

in size and head coloration. These differences were apparent at well over a hundred yards with the aid of binoculars.

The specimen was a male with unenlarged testes ( $7 \times 2.5$  millimeters). We made color notes on the fleshy parts of the freshly killed bird, as follows: bill, ivory; irides, blood red; dorsal skin of head from cere to eyes, rose; skin of crown, bright blue in center, narrowly edged with light green; skin around eyes, chin, back of head and nape (to the feathers), yellowish orange; tarsi and feet, dark gray, with white depressions between the scales, giving an overall effect of light, ashy gray. The bird was not fat, but, unfortunately, we had no way of determining the weight. Its stomach contained part of a frog (possibly *Rana pipiens*) which appeared to be fresh.

The bird was undergoing a regular, bilateral molt, involving both body and flight feathers. The outermost two primaries were old and somewhat worn, the next two were still sheathed, and the inner primaries were fresh and of full length. The lateral pair of rectrices and two middle pairs were in molt. One of the latter was apparently full grown and no longer sheathed at the base. The specimen measured: wing chord, 442 mm. (note molt of primaries); tail, 208; and culmen from cere, 21.

*Cathartes burrovianus* apparently has not been recorded in the state of Tamaulipas heretofore. We did not record it north of Loma del Real, but we spent relatively little time in the more northern parts of the coastal area.

We will probably never know whether the "Mexican Vultures" which Dresser (*loc. cit.*) mentioned were actually *burrovianus* or not, but the possibility of that species occurring in the lower Rio Grande valley now seems slightly less remote to us. Although the Yellow-headed Vulture is fairly readily identifiable in the field, there is enough chance for error to demand that additional northern records be based on collected specimens. In view of Dr. Wetmore's remarks (*op. cit.*) on size variation within the species, collection of additional specimens from the north is warranted in any case.

The specimen we collected is now in the collection of George M. Sutton of the University of Oklahoma.—RICHARD R. GRABER and JEAN W. GRABER, *Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, December 15, 1953.*

**Notes from Panamá and the Canal Zone.**—In the course of a year's residence in the Panama Canal Zone, from June, 1950, to June, 1951, several species of birds were seen whose occurrence in this area seems to be noteworthy.

*Aythya collaris*. Ring-necked Duck. On February 25, 1951, while scanning the lake formed by damming of the Caimito River, just east of Red Tank, Canal Zone, a group of 12 diving ducks was spotted with  $10 \times 50$  and  $7 \times 50$  binoculars at about three hundred yards' distance. One adult, full-plumaged male Ring-neck was easily identified in the group, showing the black back and white mark in front of the wing very well. The bird was also observed with a  $40 \times$  telescope in excellent light. The group flew while we were observing them, incidentally showing the gray wing stripe and black back of the male bird, and our impression is that at least the majority of the duller birds were females or immatures of this species. Lesser Scaups (*Aythya affinis*) had been observed by us on the same lake, and the possibility of females of that species being among the group must be entertained in the absence of positive identification. However, the identity of the lone male is beyond all doubt. This record represents a southern extension, from Guatemala, of the known wintering range of this species.

*Buteo jamaicensis*. Red-tailed Hawk. On December 23, 1951, while hiking on the Chiva Chiva trail, on the Pacific slope of the Canal Zone, a large buteonine hawk with characteristic rusty-red upper tail surface was observed at about five hundred yards' distance. The upper view was unmistakable as the bird cruised and wheeled slowly a few hundred feet off the ground. A resident subspecies (*costaricensis*) breeds as far south as the mountains of western Panamá, but Griscom in his Panamá check-list (*Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, 78, 1935:261-382) does not record it beyond Veraguas. It is uncertain whether our bird was a wanderer of this race or a representative of one of the migratory northern subspecies.

*Larus pipixcan*. Franklin Gull. On June 2, 1951, at Gatun locks in the Canal Zone, a flock of approximately fifty individuals of this species was noted, wheeling at low heights (50 to 100 feet) over the area. Plumages varied from nondescript immature to full adult, with the distinctive broad white band separating the black wing tips from the gray of the remainder of the wing as a prominent mark. There is a possibility that the flock was mixed with Laughing Gulls (*L. atricilla*), but all

of the many individuals examined were this bird, and it seems relatively certain that other species would have been picked out in the course of five or more minutes of observation. Published records for Panamá seem rare (Griscom, *op. cit.*), probably due to inadequate coverage (see Eisenmann, Smithsonian Misc. Coll. 117, 1952:20).

*Sphyrapicus varius*. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. On December 17, 1950, at Summit Gardens, Canal Zone, one individual was observed at a few paces with binoculars. The head and wing pattern was unmistakable, although the individual was in immature or female plumage. Only one record for Panamá (from Chiriquí, in western Panamá), is noted by Griscom (*op. cit.*).

*Bombycilla cedrorum*. Cedar Waxwing. On five occasions individuals and flocks of this species were noted on the Pacific side of the Canal Zone. The observations were as follows: a single individual near Farfan Beach on January 14, 1951; several near Chorrera on January 20, 1951; in Ancon on January 25, 1951, and February 3, 1951; and a flock of about fifteen birds near Camp Empire on March 4, 1951. Griscom recorded one collected specimen, from "Chiriquí" in western Panamá.

*Sicalis luteola*. Yellow-breasted Grass-finch. Yellowish finches, which we could not at the time identify, were noted on the roadside at two localities between Río Hato and Penonomé, province of Coclé, Panamá, on January 28, 1951. Identification of this species in Panamá was first made on July 3, 1952, by Mr. Eugene Eisenmann, who then found colonies that were apparently breeding at various places along the same highway in Coclé; specimens collected in this area by Alexander Wetmore in May and June, 1953, confirmed the identification (E. Eisenmann *in litt.*). Our observation of January, indicating that the birds remain in the same area during the dry season (though presumably breeding in the rainy season), makes it the more remarkable that the species should hitherto have been unrecorded between Guatemala and Colombia.

*Sicalis flaveola*. Saffron Finch. A pair was noted in front of the clubhouse at Gatun, Canal Zone, on June 3, 1951, and two recognizable photographs were taken. A check of specimens at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology confirmed the identification tentatively advanced by Mr. Eisenmann on the basis of the color slides. Last word from Mr. Eisenmann (*in litt.*) indicates that he saw at least two birds of this species in the same area on July 10, 1953. This colorful and widespread South American species has never been reported from continental Middle America. Although the individuals seen acted like wild birds, the possibility exists that they were formerly caged. The continued presence of this species in Gatun from 1951 to 1953 suggests that the species may have become established and indicates the desirability of investigation as to its status.—ROBERT T. SCHOLLES and KATHRYN T. SCHOLLES, *Bushnell, Illinois, October 16, 1953.*