

The only North American records of this Siberian and east Asian bird given by the A.O.U. Check-list (fifth edit., 1957: 198) are as a breeder "near Wales at the end of the Seward Peninsula, western Alaska," and as a casual wanderer "on St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands and at Nome, Alaska." This apparently constitutes the first record for the species in the United States outside Alaska.—JON AHLQUIST, *Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*.

A specimen of Fuertes' Oriole, *Icterus fuertesi*, from Texas.—Recently, while working in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, with the kind cooperation of Raymond A. Paynter, Jr., I was able to examine Harvard's series of the Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) while searching for material from the southwestern United States and Mexico. In the series I found an adult male Fuertes' Oriole in moderately worn breeding plumage. The specimen (M.C.Z. no. 258513) is labeled *Icterus spurius*, Brownsville, Texas, 3 April 1894, and is apparently the second specimen of the "species" taken (Sclater, *Ibis*, 81: 140–145, 1939). It was received from the A. C. Bent collection where it was no. 10864. In the card catalogue of the Bent collection and the M.C.Z. catalogue the bird is recorded as *Icterus spurius*. The specimen retains the original field label, a small "watch-tag" type, attached with pink string. This label indicates the locality as "Bville" and bears the date. In the U. S. National Museum several days later I encountered a collection of birds from Frank Benson Armstrong bearing the identical type of label, including a specimen of the Black-headed Oriole, *I. graduacauda audubonii*, taken 1 April 1894. It should be noted that "Bville" was always used as an abbreviation for Brownsville, not for Beeville, Texas, a town considerably to the north in Bee County.

While collectors of Armstrong's time were rarely precise in their localities, there seems little reason not to accept this record as coming from the general vicinity of Brownsville. As such, it is, of course, new to the fauna of the United States.

More interesting than the mere addition of the form to the A.O.U. Check-list are the implications of the specimen as to the specific status of *I. fuertesi*. Graber and Graber (*Condor*, 56: 274–282, 1954) were not able to document sympatry of *I. fuertesi* with *I. spurius* in the areas of Tamaulipas which they studied; they carried out their studies, however, in the end of the nesting season for *I. spurius*. Phillips (*Anales Inst. Biol., Univ. Aut. Nac. de Méx.*, 32: 368, "1961"), largely on the basis of the Grabers' findings, designated *I. fuertesi* as a subspecies of *I. spurius*. The Texas specimen neither proves nor refutes the positions of these authors finally, but does very interestingly point up a problem awaiting careful analysis in the field in northeastern Mexico.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *Department of Microbiology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, New York*.

Red-billed Tropicbird on Long Island, New York.—The Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) is a pan-tropical species and one of its subspecies, *mesonauta*, breeds in eastern North America as far north as the Virgin Islands and ranges in the nonbreeding season at least to Lat. 23° N (in the vicinity of the Bahama Islands). Its supposed occurrence, "casually north to the Newfoundland Banks" (A.O.U. Check-list, fifth edit., 1957, see p. 27), is based on an old, uncorroborated sight report.

On 10 June 1963 a dead immature bird of this species was picked up on the shore of Bergen Beach, Jamaica Bay, Long Island, New York, by Walter J. Lynch and brought to the American Museum of Natural History, where it was made into a study

skin and is now A.M.N.H. no. 776556. This represents the first known record for continental eastern North America.

The U. S. Weather Bureau reported that a tropical disturbance of less than hurricane strength passed between the Virgin Islands and the Bahamas on 2 June 1963, traveling northwest but offshore of the east coast of the United States, decreasing in intensity as it neared the latitude of the Virginia coast, and finally "blowing itself out" on 4 June 1963 in the Pennsylvania region. It is very likely that this tropical storm was a direct cause of the occurrence of the Red-billed Tropicbird on the shore of Long Island.—JOHN L. BULL, *The American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, New York*.

***Tyrannus melancholicus* using a partially domed nest.**—On 1 July 1962 I observed a Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, incubating two eggs in a partially domed nest (Figure 1). The nest was located approximately five feet (1.5 m) above the water in Wheeler Estero, Barro Colorado Island, Panama Canal Zone.



Figure 1. Partially domed nest of the Tropical Kingbird. The nest cup and dome are finer grasses in the upper left of the bulk of material.

The nest cup was placed on top of a large ball of coarse grasses in a fork of one of the lower branches of a small tree. The material of which the cup and the domed edge were composed was considerably finer than that of the supporting ball. The domed section consisted of a concave wall on one side of the nest, which arched over to form the beginnings of a roof, covering perhaps one-quarter of the cup.

Both the Rusty-margined (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*) and Social (*M. similis*) flycatchers, tyrannids found in the area, build domed nests, and the larger ball of coarse grasses appeared to be the beginning of one of their nests. It is possible that the nest