

Laysan Albatross (fig. 1), is now sharing a pool with penguins at Marineland of the Pacific, Marineland, California. Aside from the fact that the Laysan Albatross has rarely been recorded from the California coast, it is of interest to find a pelagic species within the relatively shallow shelf waters of the Santa Catalina Island channel.—KENNETH E. STAGER, *Los Angeles County Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California, February 10, 1958.*

Mourning Dove Breeding in Costa Rica.—Under the name *Zenaidura macroura turturilla*, Wetmore has recently described the southernmost population of the Mourning Dove, which breeds in the western half of Panamá (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 69, 1956:123–126). He mentions that Mourning Doves have been reported from Costa Rica throughout the year, but “no evidence of nesting has come to attention.” In preparing my distributional list of Middle American species (Trans. Linnaean Soc. N. Y., 7, 1955:36), I found no record of breeding between Honduras and Panamá. Recently in checking the collection of the American Museum of Natural History to determine what examples belonged to Wetmore’s new subspecies, examination of labels on several Costa Rican birds taken by A. P. Smith indicated breeding in that country. Of two adult males from Agua Caliente, altitude 4500 feet, June 2, 1920, one is marked “testes greatly enlarged . . . This bird was shot while sitting on a nest containing 2 eggs $\frac{1}{2}$ incubated.” The other is tagged “paired: ♀ escaping.” Two birds from Volcán de Irazú, south slope, altitude 9000 feet, May 9, 1920, consist of an adult male labelled “testes enlarged . . . ♂ displaying before ♀ when shot,” and a female (with plumage indications of immaturity) marked “ovaries partly enlarged.”

These Costa Rican birds can be assigned to the same race as the breeding population of Panamá. Wetmore describes *turturilla* as resembling *marginella* of western North America, but smaller, especially in wing measurements, and as paler than the large eastern *carolinensis* and the small Cuban *macroura*. The Costa Rican breeding birds agree in color with Wetmore’s description, although the adult male from the Volcán de Irazú (labelled as displaying) has a richer ventral surface than the others, approaching that of some Cuban *macroura*. In Wetmore’s small Panamá series, wing measurements were: six males, 135.2–139.9 mm.; two females, 124.7–129.7 mm. The respective measurements of the four Costa Rican specimens mentioned above for flattened wing were: males, 137.5, 139, 137.5; female, 139 mm. An additional immature male from Agua Caliente, taken June 3, 1920, has a slightly longer wing than the others, 141 mm. Wetmore informs me (*in litt.*) that his measurements were of the wing chord, thus the dimensions of the males from Costa Rica and Panamá correspond very well. The larger size of the Costa Rican female from Irazú may only signify that the range of variation is wider than indicated by Wetmore’s two females, or that the cline toward increasing size northward is already apparent in the Costa Rican population. It is even possible that this immature female, taken on May 9, might be a wintering bird of more northern origin. This may be true of another female taken on December 4, 1895, by C. F. Underwood, at Miravalles, Costa Rica. The latter has a wing length (143.5 flat, 142 chord) well within the range given by Ridgway for females of the two migratory northern races and exceeding his average for females of *carolinensis* (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull., 50, 1916, pt. 7:345, 348). A slightly more deeply colored winter female (January 14, 1890) from Natá, Coclé, Panamá, may also be a northern bird, for the wing is relatively long (140 flat, 138 chord), considering that the longest primary is not quite full grown and the outermost is still in sheath. As both *carolinensis* and *marginella* are reported to winter south to western Panamá (A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds, 5th ed., 1957:262) and as there is considerable individual variation in these forms, I hesitate to attach subspecific names to these winter specimens.—E. EISENMANN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y., March 5, 1958.*

Blue Jay Sitting on Robin Nest in December.—A curious winter incident involving prolonged sitting by a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) on the nest of a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) is worthy of record.

