

of Tehuantepec, first southward, then eastward, over Pacific waters adjacent to the frontier of Chiapas and Guatemala.

Additional records of both migrant species and resident forms of highly volant species in the Tehuantepec region are to be expected over the Pacific in the area of Chiapas and Guatemala.—O. MARCUS BUCHANAN and HARRY L. FIERSTINE, *Dickey Collections and Department of Zoology, University of California, Los Angeles, California, September 27, 1963.*

A Vagrant Occurrence of the Black Phoebe in Southeastern Washington.—On September 4, 1962, four biologists and I observed two Black Phoebes (*Sayornis nigricans*) on the Atomic Energy Commission's Hanford Reservation in southeastern Washington. The birds were seen feeding and perching within a narrow, precipitous walled ravine about 30 feet deep and perhaps twice as wide. A small permanent stream flows through the ravine. The riparian vegetation consists of a dense growth of herbaceous plants and shrub willows. The surrounding upland vegetation is dominated by vast expanses of sagebrush.

Previous sight records of the Black Phoebe from Chehalis, Washington, and from Umpqua Valley and Salem, Oregon, date from before 1900 (Jewett, Taylor, Shaw, and Aldrich, *Birds of Washington State*, 1953:675; Gabrielson and Jewett, *Birds of Oregon*, 1940:605).—W. H. RICKARD, *Hanford Atomic Products Operation, Richland, Washington, July 26, 1963.*

Note on the Feeding Habits of the Caracara in South Texas.—Various published notes on the feeding of the Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) concur on two points in particular. One has to do with the place of carrion in the bird's diet, and the other relates to its frequent association with vultures. Bent (U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. 170, 1938:133) referred to a peculiar habit of the Caracara in robbing Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) of fish being carried to their young. On the other hand, Haverschmidt (Condor, 49, 1947:210) reported that in Dutch Guiana, Caracaras fed on the drying meat of cocobanuts.

For years in lower south Texas, Caracaras cruising along over highways just at daybreak have been a common sight. Each morning they find and feed on animals killed by highway traffic in the preceding afternoon and night. Food thus readily available includes rodents, rabbits, armadillos, opossums, skunks, raccoons, an occasional coyote, snakes, and a variety of birds. This was particularly noticeable along U. S. Highway 281, between Falfurrias and Edinburg, through the 1940's.

Another interesting practice on the part of some Caracaras is to rob vultures of their partly digested food, but I have not found any account of this in the literature. On four occasions I have watched Caracaras swoop down over Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) and drive them up from where they were feeding on carrion. Then, in each instance, the Caracara pursued a vulture until the latter regurgitated. Thereupon, the pursuer flipped over into a dive and snatched one or more pieces of the falling food before it reached the ground. In three of the instances, the Caracaras were observed to land and pick up additional material, presumably some particle missed in the aerial grab. All of the occurrences were out in open pastures where the view was not obstructed by trees or shrubs.

The four observations mentioned above were made at the following times and places: October 20, 1940, on the Stafford Ranch, 11 miles west of Eagle Lake, Colorado County, Texas; September 23, 1942, on the O'Brien Ranch, 15 miles southwest of Goliad, Goliad County, Texas; September 3, 1945, on the Lasater Ranch, 6 miles southeast of Falfurrias, Brooks County, Texas; August 18, 1955, on the Welder Refuge, 10 miles northeast of Sinton, San Patricio County, Texas.

On the last occasion, Dr. Clarence Cottam and I were together, driving over the Welder Refuge. I had barely finished telling him of my earlier observations when we saw a lone Caracara swoop down over two feeding Turkey Vultures, drive them into flight and pursue one until it regurgitated.—W. C. GLAZENER, *Welder Wildlife Foundation, Sinton, Texas, May 16, 1963.*

Open-billed Probing by the Princess Stephanie Bird of Paradise.—In discussing the skull structure of the Paradisaeidae, Bock (Condor, 65, 1963:91-125) has commented on the lack of information concerning the feeding habits of most of the species in this family. I have been able to observe feeding behavior of an adult male of the Princess Stephanie Bird of Paradise (*Astrapia stephaniae*)