

fact that up to that date a total of nine of these birds had been taken in the Northwest. On August 20, 1945, I was able to secure another specimen which, by general appearance and measurements, I believe, should be referred to *Catharacta skua lönnerbergi*. The bird was taken ten miles offshore, opposite Cape Elizabeth in Grays Harbor County, Washington. Two skuas flew by our boat together, but I was able to secure only one specimen. It was an easy matter to tell the birds at a considerable distance because of what I suspect is a very characteristic flight. There is a rapid beating of the wings, not at all like the slower wing beat of gulls, and then a setting of the wings for a short distance of sailing.

The specimen is an immature female, and unlike the other skuas collected here, it has retained the upper bill plate (fig. 54). Also, the back and flanks are distinctly mottled in appearance and do not possess the uniform coloring that our other specimens have. There are several secondaries about one-half grown while all other feathers seem to be fully matured.

It is probable that the skua is a regular but not common migrant off the northwestern coast in late summer.

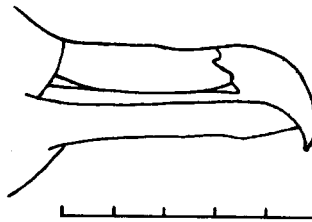


Fig. 54. Bill of *Catharacta skua lönnerbergi*, a female taken off Cape Elizabeth, Washington, on August 20, 1945; scale marked in centimeters.

A brief color description, based on Ridgway (Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912), and the measurements of the recently taken immature female specimen follow: Chin, throat and neck, Hair Brown with feather edges tipped with Pale Olive-Buff giving the appearance of light gold; breast and abdomen, solid, unbroken Hair Brown; crown, like the chin but with more Olive-Buff so that the entire crown and nape appear very light; back, Hair Brown with the edges of the feathers margined with Olive-Buff and grading backward into black at the upper tail coverts; tail, black, faintly tipped with buff; middle of primaries white; primaries and secondaries black. Wing, 380 mm.; tail, 180 mm.; exposed culmen, 51 mm.; middle toe with claw, 72 mm.; tarsus, 61 mm.—GORDON D. ALCORN, *Aberdeen, Washington, February 15, 1946.*

An Isolated Colony of the Arizona Cardinal in Arizona and California.—In the course of our recent field work in the desert regions of the Southwest, Dr. Loye Miller and I have had occasion several times to visit the Williams (or Bill Williams) River which marks the boundary between Yuma and Mohave counties in extreme western Arizona. This desert stream is formed by the confluence of the Big Sandy and the Santa Maria rivers and has a course only of some seventy miles before it in turn joins the Colorado River just above Parker Dam. In the vicinity of Alamo Crossing, the locality in which most of our collecting has been done, the Williams is almost literally the fabled "mile wide and an inch deep." Both banks are luxuriantly fringed by cottonwood and willow groves, mesquite thickets, and areas of arrow-weed. At intervals in the intermittently dry stream bed are slightly higher spots which form narrow, timbered islands which range up to half a mile in length.

This great ribbon of vegetation in the midst of a notoriously arid desert is quite naturally a resort for numerous birds, both resident and migratory, and only the time limitations imposed by other work has prevented a more thorough exploration than we have been able to give it so far. From the standpoint of taxonomic interest, it is the type locality of the Gila Woodpecker, and one of the primary objects of our several visits has been to collect seasonally representative specimens of that bird. Among the many other interesting species encountered was the Arizona Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis superba*). Although not uncommon, the extreme shyness of these birds made collecting of them difficult. We saw or heard from one to eight individuals daily during our visits and collected a total of nine specimens on September 26 and 27, 1945, November 16, 1945, and April 14 and 15, 1946. On the latest occasion of collecting, the Cardinals were paired and males were in full song. A nest with eggs was

collected by W. J. Sheffler at this locality in May, 1943. Thus, there can be no doubt of permanent residence of this species here, far separated from the known range in southern and southeastern Arizona.

