

Prothonotary Warbler and Yellow-shafted Flicker in Nevada.—On May 31, 1962, Hugh Mozingo and I visited the University of Nevada's newly acquired George Whittell Forest and Wildlife Area. This 2500-acre outdoor laboratory is situated in the Carson Range of the Sierra Nevada about 18 miles south of Reno. The central part of the tract, lying at an altitude of 6400 feet, consists of a montane meadow, which is traversed by Franktown Creek and enclosed in a lodgepole-Jeffrey pine forest. On our way across this meadow we found a male Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) under a lone lodgepole pine close to the creek. It appeared to have met a recent accidental death, for although its neck was broken there were no marks or blood on the body and no decomposition. The specimen (Univ. Nev. Mus. Biol. no. 1222) represents the first record of this warbler from Nevada. Identification of the specimen was verified by Ned K. Johnson of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Subsequent field work on the Whittell tract failed to reveal additional individuals.

There are very few far western records for this eastern warbler. The fifth edition of the Check-list of North American Birds (1957:479) lists records for only California and Arizona: a May record from Santa Barbara, California (Condor, 56, 1954:52-53); and May and September records from Arizona (Condor, 50, 1948:134). In addition to being the first record from Nevada, the present specimen extends both the altitudinal and latitudinal occurrence of the Prothonotary Warbler in the West.

Another new record for Nevada concerns a Yellow-shafted Flicker found on November 26, 1958, in Lagomarsino Cañon of the Virginia Range about 5 miles east of Sparks, Nevada. This flicker was obtained when Pat O'Halloran flushed an unidentified hawk from a fresh kill on the canyon road in the sagebrush zone. The specimen (Univ. Nev. Mus. Biol. no. 1165) proved to be a female Yellow-shafted Flicker and subsequently was identified as *Colaptes auratus luteus* by Ned K. Johnson.

In the Far West this eastern race of the Yellow-shafted Flicker has been of accidental occurrence in the winter in Arizona and Oregon (A.O.U., *op. cit.*:312). To date, all of the published specimen records of the Yellow-shafted Flicker in Nevada have been of the northern race, *C. a. borealis*; also these have been fall records and from southern Nevada (see Linsdale, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 23, 1936:69 and Condor, 53, 1951:237; Monson, Audubon Field Notes, 5, 1951:33; and van Rossem, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 24, 1936:27).—FRED A. RYSER, *Biology Department, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, November 23, 1962.*

Two Doves in the Pleistocene of Veracruz, México.—A late Pleistocene deposit at Barranca Seca, 3 kilometers east of Acultzingo, is of interest in that it is the first fossil bird locality in the Mexican state of Veracruz. In July of 1960, Professor Antonio Barges, the discoverer of the site, kindly showed it to Leora Forbes and Linda Dalquest, who collected four species of mammals (Dalquest, Jour. Mammalogy, 42, 1961:408-409) and two birds. The avian material consists of a left coracoid (Midwestern Univ. no. 2214) of the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) and the proximal portion of a left tibiotarsus (no. 2215) of the Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*). Except for an extinct species of glyptodon, all the birds and mammals obtained still occur in the state, although *Columba fasciata* and one of the rabbits (*Sylvilagus cunicularis*) are temperate zone species that probably do not now descend to so low an altitude. An apparent slight cooling and a preponderance of living species would suggest that the site is of Wisconsin age.

This study was aided by the National Science Foundation through grant number G-19595.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, October 8, 1962.*

Some Recent Records of the Varied Bunting for Texas.—Frequently the knowledge of distributional status of a species at the northern limits of its range leaves much to be desired. A case in point in Texas is that of the Varied Bunting (*Passerina versicolor*). In the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (5th ed., 1957: 553) the breeding range of this species in Texas is briefly indicated as from Marfa to Brownsville, an area roughly corresponding to most of the Rio Grande drainage in this state. It is also stated that the bird is casual north to the vicinity of Kerrville and on the Aransas Refuge. Van Tyne and Sutton (Misc. Publ. 37, Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich., 1937:99), Phillips and Thornton (Texas Jour. Sci., 1, 1949:126), and Thornton (Texas Jour. Sci., 3, 1951:426) cite records of the Varied Bunting in southwest Texas. These records clearly indicate that this species is not only fairly regular in this part of the state but probably is more common than ornithologists realize.