On December 8, 1955, at 1:20 p.m., I noticed the jay in an old nest of a Robin which was 20 feet up on a horizontal limb of a white birch on the campus of Indiana University at Bloomington, Indiana. The day was cloudy with a very light northwest wind; the temperature at the time was 38°F., the mean temperature on that date was 32.5°. I watched the nest, which was opposite a window of my office and directly over a heavily traveled walk, for the next two and one-quarter hours. During this period,

the jay sat steadily and engaged in behavior typical of that of incubating passerines. Thus, on five occasions for intervals of from five to ten seconds, it rose slightly to probe into the cavity of the nest with its bill; once it seemed to be using its feet as though to adjust eggs. After each probing the jay settled down with precisely the slight lateral shaking and shifting characteristic of a bird placing its incubation patch against eggs. Twice when it settled it changed the direction in which it faced. There were three interludes of restlessness and of turning the head to survey the surroundings; these ranged in length from five seconds to one minute.

At 3:50, returning after 15 minutes' absence from the office, I could detect no change in the bird's position. Frequent observations during the next hour, until dusk, revealed the jay on the nest, sitting as before. At 10 p.m. it was still present.

On the following day, December 9 (cloudy; mean temperature 26°F.) I left the city, having first determined that the Blue Jay was off the nest. A great number of notes and times supplied by my colleagues disclose that it remained away until just before 1 p.m. and that it then sat, probably continuously, until dusk at about 4:30. It was not there at 10:30 that night, nor did I ever see it again.

The location of the nest tree in a busy area precluded any attempt to collect the bird, and it prevented my removing the nest until the students left the campus for vacation some ten days after the foregoing episodes. At that time there were no eggs, the presence of which I had thought barely possible; there were traces of fresh droppings in the cavity.

While I have not infrequently seen Blue Jays sitting motionlessly from early or mid-afternoon onward at winter roosting sites in evergreens, the exposed and busy location in this case as well as the occurrence of acts associated with incubation clearly differentiate the described behavior from mere roosting. I would suggest that what was seen was fundamentally roosting, into which elements of incubation behavior were introduced as the result of the visual and tactile stimuli of the nest. Perhaps collection and examination of the bird might have given some answer to the question as to why the nest had such stimulus value.—VAL NOLAN, JR., *Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, March 22, 1958.*

Additional Notes on the Purple Martin in Utah.—In a publication dealing with new and unusual records of Utah birds, Behle (*Wilson Bulletin*, 64, 1952:28) refers to the scarcity of information relative to the occurrence of the Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*) in Utah. It seems pertinent, therefore, to refer again to some published notes on the subject, not mentioned by Behle, and to place on record some additional information from field observation over the past several years.

My own published records include the following: *Wilson Bulletin*, 47, 1935:162; *Great Basin Naturalist*, 2, 1941:3-4, mentioning nesting records for June 21 and July 3, 1937; and *Great Basin Naturalist*, 6, 1945:71-72. Bee and Hutchings (*Great Basin Nat.*, 3, 1942:76) also published a nesting record for June 25.

The writer first observed Purple Martins on Mt. Timpanogos, Utah County, June 22, 1931, when a male and female were collected at a place known as Mule Flat about two miles north of Aspen Grove Camp. These specimens are now in the Brigham Young University Collection. Following that time two or three pairs of martins were consistently seen, and later found nesting, in that same area at least up until the beginning of World War II. This is an area of aspen forests with open clearings and abundant water. The birds were frequently seen feeding over a small pond nearby.

During the war or shortly afterward a cabin, occupied in summer by sheep herders, was built in the nesting area. Many of the larger aspens suitable for nests of the Purple Martin have been cut for firewood, and the writer has observed no martins in the area since.

A pair of martins was also observed consistently from 1936 to 1941 in an area about three miles north of the above mentioned site at Big Tree Camp, Mt. Timpanogos. They apparently nested in the dead top of a large white fir, but a positive record of their nesting was not established. A single female was noted May 22, 1957, at Utah Lake west of Provo, Utah County, perched on a telephone wire with a flock of several species of swallows. Between June 5 and 7, 1957, a pair of Purple Martins was seen each morning feeding over a small reservoir about five miles west of Colton, Utah County. There were aspen groves in the area with large trees suitable for nesting sites but no nests were located. Several birds were also seen feeding over meadows adjacent to Beaver Creek about eight miles east of Kamas, Summit County, May 30, 1936.—C. LYNN HAYWARD, *Department of Zoology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, February 27, 1958.*