

discovered. One bird was circling the rim of a broad canyon calling loudly. After two trips around the rim it flew directly to a dead tree and copulated with a second bird which to this moment had been silent and consequently overlooked. During the copulatory act the female also called loudly. The male then commenced circling and calling again.—HENRY E. CHILDS, JR., and ARCHIE S. MOSSMAN, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 20, 1952.*

Scrub Jay in Bexar County, Texas.—On April 12, 1951, I took a Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) from a small flock on a juniper-covered hillside about one mile southwest of Leon Springs in northwestern Bexar County, Texas. The specimen, a first-year female (ovary 10×5 mm., largest ovum 1 mm.), is now no. 123268 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Two other individuals were seen at the same time and a fourth was heard calling. In this area, at an elevation of approximately 1200 feet, the junipers were closely spaced, with a few live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) and Texas oaks (*Q. texana*) scattered through them. This woodland, typical of the Edwards Plateau and the characteristic habitat of this jay (Pitelka, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 50, 1951:300), extends for several miles to the southeastward, being replaced gradually by mesquite and low shrub growth as one approaches San Antonio.

The easternmost locality for *A. c. texana* cited by Pitelka (*op. cit.*:403) is Kerrville, Kerr County. Leon Springs lies about 40 miles southeast of that point. Beckham (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 10, 1888: 633-696) does not list this supposedly resident jay from the San Antonio region, although he spent more than a week collecting birds at Leon Springs in March, 1887. Attwater (Auk, 9, 1892:337-345) does not report this species from the vicinity of San Antonio, nor do Kirn and Quillen in their list of the "Birds of Bexar County, Texas" (Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio, 1927). Scrub Jays were not noted in the vicinity of Boerne, Kendall County (about 12 miles northwest of Leon Springs) in the course of two winter's residence there by Brown (Auk, 1, 1884:120-124).

Whether this occurrence represents an instance of wandering of non-breeding individuals or an extension of breeding range in recent years must be determined by future study.—KEITH L. DIXON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 20, 1951.*

Homing Instinct in Cowbird.—On May 9, 1950, at Benicia, Solano County, California, I banded two male Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), and two days later, on May 11, a female of the same species. These three birds remained through June and departed early in July. They occupied a territory equal to some six square blocks, in which area my home is located.

From the middle of April to the middle of July, 1951, these same three cowbirds again frequented my banding traps, repeating so frequently that they became a nuisance. The bait used was ordinary canary bird seed which I was using to catch linnets and other seed-eating birds.

The female appeared to be mated with the two males, as the three were seldom far separated, and no other cowbirds were in evidence except three one-time visitors to my traps.

As an experiment, I took one of the two male cowbirds with me in my car from Benicia to Sacramento, sixty miles distant, on May 20, 1951. After exhibiting him at a meeting of the Western Bird-banding Association, I released him. Two days later this same bird was repeating again in my traps in Benicia, direct evidence of attraction either to its customary haunts or to its mate, or to both.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, February 29, 1952.*

Roseate Spoonbill in Imperial County, California.—On September 30, 1951, at 8:30 a.m., E. W. Elder and myself were observing waterfowl on the Alamo River where it empties into the Salton Sea in Imperial County, California. A group of five pinkish-colored birds flew to and landed in a small bay about 200 yards from us and began feeding in the shallow water. Closer inspection provided definite identification as Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*). Through the field glasses we were able to observe their large spoon-like bill and the characteristic sidewise motion of it while feeding. The birds had a faint pinkish appearance while on the ground but when in flight the underparts were very prominently pinkish. They fed for 20 minutes and when startled took flight and alighted among a number of other birds at the edge of the Salton Sea. Records of Roseate Spoonbills are rare for California but there are reports for Imperial County in 1909, 1913 and 1927.—WILLIAM A. WOOTEN, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Los Angeles, March 12, 1952.*