

A SPECIMEN OF THE YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD FROM THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE

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On 1 November 1972, Neal G. Smith and I found an immature Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) feeding along a strip of tall, coarse

grass growing in a drainage ditch on Gatun Dam, Panama Canal Zone. The bird, which I collected, was a male (testes about 3×5 mm), weighed 69.5 g, and showed no abnormal feather wear which might indicate that it had been a captive. The stomach was full, containing a grasshopper about 18 mm long and pieces of beetles, ants, and spiders. The skin is now in the collections of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ 219,520); it constitutes the first record and specimen for the species south of its wintering range in México.

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ADDITIONS TO THE GALAPAGOS AVIFAUNA

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In my recent paper on the birds of the Galapagos Archipelago (Condor 75:265 1973), two nesting species were omitted due to confusion in the typescript. I wish to report them here, together with four species previously unrecorded in the area.

Oceanites gracilis. White-vented Storm-Petrel. Common resident. Although the Galapagos population is subspecifically distinct, as *galapagoensis*, from that of western South America and apparently resident, no nest has been found. Virtually all the small sea-bird islands and isolated rocks have been searched so it may be that the colonies are in some of the inaccessible high cliffs of the main islands.

Oceanodroma melania. Black Storm-Petrel. A single bird seen for 20 min feeding in ship's wake midway between Pinta and Pta. Albemarle (Isabela) 12 December 1973. It was in very worn plumage and showed outer primary molt (D. Day, MH). Although in plumage this species is virtually identical with *O. markhami*, its behavior and flight are very different. Having had experience with both these all-black storm-petrels off South America, I am confident of the identification.

Phaethon aethereus. Red-billed Tropicbird. Nests

throughout the islands but uncommon in the cold waters in the west between Isabela and Fernandina. Several reports of White-tailed Tropicbirds (*P. lepturus*) almost certainly refer to juvenile *P. aethereus*.

Limosa haemastica. Hudsonian Godwit. Single at Academy Bay (Santa Cruz) for several days from 26 November 1973 (Tj. de Vries, D. Day, MH).

Larus dominicanus. Dominican Gull. Single adult seen with two Franklin's Gulls (*L. pipixcan*) around ships anchored at Tagus Cove (Isabela) 15 December 1973 (D. Day).

Chlidonias niger. Black Tern. An immature picked up dead at James Bay (James) 17 November 1973 (Tj. de Vries, MH). Skull at Charles Darwin Research Station. This species is common at sea off the Gulf of Guayaquil and its occurrence is not unexpected.

In my previous paper, I treated the Large Ground Finch (*Geospiza magnirostris*) as being extinct on Fernandina because of the lack of records since 1899. However, on a visit to the crater rim on 13 December 1973, I watched a single female or immature for some 10 min at ranges down to 6 ft. It is impossible to decide whether the species has been present but unobserved for the last 70 years, or whether this bird was a straggler. At the same time *G. magnirostris* was seen on the small island of Daphne (P. R. Grant, J. N. M. Smith) where it does not normally breed, so perhaps something was causing unusual movements of this species.

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THE PLAIN-BREASTED GROUND DOVE IN SURINAM

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The Plain-breasted Ground Dove (*Columbina minuta minuta*) is an extremely local bird in the coastal plain of Surinam (Haverschmidt, Birds of Surinam, p. 135, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, 1968). I know of only one locality near Paramaribo where it is fairly numerous, and I have found it elsewhere in only a few widely separated places. Near Paramaribo fair numbers frequent some deserted fields of the cultivated cassava (*Manihot esculenta*), so thickly overgrown with creepers as to be almost impenetrable. The only other ground dove in these fields was the Ruddy Ground

Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*). The Scale-breasted Ground Dove (*Columbina passerina*) did not occur there, for in Surinam it favors open ground with bare patches of sand, short grass, and scattered low vegetation. In such places I found it invariably nesting on the ground. Where *C. minuta* and *C. passerina* occur together, it seems highly likely that there exist ecological differences between them (Goodwin, Pigeons and doves, p. 218, Brit. Mus. [Nat. Hist.] London, 1967).

In my experience in Surinam, *C. minuta* is a typical wasteland bird, preferring thickly overgrown places and shunning bare sandy ground that *C. passerina* favors. Consequently, the two species usually do not occur together. On the other hand, *C. minuta* occurs with *C. talpacoti*, (which in Surinam is extremely numerous), both in wasteland and in open places, provided there is some shrubbery. Moreover, although