

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 (*Megasceryle 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

in the Navasota River bottoms between April 3 and May 11, in 1940 and 1941; two specimens of the northern Water-thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*) were taken on April 29 and 30, 1941; one specimen of the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) was found dead on the college campus on May 4, 1941. A Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) was collected by Wendell Swank and Petrides on May 13, 1949. Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) are common in spring, definite records on April 28 and 30, 1950, being available. A singing male Swainson Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsoni*) was collected at Peach Creek in the Navasota River thickets on April 22, 1949. Other individuals were seen in the same locality on April 21 and 26, 1950. There is a good chance that they breed there, at least in years of low water. This is probably true also of the Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*), which is common there in spring. Between April 20 and 30, 1950, Kentucky, Orange-crowned (*Vermivora celata*), and Nashville (*V. ruficapilla*) warblers, Louisiana Water-thrushes (*Seiurus motacilla*) and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) were seen there. Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) flocks were observed in Bryan on about April 10, 1950. The Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) is probably a regular spring migrant, arriving in late April and early May.

*Vagrant species.*—Three Wood Ibises (*Mycteria americana*) were sighted over the Navasota River bottoms on September 3, 1950.—GEORGE A. PETRIDES and W. B. DAVIS, *Department of Wildlife Management, Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station, Texas, December 16, 1950.*

**An Unusual Occurrence of the Saw-whet Owl.**—On February 3, 1950, we collected an adult female Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*). The bird was found sleeping in the afternoon in an exposed outer branch of a tamarisk tree (*Tamarix gallica*) near the southeast edge of the Salton Sea north of Westmorland, Imperial County, California, at an elevation of 200 feet below sea level. This is the first record for the Imperial Valley. The specimen is now no. 1238 in the Cardiff Collection.—EUGENE E. CARDIFF and BRUCE E. CARDIFF, *Bloomington, California, July 26, 1950.*

**An Unusual Concentration of Elegant Terns in Southern California.**—On August 27, 1950, Herbert Clarke and I found eight Elegant Terns (*Thalasseus elegans*) at the Playa del Rey Gun Club near Los Angeles, California. Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:127) list these birds as rare and irregular in their distribution in California. Consequently I was surprised to find thirty-two of them when I returned to the Playa del Rey Gun Club on September 6, 1950. Also there were sixteen on the beach near the Ballona Creek breakwater only a quarter of a mile away. One bird was taken and is now in the collection of the Allan Hancock Foundation at the University of Southern California. A feature of this species which is at once noticeable is the comparative slowness and length of the bill as compared to both the Caspian and Royal terns. The bill of the Elegant Tern seems almost one-half again as long as the head whereas the bills of the Caspian and Royal terns (both proportionately about the same length), seem to be three-quarters the length of the head.

The call notes of the Elegant Tern recalled at once those of the Least Tern. They are of the same quality but are not as high in pitch. They may be described as a nasal "karreeek, karreeek." The call is loud but it is unlike the calls of the Caspian and Royal terns. The Royal Tern sounds somewhat like a high-pitched Caspian Tern. The Elegant Tern sounds like a low-pitched Least Tern. The call is repeated often both while on the ground and in the air. It may be given as a single note, a double note, two or more double notes, or as a combination of these.—ARNOLD SMALL, *Department of Zoology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, September 15, 1950.*

**The Genus *Cuculus* in North America, a Reconsideration.**—At the request of Dr. Alexander Wetmore, in his capacity as Chairman of the A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, Mr. Wilson C. Hanna of Colton, California, has again forwarded to Washington, for re-examination, the specimen of *Cuculus* sp. from Wales, Alaska, recorded by him in 1947 (Condor, 49:42).

It is the writer's view, in which Dr. Wetmore concurs, that Mr. Hanna's bird represents not an immature *Cuculus canorus* subsp., but an adult hepatic-phase female of *Cuculus saturatus* Blyth (formerly *optatus* Gould), and even a well-marked one with respect to the deep red-brown bars of the upper parts, the strong barring of the rump and upper tail coverts, and the broad blackish bars of the under parts. Its wing length (flattened) of 197 mm. clearly places it with the longer-winged northern race, *Cuculus saturatus horsfieldi* Moore (see Junge, *Temminckia*, 2, 1937:202).

This discovery has led us to reexamine the two other North American specimens of *Cuculus*,