

two pounds. The cottontail was killed by a few sharp stabs of the beak into the postorbital region of the head. The hawk was so intent upon killing the cottontail that it was not frightened until the observer came within 10 feet of the scene of the killing. Even when flushed, the hawk was reluctant to leave the area and would fly only 50 to 100 feet at a time when pursued.—HUDSON G. REYNOLDS, *Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station, Tucson, Arizona, December 20, 1950.*

Notes on the Nomenclature of the Brown Jay.—Hellmayr (Cat. Birds Amer., pt. 7, 1934:15, footnote 1) stated that the ventral coloration of the Brown Jay (*Psilorhinus morio*) varied so widely over the entire geographic range of the species that it was of no advantage to split the species into a northern and a southern race. At the same time he admitted that dark-bellied variants were "rather more predominant" in southern Veracruz. Brodtkorb (Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich., No. 55, 1943:71) noted variation in the ventral coloration of nine specimens from southern Veracruz and Tabasco and stated that several of them were paler below than a single bird from Tamaulipas. Fifty-five specimens of *P. morio* from the Robert T. Moore collection and from the United States National Museum show variation in ventral coloration along a north-south cline. Thirteen specimens from Nuevo León and Tamaulipas are noticeably pale ventrally. Specimens from southeastern San Luis Potosí, Puebla, Veracruz, Oaxaca, and Chiapas are mainly darker below than the northern birds. Although some of these specimens approach the northern birds in the pallor of their ventral coloration, 14 out of 15 specimens from southern Veracruz, northeastern Oaxaca, and Chiapas are uniformly darker below. The terminal populations of this cline are thus readily separable. This agrees with the findings of Wetmore (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 93, 1943:296-297), and his conclusion that there are two recognizable subspecies of *Psilorhinus morio* seems justified.

A second character which shows a clinal pattern of variation is the intensity of the bluish, or glaucous, sheen on the outer webs of the rectrices, visible under certain conditions of illumination. This character was noted by Ridgway (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 50, pt. 3, 1904:299) but has apparently not been used in the taxonomy of this species. Of 30 specimens taken between Nuevo León and a point five miles north of Jalapa, Veracruz, only one specimen lacks this sheen. Of ten specimens taken at various localities between Jalapa and Orizaba, Veracruz, three lack the sheen. Of fifteen specimens taken southeast of Orizaba in the states of Veracruz, Oaxaca, and Chiapas twelve have the bluish sheen absent or reduced to a mere trace.

Van Rossem (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 77, 1934:415-416), while recognizing two races of *P. morio*, synonymized *Psilorhinus morio fuliginosus* (Lesson), the name which up to that time had been applied to the dark-bellied southern birds. This he did on the grounds that the type of *Pica morio* Wagler, presumably collected by Deppe at Jalapa, Veracruz, was an example of the dark southern race, to which he therefore applied the name *Psilorhinus morio morio* (Wagler). The pale northern population, left nameless by his action, he named *P. m. palliatus*. Van Rossem's action seems unwarranted. He stated that "Other specimens definitely from Jalapa, which have been examined in the present study, belong to the northern and interior race" (*op. cit.*:415). Therefore he concluded that Deppe's specimen was collected not at Jalapa but "much more probably at an altitude considerably below the town" (*loc. cit.*), a purely conjectural statement. The Moore collection contains an adult female taken five miles north of Jalapa, 4450 feet, on March 22, 1939. This bird is definitely dark below. Since the town of Jalapa is at an elevation of 4423 feet, it seems likely that specimens taken at Jalapa and five miles north of Jalapa pertain to the same population. Therefore, if van Rossem's identification of his known Jalapan material was correct, the population at and near Jalapa includes variants toward both the northern and southern races. This implies that Wagler's type of *Pica morio* may have come from an intermediate population at Jalapa. Further, the rectrices of the specimen taken five miles north of Jalapa are strongly and extensively bluish, and in this character the specimen is more similar to birds from the north than to those from the south.

In view of the clinal nature of the variation in the ventral coloration of *P. morio*, the wide variability of this coloration over most of the range of the species, and the apparent presence of both dark and pale variants in the population at the type locality of *Pica morio*, it seems proper to assume that Wagler's type came from an intergrade population. *Psilorhinus morio morio* could thus properly be applied to the northern populations and *Psilorhinus morio fuliginosus* to the southern.

