bill of the Dade County birds should permit positive identification of the southeastern Florida birds.

Though the possibility of migrants from farther north reaching Florida cannot be ignored, the observed characters and their geographical distribution, and the fact that many specimens were taken in February and March when the breeding season is well started (and a few during the summer), support the generally held view that the species is sedentary in Florida. Any identification of the pale northern *migrans*, as a winter visitor, must take into account the existence of the small pale south Florida birds with larger bills and longer tails.

Florida specimens examined, 72, as follows.

L. l. ludovicianus

Northern Florida 30: Santa Rosa, 3; Mary Esther, 4; Amelia Island, 5; Gainsville, 2; Starke, 1; New River, 1; Putnam County, 14.

Central Florida 20: Indian River area, 12 (Wilson, 7; City Point, 1; Eau Gallie, 3; Enterprise, 1); Tampa area, 8 (Grove City, 1; Anclote, 7).

L. l. miamensis

Southern Florida 22: Fort Meyers area, 9 (Punta Rassa, 6; Pine Island, 3); Palm Beach County, 2 (West Jupiter, 1; Lake Worth, 1); Dade County, 11.

A. L. RAND, *Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, Illinois.*

The Bahaman Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor vicinus*) on the Florida Keys.—It was after sundown on June 13, 1949, that my brother Wray H. Nicholson and I heard a new and strange bird-call on Stock Island, at Key West, Florida. The calls came from the salt flats several hundred yards away, and we felt sure this could only be the note of the Cuban Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor gundlachii*), which had been reported by Earle Greene, who obtained an adult and one young-of-the-year on August 11, 1942.

Upon reaching the spot, we found a nighthawk flying and diving, uttering notes quite unlike those of any other bird known to us. These calls were three-syllabled and sounded to us like "Kick-a-dic," uttered over and over again.

After a quick search of the mud-caked salt flat, Wray flushed the female from her "nest" containing a single, very heavily incubated egg. The egg was collected and later nicely preserved. We thought we had taken the first actual nest and egg of a Cuban Nighthawk ever to have been found in the United States.

We also heard another male of the same species, calling as it flew about 400 yards to the west, and in searching for a nest of this second pair, we flushed another female, but found no nest. We also heard the calls of a Florida Nighthawk (*C. m. chapmani*), as it flew about nearby. It was uttering the calls ("Beap-Beap-Beap") that are so familiar to us, and I assumed that it was the Florida form. I make this cautious comment advisedly, since on the following day, June 14, we flushed the male "Cuban" nighthawk (the mate of the female whose nest we found) from its perch in a low mangrove tree, and just before alighting on a branch of another mangrove tree, it uttered one distinct "Beap" note identical to the call that is commonly used by *C. m. chapmani*. At no time did I hear this "Beap" note uttered by any of the other three "Cuban" nighthawks while flying and diving above the nesting territory, or while perching. Of the various birds that we saw and heard on the Keys, this was the only one that we judged to be in truth a Florida Nighthawk. Unfortunately, we did not make a search for a possible nest. As we spent four days on the Keys, we can only conclude that at least during the 1949 breeding season it was quite rare.

On June 14 we again visited the nest-site of the "Cuban" nighthawk and found her sitting upon the empty "nest" (the egg having been taken) and somewhat reluctant to leave. She was collected. In a small cluster of mangroves growing on the open salt flats several hundred yards from the nest, I flushed the male, which was also obtained for a specimen.

Again in mid-June, 1950, a two-day search of the Florida Keys as far as Key West was made by Wray H. Nicholson, who failed to find a single nighthawk.

In mid-June of 1955, he made a third trip to Key West and on this venture was successful in discovering, on Stock Island, two nests of what he still believed to be Cuban Nighthawks. One nest held a single incubated egg and the second contained a single young that could barely fly. Also, another male was seen and heard calling as it flew about over the Naval Air Base.

At Islamoranda, Upper Matecumbe Key, as he stood outside a motel in the late afternoon, he saw and heard a male "Cuban" nighthawk calling as it flew over the building. His attempts to trail this bird failed. If this was a breeding bird, then its known breeding range has been extended about 90 miles eastward from Key West.

It is noteworthy that each of the three nests we found contained but a single egg or young. Both the eggs collected are smaller and much paler in coloration and markings than the average eggs of *C. m. chapmani*.

In early January, 1956, Dr. Herbert Friedmann carefully looked over the pair of skins obtained on June 14, 1949, which I brought to the National Museum, and we both noted that the museum specimens of the Cuban Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor gundlachii*) definitely did not match them. Instead, they compared most favorably with the museum skins of the Bahaman subspecies, *Chordeiles minor vicinus*.

I was requested by Dr. Friedmann to leave these two skins with him, in order that Dr. Alexander Wetmore, who was returning from Panama in March, might have the opportunity to examine them and express his opinion as to their identity.

