

First Occurrence of the Golden-winged Warbler in Trinidad

by A. D. Brewer

On December 29, 1976 a Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) was identified in the Northern Range of Trinidad, about twelve miles north of Arima. The bird was seen at close range in dense rain forest, in a mixed flock which included various honey creepers and ant-birds and the following details were noted.

Size: a little larger than White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*) with which it associated, probably about 5 inches. Upperparts: back, wings, rump, and upper tail a slightly greenish gray; a broad yellow shoulder-patch on the wings, not including the flight-feathers or the acutal bend of the wing; back of head gray, crown and forehead dull yellowish. Underparts: uniform dull grayish-white. A conspicuous, chickadee-like dull black throat patch starting at base of bill and broadening out to cover upper throat; a second black mark stretching back from bill, through eye to ear coverts. Face otherwise dull gray-white. No white outer tail feathers seen. Eye, bill and leg color not observed. The observer is very familiar with the species in all plumages since sev-

eral pairs nest within a few hundred feet of his house in Ontario every year.

The Golden-winged Warbler winters in Central and South America east to Colombia; it is apparently accidental in Western Venezuela in the region of Merida (Bent, 1953; de Schauensee, 1970). It has apparently never been recorded in Trinidad before (French, 1973, and personal communication); the present record constitutes a range extension of 700 miles to the east.

LITERATURE CITED

- Bent, A. C. (1953). Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers. U.S. National Museum Bulletin 203.
de Schauensee, R. M. (1970). A Guide to the Birds of South America. Livingston Publishing Company
French, R. P. (1973). A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago. Livingston Publishing Company.

R.R. #1, Puslinch, Ontario NOB 2J0.

Work in Progress

MEMORANDUM

TO Banders requesting color-marking sighting reports from the public

FROM: George M. Jonkel, Chief Bird Banding Laboratory

SUBJECT: Reporting auxiliary-marked bird sightings to the Bird Banding Laboratory

We have an increasing number of banders who advertise that reports of color-marked birds should be reported directly to them. Many of

these observations concern individual birds that can be identified or related to a standard U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band. We are losing certain recoveries because researchers fail to notify us once they have their own information.

We urge you to send us all reports that can be identified to F&WS band numbers and any color-marking sightings that are not of your own birds. We can report these to other researchers. If you advertise for reports, please request that all sighting reports be made directly to the Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, MD 20811. We will report back to the banders involved as rapidly as possible.

Thomas C Erdman, Little Suamico, Ornithological Station, P O. Box 631, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301, has been color-marking migrating Red-tailed Hawks with colored tail streamers in the vicinity of Green Bay, Wisconsin for five years and has received recovery and sighting information from as far south as Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana. The birds are being marked as part of a migration study on wind drift and leading lines. All reports should include color of streamer, date, time, and location of the observation, and should be sent to the Bird Banding Laboratory (see MEMORANDUM above for address).

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE SHOREBIRD COLOR-MARKING 1977:

In 1977, the Canadian Wildlife Service will be continuing an extensive program of banding and color-marking shorebirds in James Bay, with the objective of defining migration routes used by shorebirds on their journeys between the Arctic breeding grounds and wintering areas. A highly successful program in 1976 resulted in over 580 reports of color-marked birds from among 12,400 banded in southern James Bay, in areas ranging from eastern Canada to South America. Much new information is being obtained, and assistance in looking for and reporting color-marked birds, would be very much appreciated and would contribute very substantially to the success of the program.

Feather dyes and colored leg bands will be used to mark the birds. Reports of marked shorebirds, should include details of: species, place, date, color-marks and, if possible, numbers of other shorebirds present. For color-dyed birds, please record the color and area of the bird that was dyed. For color bands and standard metal leg bands record which leg the bands were on, the colors involved, and the relative position of the bands if more than one was on a leg (e.g. right leg, blue over metal, etc.). A note should also be made whether the bands were below or above the "knee" of the bird.

All reports will be fully acknowledged and should be sent to: Dr. R. I. G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7.

Kathleen Klimkiewicz, 13117 Larchdale Road #2, Laurel, Maryland 20811, initiated a large-scale Purple Martin color-marking project in 1975 in Maryland, and in 1976 in Virginia. The project is designed to learn more about the movements of young birds and their return rate to the parent colony or nearby colonies.