Assignment of ranges to the two races of *P. morio* on the basis of the variation in ventral coloration is of necessity arbitrary. On the basis of the variation in the coloration of the rectrices *P. m. morio*

apparently extends south to Jalapa and *P. m. fuliginosus* extends north to Orizaba. The populations between these two localities are considered here to be intergrades.

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Alexander Wetmore for making available the specimens of *Psilorhinus morio* in the United States National Museum.—JOHN DAVIS, *Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, California, December 8, 1950.*

The Original Description of the Fossil Bird *Cryptornis antiquus*.—Lambrecht in 1921 (*Fossilium Catalogus*, I, pt. 12, Aves, 89) lists "*Cryptornis antiquus* Milne-Edwards," giving reference to the work of that author and to appropriate synonymy. In his later volume, *Handbuch der Palaeornithologie* (1933:630), Lambrecht gives the same references and authority, with a four-line summary of the characters of this uncertainly known species.

The bird in question, a partial skeleton, was first brought to attention by Laurillard in the final plate of the Atlas for d'Orbigny's *Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Naturelle*, the plate, issued in 1847 without a number, showing the bird three-fourths natural size. It is labelled "Espèce d'Alcedo des carrières des environs de Paris." Paul Gervais in *Zoologie et Paléontologie Françaises* (1852:409), described the specimen definitely as *Centropus ? antiquus*, and figured it again, life size, in plate 49, figure 1. This is a valid description so that the specific name dates from this point. Milne-Edwards in his *Recherches Anatomiques et Paléontologiques Oiseaux Fossiles de la France* (vol. 2, 1870:371) described the specimen more fully under the heading "*Cryptornis antiquus*, nov. gen.," with references to Laurillard and Gervais. His conclusion was that the species was not a member of the Cuculidae, as had been suggested doubtfully by Gervais, but that it was nearest to the African hornbills and should be placed immediately after them in the separate genus that he proposed. In plate 175 he gives an illustration of the bird life-size and here indicates it in the legend as "Squelette du *Cryptornis antiquus* (A. Edwards), *Centropus ? Antiquus* (P. Gervais)."

Lambrecht very evidently was misled by the statements last given, and so attributed both genus and species to Milne-Edwards although properly the name should be given as *Cryptornis antiquus* (Gervais). Since Lambrecht's volume is our standard reference on fossil birds, it is desirable to note this correction to avoid future repetition of the error, particularly since the data are available only in large library centers.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., December 20, 1950.*

Notes on the Birds of Brazos County, Texas.—In 1940, Davis (*Condor*, 42:81-85) published a list of birds of Brazos County, Texas. Such a local list is useful, especially in Texas where suitable works of wider scope are lacking. Between 1940 and 1951 additional data have come to our attention which seem worthy of record.

Permanent residents.—No observations have been recorded, at least lately, of the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) nesting in Brazos County. Probably the species should be listed as a winter visitant. The Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) is reported by old-timers to have occurred in the county and restocked birds (*M. g. intermedia*) now are found within a few miles of the northern boundary. A King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) was observed near the Little Brazos River on July 26, 1950. The Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) is regularly seen, although it is not common. The Boat-tailed Grackle (*Cassidix mexicanus*) which Davis (*loc. cit.*) listed as a somewhat "rare" vagrant in 1940, now is a common resident. It occurs in large flocks and breeding colonies have been located just across the county line in Burleson County.

Summer visitants.—Yellow-crowned Night Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*) seen in late April in the Navasota River bottoms gave every indication of nesting. They are often seen in summer and probably are more than migrants here. The Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) is heard regularly in late April (April 15-30, 1950) and probably breeds. The breeding of the Inca Dove (*Scarfadella inca*) in Brazos County has been reported by Fitch (*Auk*, 65, 1948:455-456), but it has not been noted since that time. The Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) has been observed in late spring at the college airport and should be investigated for a change in status from that of a winter visitant. Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum*) are heard abundantly in spring (April 28, 1950) and probably breed here.

Migrant species.—Several of the following species probably are more regular migrants than the meager observations indicate. Four specimens of the Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) were collected