

The nests contained 3 eggs each. The eggs of *H. mexicanus*, so far as I am aware, have not been pictured before. Schönwetter's *Handbuch der Oologie* (Berlin, Akademie-Verlag, 1960-1961) does not describe the eggs of this species. They are of special interest because in the allied Tiger Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) the eggs are described as having brownish or pale purplish spots, which, as Schönwetter pointed out, is most unusual for a member of the Ardeidae, almost all of which lay plain bluish-green eggs (Schönwetter, *op. cit.*: 83-85). The spotted character of the eggs of *T. lineatum* has been confirmed recently in Surinam (Haverschmidt, *Ardea*, 50: 173, 1962), and Argentina (Rossi, *Univ. Buenos Aires Fac. Cien. Exact. y Nat., Ser. Zool.*, 1: 35-62, 1958). Van Rossem found a nest of *H. mexicanus* on 21 July 1912, in El Salvador, with a single egg a few days old, and stated that, according to his field notes, it was "Dull white, with a greenish tinge, of rough grain, nearly equi-ended and about the size of a red-tailed hawk's egg" (Dickey and van Rossem, *The birds of El Salvador. Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser.*, 23, 1938. See p. 83.). The unspotted eggs in the two Chiapas nests confirm van Rossem's description.

Because colors of soft parts are often seasonably changeable in herons, it is worth noting that in the incubating bird the bare loreal stripe was greenish-yellow; the skin of the throat, bright yellow; the iris, deep yellow; and the tarsus, greenish-slate.

I am grateful to Eugene Eisenmann for calling the literature references to my attention.—WALTER DAWN, 49-15 Skillman Avenue, Woodside, New York.

Description of a race of the Double-striped Thick-knee (Aves, family Burhinidae) from Colombia.—In our recent studies of Colombian birds, working independently, we have found that the Double-striped Thick-knee (*Burhinus striatus*) of northern Colombia differs so definitely from the race *B. s. vocifer* of Venezuela and the llanos east of the eastern Andes as to require separation by name. It is described as follows:

***Burhinus striatus pediacus*, new subspecies**

Characters.—Similar to *Burhinus striatus vocifer* (L'Herminier)¹ but paler in general coloration; pale border stripes on feathers of dorsal surface definitely light-colored, ranging from pale cinnamon-buff to pale buff; dark areas of center of crown more brownish black; light borders of feathers on foreneck and upper breast decidedly paler; under tail coverts lighter, pale cinnamon-buff.

Type.—U. S. National Museum no. 368601, male, taken near Maicao, Guajira, 15 April 1941, by A. Wetmore and M. A. Carriker, Jr. (original number 11429).

Description of type.—General color of central area of feathers on crown, back, and rump fuscous to fuscous-black, edged rather widely with dull white on the forehead and loreal area, dull buffy white on the crown, and dull pinkish buff elsewhere; a broad black stripe on either side of the crown from the level of the front of the eye back to the nape; hindneck and side of neck dull buff, lined narrowly with fuscous; edge of wing prominently white; anterior lesser wing coverts fuscous-black, rest of lesser coverts and middle coverts fuscous; greater coverts and outer tertials mouse gray, edged with pinkish buff to dull buffy white; primaries and secondaries fuscous-brown to fuscous-black, with the inner webs white except at tips; the outer web of the outermost primary pale buffy brown for a space of 20 mm toward tip; fourth

¹ *Aedicnemus vocifer* L'Herminier, *Mag. Zool.*, vol. 7, cl. 2, 1837, pl. 84 and text. (Maturin, Monagas, Venezuela.)

and fifth primaries with outer web extensively white near center; central pair of rectrices hair brown, with an indistinct subterminal band of buffy brown; the others hair brown, tipped with fuscous-black, and barred broadly with white; a broad superciliary stripe, lower eyelid, and side of head in a line from back of the eye to the side of the nape white; lower side of head from the malar area back over the auricular region dull buffy white lined with fuscous; lower foreneck and breast drab gray, changing to hair brown at the sides and across the posterior margin; lower flank feathers, crissum, and under tail coverts pinkish buff to pale pinkish buff; throat, posterior malar area, a narrow line down center of foreneck, extreme lower breast, abdomen, and sides pure white; under wing coverts white with the outer feathers margined with drab gray, and the longer, posterior row edged and tipped with that color. Lower section of maxilla, below and behind nostril, and mandibular rami dull pale glaucous-green; rest of bill dull black; tarsus and crus light olive-gray; toes olive-gray; claws fuscous-black (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males (6 specimens), wing (measured flat) 240–253 mm (average 245), tail 115.5–124.3 (117.8), culmen from base 47.3–49.4 (48.6), tarsus 101.5–115.0 (108.5).

