

mate returned with insect food which was given to young in the nest. The heads of two fledglings could be seen reaching for food.

The Myers' reported seeing about a dozen Anis at the hotel in the spring of 1949, but only one pair remained to nest. The first nest was built in a tree at the rear of the hotel, but it and four eggs, three of them broken, were later found on the ground. The birds then began immediately to build the second nest described above. According to the Myers', both birds built the nests and took turns incubating; occasionally one bird would bring food to the other engaged in incubating. They also observed that the Anis were rather tame but seemed to avoid birds of other species. Anis had not been seen at the hotel prior to 1949.—FLOYD B. CHAPMAN, *Ohio Division of Wildlife, Columbus, Ohio.*

The Flammulated Screech Owl, *Otus f. flammeolus*, in Louisiana.—On January 2, 1949, the writers discovered a small owl at an elevation of 25 feet above sea level in a dense willow thicket along the Mississippi River on Sardine Point in West Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The bird was collected and taken to the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology where George H. Lowery, Jr. and Robert J. Newman promptly identified it as a Flammulated Screech Owl, *Otus f. flammeolus*; it was an adult male. The specimen was deposited in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology.

The 1931 A. O. U. Check-List states that this owl is found in the higher mountainous regions of the West from southern British Columbia to Guatemala. An intensive search of the literature failed to reveal records of this bird occurring nearer than Boot Springs in the Chisos Mountains of western Texas as reported by Van Tyne and Sutton ('The Birds of Brewster County, Texas,' Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool., Misc. Publ. No. 37: 36, 1937). Since that locality is approximately 800 air miles to the west, this is believed to be the most easterly record of the Flammulated Screech Owl in the United States. Only one other record was found of the bird having been taken at such a low elevation. J. T. Emlen, Jr. (*Condor*, 37 (1): 43, 1936) reports capturing one at an elevation of 45 feet in the Sacramento Valley.

Upon being approached, the bird flew only a few feet before alighting on broken willows, always facing the intruders. After the owl had repeated this performance a few times, one person attracted its attention, and another approached from the rear and captured it by hand. Upon capture, it was found that it had been shot in the left wing, although the bird was not seriously wounded and appeared to use its left wing normally.—LESLIE L. GLASGOW, CLAUDE H. GRESHAM AND STEPHEN HALL, *Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, La.*

Saw-whet Owl, *Aegolius a. acadicus*, in West Virginia.—On November 19, 1948, while driving along the summit of Kennison Mountain at an elevation of 3988 feet, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, Clarence Young of Marshall College saw on the highway a small owl with a damaged wing. He brought it to me, and I identified it as a Saw-whet Owl. It was kept alive for several days but refused to eat and died. On skinning it I found it to be an adult male with the testes measuring about 2 by 3 mm.

Dr. George M. Sutton, to whom I presented the specimen, has added it to his collection of West Virginia birds, now housed at the Museum of Zoology at the University of Michigan. He has identified it as the wide-ranging, well known race, *A. a. acadicus*. The wing measures 133 mm. (primaries pressed flat) and the tail, 70 mm. It is in fresh, unworn plumage. The strongly buffy tone of the flags and

tarsal feathering contrasts rather markedly with the white of the lower belly and under tail-coverts.

This is, apparently, the first adult Saw-whet Owl ever taken in West Virginia. The species obviously breeds in the state, for a young bird only recently out of the nest was captured at Cranesville, Preston County, on June 22, 1932 (Auk, 50: 361, 1933); an immature female was taken in the Cranberry Glades, Pocahontas County, on June 12, 1936 (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 84 (3021): 409); and three young birds were seen near Alpena, Randolph County, in June, 1934 (Brooks, 'A check-list of West Virginia birds,' Bull. 316, 1944, Agr. Exp. Sta., West Va. Univ., Morgantown, West Va.).

Kennison Mountain is just southwest of the Cranberry Glades which is the most southern point in the Appalachian highlands at which the Saw-whet Owl has actually been found breeding, but the species certainly is to be looked for farther south.—RALPH M. EDEBURN, *Dept. of Zoology, Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia.*

Northern Record for *Klais guimeti* in Central America.—Some years ago I obtained a female of *Klais guimeti* (Bourcier) from C. F. Underwood. It was collected by him at Catacamas, Olancho, Honduras, on October 17, 1937. I cannot find a record of this species being found so far north, and apparently this occurrence extends the range at least 250 miles farther from the locality of the previous most northern record in Nicaragua. For some time I have believed that this single female represents an undescribed race, but I have hesitated to segregate it,—awaiting additional material. Twelve years have passed and apparently no other specimen has been obtained from Honduras.

The upper parts are conspicuously richer in coloration, being iridescent orange, instead of the green to golden green of females taken at various localities from Caracas, Venezuela (type locality of *Trochilus guimeti* Bourcier) to Costa Rica. Thanks to the courtesy of Mr. Todd of the Carnegie Museum and Dr. Zimmer of the American Museum of Natural History, supplemented by own my large series from Ecuador, there lies before me a series of 22 adult females of the species—including five from Venezuela, five from Ecuador, and 12 from Costa Rica. Not one of them has the orange upperparts of the Honduras bird, although some from Costa Rica are "brassy" gold. In addition, the pileum of my specimen, like two females from Costa Rica, is much greener than any of the others. This character is darker as one proceeds south, the pilea of the Venezuelan birds being dark green. The name, *Mellisuga merrettii*, proposed by Lawrence, based upon an adult female from Panamá, must also be considered. Obviously a series from Honduras is required to warrant the proposal of a new subspecies.—ROBERT T. MOORE, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California.*

Observations on the Racquet-tips of the Motmot's Tail.—Even though it is now generally known that the shape assumed by the two central tail feathers of the Motmots is dependent on the pattern of structural weakness in the feather itself and not on the bird's instinctive choice of pattern (Beebe, *Zoologica*, 1 (5): 1910), one repeatedly finds in the literature on the Momotidae the statement, apparently based chiefly on Beebe's reports ('Two Bird-Lovers in Mexico,' 1905, and *op. cit.*, 1910), that the bird "plucks" the radii from the shaft as soon as feather growth is complete (Armstrong, 'Bird Display,' 1942: 28, and Stresemann, 'Aves: Handb. der Zool.,' 1934: 831).

This statement seems, from my own observations, a misrepresentation of the case. In 1937, I transported from Europe to Australia two Motmots from Brazil (probably