MEASUREMENTS OF MALES IN MILLIMETERS
(Females average slightly smaller)

	Wing	Tail
8 *intermedius* from interior Guatemala	58-65	56-64
7 *connectens* from El Salvador	62-64	60-64
11 *connectens* from Honduras	58-66	60-66
3 *hellmayri* from El Salvador	66-67	69-71
10 *hellmayri* from western Guatemala	65-69	67-70

The nomenclature and ranges of the three Central American races which, collectively, link the red-bellied *miniatus* of Mexico with the yellow-bellied forms of Costa Rica and southward now stand as follows:

Myioborus miniatus intermedius (Hartlaub)

Setophaga intermedia Hartlaub, Rev. et Mag. Zool., (2), 4, Jan., 1852, p. 5 (Guatemala = [probably] Alta Vera Paz).

Range.—Guatemala, east of the Pacific Cordillera, and north to Chiapas. Chiapas birds, however, should be critically re-examined.

Myioborus miniatus hellmayri van Rossem

Range.—Pacific Cordillera of Guatemala, south to southwestern El Salvador (Volcan de Santa Ana).

Myioborus miniatus connectens Dickey and van Rossem

Myioborus miniatus connectens Dickey and van Rossem, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 41, Oct. 15, 1928, p. 189 (Los Esesmiles, Dept. Chalatenango, El Salvador: alt. 8000 feet).

Range.—Mountains of the interior Cordillera of El Salvador and south-central Honduras.

San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, February 3, 1936.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

An American Egret Roost.—Convincing evidence of the "come-back" that has been made in California by the American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*), since the passage of protective laws, is offered by the increasing population of an egret roost on the grounds of my home at Point Loma, San Diego. About four years ago a few egrets began roosting each evening during the fall, winter and spring months in some tall eucalyptus trees near my residence. Since then, the number of birds that come to this place for the night has been consistently growing. On an evening in December, 1935, Mr. L. M. Huey and I made an accurate count of the egrets arriving at their roost, and reached a total of 96 individuals—a thrilling sight, as company after company of the snowy white beauties sailed in against the darkening sky. A remarkable phenomenon is the manner in which these large white birds fade away into the foliage of the trees, once they get settled. In a tree containing dozens of birds it is difficult to pick out one at a distance of one hundred feet.

In February, 1936, the egrets changed their roosting place to another group of eucalyptus trees in a lower part of the grounds, about fifty yards distant from the first. This was, I believe, due to two things: First, the arrival of new birds not yet accustomed to the movement of people and automobiles about the grounds and, second, to the fact that the days were stormy and the birds sought shelter from the prevailing winds. On the night of February 25 the egrets came in fairly early. I heard their squawking and went down among the trees, whereupon they all took off, circled around and returned. This they did twice. It was impossible to count them on the wing, but I checked off blocks and made an estimate of well over 150 birds.

There was a time when the roost was shared by a number of Black-crowned Night Herons and an occasional California Blue Heron. For several months a couple of Turkey Vultures slept in the tree tops along with the snow-white egrets. But as far as I can see the roost is now occupied solely by American Egrets. From December to March has been the period of greatest abundance. Last year there were but 45 evenings during the summer when no egrets came to my trees.

The birds do not bother our goldfish—of which we have three large ponds—or two ponds stocked with sun perch (the common blue-gill of our local lakes). The plumes shed are entirely new, unmatured feathers, though I have gathered quite a bunch ranging from eight to ten inches in length.—J. W. SEFTON, JR., *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, March 16, 1936.*

Hummingbirds' Roosts and Perches.—Supplementing Mr. Ernest I. Dyer's "Observations upon the Night-roosting of an Anna Hummingbird" (Condor, 38, 1936, p. 44) at Piedmont, California, it may be well to mention that hummingbirds do not always choose so exposed a roost. I have only once been fortunate enough to discover the sleeping place of a hummingbird, and this fact in itself leads me to believe that they must usually seek more sheltered locations. In the one instance referred to, a male Costa (*Calypte costae*) was found before dark perched amid the few terminal leaves of a long, slender, pendent branch of a *Eucalyptus citriodora,* at a height of five or six feet from the ground. This was immediately recognized as a night roost because it was a situation which a male hummingbird would never choose for a daytime perch. The bird was comparatively inconspicuous there, and entirely safe from climbing predators. The usual absence of night winds obviated any disturbing swaying. It was in the same place the following evening, but soon thereafter left on its southward migration.

It would be interesting to know whether all of the Anna Hummingbirds in the Bay region retire punctually at sunset, as did this one at Piedmont; here in southern California their maximum feeding activity has seemed to be in the five or ten minutes after sunset, as judged by the frequency of their visits to the sugar syrup supply.

This hummingbird's changing whims as to its daytime resting places are characteristic, but not peculiar to hummingbirds as may be learned by noting for a time the spots chosen by a house cat for its daily naps. Sometimes the changes are less frequent than those described by Dyer. During one entire summer's residence a male Costa Hummingbird could be found at practically any hour of the day perched on the topmost twig of a certain buckthorn bush. The next spring it again occupied the same twig; but later it changed to another bush not far away, where it remained for the rest of the season. I have often wondered that the non-migratory Anna Hummingbirds, after weeks or months of addiction to a sugar syrup diet, invariably leave, presumably to find their own living in other surroundings.

It is apparent that a hummingbird must be actuated (1) by habit and (2) by a cumulative urge for change which ultimately becomes strong enough to overcome the force of habit or even more material considerations. The periodical shifting from perch to perch is doubtless simply a manifestation of the same nomadic instinct which impels more extensive wanderings.—ROBERT S. WOODS, *Azusa, California, February 12, 1936.*

Clark Nutcracker again Visits Colorado Desert.—Another Colorado Desert record for Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) was secured when a specimen was taken on Coral Reef Ranch, September 24, 1935, at 44 feet below sea level. This bird was first noticed flying back and forth from the ground to a pasture fence. Later it was seen in a large cottonwood tree where it was collected.

C. O. Esterly recorded the occurrence of Clark Nutcrackers on the Colorado Desert when a flock of a dozen or more was sighted by him on the Marshall Ranch west of Indio on October 17 and 18, 1919 (Condor, 22, 1929, p. 40). The Marshall Ranch is approximately four miles northwest of the place where our specimen was taken.—BEN CLARY and MARJORIE CLARY, *Coachella, California, November 20, 1935.*

Molting of Hawks, with Special Regard to the Duck Hawk. — Trained hawks cannot be used while they are molting because they must be so well fed to insure a good and rapid feather growth that they lose their keenness for their quarry and will not come to the food that the falconer uses to lure them back to him. Moreover, the natural molting process is long drawn out—sometimes, in the case of the Duck Hawk, requiring six months. Any way of speeding up the molt, therefore, would be welcome to the falconer.

Accordingly, dried thyroid was fed to an immature female Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), in the hope that she would react as pigeons and other birds have so frequently been reported to do. Dosages of various sizes were tried, up to .8 gm. daily for a week, and up to 1.3 gm. daily for three days, without any result except a slight nervousness on the part of the bird and a slight increase in the size of her thyroid gland. Since the weight of the hawk varied during this period from about 1200 to about 1300 gm., the dose was relatively large.