

## GENERAL NOTES

**Arkansas Kingbird in Florida.**—On December 11, 1948, Mr. Wray H. Nicholson and the writer observed five Arkansas Kingbirds, *Tyrannus verticalis*, near Shiloh, Merritt Island, Brevard County, Florida. The birds were perched on the telephone wires along a hard-surfaced road, for a distance of perhaps several hundred feet. The light-gray head and upperparts, yellowish underparts and narrow, white-bordered outer tail feathers were clearly discernible with 8-power glasses from a distance of about 25 feet. Although this bird turns up from time to time as a straggler in Florida (Howell, Florida Bird Life, 1932, cites eight records), its occurrence seems worthy of note.—ROBERT F. MASON, JR., *Fern Park, Florida*.

**A new Cuckoo-shrike from the Solomon Islands.**—In addition to several adult males of *Edolisoma tenuirostre*, the Whitney South Sea Expedition collected on Pavuvu, Solomon Islands, a single immature male which differed strikingly from any other specimen from the Solomon Islands. However, I refrained from describing this apparently new race on such scanty evidence. Recently, Mr. H. G. Deignan called my attention to the existence of three additional immature specimens in the United States National Museum and kindly placed them at my disposal. Even though this new material does not include adult females either, it fully confirms the distinctness of the Pavuvu race in the immature plumage.

***Edolisoma tenuirostre nisorium*, new subspecies**

TYPE: U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 405431; Pavuvu, Russell Islands, British Solomon Islands; October 25, 1944; S. M. Ray, collector.

Adult male similar to that of *E. t. erythropygium*. Immature even paler underneath than that of *erythropygium*; entire underparts from chin to flanks covered by narrow black bars; under tail-coverts unbarred. Upperparts darker; back fuscous brown, not rufous brown; rump brown with blackish bars, not pure rufous. Size as in *erythropygium*. Known only from Pavuvu, Russell Islands.—E. MAYR, *American Museum of Natural History, New York*.

**Recent Raven records in Massachusetts.**—Although *Corvus corax principalis* nests in Maine and through the higher Alleghenies to Georgia, it has been considered a rare bird in Massachusetts for at least a century. Forbush (Birds of Massachusetts, vol. 2, 1927) calls the Raven "an accidental visitor"; Allen (List of Birds of New England, 1901) agrees and adds, "no recent records." The former lists the following records: Tyngsborough, prior to 1859, one; Springfield, 1859, two; Dedham, about 1859, two; Williamstown, prior to 1877, two; Northampton, prior to 1901, one; Tyngsborough, no date, Brewster collection, one.

In short, "the raven . . . has long since retired to less frequented spots" (Allen, Bull. Nuttall Orn. Club, 1876) and is "now extirpated from Essex County, Massachusetts, though formerly common as attested by early writers" (Townsend, Birds of Essex County, 1905). S. Gilbert Emilio did not include the bird in his 'Field-List of the Birds of Essex County, Mass.' but relegated it to the hypothetical list because there was no known specimen for the county in 1940.

Since then, two Ravens taken in this county have been located, largely through the efforts of Oscar M. Root of North Andover, and have been placed in local museums. To quote Mr. Root, "the specimen in the Natural History Museum of Brooks School,