

to eat bread crumbs at a feeding shelter at my home in Reno, Nevada. Since the ground was covered with about four inches of crusty snow, which did not melt appreciably during that time, many Oregon Juncos (*Junco oreganus*) and several English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) fed there also. An excellent comparison could be made when both species of junco were feeding together. The Slate-colored Junco, however, would usually chase all other birds away from the shelter and eat alone while the others waited nearby. When warmer weather arrived and the snow melted, the bird was no longer seen.—NED K. JOHNSON, *Reno, Nevada, November 24, 1949.*

Late Nesting Record for the Abert Towhee.—While driving down a dirt road a few miles north of Westmorland, Imperial County, California, on September 16, 1949, we observed an Abert Towhee (*Pipilo aberti*) fly from a small mesquite tree. On examining the tree we found a towhee's nest containing four fresh eggs. The nest was four feet above the ground on an outer branch within a few feet of the road. The nest and eggs were collected and are now no. 1136 in the Cardiff Collection. Mr. W. C. Hanna of Colton, California, who has had much experience with the nesting of the Abert Towhee on the Colorado Desert, has not found them nesting this late.—EUGENE E. CARDIFF and BRUCE E. CARDIFF, *Bloomington, California, November 8, 1949.*

A Sight Record of the Knot in Colorado.—On September 6, 1941, the undersigned stopped at Barr Reservoir, Adams County, Colorado, for the purpose of observing birds. On a bar that extended into the water from the shore was a group of shore birds, mainly Greater and Lesser yellow-legs and Pectoral Sandpipers, but among them was a Knot, *Calidris canutus*. Realizing that the occurrence of this species so far inland was unusual, we carefully observed it through glasses and in good light. We noted that it retained some reddish coloration of the nuptial plumage and, when flushed, gave the characteristic note of the species. We are well acquainted with the Knot, having often observed it about the Great Lakes and along the Atlantic seaboard.

Recently, while examining the manuscript of the revised ranges of the shore birds, which is to be used in the next edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list, our attention was called to the lack of records of the Knot for Colorado. Belatedly, then, we decided to publish this sight record.—MILTON B. TRAUTMAN and MARY A. TRAUTMAN, *Stone Laboratory, Put-in-Bay, Ohio*, and H. G. DEIGNAN, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., November 15, 1949.*

The Southern Limits of the Willet's Continental Breeding Range.—Ornithologists interested in the bird life of the coast of the Gulf of Mexico probably have suspected for a long time that the Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) bred farther south than the mouth of the Rio Grande, but so far as I have been able to ascertain no breeding specimen has actually been collected on the coast of eastern Mexico until very recently. As long ago as 1863, H. E. Dresser found the species in summer about "a good-sized lagoon or pond, formerly the main bed of the river" near what was then "one end" of the town of Matamoros, Tamaulipas (Ibis, 1865:312). I believe he did not obtain breeding specimens at that particular pond, although he obtained some at Boca Grande in July. Various persons since that time have taken the bird in summer on the Texas side of the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Brownsville.

On May 9, 1949, C. Richard Robins briefly visited the Tamaulipas coast about 25 miles south of the mouth of the Rio Soto la Marina. There, in the vicinity of the village of Tepehuaje (about 80 miles north of the city of Tampico), he encountered a scattered colony of breeding Willets. He collected one specimen, a female with a fully-formed egg ready for laying. The bird was moderately fat and weighed 357 grams (including the egg). The specimen is now in my collection.

I examined this bird with considerable interest, finding it, somewhat to my surprise, to be closer to *inornatus* than to the nominate, eastern race both in size and color. Since, according to the 1931 edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list, *C. s. semipalmatus* is considered the breeding form of the Texas coast, I re-measured the Tepehuaje specimen, and compared the measurements with those of three birds (two males and a female) from Cameron County, Texas, collected in June, 1930, by H. H. Kimball. The following table presents a comparison of my findings with those of Ridgway (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 50, pt. 8, 1919:316-319).

