

a Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia lomvia*) at Manhattan Beach Park, in Brooklyn. It came within 35 or 40 feet of me and was observed with x8 binoculars from an elevation of about ten feet above the water. The sea was quite rough and the bird probably took refuge in the small inlet where I found it. The species is an irregular winter visitant out at sea but rarely comes in shore.—JAMES M. CUNNEEN, *St. Johns Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Note on the Guadeloupe Macaw (*Ara guadeloupensis*).—Mr. Herbert W. Krieger has just been so kind as to call my attention to a passage referring to the Guadeloupe Macaw in Michael Herr's translation of J. Huttich's 'Die New Welt, der landschaften vnnnd Insulen, so bis hie her allen Altweltbeschrybern vnbekant, Jungst aber von den Portugalesern vnnnd Hispaniern jm Nidergenglichen Meer herfunden' published at Straszburg (Strasbourg) in 1534.

In this very rare work we read (Chapter XCII, p. 31, bottom of left and top of right column) "The island [Guadeloupe] has psytacos larger than our pheasants and not dissimilar to them in feathering, for they have divided feathers [that is, the feathers are provided with aftershafths]. Otherwise they are red in color and are present in such numbers as grasshoppers are with us, and although the forests are full of psytachen, they feed some of them so that they are better to eat. . . . When our people entered their houses they found utensils in which human flesh was cooking together with psytachen, geese, and ducks."

Ara guadeloupensis was originally described by the writer in a paper on the Lesser Antillean Macaws (The Auk, vol. 22, p. 272, July 1905) on the basis of the account given by du Tertre in 1667. The habitat was given as "Guadeloupe, ?Dominica, Martinique"). In a paper on the Macaws of the Greater Antilles (The Auk, vol. 22, pp. 345-348, October 1905) the habitat as previously given was repeated. In his work on extinct birds published in 1907 Lord Rothschild said he believed that each of the three islands named had been inhabited by a distinct species of Macaw, so he restricted the name *guadeloupensis* to the Guadeloupe bird. In 1908 (The Auk, vol. 25, p. 310) I described the Macaw from Dominica as a separate species, *Ara atwoodi*, on the basis of a meager account published in 1791 in 'The History of the Island of Dóminica' by Thomas Atwood.—AUSTIN H. CLARK, *U. S. National Museum.*

Panyptila cayenensis (Gmelin) nesting in a House.—In July 1932, I paid a short visit to the Panama Canal Zone with Dr. Thomas Barbour. In the course of a conversation with Dr. Herbert Clark, director of the Gorgas Institute, he mentioned that Swifts had been making their nests over the lights suspended from the ceiling of the long piazzas of the Ancon Hospital. He described them as remarkable long sleeve-like nests and wondered whether the bird could be building there for the warmth or the light. Never had he seen these Swifts near houses before the previous summer, he said.

Later while we were examining the canal in his company, he said that the same birds had been nesting on the walls of the recesses built into the sides of the canal below the side walks. These nests had apparently all been cleared away in the spring cleaning, but there were Forked-tailed Swifts flying about at no very great height and I felt pretty sure that there must have been some nest left nearby. Sure enough a kind hearted foreman had glued one to the wall inside of the control house at San Miguel Lock.

We obtained permission to take the nest and a ladder was brought. I climbed up, placed my hand over the opening and carefully began to pry the nest away from the wall. Almost immediately I felt a soft body in my hand and it flashed across my mind that it might be a Tarantula. It was *Panyptila cayenensis* though, and, later, upon examination proved to be a male in breeding condition. I then held a handkerchief in my left hand under the entrance, hoping that if there should be any eggs that they would not be broken. As I pried away, they fell one by one into the handkerchief and broke. I saved one since it is the only one that I can find to have been recorded. It measures 22 mm. in length, is bluish white and has approximately the proportions of the egg of the Black Swift.

