

From consideration of the dimensions tabulated it is clear that the hybrid skin is nearer to *Anser albifrons* than to *A. anser*, especially in the height of both mandibles and the number of "teeth" of the upper mandible.

A full description of the *Branta-Anser* hybrid is as follows: Head and neck, shiny brownish black without white neck ring; black "stocking" of neck ends more or less abruptly at base of neck; each cheek with pale buffy-white patch, the two patches somewhat divided by a dusky blackish stripe under throat; chin mottled with small black and white spots; black front with a few little whitish spots; under side of eye and basal feathering of bill as well as sides of nape spotted or mottled with white or pale buffy, so that border of cheek patch not clearly defined as in true *B. canadensis* and axis of patch not vertical, but transverse. Back and scapulars (consisting of older juvenal feathers and newly grown ones) grayish brown as in *A. albifrons* rather than brownish gray of *B. canadensis*, each feather narrowly margined with buffy, but not producing a finely barred effect as in *canadensis*. Rump, brownish black; upper tail-coverts, white or whitish with a few brownish tips; chest and breast pale ashy gray with whitish tips of feathers almost as in *B. c. canadensis* but not as in *leucopareia* (buffy); abdomen and flanks, white as in *canadensis* and *albifrons*; sides, grayish brown, like back, margined with buffy or whitish. All wing-coverts nearly uniformly grayish brown; primaries, black, with whitish shafts (as in *albifrons*), the two outer ones (instead of three as in *canadensis*) emarginate on inner web near tip; secondaries, dusky brown (as in *albifrons*); tertials brownish, faintly margined outwardly with whitish; wing lining and axillaries, slate gray as in *albifrons*. Upper mandible dark pink, with a brownish black patch at both tip and base (frontal); lower mandible dark pink, with a black tip; feet dark pink (Koyabashi).

Although goose hybrids in semidomesticated flocks are not rare and have often been reported, wild hybrids are very scarce. I know of only two previous records of wild crosses of *Branta* and *Anser* (Cockrum, Wilson Bull., 64, 1952:141).

However, Berg (Die Liebesgeschichte einer Wildgans, Berlin, 1930) produced five hybrids between a male Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) and female Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) in his free-state breeding area in Germany. These hybrids are very similar to the present hybrid in their color patterns (face, cheeks and underparts of body). Berg did not mention the color of the soft parts. The breeding ranges of *Branta canadensis* and *Anser albifrons* overlap and hybrids could be produced between them, whereas *B. canadensis* and *Anser anser* seem to have no chances for crossing in a wild state.

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge the aid of Dr. Yamashina and Mr. K. Kobayashi, the former for comparing specimens and the latter for lending material for comparison.—NAGAMICHI KURODA, Tokyo, Japan, May 15, 1952.

First United States Record of *Myiarchus nuttingi*.—On January 8, 1952, while the senior author was riding along a wash grown to mesquite, catclaw, and other shrubbery in the grassland about nine miles northwest of the village of Roosevelt, Gila County, Arizona, his attention was called to a *Myiarchus* flycatching in the bushes. The bird was collected and proves to be a Nutting Flycatcher (*Myiarchus nuttingi inquietus*), a species not heretofore taken in the United States. This is the more surprising because of the midwinter date and the fact that the extremely similar Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) winters only a few miles farther west at Phoenix.

There has been much confusion between these two species. Several previous reports of *nuttingi* in Arizona have proved to be based on female *cinerascens* (Ridgway, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. 50, part 4, 1907:627, footnote). More recently, Griscom (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 75, 1934:387-390) and van Rossem (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., 6, 1931:260; *ibid.*, 7, 1932:136-7; La. State Univ. Mus. Zool. Occas. Papers No. 21, 1945:152-3) have discussed the puzzling "hybrids" between the two. Van Rossem's final conclusion is "that two closely related but distinct species are involved, and that the truly impressive numbers of intermediates are the result of hybridization on a mass scale."

