

Jan., 1933

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETERS OF CULMEN AND NAIL AND RATIOS BETWEEN THEM IN BARROW GOLDEN-EYES

Sex and age	Specimen number	Weight (grams)	Length of culmen	Length of nail	Ratio of nail to culmen
Male ad.	41835	.....	33.0	13.8	.42
Male ad.	41836	.....	34.4	13.4	.40
Male ad.	44637	.....	35.8	13.5	.38
Male ad.	50602	.....	34.4	13.6	.39
		Average	34.4	13.6	.39
Female ad.	50603	.....	30.8	11.2	.36
Female ad.	39707	.....	33.2	11.7	.35
Female ad.	43997	.....	29.7	11.2	.38
		Average	31.2	11.4	.36
Male yg.	44642	360	22.5	8	.35
Female yg.	44641	316	22.8	8.2	.36
Male yg.	44640	201	19.1	7.1	.37
Male yg.	44639	175	17.3	7.0	.40
Female yg.	44638	165	18.3	7.2	.39
Female yg.	48429	48	12.7	5.2	.41

MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETERS OF CULMEN AND NAIL AND RATIOS BETWEEN THEM IN BUFFLE-HEADS

Sex and age	Specimen number	Weight (grams)	Length of culmen	Length of nail	Ratio of nail to culmen
Male ad.	4843	.....	26.5	7.0	.26
Male ad.	24638	.....	25.4	7.1	.28
Male ad.	56339	.....	28.6	6.5	.23
Male ad.	29598	404	26.2	7.3	.28
		Average	26.7	7.0	.26
Female ad.	4844	.....	24.4	6.1	.25
Female ad.	70	.....	24.1	6.3	.26
Female ad.	45959	.....	21.5	5.8	.27
		Average	23.3	6.1	.26
Male yg.	45963	170	18.3	4.9	.27
Male yg.	45961	168	17.9	4.9	.27
Male yg.	45960	163	17.9	5.0	.28

The measurements listed above show that the difference between adults of these two kinds of ducks in size of nail as indicated by its linear dimension also serves to distinguish the young. The smallest individual of downy young Barrow Golden-eye has a larger nail than a buffle-head of four times its weight. The ratio of length of nail to length of culmen changes scarcely at all with increase in size and age. Moreover, this ratio appears to be fairly constant for each species, but the difference between them is relatively great. The simple determination of ratio of length of nail to length of culmen seems to provide a certain means of distinguishing downy young of these two kinds of ducks at any age.—JEAN M. LINSDALE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, January 3, 1933.*

A Long-lived Wren-tit.—In a previous issue of *The Condor* (XXXIII, May, 1931, p. 128) I told of the capture of an Intermediate Wren-tit (Gambel's Wren-tit by the new A. O. U. Check-list), *Chamaea fasciata fasciata*, bearing band number 91519. This bird had been banded in Strawberry Cañon, Berkeley, on March 22, 1925, by E. D. Clabaugh, and was recaptured by me February 3, 1931. It repeated six times in February and once in March of the same year. It returned on February 27, 1932, and again on December 3, 1932, each time within a few hundred feet of the location where Mr. Clabaugh first trapped it. As this bird could not have been hatched later than June, 1924, it must have been at least eight and one-half years old when last recaptured.—E. L. SUMNER, SR., *Berkeley, California, December 7, 1932.*

Off-shore Migrants over the Pacific.—The Templeton Crocker Expedition of the California Academy of Sciences sailed from San Francisco on the yacht *Zaca* on March 10, 1932, returning to the same port on September 1 following. As ornithologist of the expedition I was occupied with bird collecting and observation wherever possible. The most important ornithological work was accomplished at our southernmost objective, the Galapagos Archipelago, but worthwhile observations were made also on our way along the western coast of Mexico. In particular, migrating North American species were seen at various times and places on the Galapagos and elsewhere, deserving of explicit record other than as part of a general account of the birds of the Galapagos Islands.

