

## GENERAL NOTES

**Thick-billed Kingbird in the United States.**—While on a field trip, June 4, 1958 to the Guadalupe Mountains of southeastern Arizona, adjacent New Mexico and Sonora, my brother John and I located two pairs of Thick-billed Kingbirds (*Tyrannus crassirostris*)—a species new to the A.O.U. Check-list area. The first pair was found in the Arizona portion of Guadalupe Canyon about one mile from the New Mexico border and five miles from the Sonoran border. The female was collected and proved to be in breeding condition. The bird contained a fully developed egg, the shell calcified when exposed to the air. Three other ova measured about 6 mm. each. The pair no doubt had a nest in one of the large cottonwoods or sycamores in the vicinity. The second pair, found in the same canyon less than a mile into Sonora from the International Border, was observed at their nest. The nest was built about 30 feet up in a large sycamore, in a crotch formed where a small lateral branch joined the main trunk. The birds appeared to be incubating and were constantly at the nest.

These Thick-billed Kingbirds shared their riparian habitat with nesting Western Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) and Cassin's Kingbirds (*Tyrannus vociferans*).

This species has been known hitherto only from western Mexico and Guatemala. The closest to the United States it has been found before is a breeding population at Rancho la Arizona, Sonora, Mexico, about 25 miles southwest of Nogales near the headwaters of the Rio Altar. Dr. Allan R. Phillips has a specimen from Huachinera, Sonora and one of a pair from Rancho Coyote, about 14 miles by road north and west from Bacadehuachi. It also breeds northeast of Imuris, with specimens in the Phillips collection (personal correspondence). These are the northernmost records for eastern Sonora. Marshall records the species as nesting at Rancho Pinos Altos in the Sierra Nacori, Sonora (Pac. Coast Avif., 32: 86, 1957).

Our specimen has been deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Service Collection at the U. S. National Museum. Dr. John W. Aldrich, following the nomenclature of Miller *et al.* (Pac. Coast Avif., 33: 73, 1957), has identified it as the subspecies *Tyrannus crassirostris pomalis* Bangs and Peters, of which *T. c. sequestratus* van Rossem (Condor, 43: 250, 1941) is generally considered a synonym.

Guadalupe Canyon is mostly in the Lower Sonoran Life Zone. Vegetation of the Upper Sonoran Zone gradually takes over towards the head of the canyon in New Mexico and on some of the higher hills in Arizona. The riparian canyon bottom is characterized by huge cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*) and sycamores (*Platanus wrightii*). Water is available at several stock tanks and ranch wells and reservoirs. Except for a few small springs and seeps, which run above ground for short distances during wet years, there is no permanent running water in the canyon.—SEYMOUR H. LEVY, Route 9, Box 960, Tucson, Arizona.

**A Hybrid Between Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes.**—On May 13, 1954, a drake goldeneye in full nuptial plumage was picked up in a moribund condition on Westwick Lake, 12 miles south of Williams Lake, British Columbia. The specimen is intermediate between *Bucephala islandica* and *B. clangula* and is probably a hybrid. It was prepared as a study skin and is now N. 4472 in the collection of the Museum of Zoology, University of British Columbia. The trachea was preserved with the specimen.

The facial spot of the hybrid is nearly round like that of adult male *B. clangula*, but with a dorsal extension of the white, similar to but not as extensive as that in

adult male *B. islandica*. The dimensions of the facial spot (in preserved specimens) are: *B. clangula*, length 24 mm., height 21 mm.; *B. islandica*, length 18 mm., height 38 mm.; hybrid, length 22 mm., height 30 mm. The principal iridescence on the head of the hybrid is reddish-purple, almost bronze, appearing greenish (not bluish-green) in certain lights. This differs from both the bluish-green gloss of *B. clangula* and the bluish-purple of *B. islandica*. The crown feathers of the hybrid are elongate, forming a dorsal crest similar to that of *B. clangula*; the feathers of the nape are also prolonged but not as much as in *B. islandica*.

Viewed from above, the bill of the hybrid tapers slightly from base to tip, not as much as in *B. islandica*, but more so than in *B. clangula*. The height of the bill at its base is greater than in *B. clangula*, but less than in *B. islandica*. The nail is large, as in *B. islandica*, but only moderately arched transversely and longitudinally; it is neither flat, as in *B. clangula*, nor conspicuously arched, as in *B. islandica*. A slight bony protuberance can be felt on the forehead of the hybrid; this is not as prominent as in *B. islandica*, nor is it as flat as in *B. clangula*.