Measurements of *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* in Millimeters

	Males			
	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
Ridgway's average for 10 <i>semipalmatus</i>	188	70.6	54.5	56.7
1 specimen from Cameron County, Texas (U.M.M.Z. 66171)	193	74	61	56
1 specimen from Cameron County, Texas (U.M.M.Z. 66172)	195	72	58	62
Ridgway's largest of 10 <i>semipalmatus</i>	195.5	74	58	58.5
Ridgway's average for 11 <i>inornatus</i>	205.2	79.4	59.4	64.9
Ridgway's largest of 11 <i>inornatus</i>	218	84.5	63.5	69
	Females			
Ridgway's average for 5 <i>semipalmatus</i>	187	70.1	56.2	55.1
Ridgway's largest of 5 <i>semipalmatus</i>	191	74	59	58
1 specimen from Cameron County, Texas (U.M.M.Z. 66173)	200	79	59	60
1 specimen from Tepehuaje, Tamaulipas (Sutton Collection)	204	76	65	63
Ridgway's smallest of 6 <i>inornatus</i>	209.5	74	63	66.5
Ridgway's average for 6 <i>inornatus</i>	213.5	80.9	64.1	68.3
Ridgway's largest of 6 <i>inornatus</i>	220	88	65	70

The bill length of the female from Tepehuaje, Tamaulipas, is exactly that of the longest-billed *inornatus* measured by Ridgway. Its tail length is greater than the shortest-tailed female *inornatus* measured by Ridgway. Its wing length and tarsus length fall between those of the largest *semipalmatus* and smallest *inornatus* measured by Ridgway, but are actually closer to Ridgway's average for *inornatus* than to that of *semipalmatus*. In size, then, we must call the Tepehuaje specimen *inornatus*.

The Cameron County birds appear to be intermediate between the two races in size, with a definite tendency toward *inornatus* evinced particularly in the female's tail length, which is almost as great as that of Ridgway's average for *inornatus*. In wing length and tarsus length also, this female bird is definitely large for *semipalmatus*, and its bill length equals that of the longest-billed *semipalmatus* measured by Ridgway. The male birds too are consistently very large for *semipalmatus*, only one measurement of the eight (tarsus length of U. M. M. Z. 66171) falling at all below Ridgway's average for the eastern race. On the basis of the above, I maintain that it is a mistake to call birds from Cameron County, Texas, *semipalmatus* without qualifying the statement. Assuredly they tend toward *inornatus* in size.

In color, the female from Tepehuaje, Tamaulipas, is obviously much paler both above and below than the birds from Cameron County, hence on a second count must be called *inornatus*. The Cameron County specimens are very similar in color to some *inornatus* in the series of breeding specimens in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, but on the whole they seem too heavily marked with black both above and below for that race.

More specimens must, of course, be collected along the coast of southern Tamaulipas before we can be certain that the whole breeding population there represents the western race. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus* has heretofore been considered a bird of the interior. Further investigations may reveal, however, that there is a clinal trend toward largeness and paleness from the Texas coast southward. How much farther south than Tepehuaje, Tamaulipas, the Willet breeds is a question. Robert B. Lea, who visited the Tampico region in late May, 1947, informs me that he did not record the species there. Should the Tamaulipas population prove distinct from both *inornatus* and *semipalmatus*, the name *speculiferus* Cuvier apparently is available (Hellmayr and Conover, Cat. Birds Amer., part 1, no. 3, 1948:129).—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, August 3, 1949.*

The Brown Pelican as a Scavenger.—On the afternoon of November 27, 1949, the research ship "Orca" of the J. W. Sefton Foundation was running in to San Diego from South Coronado Island. We had on board a large porpoise which was being dissected and fleshed. As all waste matter was thrown overboard as removed from the skeleton, the usual accumulation of hungry gulls was following the ship, screaming and fighting over every piece of viscera and flesh that hit the water. Among the gulls were three Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) which, to the surprise of everyone on board the ship, joined the gulls in their scramble for this waste. The pelicans did not dive but landed