Mr. Crocker himself, personally conducting the expedition, took a most lively interest in the bird work. He shot most of the specimens that I prepared, leaving me happily free in my field work to follow such special lines of inquiry as seemed desirable. A large proportion of the following records are results of his activity.

Guadalupe Island, Mexico. I was ashore at Northeast Anchorage, March 16, at Melpomene Cove, March 17; I did not reach the pine and cypress groves of the higher sections. At Northeast Cove three species of birds were present in abundance, House Finch (*Carpodacus amplus*), Junco (*Junco insularis*), and Rock Wren (*Salpinctes guadeloupeensis*). It seems to me that the abundance of the Junco at sea level is worthy of note, for, as I obtained a young bird that could barely fly, Juncos must have been nesting there. At the time of our visit the ground was covered thickly with green grass and clovers. The Juncos were in the grass or skulking under huge boulders, like Rock Wrens. One Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) was collected. The barren, rocky mesa back of Melpomene Cove was not so good a place for birds. A few House Finches and Rock Wrens were there but no Juncos. A Burrowing Owl (*Spectyto cucularia hypugaea*) was seen at the entrance of its burrow in the wall of a shallow gully, wherein the bird retired not to re-appear. Pellets picked up, recently disgorged, were formed apparently altogether of chitinous insect remains. A Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis calurus*) soared overhead, pursued by two Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius phalaena*).

Sulphur Bay, Clarion Island, Mexico, March 24. The resident species here were indifferent to approach, but two birds that I assumed to be stragglers from a distance were noticeably nervous, and warily kept out of gunshot. One was a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), the other a male Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), both unmistakable as to species but quite unapproachable, especially so in the thickets of thorn bushes and cactus that formed their refuge. In and around a lagoon immediately behind the beach there were a number of water birds, among which I recognized White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis guarauna*), Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) and Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). A flock of 20 or 25 Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) was approached near enough so that I could see that several males had the white head markings of the described subspecies "*albinucha*." Two Belted Kingfishers (*Ceryle alcyon*) remained near the lagoon.

Braithwaite Cove, Socorro Island, Mexico, March 29. The only migrant seen here was a Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*). There had been on the *Zaca* for the preceding year or more a caged dove, one of the small East Indian species of the genus *Geopelia*, which escaped at this point and flew ashore. There are on Socorro two native species of doves, a *Columbigallina* that is somewhat smaller than the *Geopelia*, a *Zenaidura* that is somewhat larger. It is conceivable that the escaped bird might mate with either of these, and the occurrence is mentioned here in the remote possibility of the future capture of an otherwise puzzling "mutant", the offspring of such a mixture.

There have been fifteen species of northern wading birds reported from the Galapagos, some common and of regular occurrence, others known only from one or two instances. Individuals of any of these species may remain through the summer, in non-breeding condition. All are noticeably wary as compared with the unsophisticated residents of the islands. Turnstones or Tattlers will flee with noisy protest when approached, while the Oyster-catchers with which they are associated view the approaching stranger undisturbed, with only an expression of mild interest.

While I was sitting at lunch before a restaurant on the water front at Acapulco, Mexico, April 2, a Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) alighted in the road a few yards away. This bird was curiously tame, so much so that at first I thought it to be injured, but it eventually took flight. At a fresh-water pond near Villamil, Albemarle Island, two Stilt Sandpipers were seen April 27, one April 28. All of these, as well as the Acapulco bird, were in the bar-breasted summer plumage. A Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) was flushed from the same pond on April 29.

Black-bellied Plovers (*Squatarola squatarola*) appeared on many beaches. They were definitely recognized at Wreck Bay, Chatham Island, April 15, at Villamil, Albemarle Island, April 27 (one flock of ten or more) and April 29, and at Narborough Island, May 31. All were in winter plumage. Semipalmated Plovers (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), also common, were identified at Post Office Bay, Charles Island, April 23, at Villamil, April 27 (20 or 30 birds), at Academy Bay, Indefatigable Island, May 5, and on the west coast of Albemarle Island, May 22.

