

May 20, 30 nests; and May 23, 31 nests. On May 20 two of the nests held two eggs each. The first young were noted on May 27 and on June 3 there were seven young which were banded.

On May 12 among the Elegant Terns and the associated Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*) a Royal Tern was found. It was seen to settle on an egg between two nests of the Caspian Tern that were only 18 inches apart. Immediately the two Caspian Terns began to peck at the Royal Tern from their nests. We could plainly see the speckled crown of the Royal Tern against the black crowns of the Caspians. We sat and watched them for 20 minutes, by which time they all had quieted.

On May 16 the Royal Tern was not seen, and on the 20th the egg was found to be cold and apparently abandoned. It was collected, as well as two sets of Elegant Tern eggs. One adult male Elegant Tern was also collected (no. 30155 San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.).

On June 6 all eggs and two banded young Elegant Terns had been destroyed by boys and thrown into a clump of salicornia. We hope the other five young Elegant Terns escaped the vandalism.—FRED GALLUP and BERNARD H. BAILEY, *Escondido, California, June 8, 1959.*

Occurrence and Breeding of the Golden-cheeked Warbler in Dallas County, Texas.—Since the spring of 1957 a number of reliable local observers have reported the occurrence of the Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) in the cedar brakes near the town of Cedar Hill in southwestern Dallas County, Texas. An adult male (Dallas Mus. Nat. Hist. no. 5154) was collected on May 12, 1958. This specimen extends the known range of this warbler about 70 miles to the north and east of the range as defined in the A.O.U. Check-list (1957).

A concerted effort was made from 1957 to 1959 to discover nests or other evidence of breeding of this warbler in the Cedar Hill area. No nests have, as yet, been found, but on May 11, 1959, two separate pairs of adults, each accompanied by four fledgling young not more than a few days out of the nests, were discovered. One of these fledglings (no. 5167) was collected, establishing the breeding of the Golden-cheeked Warbler in the Cedar Hill area.

The Cedar Hill district is a relatively isolated area of habitat surrounded by the blackland prairies, but it agrees in general characteristics with the breeding habitat of this warbler in the Edwards Plateau region (Bent, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 203:316–321).

In May of 1959 investigations were begun to determine the occurrence and possible breeding of the Golden-cheeked Warbler in other areas of suitable habitat in north-central Texas. On May 22, 1959, an adult female (no. 5171) was collected in southwestern Johnson County, Texas. This location is approximately 42 miles southwest of the Cedar Hill area.

These records suggest that where habitat conditions are suitable, the Golden-cheeked Warbler may be expected in other areas of north-central Texas.—HAL P. KIRBY, O. M. BUCHANAN, JR., and F. W. MILLER, *Dallas Museum of Natural History, Dallas, Texas, September 16, 1959.*

The Honeycreeper *Dacnis albiventris* in Brazil.—In the course of field work on the upper Rio Cururú, an eastern tributary of the Rio Tapajós, in Pará, Brazil, our party took two specimens of the honeycreeper *Dacnis albiventris*. According to Hellmayr (Cat. Birds Am., pt. 8, 1935:283) the range of this species is chiefly in eastern Colombia. It also occurs in eastern Ecuador and northeastern Perú and in the Amazon territory of Venezuela (Phelps and Phelps, *Lista Aves Venezuela*, 2, 1950: 273). Pinto (Cat. Aves Brasil, 2, 1944) does not list the species for Brazil and no reports of its occurrence have been received subsequent to the appearance of his check-list (Pinto, *in litt.*, 1959). The Cururú area is some 700 miles from Colombia and Venezuela and thus the range of this upper Amazon type of bird is extended far to the eastward. Other species belonging to the upper Amazon fauna were also taken in the Cururú area such as the hummingbird *Polyplancta aurescens* and the trogon *Pharomachrus pavoninus*.

The two specimens of *Dacnis albiventris* were taken on the same day, August 9, 1957. One is an adult male, the other an immature male. In the latter the dark blue and black feathers of the mature plumage were only beginning to appear. Their weights were 11.0 and 11.5 grams, respectively, the skulls were fully ossified, and the testes were not active. Both birds were part of a flock of small birds which was active in the top of the trees of the forest, the "mata geral," about thirty feet from the ground. Another species of honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes caeruleus*, was part of the flock. Also in the group was the furnariid *Microxenops milleri*, a rare bird in Brazil, and usually found in the upper Amazon and on the north side of the river.

