

GENERAL NOTES

A Florida Specimen of Sennett's Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor sennetti*.—While examining a number of Nighthawks in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, I recently handled a considerable series from Florida. As would be expected, these are mostly referable to the race *chapmani*, with a few migrant examples of *minor*. However, there is one adult male, taken at Clay Springs, Orange County, by Wm. J. E. Bross on April 21, 1896, which I have identified as *C. m. sennetti*. The wing of this bird measures 201 millimeters and is too large for *chapmani*. The range in wing measurements of a series of 14 male *chapmani* from Florida is given by Oberholser (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull., 86: 75, 1914) as 178–192 millimeters with a mean of 184.1. In plumage the present specimen agrees with a good series of *sennetti*, being too pale for either eastern subspecies.

A check of routine sources (Howell, 'Florida Bird Life,' 1932; 'Zoological Record,' 1930–1945) fails to reveal any other Florida record of this Nighthawk; McAtee, Burleigh, Lowery, and Stoddard (Wilson Bull., 56: 152–160, 1944) do not list it as a migrant east of Louisiana.—ROBERT M. MENDEL, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

Aerial Feeding on Insects by Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*.—During the early evening of August 19, 1950, at Pottageville, Ontario, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was first observed in direct flight toward a flower garden where it was accustomed to feed at various times during the day. Suddenly it wheeled and began a series of gyrations. The tangled course of its aerial maneuvers was encompassed in a restricted space estimated at seven or eight feet in diameter. The performance lasted for nearly a minute. The angle of the sun made it possible to perceive numerous tiny insects in the air. Because of the speed of action one could not see the insects actually grasped by the bird but such was apparent. I have seen no better display of aerial feeding by goatsuckers or swifts.

A partial survey of the literature reveals that this habit has been observed, but rarely. Roberts (The Birds of Minnesota, Univ. Minn. Press, 1: 654, 1932) records a similar observation as does Wilson (American Ornithology, Brewer Edition, 1854: 118–119).—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Canada.*

A Western Record of the Quetzal, *Pharomachrus mocinno mocinno*, and Chachalaca, *Penelopina nigra*, in Mexico.—During recent biological investigations in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico, Mr. Thomas MacDougall was successful in obtaining a specimen of the Quetzal. The Quetzal occurs principally in Central America, but has been known from mountainous areas of Chiapas, Mexico. MacDougall's record indicates that this species occurs still farther westward and northward into the Sierra Madre of eastern Oaxaca.

The Quetzal was obtained in the cloud forest near the divide on the Atlantic slope of the Sierra Madre, at about 5000 feet elevation and approximately 12 miles east of La Gloria and toward Cerro Azul (=Cerro Prieto), Oaxaca, on March 25, 1949. La Gloria is 18 miles north of Niltepec and about 50 miles northeast of Tehuantepec. Cerro Azul or Cerro Prieto is the local name for the highest group of peaks in the Sierra Madre. Where the Quetzal was taken there were many epiphytic plants, including several species of cacti and bromeliads, together with tree ferns, several kinds of undergrowth palms, and large-acorned oaks, and to a lesser extent white pines and red gum. The trees were heavily covered with mosses. The specimen obtained was one of a pair, apparently nesting, with the female remaining in the area

after the male had been collected. However, the Quetzal is not common and is restricted to this particular area, for Mr. MacDougall found no natives that had previously seen such a bird. It should also be pointed out that no natives lived in or very near this cloud forest nor had any even penetrated it. Natives who cross the Sierra Madre at elevations lower than where the Quetzal was taken are not familiar with the bird, although they most certainly would be aware of such a conspicuous species if it occurred there. Two of the native boys, who were with MacDougall when the specimen was collected, returned to this particular cloud forest in June, 1950, penetrated it farther, and heard several Quetzals calling and observed two individuals.

Field investigations by MacDougall in Chiapas and Oaxaca would indicate a probable distribution of the cloud forest and Quetzal in these two states about as follows. There is a continuous or nearly continuous cloud forest along the Sierra Madre of coastal Chiapas northwestward to the vicinity of Tonalá. Quetzals have recently been obtained by the inhabitants from the Sierra Madre northwest of Tapachula, and particularly in the vicinity of Mapastepec. Farther inland, cloud forest is encountered in the Montebello area near Comitán and the Guatemalan border, and formerly Quetzals were collected for commercial purposes in this area. Cloud forests continue northwestward near Ciudad de Las Casas and to the north of Tuxtla Gutierrez and thence westward into the Sierra Madre of Oaxaca. Between Tonalá, Chiapas, and extreme southeastern Oaxaca, the Sierra Madre decreases in elevation below the level of the cloud forest, and suitable habitat for the Quetzal disappears. Thus, it appears that the distributional pattern southeastward from Oaxaca would be through the interior of Chiapas and not coastally. A report of a Quetzal, shot in the cloud forest at El Fénix, Chiapas, near the Oaxaca boundary, would lend credence to this distributional pattern.

Although cloud forest is present west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Oaxaca, field work by many groups and reports from natives fail to indicate that the range of the Quetzal extends west of the Isthmus. It is highly probable that the present record represents very nearly the extreme northwestern limit of the range of the species.

Of more common occurrence in the rain forest of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec is a Chachalaca, achote, or "pasha," *Penelopina nigra* Fraser, yet its occurrence in Mexico beyond Chiapas seems unrecorded. Although MacDougall saved no specimens of *Penelopina*, a photograph of a recently killed female readily identifies the bird. This species was common in the highlands near Rio Grande, 15 miles north of Niltpec, and along the trails between this town and La Gloria, at elevations up to nearly 4500 feet. Eggs and young birds are sometimes obtained by the natives. On some occasions, these birds come down the slopes to about 1500 feet elevation. The fact that nearly all the inhabitants know this Chachalaca indicates it is fairly common in the Sierra Madre of the eastern portion of the Isthmus.

Mr. MacDougall is to be commended for his detailed observations in this critical and interesting region. Mr. Emmet R. Blake of the Chicago Natural History Museum has kindly checked the skin and photograph with me.—DONALD F. HOFFMEISTER, *Museum of Natural History, University of Illinois, Urbana.*

Notes on the Barbet Genus *Eubucco* (Capitonidae) in Southern Peru.—Specimens of three species of the barbet genus *Eubucco* have recently been received in a collection of birds from the Marcapata Valley in southeastern Peru. The specimens of *Eubucco* were taken at two localities within 15 miles of each other, Hacienda Cadena at 1000 meters and Balceadero on the Rio Nusiniscato at 630 meters. All