

these openings are often used to advantage, and enlarged, by squirrels. Later, as the fruit that remains ripens and rots, it is feasted upon by many insects, among them the lovely owl butterflies (*Caligo* sp.) greatly relishing the now sweet pulp.—AUSTIN SMITH, *San José, Costa Rica, September 7, 1926.*

An American Hawk Owl Record for Vancouver Island.—In January, 1926, I found in the shop of C. W. Tow, taxidermist, Victoria, B. C., an American Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) shot by D. Irwin in the act of killing a European Partridge at Cedar Hill, near Victoria, B. C., December 29, 1925.—G. D. SPROT, *Cobble Hill, Vancouver Island, B. C., January 24, 1927.*

A Pacific Coast Race of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron.—In studying the collections made in the interests of the San Diego Society of Natural History on a short trip to Scammon Lagoon, on the west coast of central Lower California, Mexico, during May, 1926, it was found that the specimens of Yellow-crowned Night Herons show characters that seem worthy of subspecific recognition. A new race is therefore proposed, with the following name:

Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti,¹ subsp. nov. Bancroft Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Type.—Breeding male; no. 10654, collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History; collected at Scammon Lagoon, Lower California, Mexico, by Laurence M. Huey, skinned by George G. Cantwell, on May 25, 1926.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Nyctanassa violacea violacea* (Linnaeus), but larger, and with a heavier, longer bill in both vertical and lateral profiles.

Range.—The Pacific coast of Lower California from Scammon Lagoon south, the Gulf of California as far north as the San Luis Islands, and thence south along the Pacific coast of Mexico and Central America at least to Salvador.

Remarks.—The four Scammon Lagoon birds have the edgings of the inter-scapulars clear ashy with no trace of brownish, such as is present in all of the apparently adult eastern birds examined. However, the writer is not prepared to attach any significance to this at present. Two birds from Salvador in the collection of Mr. Donald R. Dickey are not typical of the new race, but

are very much closer to it in bill characters than to *violacea* of the southeastern United States.

Measurements.—Averages and extremes: Adult male, breeding, 3 specimens, including type: wing, 298.0 (297.0-299.0); tail, 114.6 (112.0-117.0); exposed culmen, 77.6 (76.0-80.0); depth of bill at base, 24.8 (23.2-26.4); tarsus, 98.6 (96.2-100.2); middle toe, minus claw, 63.9 (63.0-65.8); width of bill at base, 21.0 (20.3-21.6). Adult female, breeding, 1 specimen: wing, 287.0; tail, 115.0; exposed culmen, 74.6; depth of bill at base, 24.2; tarsus, 100.0; middle toe, minus claw, 61.0; width of bill at base, 21.0.

Specimens examined.—*Nyctanassa violacea violacea*, Suwanee River, Florida, 4²; Key West, Florida, 3²; Broro Neck, Georgia, 1². *Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*, Lake Olomega, Salvador, 2²; Scammon Lagoon, Lower California, Mexico, 4⁴; San Benito Islands, Lower California, Mexico, 1⁴.

¹ Named for Griffing Bancroft, of the San Diego Society of Natural History, who organized the trip on which the specimens were collected.

² Specimens from the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

³ Specimens from the Collection of Donald R. Dickey.

⁴ Specimens from the Collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History.

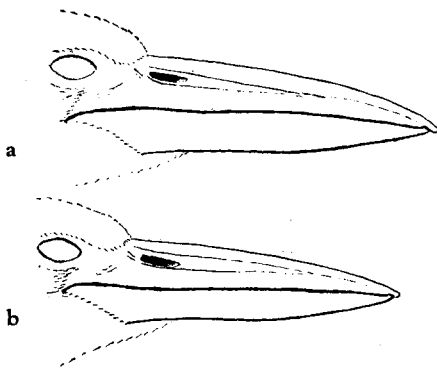


Fig. 56. BILLS OF YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS. $\times \frac{1}{2}$.

- a. Type of *Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*.
- b. *Nyctanassa violacea violacea*, ♂ ad.; no. 225341, Mus. Comp. Zool.; Broro Neck, Georgia.

