

bird and found that it was not dead but in a state of coma. I think that we presumed that it was sick and put it back where we had found it. I do not remember that we returned to see if it was still there."

In a letter dated July 11, 1949, he continues: "This incident must have taken place either during the Christmas or Easter holidays: for it occurred at a place where we went only during those holidays. This means that it happened either during the three weeks between December 20th and January 10th or in early April. If the bird was hibernating and not sick we must attribute the incident to the January date, since there would be plenty of insect life available in April."—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Riverside College, Riverside, California, August 30, 1949.*

A Hummingbird Thief.—A trip into the foothills south of Denver, Colorado, on July 13, 1949, gave me an unexpected opportunity to witness a most unusual example of avian thievery. Robert J. Niedrach had invited me to accompany him on an expedition to take motion pictures of a Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) which he had discovered the preceding day in the process of building her nest. We had hardly arrived on location when we saw a hummingbird alight on the half-built nest, but instead of bringing plant down to add to the structure she helped herself to a generous amount of the material and made off with it. A little later the thief returned for more loot, but now the owner of the nest was present to resist the brigandage. However, the owner's efforts were of little avail, for the thief continued to return for more nest material with which she always departed in the same direction. The next day Niedrach found the nest of the thief about a quarter of a mile away.—FRANK C. CROSS, *Silver Spring, Maryland, September 26, 1949.*

Further Notes on the Birds of Camp Barkeley, Texas.—Vincent P. McLaughlin, Jr., has recently (*Auk*, 65, 1948:180-188) published his observations of the avifauna of Camp Barkeley, near Abilene, Taylor County, Texas. His excellent description of the "Broad Irrigation Project," which created a temporary marshy oasis in the midst of a desert of mesquite, needs no elaboration here. I was stationed at Camp Barkeley from July 23 to October 30, 1943. Despite the comparative brevity of my stay, I was fortunate enough to note a number of species not mentioned by McLaughlin. For much of this period my quarters were immediately adjacent to the Project, allowing me to make brief observations almost daily. Unfortunately, a substantial portion of my notes from this period were lost somewhere in the confusion of transferring from one army post to another. This is reflected in the list below by the lack of exact dates. However, I have retained enough material to be able to add substantially to McLaughlin's list.

In the following briefly annotated list, I have omitted those species for which my observations add nothing to those of McLaughlin. Species marked with an asterisk are those not reported in McLaughlin's paper.

**Dichromanassa rufescens*. Reddish Egret. One immature seen on August 1. Since publishing this record (*Auk*, 65, 1948:308), an additional inland record of this species has come to my attention. There is a specimen in the American Museum of Natural History collected by E. A. Mearns at Camp Verde on the Verde River, Arizona, August 27, 1886. Thus mine is the fifth rather than the fourth inland record for the species.

Plegadis mexicana. White-faced Glossy Ibis. Two seen flying overhead, late in August.

**Brantha canadensis*. Canada Goose. **Anser albifrons*. White-fronted Goose. A flock of ten geese was observed flying over the camp and landing in one of the ponds of the Project just at sunset in mid-September. Nine of these individuals proved upon closer observation to be White-fronted Geese and one a Canada Goose.

Anas discors. Blue-winged Teal. At least during the fall migration of 1943, the proportion of this species among the waterfowl observed would warrant a higher rating than McLaughlin's "Uncommon migrant."

Ictinia mississippiensis. Mississippi Kite. One or two immature individuals of this species were seen in the summer months, favoring McLaughlin's conjecture that these birds breed in the mesquite near the ponds.

Accipiter striatus. Sharp-shinned Hawk. One September record.

**Callipepla squamata*. Scaled Quail. According to the distribution map in "Principal Game Birds and Mammals of Texas" (Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, 1945:60), Taylor County lies

within the "former range" of this species. The nearest area to Camp Barkeley in which Scaled Quail are now supposed to be present lies in western Nolan and southwestern Runnels counties. I saw two individuals of this species along the railroad tracks near the camp railroad entrance on July 23.

**Rallus limicola*. Virginia Rail. Seen two or three times in the marshes below the ponds. Probably an uncommon fall migrant.

My most outstanding memory of bird-life at Camp Barkeley is of the shore bird migration. While I never saw any flocks (except of phalaropes) that could be described as large, the variety of species more than compensated in interest for the small numbers of individuals. During the height of the migration it was not at all uncommon to have eight to ten species of sandpipers and plovers within the field of the binoculars at one time. The earthen retaining wall about one of the ponds permitted easy concealment, often making it possible to observe these shore birds at a range as close as eight or ten feet.

**Pluvialis dominica*. Golden Plover. One individual, accompanying a small flock of Black-bellied Plovers, in early September.

**Squatarola squatarola*. Black-bellied Plover. Flocks of a half-dozen individuals or less were seen on several occasions in early September.

**Numenius americanus*. Long-billed Curlew. McLaughlin's omission of this spectacular bird is somewhat surprising. Flocks of up to a dozen individuals were seen constantly throughout August, not only at the ponds but flying over the camp proper, often calling loudly.

**Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*. Willet. Uncommon migrant. From one to three individuals were seen occasionally among the mixed shore bird flocks in August.

Ereunetes mauri. Western Sandpiper. Field identification of this species as one of the commonest "peeps" was confirmed by the finding of a live bird which had had a wing torn off, presumably by a predator. A Duck Hawk had been active in the vicinity at about that time and was suspected to be the predator involved.

**Limosa fedoa*. Marbled Godwit. Uncommon migrant. Single individuals occasionally appeared, usually accompanying a flock of curlews.

**Crocethia alba*. Sanderling. One of the last shore birds to pass through, none being seen before early September, and never in large numbers.

