

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**The San Blas Jay in Arizona.**—On December 19, 1937, Mr. and Mrs. William X. Foerster, William T. Hudspeth, and the writer saw a flock of at least six (probably about eight) jays moving gradually eastward among the mesquite bushes along an irrigation ditch in the Rillito valley some six miles northeast of Tucson, Arizona. With Hudspeth's assistance, I secured two of these birds, which proved to be immature San Blas Jays (*Cissilopha san-blasiana nelsoni*). No others were seen on subsequent trips there that winter nor in the following summer. Twice I walked east a mile or more, but saw nothing of them. On December 18, 1938, however, an adult male was discovered about two miles east of our point of observation by Edouard C. Jacot, who was participating in a "Christmas bird census"; this bird was collected the next day. Shortly thereafter, on January 15, 1939, I took another adult male in the Rillito bottoms at old Fort Lowell, halfway between the other two points of occurrence. This closed the history of the flight. None was detected on a number of trips to the original site, nor on occasional trips to the Fort, in the course of the next 18 months, nor have any been seen since my departure in 1940. At no time did they appear elsewhere in the Tucson valley.

Because of the great distance to Tucson from the normal range of these supposedly non-migratory jays in western Mexico, it was logical to suspect human agency in their occurrence. All lines of inquiry have proved fruitless, however; I have found no possible source of escape nor probability of transportation by man. Furthermore, the first two birds were young of the year in unworn plumage, and none of the birds showed any evidence of having been in captivity.

A striking fact about these jays was the varying shapes of their crests. The two immatures had a tuft of long, bushy feathers growing forward somewhat as in *Lophortyx*, but closer to the bill and less slender. The adults, on the other hand, had only a very slight crest of a few short, thin feathers, which were appressed to the crown instead of pointing forward. If such structural differences are purely matters of age, they give strong support to the contention of Amadon (Am. Mus. Novitates 1251, 1944) that most of our alleged genera of jays should be united; in fact, my own impression is that Amadon did not go quite far enough. It is time we recognized that color is not a generic character.

For racial identification of these jays, I am indebted to Dr. Herbert Friedmann, at whose suggestion this note is written.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona, August 9, 1949.*

**Bibliographical Notes on the Birds of Washington, by Dawson and Bowles.**—The "Birds of Washington," by William Leon Dawson, assisted by John Hooper Bowles, was distributed to subscribers in August of 1909 after a long delay in preparation. At the time of publication it was the most impressive bird book that had ever been printed describing the birds of any small territorial section of the United States. The many beautiful bindings in the numerous editions covered the descriptions of all forms of bird life then known in the state of Washington. It should be remembered that the population of Washington State in 1909 was not large and Mr. Dawson ordered 1250 copies of all his so-called editions, deeming that number enough to satisfy the demands for some time.

Reviewers were so extravagant with their praises of Dawson's descriptive writings, of the color work of Major Brooks, the photogravures and original photographs, and the beautiful bindings that the books immediately sold out and became book collectors' items.

There has been much controversy about the different editions, such that I have been tempted to try to clear up this situation. I was not acquainted with Dawson at the time of publication of these volumes but was very friendly with him in the later years after he came to California to work on "The Birds of California." Mrs. Dawson has recently given me all assistance possible in this undertaking.

The entire edition of all formats was printed at one time, a run of the press continuously until finished. The printed page of each so-called edition is identical with the corresponding page of every other, having been printed from the same undisturbed forms, and in this sense there is, of course, but one edition. The number of color-plates, photogravures, the Roman numeral pages containing lists of the subscribers and illustrations for some de luxe editions, along with the authors' signatures, the number of the copy, and the slight edition change on the title page make up the only differences in the editions. Paging continues through the two volumes: volume 1, 1-458; volume 2, 459-997; all the two-volume editions are alike in this respect.