

Vagrant occurrences of *Tyrannus melancholicus* in North America.—The range of the species *Tyrannus melancholicus* lies principally south of the United States in Mexico and Central and South America, although the race *couchi* (Baird) has long been known to breed in the valley of the lower Rio Grande in Texas, and the recent report of Philips (1940) has established *T. m. occidentalis* Hartert and Goodson as a sparse breeder about Tucson, Arizona. North of the two last-named localities the species has been known only from three vagrant occurrences in the States of Maine and Washington, and the Province of British Columbia. The present paper is intended to report a fourth such occurrence, and to review and correlate all the known far-northern records of this essentially neotropical species. The author wishes to express his thanks to Dr. F. C. Lincoln of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for his critical reading of the manuscript.

While examining the collection of the late D. E. Brown at the Washington State Museum the writer found a specimen of the West Mexican Kingbird (*T. m. occidentalis*) incorrectly identified as an Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). The bird was a young male taken November 26, 1927, at Westport, Grays Harbor County, Washington, by Brown, and reported (Brown, 1928) as a probable first collection of *verticalis* in western Washington, although there are actually several earlier records in print (e. g. Rathbun, 1927, p. 32; Baird, Cassin, and Lawrence, 1858, p. 174). It has a recorded length of 8.25 inches, additional measurements being as follows: wing, 106.8 mm.; tail, 83.6; bill, 24.2. Obvious juvenile characters are the very slight development of the crown-patch, and the absence of the primary emarginations typical of adults of the genus. The subspecific identification, later confirmed by Dr. Herbert Friedmann of the United States National Museum, was determined with the assistance of Martha Reekie Flahaut of the Washington State Museum, and of Stanley G. Jewett of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who kindly loaned specimens for comparison. It is with the permission of Mrs. Flahaut that the record is published at this time.

Previously, the West Mexican Kingbird has been included in the Washington State list on the basis of "a male of the year . . . collected by Carl Lien in 'Jefferson County,' Washington, on November 18, 1916 . . . now no. 22,269 of the Dickey collection. . . . It was labelled by the original collector as 'Ash-throated Flycatcher'" (van Rossem, 1929). Correspondence with Mr. Lien, now at the Point Wilson Light Station, Port Townsend, Washington, has served to fill in some of the blanks in our knowledge of this important record. He writes (March 27, 1941): "I started collecting in 1915 at the instigation (and prodding) of my friend Geo. Cantwell, then with the Biological Survey, and hence, in 1916, when this specimen was taken, I was not too certain of its identity. However, all birds taken and labelled as from Jefferson County were taken on Destruction Island, which lies off the west end of this county. I have no recollection of [the capture of] this particular specimen, but nearly all land birds taken there were among those striking, or bewildered by, the light." The omission of this specimen from a list of birds killed at the Deception Island Lighthouse in 1916, published by Mr. Lien (1923), is probably accounted for by his uncertainty as to its proper identification. Destruction Island is about sixty miles north along the Washington coast from Westport, and the specimens from these two localities correspond closely with each other in that both are immature males taken in the month of November.

The species *T. melancholicus* is included in the Canadian list of birds on the basis of a single specimen, collected February, 1923, at French's Beach, Vancouver

Island, by J. G. French, and reported (Kermode, 1928) as a "Lichtenstein Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus satrapa* (Cabanis and Heine)." Logically this record should, like the others in the Northwest, be referable to the race *occidentalis*, as van Rossem (*op. cit.*) has pointed out. Through the kindness of Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan, of the University of British Columbia, the specimen in question was submitted to Dr. Friedmann, who verified our belief in pronouncing it *occidentalis*. Dr. G. Clifford Carl, Acting Director of the Provincial Museum at Victoria, has given permission for publication of this revision, which necessitates a change in the Canadian list. Like the other two northwestern records, the present one is based on a juvenile taken on the ocean coast; but it differs somewhat in being a winter rather than an autumnal bird, and of undetermined sex. Dr. Cowan informs me that French's Beach is near Sooke, on the south end of Vancouver Island, approximately 60 and 120 miles north and east of the two Washington localities.

