

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 (*Dumatella 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*,

discussed by Friedmann and Riley in 1931 (Auk, 48:269). We agree with these authors that U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 118864, collected by William Palmer on St. Paul Island on July 4, 1890, represents *Cuculus saturatus* and find that its flattened wing length of 203 mm. places it also with the race *horsfieldi*.

U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 325410, taken by H. B. Collins, Jr. on St. Lawrence Island on July 1, 1930, proves, however, to be, not *Cuculus canorus bakeri* Hartert, but similarly an example of *Cuculus saturatus horsfieldi* (flattened wing length, 201 mm.). It is a subadult gray-phase female and is well marked in the deep tone of the gray upper parts, the broadness of the blackish bars of the under parts, and the color character of the carpo-metacarpal patch (smudged with slate gray and unbarred).

The true *Cuculus canorus bakeri* is a dark subtropical race ranging from the Himalayas through Assam and northern Burma to Yunnan, Szechwan, and southern Kansu. It appears to be scarcely migratory, although it is probable that its more northern representatives move somewhat southward in winter. Although not impossible, it would be highly extraordinary ever to find an example of it in Alaska. *Cuculus saturatus horsfieldi*, on the other hand, is not only a common breeding bird in north-eastern Siberia as far as the Arctic Circle, but it winters in numbers as far south as the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, and Australia, and thus might occur almost anywhere as a vagrant.

It is our opinion, then, that *Cuculus canorus bakeri* Hartert must be deleted from the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds, and that all three of the North American examples of *Cuculus* must be referred to *Cuculus saturatus horsfieldi* Moore.—H. G. DEIGNAN, *United States National Museum, Washington, D.C., December 28, 1950.*

Observations on Some New Mexican Birds.—The following notes are based on observations made in New Mexico in the early months of 1950 when I resided in Albuquerque. Several species in this list are mentioned because they are considered to be uncommon or unusual in occurrence in the region, judging by data summarized by Bailey (Birds of New Mexico, 1928). Specimens of the Long-billed Dowitcher and Grace Warbler have been deposited in the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. Subspecific determination of the dowitchers was provided by Dr. George H. Lowery.

Plegadis guarauna. White-faced Glossy Ibis. A single bird was seen on April 9, at a small marsh about 12 miles south of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County. Available records indicate that this bird has been observed only infrequently near Albuquerque.

Anser albifrons. White-fronted Goose. This species is considered rare in the Rocky Mountain region. Seven individuals were observed on March 12 at relatively close range while they were feeding in a marsh about 12 miles south of Albuquerque. A single Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea*) was in company with them.

Buteo lineatus. Red-shouldered Hawk. This species is listed by Mrs. Bailey as not common. Although I saw no living birds, two dead ones were found along the highways. On March 4, a badly decomposed bird was found about 13 miles south of Albuquerque, near the Rio Grande River, and another several miles southeast of Belen, along state highway No. 6. Both had been shot.

Urubitinga anthracina. Mexican Black Hawk. A single individual was observed in a grove of cottonwoods along the Gila River near Cliff, Grant County, on April 20. When approached too closely the bird would fly a short distance and alight in a cottonwood where it would try to remain hidden from view. This act was repeated on several approaches but gave ample opportunity for observation. The species is listed as an occasional visitor.

Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus. Dowitcher. Six specimens collected on March 19, all in winter dress, were taken about 12 miles south of Albuquerque, where the species is not common during spring migration. Single birds in breeding plumage were observed at the same place on April 6, 8, 10 and 15. The collected specimens have all been identified as the western form.

Scardafella inca. Inca Dove. Several observed at Virden, Hidalgo County, on April 21, were obviously paired and were noted mainly about dwellings and farm buildings, especially where cattle or poultry were gathered. The species is considered uncommon in this part of the state.

Vermivora luciae. Lucy Warbler. Large numbers of this supposedly rare New Mexican species were observed on two successive days in the southwestern portion of the state. On April 20, near Cliff, Grant County, a considerable number was seen in the willows along the Gila River. Again on