The nest is 400 mm. long and about 100 mm. in diameter. It is faun brown, this being the color of the Kapok, the seed hair of the Balsa or Corkwood Tree (*Ochroma* sp.) which forms the basis of the structure. This coarse, cottony substance is secreted in a large pod which breaks open at certain times of the year allowing the hair to protrude and it would of course be very easy for the bird to collect it. There are also other seed hairs and coarser substances such as bits of pod and small feathers woven in with the Kapok. The nest is rough outside and smooth inside and it has the appearance of having been cemented. The shelf, which is placed near the top, is quite firm and it may be that the saliva of the bird is used although this cannot be stated with any degree of certitude. There is a curtain of Kapok hanging from the lower end which probably represents an unfinished addition.

As far as I can ascertain, the nest of *Panyptila cayenensis* was first found in 1874. Salvin and Godman (Biol. Cent. Am. Aves, 2, p. 371) say that whereas there was no specimen of the bird or the nest in England at that time (1893), that Salvin had been shown a specimen with its nest which was found near the Chagres River by Dr. T. K. Merrit, discoverer of *Microchaera albocoronata*.

Richmond (Auk, 15, 1898, pp. 7-10) quotes this passage and records the finding of a nest in eastern Nicaragua. His base camp at the time was a "I. P." Ranch on the Escondido River and he found the nest affixed to a tree "possibly by the saliva of the bird." He says that the nest was gray, exactly the color of the tree and that it was only because he was looking at the bird when it entered the nest that he found it at all. There was apparently no indication that the bird was breeding and he surmises that it was simply using the nest as a place of refuge in the rainy season.

This nest was nine or ten inches long, about three inches in diameter at the entrance. It bulged slightly at the top. This bulge seems to be characteristic of nests that are suspended from the top, and also of shorter nests. We were later shown nests suspended from the ceiling of the walk-about on the upper story of the lock control house at San Miguel. They were shorter than the nest that I had procured earlier and bulged at the top.

It is of course very curious that this bird should have begun to nest close to men, even inside the walls of houses, after having lived only in the forest. Many birds in eastern North America have of course done this since the coming of the white man. The Robin, the Cliff Swallow, which still nests against rocks in the west, the Song Sparrow, the Barn Swallow and Chimney Swift—all these have changed their habits somewhat. In this case the bird is in the process of changing.

The natives are said to call this the Macqua (Hoodoo) Bird. They believe, it is said, that if the bird is captured on Good Friday that its captor may have any wish granted.—JAMES C. GREENWAY, JR., *Cambridge, Mass.*

An Unusual Red-headed Woodpecker Accident.—On January 11, 1934, some students of the Upshur County High School, Buckhannon, W. Va., brought to me a specimen of Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) which had driven its bill so far into a red oak acorn that extrication had proved impossible, and the bird had starved to death. When found it weighed less than two-and-a-half ounces. It required a sharp pull to remove the acorn from the bill which had penetrated about three-eighths of an inch.—MAURICE BROOKS, *French Creek, W. Va.*

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) in Massachusetts.—A female was collected at West Springfield, Mass., on April 29, 1933, and is now in the mounted collection of the Museum, Boston Society of Natural History. The bird was first discovered on April 25, 1933, by George Bartlett on whose farm it appeared; he in turn informed Miss Fannie A. Stebins. It was correctly identified two days later by Samuel A. Eliot, Jr., of Northampton, and was observed on or near the same place for several days by numerous observers including the writer, who took Ludlow Griscom and two other members of the Nuttall Club to the spot. Having obtained Bartlett's permission, the Flycatcher was collected by Mr. Griscom on the fourth day. It constitutes the first record of a specimen collected in Massachusetts.—AARON C. BAGG, 72 *Fairfield Ave., Holyoke, Mass.*

Say's Phoebe in Western Montana.—There appear to be but two published records of the occurrence of Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya saya*) in Montana west of the continental divide. The first is that of a bird seen by the writer at Libby on July 20, 1924 (*Condor*, XXIX, 1927, p. 159). The second, published by Miss Caroline Wells, records the nesting of a pair of Say's Phoebes in Missoula, in 1929 (*Condor*, XXXII, 1930, p. 128).