

presumably only a small part of the total brought.—ESTHER (MRS. GEORGE) BYERS, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor*.

**Frigate-bird, Oystercatcher, Upland Plover, and various terns on the coast of Tamaulipas, México.**—While studying and collecting vertebrates in the State of Tamaulipas, México from February 15 to June 15, 1949, we made three brief trips to the coast. From April 27 to 29 we visited the Barra Trinidad region, 8 miles north of the village of Morón. We could not stay longer because of lack of fresh water there. On April 25 and May 2 we visited the beach at Miramar, near Tampico. On May 9, Robins and Heed visited the village of Tepehuaje, some 20 miles south of Pesca and 80 miles north of Tampico (see World Aeronautical Chart No. 589, Tamiahua Lagoon Sheet, village of Tepehuaje de Arriba). Our base-camp at that time was 10 miles northeast of Zamorina, and the trip to the coast meant a 25-mile jeep ride over oil-prospecting trails.

Some of the birds we encountered on the coast are of special interest either because they have never actually been reported from Tamaulipas or because no one has found them breeding there. One of the latter category, the Willet (*Catoprophorus semipalmatus*), George M. Sutton has already discussed (1950. *Condor*, 52: 135–136). The following also merit comment:

Frigate-bird, *Fregata magnificens*. Present in large numbers in the Barra Trinidad region. Most evident in the morning and in the evening dusk, when they did considerable soaring. During the afternoon they remained on the brush- and tree-covered shore of a large bar. They may have been nesting there, but we were unable to cross the lagoon to investigate. An immature male specimen taken at Tampico on April 23, 1923 (University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, No. 58976), has been identified by Pierce Brodtkorb as *F. m. rothschildi*. Friedmann, Griscom and Moore (1950. "Distributional Check-List of the Birds of México," *Pacific Coast Avif.* 29) do not list Tamaulipas among the states from which this species has been recorded.

Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus*. Robins and Heed saw three Oystercatchers on the beach near Tepehuaje in company with Wilson's Plovers (*Charadrius wilsonia*), Black-bellied Plovers (*S. squatarola*), Willets, Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*), and Sanderlings (*Crocethia alba*). Friedmann, Griscom and Moore (*op. cit.*, p. 89) state that this species is "to be sought in the lagoons of northeastern Tamaulipas."

Upland Plover, *Bartramia longicauda*. One was frightened by the approaching jeep from a grassy woodland road near a small village between our Zamorina camp and the coast, May 10.

Sandwich Tern, *Thalasseus sandvicensis*. Robins and Heed clearly saw two of these terns on the beach near Tepehuaje in company with one Royal Tern (*T. maximus*), several Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*), and some Least Terns (*Sterna albifrons*). Near Barra Trinidad we saw ten Royal Terns on the beach and many more flying about the lagoon.

We wish to point out that, during the dry season at least, the coast from Pesca to Tampico is more easily accessible than is generally believed. At least one fishing company runs trucks regularly from Pesca to Tampico along a coastal route which we saw and used at Tepehuaje and, farther south, from El Sabino to Aldama.—C. RICHARD ROBINS, *Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*; PAUL S. MARTIN, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor*; and WILLIAM B. HEED, *University of Texas Department of Zoology, Austin*.

**Unusual water birds in Rockbridge County, Virginia.**—In three previous papers in *The Wilson Bulletin* (1935, 47: 59–67; 1937, 49: 48–49; 1940, 52: 280–281) I listed 61 forms of water birds recorded in this Virginia mountain county. Two of these were supposed races of the Black Duck, but since 'Red-legged Black Ducks' are now believed to be merely highly colored individuals, only *Anas rubripes* should be listed. This brings the list to 60 forms, as of December, 1940.

Recently I published notes on four additional birds: the Lesser Snow Goose, *Chen h. hyperborea* (1950. *Auk*, 67: 233-234), Blue Goose, *Chen caerulescens* (*ibid.*), Stilt Sandpiper, *Micropalama himantopus* (1948. *Auk*, 65: 607), and Caspian Tern, *Hydroprogne caspia* (*ibid.*). The following six species (five of which are new for Rockbridge County) I wish to record here. The total list of water birds for the county now numbers 69 forms.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). Colonel and Mrs. Gordon Heiner saw an adult at a small stream in their yard on the edge of Lexington, July 26, 1950. They gave me an accurate description and an easily recognizable drawing of the bird.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*). On September 4, 1948, I observed a bright yellowish brown female at close range at Cameron's Pond, one mile from Lexington. The bird remained there for three days.

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). Robert Paxton saw one in bright summer plumage at the Womeldorf fish pond, August 28, 1949.

Red-backed Sandpiper (*Erolia alpina*). I saw one in bright breeding plumage at Cameron's Pond on May 29, 1950.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*). One which I saw at Cameron's Pond on October 13, 1947, I have already reported (1948. *Auk*, 65: 607). I saw a Stilt Sandpiper at the same place September 22 to 30, 1948.

Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*). One appeared at the Womeldorf fish pond on August 20, 1950, at a time when a hurricane was moving up the Atlantic coast. I collected it August 21. It was a male in first winter plumage. Apparently this is the first inland record for the Atlantic States between Washington, D. C., and Aiken, South Carolina.—J. J. MURRAY, 6 White Street, Lexington, Virginia.

**Bicolored Hawk in Tamaulipas, México.**—An exceptionally beautiful adult female Bicolored Hawk (*Accipiter bicolor*) was shot by a Mexican hunter on August 16, 1950, in heavy forest along the foot of the Sierra Madre Oriental near the Río Sabinas about five miles north of the town of Gómez Farías, southwestern Tamaulipas, México. Circumstances of the capture are interesting. Shortly before August 16, a pair of jaguars (*Felis onca*) with two half-grown cubs had been seen in the forest just upslope from the Sabinas sugar cane fields, and the female shot. When, on the 16th, a party returned to collect the skull of the jaguar and search for the male and cubs, they chanced to see this hawk perched quietly in the dark woods. Vegetation in this area resembles that of the tropical evergreen forest of Leopold (1950. *Ecology*, 31: 507-518), here found as a narrow belt along the base of the Sierra Madre. This habitat apparently marks the northern distributional limit of many distinctly neotropical plants and animals, including *Accipiter bicolor*.

My friend William B. Heed, now a graduate student at the University of Texas, prepared the specimen with great care, making important label comments. The ovary was paired, the whole mass measuring about 12 x 4 mm., the largest ovum being about 1 mm. in diameter. The legs, feet and eyelids were yellow, the eye bright red, the cere dark. The outermost primary was very short (about 65 mm.), the basal half still being sheathed.

The specimen is, apparently, the first for Tamaulipas. It represents the race *fidens*, described from the State of Veracruz. The upper parts are blackish slate, darkest on the top of the head and tail. The under parts, except for the white crissum and rufous flags, are slate gray, each feather having a fine grayish black shaft-line. Some of the median plumage, especially of the throat and lower belly, is light gray basally. The wing measures 254 mm. (primaries pressed flat), the tail 208, the tarsus 72, the culmen (from cere) 19.5. The specimen is No. 11068 in the Sutton collection.—PAUL S. MARTIN, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor.*

**A nest of the Rufous-breasted Spinetail in México.**—The Rufous-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis erythrothorax*) is a not very noticeable furnariid found from Veracruz, Yucatán,