

Hydroprogne caspia imperator. CASPIAN TERN.—A single bird of this species was seen over the beach at Gulf Shores near enough at hand to distinguish it with certainty from the very similar Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus maximus*). The Caspian Tern is probably of regular occurrence in the State, but there are few definite records.

Wilsonia canadensis. CANADA WARBLER.—One was seen at close range in a small swamp near Fairhope, constituting the only known occurrence of this species in the southern half of the State. Howell considers it a regular, though uncommon, migrant in the northern half of the state and cites a number of instances of its occurrence.—HELEN M. EDWARDS, *Fairhope, Alabama*.

Unusual Summer Birds from the Vicinity of Brownsville, Texas.—

It was my good fortune to see six species of birds near Brownsville during the summer of 1931 which were not recorded as summer residents by Griscom and Crosby in their list of birds of this region published in "The Auk" (1925-26). Two of these are represented by specimens, both immature birds, now in the Museum of Natural History of the University of Minnesota. They are an Atlantic Blue-faced Booby (*Sula dactylatra dactylatra*) and a Cuban Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus tenuirostris*). The latter was very small and unable to fly, indicating that the species breeds here. It was taken July 10.

The Blue-faced Booby was identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser of the Bureau of Biological Survey. This bird was taken on July 31, on the beach of the Gulf of Mexico near Matamoros, Mexico, about four miles south of the mouth of the Rio Grande. Strange to say the bird was captured by hand, having walked about among several humans as unconcerned as a barnyard chicken. This is especially peculiar inasmuch as the bird was full-grown and able to fly, as evidenced by the fact that I saw it fly down onto the beach. Was it exhausted by the long flight that brought it so far from its range or was it just stupid?

The Snowy Plover and the four sight records were all from the Texas side of the Rio Grande. Of the latter, the most interesting was the Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*). This bird was seen at close range on numerous occasions throughout the summer. The most seen at one time was sixteen. They are fairly well known locally, and invariably spoken of as "Flamingoes." One Mexican admitted having shot four of them for the table. I have in my possession a primary feather from a spoonbill which I picked up from one of their feeding grounds.

I saw the equally unmistakable Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) on several occasions. Usually a single individual, which was always tame, and once a group of six, and again about twenty together.

Black Terns (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*) were abundant as migrants in August, but I saw some as early as July 6, and a few days later I saw a young bird of the year. I am familiar with the plumages of this species from my experiences in Minnesota, where it breeds abundantly.

The other sight record is of the White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus majusculus*). It was not seen until August 5, so it may not necessarily have bred here, but it was seen in exactly the same locality two weeks later.—ALDEN RISSER, *St. Paul, Minnesota*.

Two Noteworthy Records for California.—There have recently been two noteworthy specimens obtained by members of the San Diego Society of Natural History's museum staff, one of which provides an addition to the known avifauna of California. The writer is indebted to Mr. A. J. van Rossem, of the California Institute of Technology, for the positive identification of these specimens, both of which are young birds.

Otus flammeolus. FLAMMULATED SCREECH OWL.—This specimen, an immature female, now No. 14919 in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History, was found dead on August 11, 1931, lying on the sands of a dry creek bed in Shepherd Canyon, Argus Mountains, Inyo County, California, by Samuel G. Harter. The bird is in juvenal plumage and had not been long out of its nest. It is thus evident that Flammulated Screech Owls were nesting in the Piñon belt on the highest parts of this desert range.

There are several records of this species from the higher Sierra Nevada and San Bernardino ranges of central and southern California, but this instance is the first recorded occurrence from a desert locality within the state.

Vermivora virginiae. VIRGINIA'S WARBLER.—An immature female, now No. 14967 in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History, was shot on September 3, 1931, near Lemon Grove, a short distance east of San Diego, California, by Frank F. Gander. The bird first attracted Mr. Gander's attention by its peculiar flight and later by its yellowish rump. The capture of this specimen adds another bird to the California list.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.*

Notes from Dr. R. Ciferri on the Birds of Hispaniola.—In connection with the recent publication of a list of the birds of Hispaniola¹ Dr. R. Ciferri of Santiago, Dominican Republic, has forwarded certain observations that it is desirable to have on permanent record.

With regard to the Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) Dr. Ciferri writes that at Moca, Dominican Republic, on May 14 and 15, 1928, there was a very strong north wind with heavy rain accompanied by thunder and lightning. About three a.m. on the morning of May 15 he was awakened by the peculiar calls of a kind of bird unknown to him which he found came from these petrels, of which he estimated that fully one hundred were present over the town of Moca and the nearby experiment station. The birds came from the north and at about five o'clock seemed to leave, going south toward the Cordillera Central. Four were captured

¹ The Birds of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. By Alexander Wetmore and Bradshaw H. Swales, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 155, 1931, pp. 1-483, 26 pls., 2 text-figs.