

collected: female; weight 256.5 grams. Although at a distance the breast of this bird appeared decidedly chestnut-colored, in the hand about half of this area was irregularly blotched with gray.

On May 19, two birds were found at Fish Lake and on May 27, a single bird in a marsh near Madison.

There appears to be no other state record within the past thirty years. It is probable that the violent dust storms of the period drove the birds out of their normal migration route through the prairie region west of the Mississippi.—A. W. SCHORGER, 168 North Prospect Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.

Notes on Some Rare Birds in Douglas County, Kansas.—During the last winter and spring, a few records from Douglas County, which seem to be worthy of publication, have been noted.

Muscivora forficata. SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER.—A single male was seen about three miles southwest of Lawrence by C. D. Bunker, C. W. Hibbard and the writer, on May 9, 1934. As far as known, this is the first record for the northeastern part of the state. Two days later, a pair was seen in the same place, but they were left undisturbed in the hope that they will nest here. It may be that the extremely dry weather prevailing in Kansas for the last few years has caused an abnormal northward extension of the range of this species, which is known to be gradually spreading eastward.

Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus. PIÑON JAY.—Mr. John McFarland saw two and collected a female near Baldwin, on January 3, 1934. This specimen is now in the Kansas University collection. Only one previous record is known—October 23, 1875, when three were taken from a flock of five near Lawrence, but their present location is unknown. Two specimens were later taken in Mitchell County, on February 5, 1934, by Evelyn Alrich, and sent to the Kansas University Museum. Piñon Jays were also reported from Wichita on December 4, 1933, by Mrs. O. B. Baldwin, a very competent observer. It is highly probable that this bird is a common but irregular winter visitant in the western part of the state.

Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris. STARLING.—Two specimens, now in the museum collection, were taken from a large flock about seven miles southwest of Lawrence on December 25, 1933, by Mr. Ora Scott and the writer. The bird is quite common about Wichita, has been taken at Manhattan, and there are two or three sight records for Lawrence, but these are the first specimens from this locality. There are no nesting records for the state, although the species undoubtedly breeds in the southeastern part.

Calcarius pictus. SMITH'S LONGSPUR.—The writer took a male from a flock of about twenty or twenty-five, two miles south of Lawrence, on March 3, 1934. There are a few old records, but the species seems to be rather rare in this part of the state.

The writer wishes to thank Mr. C. D. Bunker, Assistant Curator in Charge of the Museum of Birds and Mammals, for permission to submit

these records.—W. S. LONG, *Museum of Birds and Mammals, Lawrence, Kansas.*

Samuel Champlain's Notes on West Indian Birds.—In the 'Narrative of a Voyage to the West Indies and Mexico in the years 1599–1602' by Samuel Champlain, translated by Alice Wilmore and published by the Hakluyt Society in 1859, there are some interesting references to West Indian birds.

Champlain stayed at Puerto Rico for about a month. He wrote (p. 12) "The air is very hot, and there are little birds which resemble parrots, called perriquitos, of the size of a sparrow, with a round tail, and which are taught to speak: there are a great number in that isle." Presumably this refers to *Eupsittula pertinax pertinax* (Linn.) of Curaçao introduced into the island in pre-Columbian times and since extirpated, though still existing in small numbers on St. Thomas. So far as I am aware there is no other reference to this bird on Puerto Rico.

Champlain anchored at the Cayman Islands, and remained one day. He landed on one of the islands and "walked about a league inland, through very thick woods, and caught some rabbits, which are in great quantities, some birds, and a lizard as large as my thigh, of a grey and dead-leaf colour," evidently *Cyclura caymanensis*.

He also landed on another of the Caymans "which was not so agreeable; but we brought away some very good fruits, and there were such quantities of birds, that at our landing there rose so great a number, that for more than two hours after the air was filled with them: and there were others, which could not fly, so that we took them pretty easily; these are of the size of a goose, the head very large, the beak very wide, low on their legs, the feet like those of a water-hen. When these birds are plucked, there is not more flesh on them than on a dove, and it has a very bad taste."—AUSTIN H. CLARK, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Some Early American Bird Lore.—For a generation or more following 1789 the geographies of Jedediah Morse seem to have been popular in the United States. A publishers' announcement even refers to an abridged edition as a *classic*. A borrowed copy of the edition of 1819 is interesting. The Sapajou and the Sagoine are "said to inhabit the country on the lower part of the Mississippi." There has evidently been little revision in the author's bird lore since earlier editions, other than the elimination of a long list of American birds. Of a number of lists of birds representing different states, Dr. David Ramsay's list from South Carolina is the longest.

Among birds listed for the United States is the Wakon Bird, "which probably is of the same species with the Bird of Paradise." The name indicates the Indians' idea of its superior excellency, it being the bird of the Great Spirit. A beautiful tail of four or five feathers, three times as long as the body and shaded with green and purple is carried "in the same manner as the peacock does his, but it is not known whether, like him, it