Acknowledgments.—The writer wishes to express his appreciation to Messrs. Outram Bangs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology and Donald R. Dickey for use of material in their collections, and to Mr. Adriaan J. van Rossem for helpful criticisms and for the line drawing of bills published herewith.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, February 23, 1927.*

A New Race of Gila Woodpecker from Lower California.—When specimens of the Gila Woodpecker collected by Chester C. Lamb in May, 1926, at the eastern base of the Sierra San Pedro Martir reached the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and were compared with our series of the species from the lower Colorado River valley, outstanding differences were at once apparent. In visiting the Carnegie Museum last autumn, I found in the A. W. Anthony collection there, three examples that showed the same characters. And now others of similar features are available, from various localities in the upper waist of the Lower California peninsula, so that there is no question but that a definite area is occupied by a definable new subspecies differing from *Centurus uropygialis uropygialis* Baird to the northward and from *C. u. brewsteri* Ridgway to the southward. (See Ridgway, *Birds N. and Mid. Amer.*, Part VI, 1914, pp. 93-97.)

At the outset, I hasten to acknowledge borrowings of pertinent material from several sources: from the Carnegie Museum, through W. E. Clyde Todd; from the California Academy of Sciences, through Harry S. Swarth; from the San Diego Society of Natural History, through Clinton G. Abbott; and from the private collection of Laurence M. Huey. I am particularly indebted to Mr. Huey for presenting outright to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology the specimen of his which, because least worn and least soiled by cactus sap, as well as because of its beautiful make, I preferred to choose as a type. The new subspecies may be called

Centurus uropygialis cardonensis. San Fernando Gila Woodpecker

Type.—No. 50529, Mus. Vert. Zool.; male, "breeding"; mouth of Cañon San Juan de Dios, within ten miles east of El Rosario, near latitude 30°, Baja California; collected by Mrs. May Canfield, May 2, 1925; orig. no. 2975, coll. Laurence M. Huey.

Diagnosis.—In its main characters similar to *Centurus uropygialis uropygialis*, but general coloration much darker: whole head (except for red patch on crown) and anterior lower surface strongly tinged with snuff brown rather than pale drab; and white barring on closed wings, tail, dorsum, rump, flanks, and lower tail coverts, narrower, leaving the black-barring correspondingly broader. Similar to *C. u. brewsteri*, but size larger, and coloration darker, in the same respects though not to quite so great a degree as shown in comparison with *uropygialis*. In other words, the new form differs from both the previously known races in the deeper brown tinge of the head and lower surface and in the greater degree of predominance of black over white in the barring.

Measurements.—Of type of *cardonensis*: Wing, 133.0 mm.; tail, 80.5; exposed culmen, 31.1; bill from nostril, 25.9; depth of bill at nostrils, 7.8; tarsus, 24.0; outer anterior toe, 19.7. Compare with table of Ridgway (*loc. cit.*, p. 94). The widths of the white bars on the inner webs of the outer rectrices in the type of *cardonensis* average 2.3 mm.; in an example of *uropygialis*, 4.0; in an example of *brewsteri*, 2.9.

Range.—So far as now known, only the giant cactus (*cardon*) association in the northern section of the Lower Californian peninsula, from about latitude 30° to latitude 31°. Life-zone, Lower Sonoran. Specimens representing unequivocally this race come from the following localities: San Fernando, 4; the type locality, 1; three miles east of San Quintin, 1; El Cajon Cañon, 3200 feet altitude, east base of Sierra San Pedro Martir, 4; San Felipe (latitude 31°, on the Gulf), 1. To the northward, the nearest locality represented by Gila Woodpeckers is El Major, near latitude 32° 10', in the Colorado delta; these are good *uropygialis*. To the southward, beyond a considerable gap doubtless inhabited by Gila Woodpeckers but from which I have seen no specimens, comes a series of good *brewsteri* from Santa Margarita Island, latitude 24° 30'. Intergradation between *cardonensis* and *brewsteri* must take place somewhere along between 26° and 30° latitude. Of *brewsteri*, I have before me 31 skins; of *uropygialis*, 44 skins.

Remarks.—The only previous published ascription known to me, of the Gila Woodpecker to the territory here included definitely within the range of *cardonensis* is by A. W. Anthony (*Auk*, XII, April, 1895, pp. 138-139, under the name *Melanerpes uropygialis*), from San Fernando. He says, after statements as to its local habitat: "My