

TABLE 1. Range and mean of bill measurements in two forms of *Dendroica dominica*.

	Delmarva Peninsula	<i>D. d. stoddardi</i>
Number of specimens	37	9
Bill from nostril	9.8-11.8 (10.93)	9.9-11.4 (10.68)
Culmen from base	15.7-18.1 (16.94)	14.1-17.1 (16.19)
Bill width	2.8-3.7 (3.28)	2.8-3.5 (3.16)
Bill depth	3.2-3.9 (3.64)	3.1-3.7 (3.40)

Although a more extensive taxonomic study in the future may show reliable differences in these two populations at the subspecific level, the point I wish to make is that no individuals can be referred to a given population in the field and very few can be identified in the hand. The winter home of *D. d. stoddardi* is unknown, and it appears unlikely that a January specimen collected in South Carolina (Dingle 1961, Auk 78: 640), northeast of the breeding range of this form, would be a representative of that race. Its exposed culmen of 15 mm is equally representative of the Delmarva population. The same comment would seem to apply to specimens labeled *stoddardi* in the Florida State Museum (FSM) and taken in Alachua County (FSM 9381), Levy County (FSM 3653), and Leon County (FSM 7827), Florida.

I extend my thanks to Robert L. Crawford for assisting me with the color comparisons and Wes Biggs for information regarding the specimens in the Florida State Museum.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, *Tall Timbers Research Station, Rt. 1, Box 160, Tallahassee, Florida 32312*.

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**Northernmost record of the Mangrove Cuckoo on the Gulf coast.**—On 11 November 1981 we observed an adult Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*) at St. George Island State Park, Franklin County, Florida. The cuckoo was flushed initially from oak scrub (3-5 m tall) about 150 m inland from St. George Sound and flew only 10 m to a "head high" perch on the edge of an oak. The late-morning light conditions (1100-1115) were ideal. We observed the bird with binoculars and spotting scope at distances down to 4 m during a leisurely 15-min. study and noted and sketched the following field marks: maxilla entirely dark brownish-black; lower mandible yellow with dark tip; black mask through eye; iris dark; orbital ring yellow upperparts neutral grayish brown, secondary edges and upper tail coverts lightly buff; underparts buffy cinnamon from chin to undertail coverts, slightly deeper on belly and vent; underside of tail black with broad white tips; no "rufous" flash in wings during flight.

The cuckoo perched upright and was alert but unusually tame, allowing our close approach from various angles. The third and fourth primaries of the right wing (left not seen) were pale and worn (unmolted); otherwise the plumage was unblemished. The possibility of the bird being a Gray-capped Cuckoo (*Coccyzus lansbergi*), an intra-South American migrant, or an erythristic Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) was considered during the observation period, thus prompting our cautious and detailed notes.

The Mangrove Cuckoo breeds as far north as the Anclote Keys, Pasco County, Florida, some 250 km southeast of St. George Island and along the western Gulf north to Tamaulipas, Mexico (A. O. U. 1957, Check-list of North American birds, fifth ed., Baltimore, Amer. Ornithol. Union; Robertson 1978, Mangrove Cuckoo pp. 57-58 in H. W. Kale, II, (ed.) Rare and endangered biota of Florida, vol. 2 birds, Univ. Presses of Florida, Gainesville). Our observation represents the northernmost record for the species (29°42'N, 84°52'W) and only the second record for the upper Gulf coast (cf. Webster 1965, Aud. Field Notes 19: 398-401). The origin of vagrant Mangrove Cuckoos on the northern and western Gulf coast (Webster 1976, Amer. Birds 30: 95-97) is unknown, but it is possible that they are individuals from Mexico rather than Florida or the West Indies, as is the case with some other species, e.g. White-winged Dove (*Zenaidura asiatica*). Our detailed descriptions were critically compared (by Graves) with specimens of ten recognized races of *C. minor* in the American Museum of Natural History. The buffy cinnamon underparts of the individual we observed resembled those of *C. minor continentalis* of the Gulf slope of Mexico, rather than the whitish or pale buffy underparts of *C. minor maynardi*, the breeding form of Florida, Cuba, and the Bahamas. The distance from St. George Island to the nearest Mexican breeding populations (measured around the arc of the Gulf) is ca. 1700 km; the trans-Gulf distance to the Yucatan Peninsula is ca. 940 km. The weather conditions during the week preceding our observation offer no evidence bearing on this matter. Specimens are needed to determine the origin of these birds.

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**Common Crows pulling the tail and stealing food from a river otter.**—On 15 January 1981, my wife and I saw Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) stealing prey from a river otter (*Lutra canadensis*) at the Hendrie Ranch, 24 km south of Lake Placid, Florida. As far as I am aware, there have been no previous reports of Common Crows stealing food from mammals, nor, indeed, of any corvid from river otters. We watched an otter catching walking catfish (*Clarias batrachus*) and resting by a water hole where the fish had concentrated in a winter of drought (Kilham, unpubl.).

The otter was lying partly in and partly out of the water eating a fish. Four crows were watching within 30-50 cm of its head when a fifth crow alighted by its tail, giving it a hard tweak. The otter dropped the fish to whirl around. A crow near the otter's head then seized the head end of the fish and flew off with it. Bent (1946, U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 191) described similar kleptoparasitism of a dog gnawing a bone by three Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*), one of which pulled the dog's tail.

In 12 hours of watching the otter in the course of 11 mornings, we saw crows peck the otter's tail 26 other times, while the otter was either resting on the sand or walking to the water. Although the attacks often looked like simple pecking, we noted twice that the blows were delivered with the bill slightly open. It seemed possible, therefore, that the crows may have been