

GENERAL NOTES

The name of the Mexican Tiger Heron.—The name of *Heterocnus cabanisi* Heine (1859) has long been in use for the Mexican Tiger Heron. Unfortunately, it must be discarded because of the prior *Tigrisoma mexicana* Swainson (1834). In Murray's 'Encyclopaedia of Geography,' the zoological portions of which are by Swainson, there appears the above name, accompanied by the unmistakable description of an immature *Heterocnus*, together with an identifiable woodcut. Sherborn cites this name from the London (original) edition which I have not seen and which appeared in July, 1834. This was apparently issued in a single volume, while the two available American editions (Lea and Blanchard, Philadelphia, 1839 and 1841) are in three volumes, each paged separately. The two races of the Mexican Tiger Heron should therefore stand as:

Heterocnus mexicanus mexicanus (Swainson)

Tigrisoma mexicana Swainson, in Murray's Encl. Geog.: 1383, 1834 [Am. ed., 3: 315, fig. 1034, 1839]—Real del Monte (Hidalgo), Mexico.

Heterocnus mexicanus fremitus van Rossem and Hachisuka

Heterocnus cabanist [sic] *fremitus* van Rossem and Hachisuka, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 50: 161, Sept. 30, 1937—Guero-coba, Sonora, Mexico.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, University of California, Los Angeles, California.

Note on *Corvus ultramarinus* Bonaparte.—In May, 1825, in the Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia [4 (2): 387], Bonaparte named as *Corvus ultramarinus* the species of jay described two years later by Swainson as *Garrulus sordidus* and by Wagler as *Pica sieberii*. That Bonaparte's name applies to a large race of this species ("tail seven inches") has never been questioned and only the circumstance that the describer endowed his new bird with a "perfectly even" tail-tip led to its abandonment by recent authors in favor of one of the 1827 names. I believe that the earliest name should be revived for reasons presented below.

Bonaparte's original employment of the term "even tail" must be taken in a comparative, rather than a literal sense for he compared his bird with "*Corvus floridanus*," a species of excessive tail graduation. Concrete evidence of what he considered to be an even tail is provided in a much later publication, his 'Conspectus Genera Avium.' In that work (Pt. 1: 378, 1850) his treatment of *Cyanocitta ultramarinus* and *Cyanocitta sieberi* is a badly scrambled combination of references and descriptions. Under "[*Cyanocitta*] *Garrulus ultramarinus* Bp. Pl. col. 439. ex Mexico" there is no reference to his original description. The individual described in the 'Conspectus' is, however, *not* the one figured by Temminck and Laugier (Nouv. Rec. de Planches Col.: 439, Sept. 22, 1827) but an example of the small race later named by Kaup as *Aphelocoma wollweberi*. This specimen, he states, has an "even tail." Actually, the lateral rectrices are 13 millimeters shorter than in the rest of the series. So much for the "even tail" of *ultramarinus*. The succeeding species, *sieberi*, he described as very similar to the preceding but larger and with tail rounded. But the specimen he used for this comparison is the identical one which is the basis of plate 439, and whose "rounded tail" consists of a lateral graduation of 20 millimeters!

Both specimens which Bonaparte used for his 'Conspectus' descriptions are extant in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden, where I examined them in June and again in August, 1939. There is no question of their authenticity, and particulars as to their use have long ago been made public by Schlegel (*Mus. Pays-Bas*, 1 (livr. 9): 64, 1867). Essentially the same information is written on the stands on which the birds are mounted. The individual used as the basis for plate 439 (Bonaparte's reference) and of his description of "*sieberi*" is a good example of the large south-central race (wing, 181 mm.; tail, 172). The other, the basis of the description of "*ultramarinus*," is, as before stated, *wollweberi*. Because of the wording of Temminck and Laugier's text to plate 439, combined with Bonaparte's sole reference, the larger bird might conceivably be the actual 1825 type. However, Schlegel, a contemporary and co-worker of Bonaparte, makes no claims other than those set forth above.

The type of *Corvus ultramarinus* was sent to Bonaparte by a Dr. Samuel M'Clellan from an unspecified locality in Mexico, together with some specimens of *Cassiculus melanicterus* and a "*Fringilla grammaca*." Who Dr. M'Clellan was I have been unable to ascertain. His name does not appear in the indices of the few zoological publications of the period and Mr. de Schauensee informs me that there is no record of any association with the Academy. The most likely assumption is that he was one of the several medical men connected with American mining activity in southern Mexico and who were mentioned by Bullock (*Six Months Residence and Travels in Mexico*). One of the co-types of *melanicterus*, described at the same time as *ultramarinus*, has been examined at the Paris Museum and shows no indication of having been in captivity. It seems not unlikely that both species were from the same general locality, and I suggest Temascaltepec as one which will accommodate the few known facts plus the circumstantial evidence.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *University of California, Los Angeles*.

A new crow from Arizona.—For many years the crow has been known to occur in the Mogollon Plateau region of Arizona, and it has been assumed that these crows would necessarily be of the race *hesperis*, which was supposed to range through the western states to the exclusion of all other races.

In January, 1940, my friend, Lyndon L. Hargrave, secured a small series of crows at a camp in Burnt Corral Wash, on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Arizona. He at once found that these birds did not correspond to the description of *hesperis*. He called this fact to my attention, but had no opportunity to work out the problem personally.

In studying this problem, I briefly examined the specimens in the United States National Museum in August, 1941, although time did not permit the measuring of a series. A few months later I was privileged to make a more detailed study of those in the American Museum of Natural History. To the authorities of these two institutions, as well as to Hargrave, I am greatly indebted.

Crows from the western United States generally, at least from Okanagan, British Columbia, south to Las Vegas, New Mexico, and to San Diego County, California, are small, as pointed out by Ridgway, and to them belongs the name *hesperis* (type locality Fort Klamath, Oregon). The present writer failed to examine the type specimen, but it is clear that the race to be described below does not range as far north as Oregon.

The distribution of crows in the western interior is by no means continuous. South of the northern halves of Nevada, Utah, and Colorado they are local in