The general appearance of the scapulars of the hybrid is closer to *B. islandica*, but the white spots are more elongate, tending toward the white stripes seen in *B. clangula*. The black margins of the feathers are wider than in *B. clangula*, narrower than in *B. islandica*, and elongated into pronounced lateral processes, as in *islandica*. The white area on the wing of the hybrid is considerably greater than in *B. islandica*, and somewhat less than in *B. clangula*. The white area involving the lesser wing coverts is intermediate between the two species. The bar formed by the black bases of the greater wing coverts is broken by the overlying white middle coverts. The flank feathers of the hybrid are intermediate, but closer to *B. islandica*. Anteriorly, the black lateral margins of the flank feathers are conspicuous but considerably narrower than in *B. islandica*. Posteriorly, the flank feathers are broadly margined with black both laterally and medially, much more so than in *B. clangula*, somewhat less so than in *B. islandica*. The feathers in front of the bend of the folded wing of the hybrid are nearly all pure white as in *B. clangula*, but a few of the more dorsal ones are tipped with black, giving a hint of the ventral extension of the black of the back typical of *B. islandica*.

In the hybrid the tracheal swelling anterior to the syrinx is intermediate in size and shape between *B. clangula* and *B. islandica*. The swollen region is shorter, and of greater diameter than is typically found in *B. islandica*. In addition, the dorsal portions of the tracheal rings are slightly displaced posteriorly, forming a small posterodorsal pouch, similar to, but not as pronounced as that found in *B. clangula*.

When found the hybrid was unable to fly, and swam and dove with difficulty. Its wing and leg muscles were partially paralyzed. The bird was moderately emaciated, without fat, and weighed only 813 grams. An adult male *B. islandica* shot on May 25, 1954, weighed 1066 grams and had considerable fat deposits. Autopsy of the hybrid disclosed nineteen lead shot in the gizzard, and the caecal contents were stained dark green. Death was ascribed to lead poisoning.

The bird was apparently unmated. It was seen in the same place for two days prior to capture and was at no time accompanied by a female. Combined testicular volume was only 1.0 cc., compared with 2.7 cc. for the adult male *B. islandica* mentioned above. The small testis size may be attributable to the lead poisoning, and is not necessarily correlated with the hybrid parentage. Westwick Lake is a

favored breeding lake for *B. islandica*, but is visited by *B. clangula* only on migration. In 1954, the last Common Goldeneye migrants were seen on May 9, an unusually late date ascribed to the much delayed spring.

I know of only one other specimen of a hybrid between *B. clangula* and *B. islandica*, an adult drake in full nuptial plumage taken in April, 1951, at Petitcodiac, New Brunswick, described by L. L. Snyder (Wilson Bull., 65 (3) : 199, 1953). Zella M. Schultz (Murrelet, 39 (1) : 11, 1958) notes a sight record of a hybrid male *B. clangula* × *B. islandica* at Seattle, Washington, in March, 1958. Annie P. Gray (Bird Hybrids, p. 63, 1958, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Farnham Royal, Bucks, England) lists only Snyder's record of this hybrid, but mentions reported hybrids between *B. clangula* and many other species of ducks. Hybrids between the two goldeneyes are probably more common than known specimens indicate. Hybrid females would be virtually indistinguishable, even in the hand, and males in full nuptial plumage would be difficult to distinguish in the field, except possibly for an observer thoroughly familiar with both species. It would be particularly interesting to study populations in regions where the breeding ranges of *B. clangula* and *B. islandica* overlap, in northern British Columbia, the Yukon, and Alaska.—MARY F. JACKSON, Dept. of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B. C.

**First Common Scoter Collected in Texas.**—Although several sight records are on file for the Common (Black) Scoter (*Oidemia nigra americana*) in Texas, the species apparently had not been collected, and therefore is included only in the state hypothetical list (Wolfe, Check-List of the Birds of Texas, 1956: 83-84). Texas is not mentioned in the range given by the A.O.U. Check-list (5th ed. 1957): 94, which states that in winter it occurs irregularly to Louisiana.

I observed a lone, immature Common Scoter for several minutes on November 4, 1956, through 7 × 35 binoculars at a distance of about 50 yards. The bird was swimming on the Laguna Madre about one mile south of the junction of the main Intracoastal Canal and the Harlingen Spur, Cameron County, Texas. I was unable at the time to collect it.

On November 11, I again saw a lone Common Scoter near the same location and succeeded in collecting it. Later the same day I saw, at close range, another Common Scoter, either a female or immature bird, flying with six Redheads (*Aythya americana*). Identification of the collected bird, an immature female, was verified by Refuge Manager Luther Goldman, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who prepared a study skin which is now on display at the headquarters of the Laguna Atascosa and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuges, San Benito, Texas.

I spent considerable time on the Laguna Madre during the remainder of this and the following winter but saw no additional Common Scoters.—HENRY M. REEVES, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 407, Aberdeen, S. D.

**An Oklahoma Record of the Yellow Rail.**—The A.O.U. Check-list 5th ed.: 158, 1957 mentions no record of the Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) from either Arkansas or Oklahoma. A supposed old Arkansas record is given by A. H. Howell (1911. Birds of Arkansas. 28), which was overlooked and which I quote:

“The only record for the state is furnished by a specimen in the United States National Museum (No. 12641) labeled ‘Fort Wayne, Ark., Lieut. Eustis.’ This fort was located on the Arkansas-Oklahoma