

**Distribution of the Bronzed Cowbird in Texas.**—Authorities on the distribution of birds in Texas (Wolfe, Checklist of the Birds of Texas, 1956:72; Peterson, A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas, 1960:235) give the northern limit of the range of the Bronzed Cowbird (*Tangavius aeneus*) as San Antonio, Bexar County, where it was formerly a rare summer resident (Attwater, Auk, 9, 1892:237). In the past few years, it has increased in numbers in San Antonio and may now be found there throughout the year (Edgar Kincaid, personal communication). In the summer of 1961, Mrs. Grady Loftin observed a Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) feeding a fledgling of *Tangavius* in her yard in San Antonio. And throughout the winter of 1961–62, a flock—the first reported in San Antonio—of about 20 birds could be found at Woodlawn Lake; this group disbanded in March or April, but a few individuals remained at that locality (Charles R. Bender, personal communication).

The Bronzed Cowbird has not hitherto been reported from Austin, Travis County, 75 miles northeast of San Antonio (Simmons, Birds of the Austin Region, 1925; Kincaid and Webster, Checklist of the Birds of the Austin Region, 1959), but the following records indicate that in recent years it has established itself there as an uncommon breeding summer resident. The species was first reported in Austin by Miss Mary Anne McClendon, who saw a lone individual in her yard at 909 West 17th Street (Locality 1) in the second half of April, 1956. On an unrecorded date (believed to have been in the spring of 1959) Mrs. John Groce saw from "four to six dozen" Bronzed Cowbirds perched on wires at her home at 3811 Pete's Path (2¼ miles N of Locality 1).

First evidence of breeding of the Bronzed Cowbird in Austin was obtained on July 18, 1960, when a juvenal female (MVZ no. 148241) was collected at Montopolis, at the eastern edge of Austin; the specimen was very fat and weighed 51.9 gm. On the afternoon of May 23, 1961, a female *Tangavius* was noted at Locality 1; and, on May 29, a male was seen performing aerial courtship display before a female at the Caswell Tennis Center, on the corner of Lamar and 24th streets (½ mile NNW of Locality 1). The species was seen there as late as June 24; and a female was seen at Reed Park (2¼ miles NW of Locality 1) on June 26.

On July 24, 1961, at Locality 1, Miss McClendon saw a female *Tangavius* watch a female Cardinal carry nesting material into a clump of bamboo; the cowbird was perched less than 6 feet from the nest site. In August, Miss McClendon took a color photograph of the nest, which contained three young, two of which were thought to be Bronzed Cowbirds. On a later date in August, as Miss McClendon looked into the nest, one young nestling Cardinal and one nestling Bronzed Cowbird "jumped" to the ground. The cowbird was photographed and replaced in the nest; but it left again and was allowed to remain on the ground; it was not seen again.

On April 24 and 26, 1962, a female *Tangavius* was seen at Locality 1, and a male was seen there on May 1. On May 2 and 7, 1962, a female was seen feeding on the lawn at Eastwoods Park (1½ miles NE of Locality 1). At the Caswell Tennis Center on June 1, five females and a male were seen foraging on lawns. Apparently the activities of this group of birds centered in this area, for several individuals were noted there on numerous occasions through the first two weeks of June of 1962. Also, a lone female was seen repeatedly at Westenfield Park (1 mile WNW of Locality 1) in May and June, 1962; and a bird was observed at Camp Mabry, Austin, on May 25, 1962. On August 12, 1962, Webster saw a female Cardinal attending two fledgling Bronzed Cowbirds at 2508 Hartford Road, Austin.

An interesting behavioral interaction between a female Bronzed Cowbird and a male Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) was noted on June 14, 1962. The female *Tangavius* was foraging on a lawn in company with a male and female of *Molothrus*. The male *Molothrus* periodically directed ruff-out courtship display to the female *Molothrus* but spent much time "guarding" the female of his species from the female *Tangavius* by coming between the two birds and directing head-up threat display to the female *Tangavius* in precisely the manner used to guard females from the approach of other males of *Molothrus* (Laskey, Wilson Bull., 62, 1950:157–174). Once the male *Molothrus* made a flying attack on the female *Tangavius*, driving it back several feet from the female *Molothrus*. It appeared that the male mistakenly "regarded" the female *Tangavius* as a rival male of its own species; this is understandable since the female of *Tangavius*, like the male of *Molothrus*, is black, and the two species are approximately the same size.

The eastern limit of the normal range of *Tangavius aeneus* in Texas is imperfectly known, but probably it falls close to a line drawn from Austin south-southeast to Rockport on the Gulf coast.

At the latter locality it is reportedly a permanent resident and is somewhat less common in the summer than in the winter (Hagar and Packard, Checklist of the Birds of the Central Coast of Texas, 1952:12). Three extra-limital records obtained in recent years raise the possibility that the species is extending its range along the Gulf coast as well as in central Texas. Peterson's report (*loc. cit.*) of the species as "casual" in Houston is based on a recent sight record. A female was seen by Selander on February 2, 1962, in Galveston, Texas, in a large flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds and Redwinged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). And we note a report of a sight record of six individuals in Cameron Parish, southwestern Louisiana, on December 31, 1961 (James, Audubon Field Notes, 16, 1962: 339).—ROBERT K. SELANDER and FRED S. WEBSTER, JR., *University of Texas, Austin, Texas, July 12, 1962.*

**Southward Extension of Breeding Range of Forster Tern on Pacific Coast.**—On May 5, 1962, Forster Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) were found nesting on the dyke at the south end of San Diego Bay, San Diego, California. This occurrence represents a southward extension of the breeding range, since the nearest known nesting area on the Pacific coast heretofore has been at Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, approximately 236 miles to the north. A specimen from the San Diego colony has been examined by Richard C. Banks.—FRED GALLUP, SR., *Escondido, California, September 17, 1962.*

**Aerial Bathing of Ravens.**—On August 2, 1962, while travelling on a road through the farming district along the Mohave River in California, I observed a pair of Ravens (*Corvus corax*) dashing down into and through water shot high from revolving nozzles of an overhead irrigating system for an alfalfa field. The birds repeatedly dashed in and out of water columns with interludes of soaring. Each time they precipitously descended into the spray they shook their feathers, the better to let the water get next to the skin; then, when they emerged they again shook their feathers to get rid of excess water which might interfere with skillful flying. I purposely went to the same area several days later when another nearby field was being similarly irrigated and found two birds, probably the same pair, engaging in the same antics. On October 4, when the weather was much cooler, Stan Stenner and I saw near Old Woman's Springs a similar performance over an irrigated field, evidently by another pair of birds, since the latter place is some 35 miles from the site of the original observation.—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Riverside Municipal Museum, Riverside, California, October 12, 1962.*