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.

Accepted for publication 28 February 1974.

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.

Accepted for publication 28 February 1974.

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

FIGURE 1. Nest of *Columbigallina minuta*.

C. minuta feeds on the ground, it perches freely in bushes and low trees or shrubs, and thus behaves much more like *C. talpacoti* than like *C. passerina*.

In its breeding habits *C. minuta* also resembles *C. talpacoti*, for it nests in low shrubbery. I have found six nests, all built among creepers, well hidden among the thick foliage, at heights of 30–150 cm above the ground. All nests and eggs were found between 25 October and 8 November, during the long dry season. The nests were small, sometimes compact, structures of fine roots and sticks (fig. 1). I never found any feathers in them, unlike those observed by Young (Ibis 12th Ser. 4:759, 1928) in Guyana and by Belcher and Smooker (Ibis 13th Ser. 6:4, 1936) on Trinidad.

The first nest I found was on 25 October, with the bird sitting tightly on the still empty nest, a common habit among doves. On the afternoon of 28 October, I found another nest, with a bird sitting on one egg; on the following afternoon there were two eggs. On 9 November at 17.00 there were still two eggs, but on the next afternoon one nestling apparently had just hatched, as it was still wet. The second egg did not hatch and proved infertile. Assuming that the eggs were laid on consecutive days and that incubation started with the first egg, I conclude that the incubation period was 12 days. This is shorter than the period of 14 days established from birds in captivity in Europe (Goodwin 1967).

The weight of 11 specimens that I collected in Surinam was: eight males 27–38 g (av. 31 g) and three females 27–34 g (av. 29 g).

Accepted for publication 7 February 1974.

SCHEDULE OF PRESUPPLEMENTAL MOLT OF WHITE PELICANS WITH NOTES ON THE BILL HORN[1]

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During the breeding season, the White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) undergoes a presupplemental molt (Traylor, *in* Palmer 1962). The molt is restricted to the head and neck regions and involves replacement of the white nuptial crest by short, dark gray-black plumes (fig. 1). The bill horn associated with the nuptial plumage is shed contemporaneously.

Many field investigators have observed the presupplemental molt of White Pelicans, and some have speculated about the function of the bill horn (Hall 1925, Behle 1958, Schaller 1964). During recent studies of the species in Utah, I documented the progression of the molt and the time of bill horn shedding. These events were related to concurrent reproductive activities of the pelicans.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

I observed White Pelicans between 6 April and 28 July 1973, on Gunnison Island, Great Salt Lake, Utah. In 1973, approximately 5,200 pelicans nested on the island in 18 spatially and temporally separate colonies of 4 to 633 nests each. As is characteristic of the species, reproductive activities were synchronized within, but not between, colonies (Low et al. 1950, Schaller 1964).

Because White Pelicans readily abandon nesting sites when disturbed, I did not capture or inspect birds for plumage information but made most observations using a 20× spotting scope from points overlooking the colonies.

At three colonies with different reproductive chronologies I surveyed birds for plumage characteristics four times between egg laying and the time the young were a few days old (about a 40-day interval). I obtained additional information periodically through the breeding season from similar plumage surveys of prenesting, courting birds. For each bird I recorded the date, number of days since the first egg appeared in the colony, and presence or absence of a horn, crest plumes, and gray or black feathers on the crown or nape. These data enabled me to determine the frequency of each plumage character in the sampled colony relative to the reproductive stage of the colony.

RESULTS

In 1973, migrant pelicans were first sighted in northern Utah on 9 March (William Zimmerman, pers. comm.) at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. The first eggs were laid on Gunnison Island about 1 April, and the last nesting colony was established there on 13 June. A few nests were established peripherally to existing colonies after that date.

During early April, all pelicans on Gunnison Island were in the alternate (nuptial) plumage. Each bird possessed the horny protuberance on the maxilla and the prominent crest plumes.

Within colonies selected for intensive observations, the first eggs were laid about 1 April, 11 April, and 20 April, respectively. All birds displayed the al-

[1] Contribution No. 166 of The Welder Wildlife Foundation, Sinton, Texas 78387.