

There had been no southerly gales for many weeks at the time the Ani was found, but strong southerly winds are the rule in late winter and early spring in that vicinity. The bird appeared to be a lone straggler, no others of this species having been seen by me either before or since. This is believed to be the first published record of *Crotophaga ani* for the central west coast of Florida. There are five or more records of this species on the east coast of the state.—WILLIAM G. FARGO, *Jackson, Michigan*.

Proper Name of the "Parauque."—In a letter written from Brownsville, Texas, February 21, 1928, my friend Major Allan Brooks, asks how the letter "u" became misplaced in the name "Parauque" (*Nyctidromus albicollis sennetti*) of the A. O. U. Check-List, stating further that the Mexicans call the bird "Pow-rack-ee" and that Sennett (1879) wrote it "Pauraque." I have looked the matter up and find that Coues in his Check-List of 1882 follows Sennett and uses the same spelling in his 'Key to North American Birds' third edition (1887).

The changed spelling apparently first occurs in Ridgway's List of 1881 and is used in his 'Manual of N. A. Birds' and in the A. O. U. Check-List (1886). Ridgway gives no explanation so that it would appear to have been a typographical error which has been perpetuated ever since, except by Coues who naturally followed his own Check-List, and probably did not notice the spelling in the A. O. U. Check-List as he makes no comment when he compares his nomenclature with that of the latter work.

There seems no question but that as stated by Major Brooks the name is based on the Mexican imitation of the call of the bird and unless additional information is forthcoming it will appear as "Pauraque" in the new edition of the Check-List.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Blue Jay in Denver, Colorado.—The first Northern Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*) to be recorded from the City of Denver was seen by me on September 26, 1928. Almost twenty-five years ago the Blue Jay was found in the extreme northeastern part of the state, and the slowness of its movement up the valley to this point is rather remarkable. Attention to the bird seen in Denver, was attracted by the characteristic squawk with which I had become familiar in Illinois and which is easily distinguished from that of any of our native Jays. For several minutes the Blue Jay was in elm trees near our yard, and as it flew from one to another was identified by the white marks on wings and tail and the drooping crest.—THOMPSON G. MARSH, *4705 E. 35th Ave., Denver, Colo.*

Feeding Habits of the Florida Grackle.—Early in October of 1927, a flock of about twenty-five of these Grackles began to congregate in an oak tree just outside my window. They would arrive early in the morning and remain until about sunset.

At first I thought they swallowed the acorns whole as I watched them pick them up and hold them lengthwise in their bills, for minutes at a time,

but I never saw one swallowed. Watching more closely I found that they would roll the acorn around and bear down upon the shell until it was severed and then eat the meat. If the nut was too well matured it was dropped and a more tender one chosen. The birds were cautious and only one at a time would drop to the ground until nearly the entire flock alighted but several remained in the tree probably as outlooks. They would sever and eat the acorns on the ground or pick up one and fly to a limb, using the feet to hold it. Those feeding in the tree would go out to the end of a limb, pick off an acorn, and return to a substantial limb to break it open.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida.*

Yellow-headed Blackbird in Pennsylvania.—Mr. Sutton's note in the January 'Auk' (Vol. XLVI, p. 119) has no doubt aroused in an ornithologist now in Africa the same memory, of a rainy Pittsburgh morning that comes to me in South America. When the Yellow-headed Blackbird of Turtle Creek was reported to the Carnegie Museum, Mr. Rudyerd Boulton and I went out to investigate, although we knew Turtle Creek to be one of the worst mill towns in the Pittsburgh district, with all that this connotes of smoke, grime, and vile chemical fumes. A less likely place to find a wandering Yellow-head could hardly be imagined. Nevertheless we searched the region diligently—without finding the bird.

It may be added that at this time the days were very dark with heavy, low-lying clouds, mist, and with smoke held in by the clouds, so that errors in distinguishing color and even size and form could easily have been made by the gentleman reporting the unusual bird.

Of course there is nothing inherently impossible about any record of occurrence of a bird possessed of full powers of flight, but it would seem the better part of wisdom to omit from our serious literature records that are at all open to question.—ERNEST G. HOLT, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.*¹

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus in Southern Mexico.—In the collection of the Field Museum of Natural History is a female Yellow-headed Blackbird (no. 12444) taken at Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico, February 27, 1902, by Geo. F. Breninger. It is apparently a bird of the previous summer.

Dr. Harry C. Oberholser writes me: "There are, so far as I am aware, no records for *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* from the State of Guerrero, Mexico. There are published reports from the States of Guanajuato, Puebla, and Tlaxcala, and there are specimens in the Biological Survey collection from Jalisco, Michoacan, and the State of Mexico."

¹ The Editor welcomes such additional information as the above. When records are submitted by reliable members of the Union, he naturally infers that everything affecting the observation has been considered and submitted. It is manifestly impossible in these days to disregard sight records but it should be the duty of everyone submitting them to exercise the greatest care in verifying them and in presenting all the facts in the case.—W. S.