

The Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsi*) in Colorado.—The Yellow-billed Loon was placed on the list of Colorado birds by the late Wells W. Cooke (Further notes on the Birds of Colorado, Bull. 44, Tech. Ser. 4: 155, Fort Collins, Colo., Mar. 1898) on the strength of a specimen in the collection of Manly Hardy of Brewer, Maine. It was recorded as a young male, collected on May 25, 1885, at Loveland, Colorado, by W. G. Smith. This record was included in the third edition (1910) of the A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds, and it also was repeated by W. L. Sclater in his "A History of the Birds of Colorado" (Witherby and Co., London, 1912, p. 11).

After examining the specimen, which had finally become a part of the collections of the Park Museum in Providence, Rhode Island, A. C. Bent published a note (Condor, 17: 130, 1915), in which he definitely established the fact that this bird was not *adamsi* but "a very curious specimen of a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)." He went on to say that "Its bill is certainly yellow, the yellowest or lightest colored bill I have ever seen in any young Loon . . . but the size and shape of the bill agrees with *Gavia immer* and not with *G. adamsi*."

It appears, however, that *adamsi* must be restored to the list on the strength of a specimen taken at Brighton, Adams County, Colorado, on November 7, 1922, by F. J. Smith. It is curious that both of these specimens should have been collected by men named Smith, but we have no knowledge of any relationship. This specimen, in the collections of the Denver Museum of Natural History, is also an immature bird, but is unsexed. It has been compared with specimens in similar plumage of undoubted *immer* and *adamsi*, in the collections at Denver and in the U. S. National Museum. The tip of the bill is damaged so that its exact length cannot be determined, but (as pointed out by Bent), the shape of the bill, particularly the angle of the anterior half of the lower mandible, appears to be diagnostic. Other measurements are readily matched by specimens of *adamsi* taken in Arctic Alaska.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado* and FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

On the Correct Names for the Caracaras and for the Long-winged Harrier.—The name *Falco brasiliensis* Gmelin 1788 and the genus *Polyborus* Vieillot both have as their type a miniature colored drawing by Marcgrave in his *Historia Naturalis Brasiliae* of a raptor he called the "Caracara." In a paper on Marcgrave's birds (1938, *Journ. für Ornith.*, 86: 94), Schneider reproduced this drawing in black and white and decided that it represents not a caracara but the harrier known for a long time as *Circus buffoni* (Gmelin). Schneider proposed to replace *Polyborus* as the generic name for the true caracaras by the later *Caracara* Merrem and to substitute the name *brasiliensis* for *buffoni* as the name of the Long-winged Harrier. The latter action, though unfortunately followed by Hellmayr and Conover (1949, *Cat. Birds Americas*, 13, pt. 1, no. 4: 224) is unnecessary in any case since *brasiliensis* and *buffoni* were described by Gmelin in the same work. Page priority alone is involved and this under the Rules is not allowed as a basis for changing an established name.

Professor E. Stresemann, who at first was inclined to agree with Schneider's determination, wrote to me (February 8, 1954) that because no harrier has apparently been recorded from northeastern Brazil he now feels doubtful about the determination of the drawing as a Long-winged Harrier. "I therefore would prefer to declare the drawing as unidentifiable. In this way the name *Circus buffoni* will be retained for the Long-winged Harrier."

Now to consider the fate of the generic name *Polyborus*. Hellmayr and Conover (*op. cit.*, p. 281) stated that "the generic features of *Polyborus* were undoubtedly taken from *Falco plancus* [that is, from the true caracara] . . . as is shown by Vieillot's subsequent detailed account (in *Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat.*, nouv. ed., 5, p. 256)." Nevertheless they rejected this name because Vieillot had listed as its only species the "Caracara"; said caracara being based indirectly upon Marcgrave's drawing. But we have seen that this drawing is essentially unidentifiable and may, indeed, be of a caracara, which is what Marcgrave called it. Everyone admits that Vieillot's diagnosis of *Polyborus* applies to the caracaras, and under these circumstances the diagnosis sustains the name. Merrem's name may again go back into synonymy. The status of the name *Falco brasiliensis* is of less moment, inasmuch as Hellmayr and Conover (*op. cit.*, p. 283) consider that the caracaras of Brazil, and northern South America generally, are not separable from the nominate race, *Polyborus p. plancus*, with type locality at Tierra del Fuego.—D. AMADON, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

Two Species New to the Mexican Avifauna.—While in Chiapas, Mexico, in 1952, I collected the following two species which do not appear to have been recorded previously from Mexico.

Dendrocolaptes picumnus puncticollis Sclater and Salvin. On September 22, within an area of pines eight kilometers east of San Cristóbal Las Casas, at an altitude of 2400 meters, a single individual of this species was observed and collected. It was a non-breeding female in fresh plumage and weighed 59.1 grams.

The species, which is fairly widely distributed in South America, is rare and local in Central America. This record represents a considerable extension of range for the form, which was known only as far north as Alta Vera Paz, in eastern Guatemala.

Icterus maculi-alatus Cassin. A breeding male, which weighed 39.6 grams, was taken on August 6 in a low forest 10 kilometers west of Tuxtla Gutiérrez at an altitude of 800 meters.

The species has heretofore been recorded only on the Pacific slope of Guatemala. At the time the specimen was collected, it was assumed to be the sibling species *Icterus wagleri*, which is common in the region, and no notice was taken of the relative abundance of the two forms. Sr. Miguel Alvarez del Toro, of the Museo Zoologico in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, informs me (*in litt.*) that he has collected *Icterus maculi-alatus* on a number of occasions near the town and that it is so common he was unaware that its occurrence in Chiapas had not been recorded previously. Undoubtedly there are more unrecorded specimens in other museums.—RAYMOND A. PAYNTER, JR., *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Reverse Mounting in the the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—On April 20, 1950, while I was observing a nesting pair of Starlings, I became aware of a very odd and perhaps characteristic mating behavior of this species. On 2:30 of this day, Starling A entered the nest with a small twig. After A had disappeared into the nest, B flew to the telephone wire directly opposite the nest. In a few seconds A joined B on the wire and mounted B but immediately returned to perch alongside its mate whereupon B assumed the upper position and definitely copulated with A.

Since the observations were made on four consecutive days and the reverse mounting phenomena observed several times on each of these days, it is logical to assume that reverse mounting was a part of the mating procedure of these two birds and that the female Starling of this pair solicited copulation by imitating the treading of the male.—BRUCE GLICK, 2062 17th Ave., Columbus, Ohio.