The Hudsonian Curlew (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*) was seen along the sandy beach at Villamil, April 27, fifteen or more; and single birds were noted at Narborough Island, May 31, and at Conway Bay, Indefatigable Island, June 8. The beach at

Villamil was well populated with waders while we were there, and together with the Semipalmated Plover and Hudsonian Curlew on April 27 I saw Sanderlings (*Crocethia alba*)—20 or 25—and Least Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*)—10 or 12—both of these being species that I did not encounter elsewhere.

The Common Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) was seen at Hood Island, April 19 to 22 (one flock of as many as ten birds), at Academy Bay, Indefatigable Island, May 5, on the west coast of Albemarle, May 22, and on Narborough Island, May 31. Birds shot in May are molting into summer garb but in a half-hearted manner; they apparently would never assume full breeding plumage. Wandering Tattlers (*Heterosceelus incanus*) were widespread. Some were seen on various occasions from our first landing at Wreck Bay, Chatham Island, April 18, until we reached North Seymour Island, June 12, four days before our departure from the Galapagos.

While we were south-bound from Acapulco two Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythrogastrer*) came aboard the *Zaca* on April 10, in latitude 10° 29' N., longitude 89° 53' W. They rested in the rigging for half an hour, then flew straight to the northwest. It required the evidence of a map to convince me that they were quite correctly headed for the coast of Mexico. Several Barn Swallows were seen on Hood Island, April 19. A Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon albifrons*) came aboard on April 13, in latitude 2° 30' N., longitude 91° 20' W. The Cliff Swallow has never been seen in the Galapagos Archipelago, but this northbound individual appeared such a short distance away as to justify the assumption that it had come from the islands. Several Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) were seen on Hood Island, April 19, flying up and down along the beach, together with the Barn Swallows.

Of the species here listed, the Stilt Sandpiper, Greater Yellow-legs, Cliff Swallow, and Bank Swallow are for the first time reported from the Galapagos. As it happens, no specimens were collected of any of these, but they were all clearly recognized and I have no hesitation in publishing the records.

Finally, let me add a slight contribution to a current discussion in the Auk regarding the color of the eye in certain grackles. In and about Acapulco, Mexico, there were Boat-tailed Grackles in abundance, many of them apparently nest building. The male birds all had light-colored eyes, white in appearance as seen from a distance of a few yards.—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, December 15, 1932.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club will be held in the San Francisco Bay region in the early part of May, 1933. The sessions for the presentation of papers will be held under the immediate auspices of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in the Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. President Loye Miller, of the Board of Governors of the Club, has appointed the following local committee to arrange for this meeting: General Chairman, Alden H. Miller; Hospitality, Amelia S. Allen; Affiliations, H. S. Swarth; Meeting Places, James O. Stevenson; Finance, T. I. Storer; Program, J. Grinnell. Details as to program, etc., will be announced in the March issue of *The Condor*. The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors will be held in connection with the Annual Meeting of the Club.

Word comes that Dr. Herbert Friedmann, Curator of Birds in the United States National Museum, has now undertaken as his major activity the completion

of Bulletin 50, "The Birds of North and Middle America", eight volumes of which appeared from 1901 to 1919 under the authorship of the late Robert Ridgway. At least two additional volumes will be necessary to complete the entire enterprise, these treating of the rails and their allies, the gallinaceous birds, the diurnal birds of prey, and the water-birds comprised in the first six orders listed in the Fourth Edition of the A. O. U. Check-list. This in itself is a huge undertaking, far greater probably than any two of the preceding volumes. For the past twenty years or so have seen vast increase in the literature and the specimens available in those several groups yet to be treated. The organization of all this material will mean for certain of the groups, a practically complete systematic revision. We have confidence that Dr. Friedmann, with his background of high-grade accomplishment, will conclude his new task successfully on the basis of modern method and concept. American students of birds can now be