin, cheeks, ear coverts, and upper throat dark, smoky gray, rather than whitish gray. The rest of the under parts are somewhat darker, and the forehead also is somewhat darker than in *griseogularis.* Other characters mentioned by Hachisuka, such as the lack of the purple tinge of *griseogularis* and the smaller size, do not seem to apply. These two specimens measure: wing, ♂ 236 mm., ♀ 230.5 mm. However, the difference in the throat is striking, and the birds bear a suggestive resemblance to the species *janthina* as pointed out by Hachisuka (*loc. cit.*: 153). This may indicate a relationship between the tropical *vitiensis* and the temperate *janthina* of the small islands of Japan, two species now combined by some modern authors.