

dealer in natural history specimens, with a business at 9½ Prospect Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., in the fifth, sixth, and seventh decades of the last century.

In reply to my inquiries, Dr. Stresemann has kindly searched the Haeberlin papers in the archives of the Berlin Museum, and informs me that this young collector landed at Puerto Cabello late in 1825 and sent his first shipment of birds from there. On January 10, 1826, he went to Cartagena, where he waited for Count von Sack, who arrived there on February 5. The Count made a contract with Haeberlin to collect along the Magdalena River from Cartagena to Bogota, on which journey he left Cartagena on April 26. However, some 4 days before starting on the journey, in the course of which he died, Haeberlin sent off to Berlin a consignment of 107 bird skins, all collected at Cartagena. In this shipment were the 3 specimens, on the labels of which Lichtenstein subsequently wrote the name *I. armenti*.

About 5 or 6 years ago Mr. M. A. Carriker was collecting birds in Colombia for the U. S. National Museum and made a special search for this bird in the Cartagena area. He found no sign of it and wondered, as others had done before him, if the localities on Cabanis's and Lawrence's birds were incorrect. Dugand (Caldasia, 4: 637, 1947) was also unable to turn up this species in the northern Colombian coastal area. It would appear now that the true habitat of the bird is the Amazonian savanna country of extreme southern Colombia, and, probably, adjacent areas of Brazil and Peru. There is no reason, however, to think that Haeberlin's specimens came from the interior; the above considerations do raise a question as to whether the bird has deserted the coastal area since Haeberlin's time. A cowbird is not a shy kind of bird that flees from human settlement, and the country around Cartagena is said to be still suitable for it.

This rediscovered bird is a relative, although a well-marked and quite isolated one, of the Red-eyed Cowbird, and may prove to be only a race of that species. Until more is learned of it there is no need to change its status, and it may be kept as a species, *Tangavius armenti* (Cabanis). The bird should no longer be called "Arment's" cowbird; if a common name is needed for it, it may be called the Colombian Red-eyed Cowbird.

This note is published by permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum, Washington 25, D. C.*

**Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*).**—On November 24, 1955, on Quouonset Pond at Little Compton, R. I., I was watching a flock of about 160 Baldpates 100 yards off shore. Just inside there was a single Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), apparently a cripple, winged-tipped three hours before by some gunners. It had escaped by swimming too fast for their retriever. A Great Black-backed Gull flew across the pond. As it approached the flock of Baldpates they all took wing, and the gull made straight for the Ruddy Duck, which dove as it came near. The gull hovered over the spot until the duck came up; it again darted at the Ruddy and forced it to dive. This was repeated 7 or 8 times. The last time just after the Ruddy dove, but was swimming so near the surface that it caused a ripple, the gull lit on the water and grabbed it by the neck, pulled it to the surface, and shook it vigorously, as a terrier shakes a rat, for about 4 minutes. Then, when the Ruddy's struggles ceased, the gull began eating it, apparently biting meat off the breast.

This episode was seen clearly with a 20-power telescope. It seemed that the gull recognized the injured state of the Ruddy Duck, singled it out for attack, and put through a successful campaign.—STANLEY COBB, 34 Fernald Drive, Cambridge, Massachusetts.