

**Western Grebe in Oklahoma.**—The Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) may migrate regularly through Oklahoma, but it can hardly do so in great numbers for records of any sort are so few. Margaret M. Nice, in the revised edition of her "The Birds of Oklahoma" (1931), does not even mention the species. Orrin W. Letson of Tulsa, Oklahoma, informs me that a Western Grebe was seen repeatedly on Recreation Lake, in Mohawk Park, Tulsa, Tulsa County, by several members of the Tulsa Audubon Society on October 30, October 31, and November 1, 1951, and this observation was reported briefly by Baumgartner (Audubon Field-notes, 6, 1952:25).

On January 3, 1954, along the shore of this same lake, Anne (Mrs. Bruce) Reynolds, one of the persons who had observed the species there in 1951, found a Western Grebe dead. The specimen, frozen solid, reached me in excellent condition a day or so later. I skinned it promptly, finding it to be not at all fat (weight, 857 grams). Its stomach was packed with grebe feathers, presumably its own. It was a female, probably an adult. In the neck I found a small shot-wound—hardly severe enough, I should think, to have caused death directly. The specimen, apparently the first for Oklahoma, is now in the bird collection of the University of Oklahoma.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, January 26, 1954.*

**The Generic Name of the Rice Grackle.**—One of the most complicated nomenclatorial tangles in ornithology, involving birds of four genera and two families, was skillfully untangled by the late James L. Peters (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 42, 1929:121-123). One of Peters' conclusions was that the Rice Grackle of South and Central America, to which *Cassidix* Lesson had long been misapplied, needed a new generic name. This he supplied, in *Psomocolax*. Although disliking to contravene the opinion of so distinguished a student of nomenclature as Mr. Peters, I believe that the new generic name was not necessary, as I will try to show.

As mentioned by Peters, Ridgway (Birds N. and M. Amer., pt. 2, 1902:196) cited *Scaphidura* Swainson (Classific. Birds, 2, 1837:272) in the synonymy of "*Cassidix*" (*Psomocolax* Peters). Peters came to the conclusion that *Scaphidura* was "a lapsus or emendation of *Scaphidurus* Swainson (Philos. Mag., N.S. 1, no. 6, June, 1827)." The latter name was clearly stated by Swainson to be a substitute for *Quiscalus* Vieillot, on the grounds that Vieillot's name was preoccupied in botany. As correctly indicated by Peters, *Scaphidurus* thus takes the same type and is a pure synonym of *Quiscalus*. The only species listed under *Scaphidurus* by Swainson in this paper (a list of Mexican birds) was *palustris*. Hellmayr (Cat. Birds Amer., 10, 1937:93) applied the latter name to the Slender-billed Grackle of the marshes around Mexico City, showing rather conclusively that *palustris* was the same bird later named *Quiscalus tenuirostris* by Swainson (Anim. in Menag., 1837:299). Swainson himself apparently realized that *palustris* and *tenuirostris* applied to the same species, since only the latter name appears in his "Natural History and Classification of Birds," 1837 (here listed under the genus *Quiscalus*). This work contains the first appearance of the name *Scaphidura*, under which are listed two species, *barita* and *crassirostra*, both, as shown by Hellmayr, synonyms of *Oriolus oryzivorus* Gmelin (Syst. Nat., 1, (1), 1788:386). Hellmayr (*op. cit.*, p. 46, line 36) inadvertently attributed this name to Linnaeus, but gave the correct citation in the synonymy of the species on the next page.

Thus we see that Swainson used *Scaphidura* quite deliberately (since he called the subfamily Scaphidurinae) for a bird which he knew to differ generically from the Slender-billed Grackle which he had placed in his earlier genus *Scaphidurus* and later (granting that he had realized the identity of *palustris* with *tenuirostris*, which the evidence seems to show) placed in *Quiscalus*.

It appears obvious to me that *Scaphidura* cannot be considered a "lapsus or emendation of *Scaphidurus*," but must stand as a separate name. This is exactly the position taken by Hellmayr, who placed *Scaphidura* in the synonymy of *Psomocolax* rather than *Quiscalus*. Hellmayr, however, rejected as homonyms those generic names differing from earlier names only in gender, as in this case. This rejection is contraindicated by the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, and *Scaphidura* Swainson is thus valid and available, with *Psomocolax* Peters as a synonym. The Rice Grackle thus becomes *Scaphidura oryzivora* (Gmelin). There need be no further cause for confusion, since *Scaphidurus* is safely buried in the synonymy of *Quiscalus*.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 6, 1953.*

**Westward Extension of the Ranges of the Inca Dove and Bronzed Cowbird.**—The regular occurrence of the Inca Dove (*Scardafella inca*) westward to Yuma and Parker, Arizona, has been noted (Monson, Condor, 46, 1944:21; *ibid.*, 51, 1949:264). It was not surprising to the writer, then, to observe four Inca Doves in the Government camp at Parker Dam on the California side of