Observers are asked to report any color-marked wing tagged and/or plastic leg banded Purple Martins along with bird's age, sex, date, location and any other possible details gathered at the time of the sighting to the Bird Banding Laboratory (see MEMORANDUM above for address).

Joanna Burger, Associate Professor of Biology, Livingston College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, is studying the breeding behavior and ecology of Laughing Gulls along the New Jersey coast and has marked the wings of young Laughing Gulls with green tags. Any sightings of these birds, along with date, location of sighting and any other relevant data gathered at the time of the sighting should be sent to the Bird Banding Laboratory (see MEMORANDUM above for address).

Arthur A. Johnson, Chairman, Department of Biology, Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas 72032 is initiating a study of Common Grackles and their worm parasites. Information on future banding plans involving grackles or similar studies with other birds is desired.

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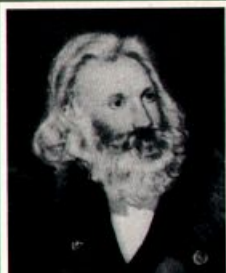
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J. R. Hnytka, 9-419 Aulneau Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, requests historic and recent data of sightings of Great, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, Green, Little Blue and Louisiana Herons, Least Bittern, and White-faced Ibis for study of recent heron influxes into Manitoba. Information should include dates, number(s) of birds, observer(s), locality, habitat and breeding, non-breeding or transient status.

Red-tailed Hawk predation on ground squirrels is being studied by Daniel Leger, Psychology Department, University of California, Davis California 95616. Birders' observations, especially detailing the hunting strategies of the hawks, would be very much appreciated.

John Hamilton Chase, Anderson Hall, College of Idaho, Caldwell, Idaho 83605, is currently engaged in cooperative research with the Boise District Bureau of Land Management directed toward determining the status of the Long-billed Curlew in the Northwest. Send any field notes and/or similar pertinent information to him.

Robert M. Fisher, #6 531-64 Avenue N.E., Calgary, Alberta, Canada is conducting research on the Clark's Nutcracker and would appreciate detailed reports of sightings of that species in atypical habitat (i.e., outside of mountain-foothills forests), in the states of Wash., Colo., Idaho, Mont., Calif., Oreg., Wyo., Nev., Utah, and Ariz., within the past five years.

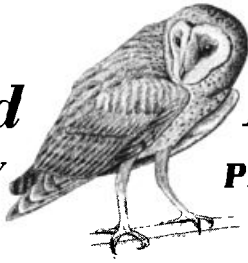
REQUESTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Malcolm M. Simons, Director of the Atlantic and Gulf Coast Beached Bird Survey Project is seeking additional cooperating observers to periodically census East Coast beaches in an attempt to establish base line data of sea bird mortality as indicated by dead (beached) birds, against which measures of change can be made. Any persons interested in such a project should write to Mr. Simons at 1701 E. Harbor View Road, Box 52, Charlotte Harbor, Florida 33950.

The International Shorebird Survey, initiated in 1975 (see *AB* 30:144), has enjoyed very favorable results in obtaining valuable information on shorebird distribution and migration, and again solicits observers who would be able to participate in regular survey counts of shorebirds during spring and autumn migrations and also in shorebird wintering

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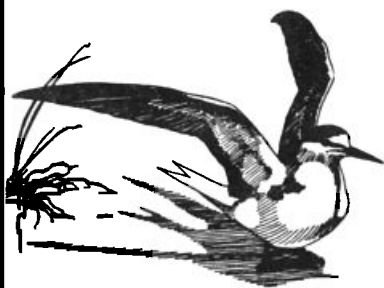
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areas. Occasional counts from observers visiting shorebird staging areas on an irregular basis would also be welcome. In Canada contact: Dr. R. I. G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7. For locations in the U.S.A., Caribbean Islands, Central and South America contact: Brian A. Harrington, Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, Massachusetts 02345.

Eastern Bird Banding Association Award

The Eastern Bird Banding Association is again sponsoring a \$250. grant for an undergraduate or graduate student in a recognized college or university in the Western Hemisphere for research in ornithology involving bird banding. Applicants should submit a resume of their planned project to: Dr. Bertram G. Murray, Jr., 249 Berger Street, Somerset, New Jersey 08873.

