

Very shortly after the pheasant fell a large Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and a Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus*) arrived on the scene. The Duck Hawk attacked the Red-tail twice, driving it and the Marsh Hawk from the scene, and then left itself. No attempt to feed on the fallen bird was made by any of the three raptors.

On different occasions other pheasants have been found dead in the same general area, presumably killed by the same bird. Never has evidence of feeding on the carcass been found. In all instances the birds were killed by breaking the spinal cord between the skull and the first vertebra.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Eugene, Oregon, April 10, 1947.*

An Unrecorded Specimen of *Neochloe brevipennis*.—When describing a new subspecies of *Neochloe brevipennis* from a male taken near Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico, Miller and Ray (Condor, 46, 1944:41-45) listed every skin of this rare species of vireo known to have been collected in the period between 1856 and 1940, six in all. It may prove of interest therefore that the Zoological Museum of Berlin received in 1932 a beautiful specimen of this species, formerly mounted (Z. M. B. No. 32.25), which was collected at the Hacienda de Fuxpango, Orizaba, Vera Cruz, Mexico. Neither date nor collector is indicated on the label, which bears a mysterious original number (No. 275). Possibly the bird is one of Matteo Botteri's specimens of which only two could be traced by Miller and Ray. The wing measures 56.9 mm., the culmen about 9 mm.—ERWIN STRESEMANN, *Zoological Museum, Berlin, Germany, August 4, 1947.*

The Black Vulture and the Caracara as Vegetarians.—McIlhenny's note (Auk, 62, 1945: 136-137) on Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) eating chopped sweet potatoes prompts me to report my observations on this bird in Surinam, Dutch Guiana. On the grounds of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Paramaribo I regularly observe Black Vultures feeding on the fruits of the African oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*). The birds either sit in the trees and gnaw small bits from the fruits which they swallow, or they sit on the ground under the trees and feed on the fruits which have fallen down. Also the Black Vultures regularly feed on the flesh of coconuts. The most striking example of this I witnessed in July and September, 1946, in Coronie. This is a coconut growing district where in a factory at the Leasowes plantation oil is pressed mechanically from the coconut flesh. The nuts are opened by laborers, after which the flesh is removed and laid to dry either in the sun on stone floors or in rather primitive ovens fed by the bark of the nuts. After work ceases in the evening, the coconut flesh is removed from the stone floors and the workmen go home. At that time about 75 or more Black Vultures which have assembled in the meantime in the neighboring cocopalms glide down and start searching for the remnants of coconut flesh. According to the manager of the plantation this is a daily spectacle which he has witnessed for years.

At the same place two Caracaras (*Polyborus cheriway*) searched for and fed on the coconut flesh on one of the stone floors.—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Paramaribo, Surinam, Dutch Guiana, January 27, 1947.*

Zone-tailed Hawk Feeds on Rock Squirrel.—Because of the paucity of records of both occurrence and food habits of the Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*), it may be of interest to report that on July 3, 1947, about 18 miles north of Globe, Arizona, on U. S. Highway 60, at approximately 5300 feet elevation, a Zone-tailed Hawk was observed on the highway struggling with a young rock squirrel which was perhaps three-quarters grown.

When first seen from an approaching automobile approximately 100 yards distant, the bird was dragging the squirrel which was struggling frantically to escape. The struggling squirrel was too heavy for the bird to carry off; consequently the hawk dragged it over the pavement for perhaps 50 feet. When our automobile was within 20 or 25 feet of the bird, it released its prey and flew off reluctantly. The bird seemed sluggish and slow in its movements.

At first glance from a distance, the bird appeared to be a Turkey Vulture. However, closer inspection clearly revealed that the bird was a Zone-tailed Hawk. The conspicuous tail bands and distinctive head and beak are unmistakable characteristics.

After leaving the fray, the bird circled overhead, remaining in the vicinity for about 15 minutes before leaving in search of other food.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois, July 15, 1947.*

Notes on the Occurrence of Birds in Lower California.—On April 3, 1946, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*) was seen foraging along the shores of a small cove that lies on the southeast shore of San Martin Island, Lower California, Mexico. The bird remained in the vicinity of this small cove for two days and was taken there on April 6. The

contents of the stomach consisted of the remains of one striped shore crab, *Pachygrapsus crassipes*. According to Grinnell (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 1928, 32:85) this heron is a "common resident, locally, in the southern part of the territory [of Lower California], chiefly or altogether south of latitude 28° 30'." San Martín is situated at latitude 30° 29', thus the known occurrence of this heron is extended northward nearly 140 miles. The bird was in juvenal plumage and thus should probably be considered as a wanderer out of its usual range.

The Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) is recorded as taken at two localities and seen at an additional three localities along the coast of Lower California. Grinnell (*op. cit.*:85) states that this jaeger is "very likely a regular migrant over the ocean along the Pacific side of the peninsula." My observations substantiate this statement. On April 17, 1946, a Parasitic Jaeger was observed while it tormented a Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) near Santo Domingo Point, latitude 28° 15'. The following day another jaeger was seen to press a prolonged attack on a Royal Tern. On April 19, in the course of the four-hour trip southward between Santo Domingo Point and the mouth of Scammon Lagoon, a distance of approximately twenty miles, twelve Parasitic Jaegers were counted. Their approach was always heralded by the harsh distress notes of the Royal Terns, which were constantly about. This distress call invariably commenced before we were able to see the jaegers. On several occasions two or three jaegers were visible at the same time. The jaegers for the most part moved past from south to north. In my experience this is an unusually large number of jaegers to encounter on a trip of this length. The Royal Terns, which were nesting in the near-by lagoons at the time, and which the jaegers spent most of their time harassing and plundering of their fish, may well have been the attraction which brought this concentration of jaegers to the area.

The Green-tailed Towhee (*Chlorura chlorura*) is typically found on wooded mountain sides and among the mesquites in the lowlands of the Cape district of Lower California in the winter. However, it appeared entirely out of place on a small sandy and windswept islet in Scammon's Lagoon. One Green-tailed Towhee lived a precarious existence on such an island near the camp of several Mexican fishermen. It picked up the bits of food and drank the water the fishermen offered it, becoming quite tame. The towhee was first observed in the area on April 20, 1946, and it was still there when I left on May 7. It sought shelter from the almost constant wind under the many carapaces of the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) which lay scattered about near the fishermen's camp. Although the salt marsh near-by supported a population of Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), the towhee made no attempt to search for food in that area. Conversely the Marsh Sparrows infrequently entered the vicinity of the camp.

A list of the birds of Natividad Island, latitude 27° 53', published by Lamb (Condor, 29, 1931: 67-68) includes forty-nine species. Lamb was on the island between December 20, 1924, and January 13, 1925. On my visit to Natividad, from May 15 through May 17, 1946, I obtained specimens of two species which his list does not include.

House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) were found to be common on the cholla and brush-covered hillsides of the central part of the island. Mr. A. J. van Rossem, who kindly examined my specimens, informs me that he has two specimens of this species collected on Natividad in June of 1944 (letter, April 8, 1947). Mr. van Rossem's two males and the one which I collected all show extreme yellow coloration which appears to be a color condition occurring in birds of this species established in insular areas. This insular color phase of the specimens, together with the fact that the other four birds I collected there proved to be immature and that most of the twenty or more individuals that I saw were in small, apparently family groups, may indicate that this species has become established on Natividad since Lamb's visit. However, since Cedros Island is only ten miles to the north, where this race has long been known to occur, it is possible that their occurrence on Natividad is purely seasonal.

The Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) is referred to by Grinnell (*op. cit.*:82) as "of sparse and sporadic occurrence, irrespective of season," in Lower California. An example of this species was given to me by Jose Perez, who is employed by the Mexican Government to protect the guano-producing cormorants of the island from human disturbance. Although untrained in the care of specimens, he had made a fairly good skin of the bird. No written data were kept. However, he said that since the species was so unusual on Natividad, he remembered clearly that he had taken it on August 6, 1945, when it had come to the island.—KARL W. KENYON, *Mills College, Oakland, California, April 19, 1947.*

Concentrated Nesting of Marsh Hawks.—In April of 1944 while making field observations of Clapper Rails near Seal Beach, California, I flushed five nesting pairs of Marsh Hawks (*Circus cyaneus*). Each nest contained five unmarked eggs and each was on the ground in matted salicornia. The male and female of each pair were in the vicinity, and although they protested vociferously at my intrusion, they seemed to ignore each other. The nesting area did not exceed five acres although there were many hundreds of acres of similar terrain adjacent to the five. I retreated several hundred feet from the