Besides the three records for the Pacific Northwest there seems to be but one other far-northern occurrence of *Tyrannus melancholicus* reported: that of a specimen taken at Scarborough, Maine, October 31, 1915 (Norton, 1916). This bird was originally determined as of the race *satrapa*, but subsequent changes in nomenclature render this name obsolete and the identity of the Scarborough specimen uncertain. The A. O. U. 'Check-list' (1931: 202) identifies it logically with *T. m. chloronotus*, and the correctness of this has been confirmed by Dr. Friedmann, who examined the bird through the kindness of Arthur H. Norton of the Portland Society of Natural History. It is notable that here again the record is based on an immature male taken in autumn near the ocean coast, although in this case the specimen was of a different race and was taken on the opposite side of the continent from the three northwestern records.

Some explanation is usually invoked to account for accidental or vagrant occurrences of the type considered above. Many tyrannids, as well as birds of other groups, are noted for their propensity to wander far from their normal ranges, but *Tyrannus melancholicus* has not generally been accounted one of these (Taverner, 1934: 289). Kermode (*op. cit.*) thought the specimen reported by him might have obtained passage on a steamer, and Norton (*op. cit.*) evidently felt that southern cyclones might have driven his specimen north; but it seems at least equally likely, with the above correlations in mind, that in the juvenile males (and perhaps in both sexes) of at least two of the named races of this species there is a tendency to wander northward along the ocean coasts in fall and winter.

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—JOHN W. SLIPP, *Washington State Museum, Seattle*.

Tree Swallow breeding in northeastern Louisiana.—On June 20, 1941, while engaged in field work in the Delta region of Mississippi, a brief survey was made of the bird life of Eagle Lake, a narrow crescent-shaped body of water lying approximately sixteen miles northwest of Vicksburg. Although for the time being at least a lake in all its characteristics, this stretch of water was originally part of the Mississippi River. It was isolated some years ago when the river cut a new channel a few miles away, and in years of normal rainfall that followed this change, the depth of the water gradually increased. This resulted in the submersion and death of the trees that at one time grew at the edge of the water, and their present status as old decayed stubs dotting much of the shore line on the western edge of the lake. The presence of several Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) here at this late date in June aroused the suspicion that they might possibly be breeding birds, so the stubs in the vicinity of where these birds were first seen were closely scrutinized. Within a few minutes a nest was found that held three almost fully fledged young. The nest was in a cavity up ten feet from the water, in an old stub possibly a hundred yards from the nearby shore. Further search failed to reveal another nest, but as three adult birds were on several occasions in sight at one time, feeding over the water, at least two pairs of these swallows were nesting at this spot. Eagle Lake is locally considered to be in Mississippi, but reference to available maps shows the line separating Mississippi and Louisiana to be in the middle of the lake. Accordingly these Tree Swallows, nesting as they did near the western shore, must be credited to the list of birds now known to breed in Louisiana. The 1931 'Check-list' gives the range of this species as breeding south to northeastern Arkansas and Virginia, so this marks a considerable extension in the now accepted breeding range of the Tree Swallow in the Southeast.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *Gulfport, Mississippi*, and MERRIAM L. MILES, *Vicksburg, Mississippi*.

Identity of *Parus frigidus* Selys.—Nearly a hundred years ago de Selys-Longchamps named and described (*Bull. Acad. Roy. Sci. Bruxelles*, 10: (Séance 8 juillet) 27, 1843) by comparative characters a chickadee from, as he believed, "Iceland." The following is a translation:

"I possess an individual which I am assured was brought from Iceland by the French scientific expedition. It does not differ appreciably from those from Canada in color, save that the black of the throat is less extensive laterally