Females (3 specimens), wing (measured flat) 242–249 mm (average, 244), tail 115.6–122.5 (119.6), culmen from base 46.9–53.1 (49.8), tarsus 101.0–111.8 (107.5).

Range.—Savannas of northeastern Colombia from extreme northeastern Magdalena (Casacará, Atánques) through the Guajira Peninsula (Distracción, Maicao, Cojoro, Puerto López, Nazaret, Puerto Estrella). There is also an isolated population on the savannas of the upper Magdalena region in Huila (near Villavieja). This race has been recorded also near the lower Río Magdalena in Atlántico (Palmar de Varela, El Paraiso, Arroyo de Piedras, Tocahagua).

Remarks.—The pale coloration that marks this race is apparent at a glance in the excellent series that we have had available from the Guajira. Carriker in 1942 found this bird at the northeastern boundary of the Department of Magdalena at Casacará, and three years later took one specimen a little farther north at Atánques.

The isolated colony, above-mentioned, of this thick-knee in the savanna region of the upper Río Magdalena in northern Huila, is known mainly from the observations of Alden H. Miller. Dr. Miller kindly has placed at our disposal three specimens that he collected near Villavieja, two in January and February, 1945, and one in February, 1949. These are faintly darker than the Guajira birds, but sufficiently like them so that this remote population may be included under the same name.

Another population is reported on the basis of a few records from the lower Magdalena in eastern Atlántico. We have not studied specimens from that population, but this area is included in the range above on the basis of probability.

The name *pediacus* is from the Greek word *pediakos* meaning "of the plains."

In conclusion, it is pertinent to indicate that the thick-knee, known as Alcarabán, is kept regularly in the patios and corrals of country houses, and that in this semi-domestic state they often are transported for considerable distances. It is this that has led to misunderstanding in some published records of occurrence, as for example in Panamá, and on Isla Margarita, Venezuela, where these birds are not found in the wild state.

In April and May, 1941, the senior author found these birds common across the dry savannas from Maicao east to Puerto López and Puerto Estrella. Near Nazaret in the Serranía de Macuire they range to the foot of the slope below the settlement. They were seen in pairs, sometimes in small bands, and often must have been overlooked as they moved quietly aside, when approached, to the cover of low bushes

and there remained motionless. When startled they ran a few steps with wings spread, and then, after gaining slight momentum, flew easily and swiftly, often uttering chattering calls. While they were widespread it is probable that they will be reduced in number as increasing human settlement encroaches on their range.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Research Associate, Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C.*, and J. I. BORRERO H., *Instituto Forestal, Medellin, Colombia*.

Male Mourning Dove rears young unaided.—That male and female Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) alternate in tending the nest has recently been verified with large numbers of records of marked wild birds (Harris, Morse, and Longley, *Amer. Midland Nat.*, 69: 150–172, 1963).

During a study of penned pairs of wild-trapped doves, I observed that one male, whose mate was removed from the pen, successfully incubated the eggs and cared for the squabs until they fledged.

The female was removed from the 8 × 6 × 6 foot pen on the fourth day of incubation. The male rarely left the nest after her removal.

After hatching occurred, the male fed and brooded the young. The first squab fledged on the thirteenth day after hatching, and the second, fourteen days after hatching. This was three and four days longer than was normally required for fledging in the pens.

The first squab weighed 48 g at fledging; the second 23 g. Weights of other squabs in the pens at fledging ranged from 60 to 70 g. The 23 gram squab died three days after fledging.

The male did not *coo* during any of my one-hour early morning observation periods, from the fifth day of incubation to the sixth day of brooding. During the remainder of the brooding period his *cooing* rate remained low, as is characteristic of mated males (Frankel and Baskett, *J. Wildl. Mgmt.*, 25: 372–384, 1961).

Males of four other pairs continued incubation from three to six days after removal of the female, but none completed incubation. In two other cases, nests were deliberately destroyed after males had incubated unaided for three days.—W. REID GOFORTH, *Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri*.

Third United States record of the Black-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris bicolor*).—While on a field investigation of the Lantana area (south of West Palm Beach) in Palm Beach County, Florida, I discovered a dead Black-faced Grassquit. The specimen, a female, was lying at the edge of a road paralleling the adjacent beach and was apparently struck by a traveling automobile. Its condition prevented processing for a skin, but an injected preservative solution allowed its shipment for identification.

At the United States National Museum it was identified as *Tiaris bicolor* by George E. Watson, Division of Birds. This species was first recorded on 19 January 1871 at Miami, Florida, by H. W. Henshaw (A. H. Howell, *Florida bird life*, 1932; see p. 443). The second record was made on 29 October 1960 at Mahogany Hammock, Everglades National Park, Florida, by C. R. Mason and L. A. Stimson (*Aud. Field Notes*, 15: 34, 1961). The present, third record was made on 14 December 1962.—M. RALPH BROWNING, *Box 253, Phoenix, Oregon*.