Accordingly I received a letter from Dr. Wetmore, dated March 22, 1956, which I quote in part: "Yesterday I spent most of the day in study of this problem and fully agree that your two birds represent the Bahaman form *Chordeiles minor vicinus*. It has developed under more careful scrutiny that the two specimens taken earlier by Earle Greene were collected August 11, one being in worn plumage and the other an immature of the year, so that neither one was in good feather, which would account for the earlier identification as the Cuban form. This therefore establishes the Bahaman subspecies as the breeding bird of the Florida Keys and eliminates the Cuban race from our list."

Dr. Wetmore has informed me later that the grayer color that separates the Bahaman race from the Cuban could be seen plainly only in our fresh specimens, being obscured by wear in the first two taken; this accounts for the earlier identification. He also informed me that six sets of the Bahaman form from the Bahamas, Haiti, and Puerto Rico, were all of one egg each.

The Bahaman Nighthawk is a very uncommon bird, found breeding on Stock Island in May and June; we saw and heard only one (in mid-June on Upper Matecumbe Key). The three nests which have been found have contained but a single egg or young, the eggs being much smaller and of paler coloration than eggs of the Florida Nighthawk. So far as known, one egg constitutes the set in this bird.

It has unique call-notes, quite unlike those of any other North American nighthawk. Sometimes the male may utter the "Beap" note when disturbed while perching.

Earle Greene was the first ornithologist to discover and collect specimens of this form in the Florida Keys, several years prior to the time of actual discovery of the nest and eggs.

Just how long the Bahaman Nighthawk might have been breeding on the Florida Keys prior to Greene's discovery is unknown. The failure to see or hear the birds in June, 1950, suggests that they may be absent some years.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Royal Purple Citrus Research Nursery, Orlando, Florida.*

The Hybrid Origin of *Chlorophanes purpurascens*.—The unique type in the British Museum was described by Sclater and Salvin (Nomencl. Av. Neotrop., p. 157, 1873). The label reads "e Mus. P. L. Sclater. Date 1872. Hab. Caracas. Athy. Boucard" and bears the British Museum Catalogue number 04.7.31.137. Hellmayr (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., 13 [8]: 250, 1935) doubted that the type actually came from Caracas and commented that the type is a trade skin of the "Trinidad" or "Orinoco" make and "shows exactly the same preparation as specimens of *Hylonympha macrocerca* Gould, whose habitat is likewise unknown." Phelps and Phelps (Auk, 65: 62–66, 1948) subsequently reported the rediscovery of *Hylonympha* on the Paria Peninsula of Venezuela, directly across from Trinidad. The most recent allocation of *C. purpurascens* is that of Phelps and Phelps (Bol. Soc. Venez. Ciencias Nat., 72: 202, 1948) who, following a suggestion of Bond (*in litt.*), considered it to be a hybrid between *Chlorophanes spiza* and *Dacnis cayana cayana.*

In July, 1954, I examined and photographed the type in the British Museum and showed it to Alexander Wetmore who pointed out that in certain respects it resembles *Cyanerpes cyaneus.* Further study of the specimen led me to believe that *C. purpurascens* is a hybrid between *Chlorophanes spiza* and *Cyanerpes cyaneus* as Dr. Wetmore suggested. That *C. spiza* is one parental species seems quite clear, and there are two important reasons for favoring *Cyanerpes cyaneus* over *Dacnis cayana* as the other parent. First, the bill of *C. purpurascens* is longer and more slender than that of either *C. spiza* or *D. cayana.* It is, in fact, intermediate in size and shape between those of *C. spiza* and *Cyanerpes cyaneus.* And second, the color of the bird, as suggested by the specific name, is more purple than either *C. spiza* or *D. cayana* but approaches the deep purplish color of *Cyanerpes cyaneus.* The black area on the back, used by Bond (in Phelps and Phelps) as a reason for considering *D. cayana* as one of the parents, is also a character of *Cyanerpes cyaneus.* There is no black on the throat of *C. purpurasceus* (a character of *D. cayana*) nor is there any turquoise on the crown (a character of *C. cyaneus*). The patterns of the crown, nape, and the upper side of the secondaries are very similar to those of *C. spiza.* The dark under tail coverts approach the black of that part of *C. cyaneus,* and the whitish areas on the proximal parts of the remiges, although less well defined than the conspicuous yellow marks of *C. cyaneus,* suggest relationship with that species. The bill is colored like that of *C. spiza* except that the maxilla is entirely black. The feet appear paler than those of *C. spiza* but darker than those of either *D. cayana* or *C. cyaneus.*

While it is still possible that *Chlorophanes purpurascens* is a valid species and remains to be rediscovered in some unexplored area of Venezuela, I believe that because only one specimen has been collected and that specimen is intermediate between two wide-spread, common species, it is best to consider *Chlorophanes purpurascens* an intergeneric hybrid between *Chlorophanes spiza* and *Cyanerpes cyaneus,* at least until further information is forthcoming.—ROBERT W. STORER, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*