While we have not had the advantage of studying series of *nuttingi* and "intermediates," we have compared the Arizona specimen with three *M. n. inquietus* taken on December 26 and 27, 1951, near Ures, Sonora, and personally determined as to sex by Phillips and Harold E. Broadbooks. These indicate a rather surprising amount of sex dimorphism. The male (Broadbooks no. 2005) is decidedly less olive above than the two females and is slightly less yellow on the belly as well as being larger. The

crown, besides being more rufescent than in the females, is darker, and the bill is longer and more slender, but these may be individual variations. The male measures: wing (chord), 91.3 millimeters; tail, 88; bill from nostril, 12.8. The females (ARP nos. 2558 and 2561) measure, respectively: wing, 86.0, 85.5; tail, 80.7, 84.6; bill from nostril, 12.5, 11.8. Unfortunately it was impossible to find the gonads of the Arizona specimen, RWD no. 468, which seems to be a male, however, measuring: wing 88.5; tail, 86.5; bill from nostril, 12.2 mm. In color it resembles the Sonoran male, but is a little duller and grayer, and it is decidedly paler on the crown. The bill is wide as in the females.

The characters of these four *nuttingi*, as compared with adequate material of *cinerascens* taken recently in Arizona in fall, winter, and spring, appear to be: (1) Size smaller in all respects; tarsus more slender; bill shorter and (usually) relatively broader; extreme length of females in flesh 202 and 205 millimeters (as against 212 to 215). (2) Wing more rounded; the outer (tenth) primary is about equal to the second (male) or even shorter (female); the ninth is decidedly shorter than the sixth, seventh, and eighth, being nearly or quite as short as the fifth. (3) Paler coloration above, and more yellowish, especially in the female; this is most noticeable on the crown; the upper tail coverts and edgings of the rectrices are more yellowish, less deep reddish. (4) A narrow line of dusky next to the shaft on the inner webs of the rectrices, and no tendency for any dusky terminal area to extend forward along the inner edge. (5) Brighter yellow below; gray of throat and chest very slightly darker. (6) Rufous edgings of the primaries narrower, paler, and duller; anterior wing-bar a trifle duller, more yellowish, and less extensive.

It seems probable that re-examination of existing series of *Myiarchus*, bearing in mind the probability of erroneous determination of sex by some collectors, and the age and seasonal variations, may considerably reduce the number of supposed "intermediates." In this connection it is important to consider the geographic variation within *Myiarchus cinerascens* as pointed out by van Rossem (*loc. cit.*, 1945), and its migratory behavior.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *Arizona Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Tucson, Arizona*, and ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona, May 31, 1952.*

Observations on Molting of the American Coot.—As a part of a general study of the American Coot (*Fulica americana*), several individuals were held captive for the greater part of a year on the Berkeley campus of the University of California. In this time several observations were made on the molting of this species that seem worth recording.

The American Coot has one complete body molt a year, this being the postnuptial molt that occurs in late summer. Two birds (δ T87, ♀ T00) entered their molt period about seven to eight weeks after tapering off from breeding activity, that is, during the last week of July and early August. The table presents the data obtained from them and shows the sequence of events and rates of replacement in the wing. Generally, the loss of flight feathers occurs almost simultaneously on both wings. The greater and primary coverts are likewise all dropped at one time, a day or two after the loss of the remiges. Molt of the middle coverts was less regular and the replacement was slower. The lesser coverts began molting about ten days after the flight feathers were dropped. The old feathers of both the middle and lesser coverts were pushed out on the tips of the newly developing feathers, remaining attached until the new feather sheathes were two to five millimeters long.

Date	Rate of Wing Feather Growth (in Millimeters)				
	Primaries	Length of New Feathers			Coverts Middle
		Secondaries	Greater ¹		
Bird δ T87					
July 29	5 to 9	B ²	N	N	N
August 2	13	13	11	N	N
August 9	24+24 ³	"about same as primaries"		N	P
August 17	"primaries, secondaries, greater . . . coverts . . . nearly fully replaced."			B	C
August 28	"sheathed at base"	C	C	P	---