Himantopus mexicanus. Black-necked Stilt. McLaughlin is correct in his conjecture that this species bred here. I did not find any nests, but saw parent birds accompanied by young. These seemed to be fully feathered when I first saw them, but they still bore traces of down.

**Lobipes lobatus*. Northern Phalarope. About one-third of the individuals in the large migrating flocks of phalaropes were of this species. They appeared to be slightly later in arriving than were the more abundant Wilson Phalaropes. Both species exhibited the typical phalarope gyrations while feeding in the pools.

Larus pipixcan. Franklin Gull. One large flock (over 100 birds) drifted over the Project in early September. Very few individuals came down to the ponds or marshes. All those seen at close range were in winter plumage.

**Geococcyx californianus*. Roadrunner. One seen in the mesquite near the Project, in early September.

**Centurus aurifrons*. Golden-fronted Woodpecker. McLaughlin lists the Gila Woodpecker, *C. uropygialis*, as an "uncommon permanent resident." *C. uropygialis* is not normally found east of western New Mexico. I believe therefore that McLaughlin's records more probably pertain to *C. aurifrons*, a well-known Texas species, which I observed during September in the mesquite near the Project.

**Myiarchus cinerascens*. Ash-throated Flycatcher. One seen in early August at the outskirts of the cantonment area near the Project. This individual appeared to be in heavily worn plumage.

Corvus cryptoleucus. White-necked Raven. Although McLaughlin lists this species merely as "quite common," my notes compare the milling flocks of ravens over the mesquite to the clouds of gulls following ships in New York Harbor.

Corvus brachyrhynchos. Crow. In almost any large assemblage of the ravens, a few crows could be detected by their cawing. Peterson (Field Guide to Western Birds, 1941:126) is in error when he states that "the Crow does not occur in the range of the White-neck (except in sw. Oklahoma)."

Parus atricristatus. Black-crested Titmouse. Listed by McLaughlin as a "rare resident." In my experience, this species was quite common in the mesquite areas surrounding the Project. I regarded it as one of the three commonest small birds (with the Bewick Wren and the Gnatcatcher) of the mesquite habitat.

**Poliopitula caerulea*. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Although not listed by McLaughlin, this species, as mentioned above, was one of the three I could nearly always depend on seeing in the mesquite. I do not doubt that they bred in the area. They commonly associated with the titmouse while feeding.

**Regulus calendula*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. A single fall migrant seen, in the area McLaughlin describes as "the drowned woods."

Vermivora ruficapilla. Nashville Warbler. Listed by McLaughlin as a spring migrant only. One, or possibly two individuals seen in September.

Geothlypis trichas. Yellowthroat. McLaughlin gives a single spring record. Several individuals seen and heard in the marshy area below the ponds throughout September.

**Piranga rubra*. Summer Tanager. One male and two females seen in the willows near the ponds, July 25.

**Pipilo maculatus*. Spotted Towhee. One September record.

Calamospiza melanocorys. Lark Bunting. Only two seen by McLaughlin. In late September there was a virtual "wave" of this species, lasting several days. Several could usually be seen during this period on the telegraph wires near the ponds, and more on or near the ground. All were in winter plumage.

**Spizella pallida*. Clay-colored Sparrow. A flight of this species coincided with that of the Lark Buntings. The sparrows lingered somewhat longer than did the buntings.

Recapitulation: total species listed by McLaughlin, 138; species added in present paper, 20; species recorded from Camp Berkeley, 158.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, August 3, 1949.*

Ruddy Quail-Dove in Tamaulipas.—In the spring of 1949 four specimens of the Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Oreopeleia montana*), now in my personal collection, were taken in the vicinity of Pano Ayuctle (Pumpkin Ford) along the Río Sabinas, near the village of Gomez Farias, in southwestern Tamaulipas. The first of these, a female (ovary 9×3 mm.; largest ovum 1.5 mm. in diameter), was collected by Paul S. Martin on February 23. The second, a male (testes 8×6 mm.), was collected by C. Richard Robins on March 11. The remaining two, a male and female, I took on March 19. The testes of the male were elongate, each being about 12×4.5 mm.; the ovary of the female measured about 8×6 mm. (the individual ova were only slightly enlarged). All these specimens were taken in thick flood-plain woodland.

Oddly enough, I actually saw the species myself only on March 19, although I was afield daily from January 14 to 29 and again from March 17 to 24. On March 19 I encountered one pair along a shady stretch of road about 400 yards west of the river. The birds must have been feeding in the open at the edge of the road, for they ran into the woods at my approach, the female ahead of the male. When I shot the male, the female flew off, but I could see that she rose only a short way above the ground. The female which I collected that day was a wholly different bird, encountered with a male on the east side of the river, in a narrow patch of well-shaded woodland not far south of camp.

Martin and his party saw very little of the species in 1949. The specimen which Martin collected on February 23 was by itself along the river bank just south of Pano Ayuctle. He shot the bird as it alighted after a short flight through the undergrowth. In the crop of both the Martin and Robins specimens there were large, pea-like seeds which Dr. Robert Clausen of Cornell University has identified as leguminous. On June 14, 1949, Robins saw a Ruddy Quail-Dove flying low over an open cane field not far from Pano Ayuctle.

So far as I know, the Ruddy Quail-Dove has not heretofore been recorded north of the State of Veracruz. The species has an unusually wide range in the New World tropics, however, and so many distinctly tropical forms of animal life have recently been found in the Gomez Farias region of Tamaulipas that this discovery does not surprise me. What does surprise me is our failure to have recorded the bird at all in 1938, 1939, 1941 and 1947, and the failure of Martin and Ernest P. Edwards to have seen it during several weeks of work along the Río Sabinas in April and June of 1948. The