Hawk Mountain Research Award

The Board of Directors of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary take pleasure in announcing an annual award of \$250. for support of raptor research. The Hawk Mountain research award will be granted annually to a student engaged in research on raptors (*Falconiformes*).

To apply, students should submit a description of their research program, a *curriculum vitae*, and two letters of recommendation, by October 31, 1977, to Mr. Alex Nagy, Curator, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Route 2, Kempton, PA 19529.

A final decision will be made by the Board of Directors by February, 1978.

Only students enrolled in a degree-granting institution are eligible. Both undergraduate and graduate students are invited to apply. Prospects will be judged competitively on the basis of their potential contribution to improved understanding of raptor biology and their ultimate relevance to conservation of North American hawk populations.

One of Southeastern Arizona's prime birding spots has been closed to the public after two separate charter groups (both arriving by bus), went on to private property without the landowner's knowledge or permission.

Both the Tucson and Huachuca Audubon Societies are pleading to birders to obtain the necessary permission. They have, in fact, offered their assistance in making the proper contacts, guiding, etc., as they know how popular these areas are — especially in May, June, and July when the Mexican rarities are

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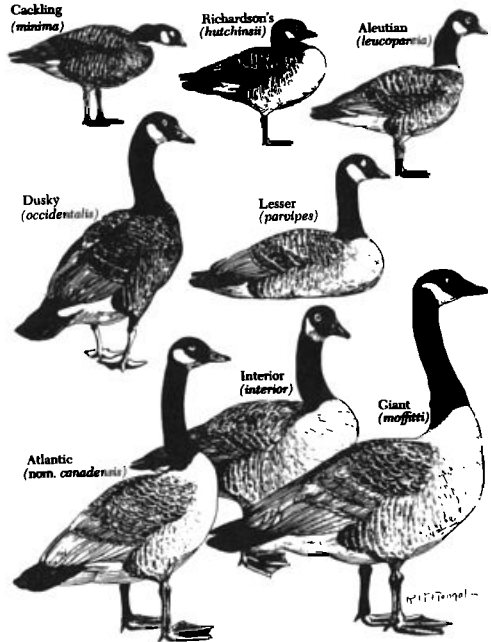
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This problem is not exclusive to Southeastern Arizona. It occurs to a greater or lesser extent nationwide. In order to not only preserve the critical breeding habitat of many rare birds but also to prevent exclusion of all birders from prime areas located on private lands we emphasize again that a sense of propriety and respect for the rights of private landowners is imperative.

In recent years, worldwide interest and concern has grown for the carrion-eating vultures of both the Cathartidae and Accipitridae. It has been proposed that a symposium be held within the next two years to discuss their status and problems. If you are interested in participating in such an exchange, either in person or by submitting a paper for the published proceedings, please contact: Sanford R. Wilbur, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1190 E. Ojai Avenue, Ojai, California USA 93023. Please indicate your particular areas of interest.

Communications

To the editor:

In October 1976 *American Birds* carried a review of a book called *Where to Watch Birds in Britain and Europe* by John Gooders (1974). The review listed the book as being available through either Andre Deutsch or Taplinger Publishing Company. We are not handling this title, but a check of the 1974 Books in Print lists it as being available through the British Book Center, 996 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10021. We would appreciate it if you could correct the listing for your readers. — Roy E. Thomas, Promotion Manager, Taplinger Publishing Co.

To the editor:

Enclosed is a copy of the November 19, 1976, *Federal Register* (41 FR 51019-51022) in which we announced our determination that the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird (*Agelaius xan-*

thomus) is an Endangered Species. This action makes the protection provided by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 available to this imperiled bird.

The prohibitions provided for in the Act are rather broad and the penalties for violation may be severe. In this context, and since you or your colleagues may be involved in research or other activities which may now require permits, I would appreciate it if you would pass this information to any persons to whom you feel it would be helpful. — Harold S. O'Connor, Acting Associate Director, Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

The endangered species status for the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird followed, and largely resulted from the work of William Post and James Wiley, as published in Am. Birds 30 (1):13-20, 1976. — Ed.

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