This colony recalls the old "Colorado River, Arizona" record of a specimen taken by Ferdinand Bischoff on November 30, 1871, which is not more specific as to exact locality but which we were previously inclined to consider as most probably a seasonal straggler from the Williams River. Recently, Dr. Boris Krichesky of the Zoology Department of this university told us that he had seen Cardinals in late April of the present year on the California side of the Colorado River below Parker Dam. Accordingly, Dr. Miller and I made a visit on May 7, 1946, to the designated spot five miles north of Earp, San Bernardino County, and saw there three males and a single female and found a completed nest in dense riparian growth near the river. A single male (no. 33414, Dickey Collection) was collected for purposes of positive identification. The Arizona Cardinal may now leave the limbo of the hypothetical list and take an authentic place in the list of California birds.

There would seem to be no doubt that this is a natural and not an introduced colony. First there is the old 1871 record which establishes the fact that Cardinals occurred on the Colorado River, even though the specific locality is unknown, long before any probable introduction. Second, the series of eleven specimens which includes the Bischoff bird (U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 61541) shows a slight departure from topotypical *Richmondia cardinalis superba* from the Tucson region in shorter wing and tail, longer and more attenuated (less conical) bill, longer tarsi, and, in the freshly collected examples, duller, less intensely scarlet crests on the males. All of these differences are so slight that in my opinion a distinctive name could not be maintained, especially in view of the fact that one or more of the tendencies seemingly crop out here and there in occasional individuals from almost anywhere in the range of the race. It is possible, of course, that larger series from the Colorado-Williams region would serve to emphasize rather than submerge the observed differences. Their chief significance at the moment would seem to be confirmation of the existence of an indigenous population. Extreme and average measurements in millimeters are as follows:

	Six males from Williams and Colorado rivers	Fifteen males from Tucson region
Wing	96.5-102.5 (99.6)	99.0-106.0 (101.1)
Tail	112 -120 (116.3)	115 -124 (119.5)
Culmen	18.7- 22.0 (20.7)	18.0- 20.0 (19.1)
Bill depth at base	16.2- 17.2 (16.6)	15.3- 18.0 (16.8)
Tarsus	26.0- 27.1 (26.6)	25.2- 26.8 (25.9)

—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, California, May 14, 1946.*

The Painted Redstart near Tucson, Arizona.—Published records of the occurrence of the Painted Redstart (*Setophaga picta*) in the Lower Sonoran Zone of southern Arizona are so few that the following seems worth reporting. During the morning of September 30, 1945, we saw a Painted Redstart at Binghampton Pond, a small irrigation reservoir in the Rillito Valley about six miles northeast of Tucson, Arizona. We watched it for an hour with 8× binoculars as it searched for food in a row of second growth mesquites bordering the pond. It was not at all shy, often allowing us to approach as close as ten feet. The surrounding area consists of farm fields, with mesquite, hackberry, ash, willow and cottonwood trees along the main irrigation ditches. The elevation is about 2400 feet.

On March 30, 1946, in midafternoon, we found another Painted Redstart in an arroyo on the west side of the dry bed of the Santa Cruz River, opposite Sahuarita Butte, eight miles south of Tucson, elevation about 2500 feet. It fluttered around in the lower levels of the mesquites, cottonwoods, and willows and among the exposed tree roots along the steep, eroded, dirt sides of the arroyo. Like the first bird it permitted us to observe it at leisure at close range.

On the morning of April 7, 1946, Anders H. Anderson saw another individual in Lower Sabino Canyon, Santa Catalina Mountains, elevation approximately 3000 feet. It remained only a minute in a mesquite tree on the canyon side, then flew farther up and was lost. The vegetation here is not dense. Scattered low mesquites, palo verde, cholla, prickly pear, ocotilla, jojoba and a few sahuaros grow to the top of the canyon wall, while ash, cottonwood, and willow trees border the narrow stream. This area is probably not far from the location where Howell (Condor, 18, 1916:213) reported shooting a Painted Redstart in February, 1916, at an elevation of 3700 feet.—ANDERS H. ANDERSON and ANNE ANDERSON, *Tucson, Arizona, April 12, 1946.*