

An Erroneous Record for the Peruvian Booby.—In a recent publication dealing with birds of the Galápagos Islands (Fisher, A. K., and Wetmore, A., Report on Birds Recorded by the Pinchot Expedition of 1929 to the Caribbean and Pacific, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 79, Art. 10, 1931, p. 32) the present writer is responsible for the identification of a booby collected by A. K. Fisher on Tower Island, June 14, 1929, as *Sula variegata* (Tschudi). Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy has called my attention to the fact that earlier records of *variegata* from the Galápagos have been erroneous, and on reexamination I find that the specimen in question is in reality an adult female of *Sula dactylatra granti* Rothschild (Bull. British Orn. Club, 13, October 31, 1902, p. 7). Though Rothschild in the description of *granti* and in a subsequent paper (Bull. British Orn. Club, 35, January 27, 1915, p. 44) has called attention to the proper identity of these boobies from the Galápagos, they have been recorded by several recent authors as *variegata*. It was through following these that error was committed, as I had overlooked the description of *granti*, and National Museum material of true *variegata* is very limited. *Sula variegata* is not known to occur in the Galápagos.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., November 7, 1931.*

A Probable Hybrid between the California Quail and the Texas Bob-white.—On August 10, 1930, while preparing captive-bred California Quail for release, I discovered an individual that appeared to be a hybrid between the California Quail (*Lophortyx californica*) and the Texas Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus texanus*). This bird was placed aside for examination at some later time but unfortunately was released before this examination was made. A description of its characters, therefore, depends upon memory of the few observations made originally.

The beak was heavier, blunter, and the upper mandible more rounded, than in the California Quail and was typically that of the Bob-white. A short topknot or plume of the type found in the California Quail was present, although a whitish throat and line over the eye gave the head a Bob-white appearance. The rest of the bird presented a generally similar combination of characters of the two species. This individual was possibly the offspring of a single female Texas Bob-white which had been confined in a pen with approximately four male and eight female California Quail.

This observation is offered with the realization that it is quite problematical but with the hope that it will stimulate watchfulness on the part of game propagators for the occurrence of another such case of hybridization.—LAWRENCE V. COMPTON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, November 7, 1931.*

The Arizona Hooded Oriole in San Jose, California.—On July 21, 1930, Mrs. Pickwell called my attention to a bird of unusual demeanor sitting atop a tall radio aerial support, two houses to the north of our dwelling in San Jose. The unusual character and behavior of the bird was at once apparent. It maintained this position for several minutes and was definitely identified as the Arizona Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*). The bird continuously called an *eep, eep, kurt* series of notes, the while it flirted its tail. The black face, lemon-yellow rump, black wings with inconspicuous white bars, black tail and deep yellow underparts were clearly noted. This bird is not listed in Grinnell and Wythe's "Directory to the Bird-life of the San Francisco Bay Region."

It is of great interest to see that, about two months after the above record was made in my notebook, two other occurrences of this bird for the Bay region were reported. In the May meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Club (Condor, XXXII, 1930, p. 268) appeared the report by Leslie Hawkins of a possible Arizona Hooded Oriole in Reliez Valley; and by Gordon Bolander of the same species in Oakland.—GAYLE PICKWELL, *State College, San Jose, California, November 4, 1931.*

The Summer Tanager Again in California.—On the morning of November 8, 1931, my casual gardening duties about the home place in the Westwood district of Los Angeles were interrupted by a more instinctive reaction. (Gardening may not be an instinct at all, but the hunter instinct is deeply implanted in the human complex.)

The call note of the Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) sounded from a grove of trees three hundred yards away. A "bee line" toward the source of sound brought me up against a six foot fence with three strands of barbs on top. Fortunately the bird was but forty feet beyond and was easily observed with the field glass for a period as it captured insects.

Parts of May, June, and August of the past summer were spent in the Arizona range of *Piranga rubra cooperi* and a considerable series of females and juvenals was examined, hence that subspecies was quite well visualized in my mind. The bird under observation was in dull plumage of very dark shade, and with distinct reddish brown cast particularly on the crissum, just such a tone of plumage as is seen in females and young of *P. r. rubra*, and was apparently identical with the individual of the race collected in the Arroyo Seco in Los Angeles on March 2 [not "10"], 1919 (L. Miller, Condor, XXI, 1919, p. 129). On August 29 of the same year an adult male of the same subspecies was collected at my home on Arroyo Seco. Both specimens were deposited in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley. It is not out of order to expect the Summer Tanager, then, on rare occasions during either the northward or the southward migration, and the bird under observation is judged to be of that race. During the remainder of the morning the call notes were heard on two other occasions. The note of the Hepatic Tanager is entirely different.—LOYE MILLER, *University of California at Los Angeles, November 22, 1931.*

Wholesale Poison for the Red-wings.—The following notes, formerly withheld from publication, are printed as a result of the announcement in the press, of a war of extermination against crop-eating birds in Stanislaus County, California (see p. 54). The notes were written by me on May 21, 1931, in the so-called Nigger Jack area, twelve miles north of Marysville in the Sacramento Valley, California, on the farm of Wilbur Smith. The local representative of the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, stationed in the district under orders to develop effective methods for the large-scale destruction of blackbirds by poison, had chosen this site to experiment upon.

The ground selected for the "experiment" consisted of several acres of cat-tail rushes growing in water of various depths, fringed on certain aspects by a miniature forest of willow trees, growing in clusters and up to twenty or more feet in height. This ground, too, was flooded at the time, so that the trees stood in six or eight inches of water. The whole was surrounded by fields of hay and grain, or fallow ground prepared for similar crops or for rice, with a single muddy slough where Great Blue, Anthony Green, and Night herons, Egret, Bittern, Black-necked Stilt and Coot were feeding at the time of our visit. Perhaps owing to the disturbance which had been created by the vast rookery of Tri-colored Red-wings, the song birds were few and restricted almost entirely to Song Sparrows and Yellow-throats. At the time when the work had been initiated, two or three weeks before, the number of nesting blackbirds had been immense. The number of birds which crossed a single very limited sight-line past one corner of the swamp had, during one period of observation, been about 170 a minute.

I do not care to record in detail the minutiae of the technique employed, further than to say that grain poisoned with strychnine was placed on a small area of clean plow-ground close to the swamp, following several baitings with clean grain, which had attracted the birds and accustomed them to feeding on the spot. When the poison was finally placed, the effect was appalling. Great numbers died at once on the poison-ground, where within a very small radius 1700 dead birds were tossed into a central pile. Later the surface of the shallow water beneath the willows became an almost solid floor of floating bodies where the observers hesitated to enter because of the stench which hung in the quiet air. Weeks later the bases of the cat-tails were awash with countless dead. At the time of our visit, May 21, the remainder of the grain was still doing its work, for fresh as well as decayed birds were still in evidence, often hanging, caught in the branches or clinging with the death grip of one foot, from the trees and from the nests in the rushes.

The destruction of adult birds, however, was much the smaller fraction of the total effect. As is often the case in large Tri-color rookeries, the nests were roughly divisible into groups. Only in two extremely small areas in the rushes had the eggs