

proved to be the female, stopped and faced about. The male approached and the mating was consummated in the air, the birds breast to breast and with the male somewhat under the female. The male then settled down to the ground for a few moments, fanning out his tail and pointing his beak upward, while the female flew to a nearby perch. After a short rest, the male rose and flew after the female who returned to her former position and mating again took place as before. Both acts occurred at a distance of less than ten feet from where I stood so that the actions and positions of the birds were plainly seen.

Search of the literature available to me has failed to reveal any record of hummingbirds feeding from the ground or of their manner of mating.—LEROY W. ARNOLD, *San Diego, California, August 9, 1930.*

A Northwestern Race of the Mexican Goshawk.¹—Until 1921, the Mexican Goshawk stood as a species within which no geographic variation was recognized. In that year, however, Miller and Griscom (Amer. Mus. Novit. no. 25, December 7, 1921, p. 4) separated the Central American race under the name of *Asturina plagiata micrus* and designated as distinguishing characters the smaller size and single complete tail-bar. In the same paper the authors discussed the peculiarities of specimens from northwestern Mexico. More recently Peters has shown (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 69, no. 12, 1929, p. 46) that typical *plagiata* of southeastern Mexico is not a large race, in fact only by a very slight average is it larger than the Central American form, but he considers *micrus* to be distinguishable by this very slightly smaller size, darker ventral coloration and single complete tail-bar. Turning back now to Miller and Griscom's paper it is found that they have included northwestern Mexican specimens in their averages for *plagiata*, and because of this their measurements for that race are very large.

Recently there have come to hand seven goshawks from Sonora which show beyond question that there are three instead of two races of this widely distributed species. Not only are the tail characters mentioned by Miller and Griscom found to hold good, but the size alone is sufficiently greater than *plagiata* to justify the formal separation of these northwestern birds. A brief synopsis of the characters and ranges of the three races follows. I use Peters' measurements for *plagiata*, since he has measured more adult males than I have and his method of measuring the wing is identical with my own, that is, across the chord from carpal joint to the tips of the longest primaries.

Asturina plagiata plagiata Schlegel.

Size small (wings of 6 adult males 241-250 mm.); tail with two complete white bars, with usually traces of a third (in typical *plagiata* the two tail-bars are apparently a very constant feature, as I took pains to verify in 1927); underparts paler, the gray bars narrower and the white interspaces wider. Southeastern Mexico, north into Tamaulipas and (*vide* Peters) south to the Toledo District of British Honduras. I have seen no Texas birds and therefore cannot state positively which form occurs there.

Asturina plagiata micrus Miller and Griscom.

Size small (wings of 9 adult males 235-247 mm.); tail with one complete bar and usually only traces (or none) of a second; underparts slightly darker, the gray bars wider as well as slightly darker and the white interspaces narrower. Southern Central America, north on the Pacific coast to include all of Salvador and north into the extreme northwestern corner of Honduras (Tela, Lancetilla and Progreso: *vide* Peters). The recent ascription of *plagiata* to Salvador (Peters, *ibid.*) on the basis of a single specimen is in error. Twenty-two birds, collected in many localities throughout that country, are for the most part typical *micrus*. Four or five are intermediate toward *plagiata* but only slightly so.

Asturina plagiata maxima, subs. nov.

Type.—Male adult; no. 28,146, collection of Donald R. Dickey; San Javier, Sonora, Mexico; April 9, 1929; collected by J. T. Wright; original no. 2996.

¹ Contribution from the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.

Size large (wings of 5 adult males 256-274 mm.); tail with one complete bar and an incomplete second one (usually present as an oval spot on central rectrices); underparts as in *plagiata*. Southern Arizona (Fort Lowell), south through Sonora (Sarıc, San Javier, Magdalena, Chinobampo, Guirocoba) to Sinaloa and probably to Tepic.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, July 31, 1930.*

More about the White Pelican on the Texas Coast.—Since writing the little story which appeared in the July issue of the *Condor* regarding the nesting of White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) on the Texas coast, further observations have been made, an account of which may be of interest as supplemental to the original story.

Naturally I was eager to find how the colony was faring this year, and the morning of May 25 found me on my way to North Bird Island. I was not prepared, however, for the thrilling spectacle that awaited us as we landed. The island was literally white with breeding pelicans—acres of them. My estimate of adult birds was five thousand. The friend who accompanied me, and the boatman, insisted that there were twice that number. They were arranged in four major areas and a number of smaller ones, the largest being at the south end of the island as in 1929. The nests were placed near together and were poorly and, apparently, hastily built. The composition was nearly altogether of sticks and weeds with practically no mound of sand and shell, and they were not nearly so large as the average nest of the Brown Pelican. By the way, there were six nests of the latter in the colony. Most of the nests contained one or two eggs. A very few held young apparently two weeks old and other nests contained young newly hatched. The number of dead chicks lying about was large. One lone Caracara was the only scavenger observed.

I was disappointed in being unable to remain on the island for more than two or three hours. Notwithstanding the birds being unusually fearless they were too much disturbed by our presence to permit observation of their feeding habits. Later in the day while on our way to the larger South Bird Island we saw company after company of White Pelicans headed for their nesting colony and I think it fair to assume that some of them were carrying food to their young and others were on their way to relieve their mates in the duties of incubation. Late in the afternoon we were in the same vicinity and saw them leaving the island in precisely the same order as we had seen them approach it.

This pelican, being a surface feeder and not a plunger like his brown cousin, feeds in the shallow inlets of Laguna Madre, teeming with small fish, below South Bird Island. Not one White Pelican was seen north of North Bird Island. The thing that impressed me most was that they were gregarious in their coming and their going from the nesting place. They moved in companies of seventy-five or one hundred, not a great distance over the water, and in lines so uniform as to do credit to a company of West Point cadets. Not half a dozen isolated birds were seen. I might add that not a single White Pelican was on South Bird Island and the brown variety had been reduced to about thirty pairs, the smallest number that has bred there for years. Has the coming of the larger species in such great numbers affected the abundance of the smaller?—J. J. CARROLL, *Houston, Texas, August 5, 1930.*

Nesting of the California Pigmy Owl in Oregon.—On May 21, 1930, I was hunting birds' nests on the west side of the upper Klamath Marsh near Fort Klamath, Klamath County, Oregon. While passing through a grove of unusually large quaking aspen trees at the edge of the marsh, I noticed an old flicker excavation about twelve feet from the ground in one of the largest aspens. Upon striking this tree, a Pigmy Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma californicum*) flushed, and on examination the nest proved to hold six beautiful white eggs of that species, slightly advanced in incubation. The set with both parent birds was collected and the birds were identified by Stanley G. Jewett in whose collection they now bear numbers 6278 and 6279.—J. C. BRALY, *Portland, Oregon, July 18, 1930.*