A number of observations of the Varied Bunting were made in Texas in the summers of 1961

and 1962 and are reported here to help clarify the status of this species. During each year of field work in Big Bend National Park, Brewster County, the Varied Bunting seemed to be quite widespread. It was found in three different locations in the park. On June 30, 1961, Charles F. Crabtree observed a male Varied Bunting in the Basin of the Chisos Mountains, at an elevation of approximately 5000 feet. On July 13 of the same year and in the same location my son, Warren, Jr., observed a female feeding a young bird. The following year on the same date, a fully adult male and juvenile were observed feeding on weed seeds near one of the ramada campsites in the Basin. The young bird was fully capable of taking care of itself; it foraged alone as well as with the adult. The male gave a *chip* note that reminded me of that of a Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*).

A fully adult male was observed on July 6 and 10, 1961, at Oak Canyon below the Window in the Chisos Mountains. This area has a fairly dense stand of vegetation, including a few cottonwoods.

Varied Buntings were seen and heard on July 6 and 12, 1961, in the river bottom of the Rio Grande River at Santa Elena Canyon which is located at the west end of the Big Bend National Park. On July 12, 1962, a fully adult male was seen in the same locale by my son. This area represents a typical seepwillow (*Baccharis glutinosa*)—saltcedar (*Tamarix gallica*)—mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora* and *Sophora secundiflora*) habitat; there are also a few cottonwoods.

My only other observation of this species for Brewster County was that of a singing male which was seen on July 14, 1962, while I was traveling on the highway about 37 miles south of Alpine. This was in a typical mesquite-catclaw (*Acacia greggii*) wash with scattered allthorn (*Koeberlinia spinosa*) and sumac (*Rhus* sp.), bordered with creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*).

On June 15, 1961, my son and I flushed an adult male from a rainwater pool in a small canyon of a recently cutover cedar brake (*Juniperus asheii*) on the Feather Light Block Plant Ranch, known locally as the Hackberry area, less than 10 miles east of Rocksprings, Edwards County. Apparently the male had established a territory because on the subsequent day this same bird was collected as it sang vigorously from a low bush on a nearby gently sloping cleared hillside area that had grown up into shrubs and small trees. Its testes measured 10×8 mm. and 9×7 mm. The character of the song impressed me as falling between that of a Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) and a Painted Bunting. The vegetation of the area consisted mainly of shin oak (*Quercus* spp.), small elms (*Ulmus* sp.), and sumac. Originally, this area had been a part of the nearby cedar brake but it had been cleared during the 1940's. Except for the aforementioned Kerrville record, this specimen is the only record for the Edwards Plateau region; the bird is deposited in the collection of the University of Dallas.

The Midland Natural History group of Midland, Texas, kindly furnished the following supplemental notes on the Varied Bunting. Several members of the group saw this species on May 21, 1961, at the first water crossing of Aguja Creek approximately 27 miles north of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County. In this area there was a narrow belt of riparian vegetation, together with Emory oak (*Quercus emoryii*) and cottonwoods bounded by mesquite-catclaw zone. James C. Henderson of Midland collected an adult male on May 17, 1961, in a dry canyon above the Pecos River floodplain, two and a half miles east of Iraann, in Crockett County. The bird weighed 14.10 grams and had enlarged testes. This specimen represents the farthest known northern record of the Varied Bunting. It has been deposited in the collection of Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College. A pair of Varied Buntings was seen repeatedly from June 10 to July 3, 1962, in a thicket along the Pecos River, about four miles north of Sheffield, Crockett County. On the last date Ola Haynes saw the pair feeding a young bird out of the nest.

Dixon (Condor, 61, 1959:404) indicates that the Varied Bunting occurs regularly in the Chihuahuan desert. Even though the records cited herein partially support this, the fact that the species is found outside the Chihuahuan desert, both in Texas and Arizona, should not be disregarded. More study of the ecologic requirements of this species is desirable.

The author wishes to thank the members of the Midland Natural History group, particularly Ola Haynes and James C. Henderson, and also Charles F. Crabtree of Fort Worth, Texas, for the use of their field notes on the Varied Bunting and for their permission to publish them.—WARREN M. PULICH, *University of Dallas, Dallas, Texas, September 26, 1962.*