

Ornith. Club, 12, 1902:25) and Trent (Brit. Birds, 7, 1914:268). These records are noted by Witherby *et al.* (Handbook British Birds, 3, 1939:296) with the following comment: "These may have been wild birds, but since 'water-fowl' are kept in semicaptivity sometimes without even being properly identified, it seems inadvisable to admit this duck to the list . . ." At the time our specimen was taken, it is safe to say there were no estates with semicaptive waterfowl within even a very great distance of "Oregon."

The specimen is somewhat foxed and the skin apparently was stretched over too large an amount of stuffing originally, causing the brown basal areas of the feathers of the underparts to show more extensively than in any of the others with which it has been compared and giving it a more brownish, less whitish ventral aspect.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *United States National Museum, Washington, D.C., July 26, 1948.*

The Dickcissel in California.—The Dickcissel, a species indigenous to the midwestern United States, has not previously been recorded in California. There are, however, records of accidental occurrence in New Mexico, Arizona, and Lower California.

On September 29, 1948, Mrs. Norris Kittinger of Santa Monica, California, inquired by telephone about the identify of a strange bird which had come to her feeding station. I was unable to identify the bird from her preliminary description and called her again the following day. At this time she informed me that not only was the bird still there but that she had succeeded in capturing it alive. According to her, the bird first made its appearance at 5 p.m. on September 29, 1948. It was observed sitting near the feed box and did not appear to be wary, but it refused to enter the box until all the other birds had left. It preened itself for a while and then entered and fed.

On September 30, 1948, at Mrs. Kittinger's request, I went to Santa Monica and closely examined the captive. It proved to be an adult male Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) in beautiful, fresh-fall plumage. Its legs were fresh and clean in appearance and gave no sign of having been confined in an aviary. The bird was extremely wild and refused to sit still upon the perch for even a second, another characteristic which would seem to indicate that it had not previously been confined in a cage. The freshly molted plumage was typical of the male of the species except that the black throat patch, instead of being very pronounced, consisted of a scattering of black-tipped feathers. The supraocular stripe was very yellow. During the course of my half-hour study of the bird, it hopped continuously from one perch to another, uttering a solitary, sharp chirping note every few seconds.

On October 9, 1948, Mrs. Kittinger informed me that she had changed her mind about keeping the bird and had liberated it, thus closing the story of the first Dickcissel for California.—KENNETH E. STAGER, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, October 14, 1948.*

Eye-color of the Green Jay in Mexico.—Three Green Jays (*Xanthoura yncas*) which we collected in Mexico in 1947 throw further light on the distribution of the yellow-eyed and brown-eyed forms discussed by Sutton (Condor, 49, 1947:196-198). A male which Edwards took approximately four miles northwest of Potrero, which is near Córdoba, Veracruz, had bright yellow irides. This substantiates Sutton's belief that Fuertes may have had experience with yellow-eyed Green Jays in the vicinity of Córdoba. In plumage coloration our Potrero specimen is intermediate between *X. y. luxuosa* and *vivida*. Also yellow-eyed was a male which Edwards collected in Chiapas near the Hacienda Monserrate, about forty miles north of Arriaga. It appears to be *vivida* in the decidedly yellowish tinge of the belly and reduced amount of green in the under tail coverts.

Lea secured a brown-eyed male along the Rio Sabinas near Gómez Farias, Tamaulipas. It is the least yellowish of our three specimens, appearing to be typical *luxuosa*. Individuals which we were able to observe closely in the field at this locality were all dark-brown eyed.—ROBERT B. LEA, *Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, Illinois*, and ERNEST P. EDWARDS, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, July 24, 1948.*

The Oven-bird and the American Redstart in Imperial Valley, California.—A female Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) was collected by us on October 3, 1948, near the southern end of Salton Sea, Imperial County, California. The bird was first observed in a tamarisk tree. The specimen is now no. 676 in the Cardiff Collection and is the third thus far taken in southern California.

An immature female American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) was collected at the same place, also, on October 3, 1948. The bird was first observed flying from a flax field into a tamarisk tree. This is the first record for the American Redstart in Imperial Valley. The specimen is no. 677 in our collection.—EUGENE E. CARDIFF and BRUCE E. CARDIFF, *Bloomington, California, October 20, 1948.*

An Unusual Mourning Dove Nest.—On June 2, 1948, I found a nest of the Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) at Pine Hill Cemetery, Scott County, Iowa, which consisted of a remodelled Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) nest. The grackles had raised their young and left several weeks before. Their nest had been partly upset by the wind and the dove had added a few sticks to the side of the overturned structure and molded a cup with its breast. The nest was five feet from the ground in a fir tree and it contained four eggs in what I thought to be about the same stage of incubation. On June 23, 1948, I again visited the nest and found it contained two nestlings about ready to leave the nest plus two eggs in an advanced stage of incubation. This seems to indicate that two females had used the nest instead of one. On the ground directly below the nest I found a well incubated egg which evidently had been on the ground for some time, as it was stained by the grass. I can not account for this fifth egg, as it was not in the nest on June 2, unless it had been deposited after my first visit and was incubated with the others. When the first two eggs hatched and the nestlings grew and became active in the nest, the egg must have been shoved out of the already over-crowded nest. The egg that was found on the ground must have been laid by a third female as it was abnormal in shape, tapering down to a distinct point on one end.—JAMES HODGES, *Davenport, Iowa, July 5, 1948.*

The Saw-whet Owl in Los Angeles County, California.—On the morning of April 4, 1948, a Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus acadicus*) was found dead on the Angeles Forest Highway 1½ miles southwest of the Big Tujunga Canyon Narrows, at an elevation of about 3000 feet, Los Angeles County, California, by Jack H. Van Nordheim and the writer. The bird had evidently been feeding on a deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) as remains of this mammal as well as those of the bird were smashed on the road. The San Gabriel Mountains in this vicinity are cut with deep rocky gorges; the mountain summits are scattered with pines, and the slopes are covered with chaparral. The Saw-whet Owl has been recorded from various scattered localities in southern California, but to my knowledge it has not previously been noted in Los Angeles County. The skin is now no. 1846 in the collection of the Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California.—JACK C. COUFFER, *University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, August 30, 1948.*