Alexander Wetmore kindly made the identification of the specimens at the United States National Museum. I follow Zimmer (Am. Mus. Novitat. No. 1193, 1942:2) in using the name *Dacnis* rather than *Hemidacnis*.—HELMUT SICK, *Fundação Brasil Central, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 5, 1959.*

Roadrunner a Predator of Bats.—On two occasions in the summer of 1959, the author observed a Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) killing and eating Mexican free-tailed bats at Davis Cave, Blanco County, Texas. On June 15 a bird picked up two bats from a group of baby bats that had been placed on the ground about fifteen meters from the cave entrance. These animals had been removed from the cave floor where they had fallen. After the second bat was consumed, the bird was accidentally frightened away. On July 28, a Roadrunner was surprised at 6:00 a.m. about five meters from the cave entrance with a bat held in its beak.

It was not necessary for the Roadrunner to have entered the cave to have obtained the bat. On many occasions, particularly when the young bats are beginning to fly in July and August, they crawl and hang to rocks outside the entrance to the cave. Many of these animals after falling near the mouth of the cave or colliding with a wall, ceiling, or another bat at flight time, are able to take off again, but some remain for some time outside the cave and are thus easy victims for various predators.—CLYDE F. HERREID II, *Laboratory of Comparative Behavior, School of Hygiene and Public Health, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, August 25, 1959.*

Black-and-white Warbler and Purple Finch in New Mexico.—On December 30, 1957, I collected a Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) along the Gila River near the town of Cliff, Grant County, New Mexico. The bird proved to be a male, with an incompletely ossified skull. It had only a slight amount of fat and weighed 9.8 grams. During the fifteen minutes or so that it was under observation it fed on and near the ground under some large cottonwoods, foraging apart from several Audubon Warblers (*Dendroica auduboni*) and Bridled Titmice (*Parus wollweberi*) which fed in the same trees.

On January 2, 1958, I discovered a highly plumaged male Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) feeding on the seeds of mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) with a number of Cassin Finches (*Carpodacus cassinii*) five miles northwest of Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico, elevation 7000 feet. It weighed 22.8 grams and had little fat. The specimen has been deposited in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology where I have identified it as the western race, *C. p. californicus*. The warbler specimen is in my collection at New Mexico Western College. I have found no previous New Mexican record for either of these species.—DALE A. ZIMMERMAN, *Department of Biology, New Mexico Western College, Silver City, New Mexico, September 20, 1959.*

King Eider at Monterey, California.—On February 3, 1958, we saw a King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) in the harbor of Monterey, Monterey County, California. It was first seen swimming among the moored boats near the United States Coast Guard Pier. Later we saw it perched on a mooring raft in the same area, about 150 yards from shore, where we were able to observe it with the aid of a 20×60 telescope for about an hour. It was in the brown plumage of a female or of a first-winter male. The head-and-bill profile, together with the diagnostic patterns of feathering and processes of the bill, could be clearly seen.

The bird was subsequently watched on a number of days, sometimes for prolonged periods, often at close range. It was always between the Coast Guard Pier and Municipal Wharf No. 2, an area not more than about a quarter of a mile square. Much of its time was spent sleeping and preening while perched on the raft. Its presence was not noted after March 16, 1958.

On several occasions the King Eider was seen swimming and diving close to the sides of some of the boats at anchorage. Once, on February 3, it "tipped up," in the manner of a dabbling duck, along side a boat, apparently feeding on green algae, or some other organism adhering to the hull. Harry C. Adamson writes that he watched the King Eider on March 1 as it swam and dove at a distance which was sometimes not more than 10 yards away. Each time it returned to the surface it held in its bill a pale flesh-colored starfish, estimated to be about four or five inches across. The bird "seemed to 'chew' the starfish into smaller pieces" which were then quickly swallowed. "Some of these pieces were dropped in the process of 'chewing' and quickly picked up before they could sink."

Echinoderms are listed among the animal items eaten by this species (Kortright, *The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*, 1943:320). Bent (*Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl*,