This large migratory influx of Wood Ibis in 1953, presumably from the west coast of Mexico, is heartening to ornithologists who have watched with much anxiety the encroachment of commercial, recreational and flood control development in the slough, lagoon and shallow bay areas of southern California during recent years. As the available feeding grounds face severe reduction due to such development, we may be on the eve of seeing fewer, instead of more, of these American storks.—ANDREAS B. RECHNITZER, *Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, La Jolla, California, March 17, 1954.*

A Further Record of the Slaty Finch in México.—The Slaty Finch (*Spodiornis rusticus*) is a distinctly rare bird in Central America and southern México. Until 1939 only the male type of the Mexican form (Veracruz), *Spodiornis rusticus uniformis,* was known. In 1943 Brodkorb (Auk, 60, 1943:281) recorded a female *Spodiornis* taken on Volcán Tacaná in Chiapas and referred it to *uniformis,* treating the latter as a species. Some uncertainty about the identification was expressed since the adult female of the Central American and Mexican forms were unknown and comparison perforce was made with an Ecuadorian example of *S. rusticus.* Another specimen of *Spodiornis* from Chiapas is contained in the Moore Collection, where it was tentatively identified by Moore as to genus some years ago. It is a female taken on Volcán Tacaná on May 1, 1943, by M. del Toro Aviles. The elevation is recorded as 3000 meters, but this is probably only an approximation. Some of the same problems that confronted Brodkorb still face us in identifying such a female, as no pair of *Spodiornis* has been taken in association north of South America. The specimen of 1943 has, however, been compared minutely with respect to bill structure, feet, wing, and tail with males and adult, laying females of *S. rusticus* from Colombia (Norte de Santander) and with the type of *S. r. barrilesensis* from Panamá. There seems to be no doubt that the Chiapas specimen belongs to this genus and we can see no structural or color characters of a magnitude to suggest that the three disjunct forms of México, Costa Rica–Panamá, and South America should be treated as anything but subspecies, as Hellmayr (Cat. Birds Amer., pt. 11, 1938:369-370) has already done. The real question seems to be whether all the forms are separable racially.

The type of *barrilesensis* was differentiated from *jardinii* (= *rusticus*) by Davidson (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 45, 1932:167-168) only on the basis of form and size of the bill, which was said to be longer and basally broader and deeper, the mandible being quite tumid. Our recent examination of this type, a male, reveals that its bill is distinctly abnormal if we may judge from experience with bills of other finches. This possibility apparently was not appreciated by the describer. The tip of the bill is attenuated and overgrown and the lower mandible is checked and irregular as though it had once been broken or had had some sort of injury. Much of the claimed character of the bill must therefore be doubted. However, it apparently was a bill somewhat more massive at the base than that of *S. rusticus* and the Chiapas specimen now before us indicates the same type of difference. For example the width of the bill at the nostril, although difficult to measure, is 4.7 mm. whereas it is 4.2 in all four *S. rusticus* at hand. Hellmayr (*op. cit.*) in his apparent comparison of the type of *S. r. uniformis* with specimens of *barrilesensis* prior to 1938 reports that it is similar to *barrilesensis* except for size of wing and tail and Brodkorb comments on the larger, stouter bill of his specimen from Chiapas. There seems to be little doubt, therefore, that the representatives of the species in the highlands north of the Isthmus of Panamá are less slender-billed than are those to the south; the difference is of an order commonly seen in subspecies, as for example among the northern races of *Passerculus sandwichensis.*

The problem still remaining is whether *barrilesensis* and *uniformis* are racially separable. The one character claimed to date is greater size of *uniformis.* The wing and tail of the type of the latter as measured by us are 74.5 and 50 mm., respectively. The males of four *rusticus* before us from the United States National Museum are as follows: ♂ ♂ 71.4, 47.0, and (younger ♂) 68.2 and 43.0; ♀ ♀ 67.0, 45.3, and 64.0, 44.0. The type of *barrilesensis,* a male, is 72.1, 47.8; wings of two males in the American Museum from Costa Rica are 72.2 and 73.8 mm. The Chiapas female was reported by Brodkorb to have a wing of 69 mm. and a tail of 46.5 mm. The later Chiapas female measures 64.7 and 44.2. Thus the size of one Chiapas female suggests a somewhat larger form but the second specimen does not. It is quite likely that no statistically significant differences exist in wing and tail length and that the small samples of this rare type of finch have been misleading with respect to these size characters.

The difference between *rusticus* and the Chiapas females in color is also confusing. Brodkorb in comparing his specimen to *rusticus* reports it to be darker, browner, and less olive, and generally less yellowish below. The second Chiapas specimen compared with *rusticus* is more olive and yellowish; the back is Saccardo Olive of Ridgway rather than Roman Green and the light brown of the underparts is Old Gold rather than Yellowish Citrine. Probably again this represents individual variation in the species, although it is possible that Brodkorb's bird is not correctly allocated as to species in line with his doubts.

In view of the uncertainty concerning a real distinction between *uniformis* and *barrilesensis* and in view of the priority of the name *uniformis*, it probably is best to list the Chiapas females as *uniformis*. They certainly are not the slender-billed *S. r. rusticus*. Further material may result in more definite suppression of *barrilesensis* in contradistinction to *uniformis*.

We indicate our appreciation for loan or use of material to Herbert Friedmann of the United States National Museum, Robert T. Orr of the California Academy of Sciences, John T. Zimmer of the American Museum of Natural History, and J. D. MacDonald of the British Museum.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley,* and ROBERT T. MOORE, *Occidental College, Los Angeles, California, March 16, 1954.*

A Third Record of the Black-throated Blue Warbler in California.—On September 1, 1953, we captured in one of our water traps at Manor, Marin County, California, an adult male Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*). The bird was in fresh plumage, and somewhat to our surprise, it was caught in the trap near our large flight aviary instead of the trap adjacent to our warbler aviary in which most of our "stray" warblers were previously taken. The bird was extraordinarily tame from the start and was "broken off" to artificial food with surprisingly little difficulty. Because of its rarity on the California list, it was not subsequently released in the warbler aviary but was carried over the winter months in a large cage in an indoor bird room. At this writing it is in perfect health and condition.

This is the third California record for this eastern warbler, a female having been collected on the Farallon Islands in November, 1886, by W. E. Bryant (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:401). There is a sight record by Waldo G. Abbott of a male at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, for October 20–21, 1948 (Condor, 51, 1949:98). A skin will be made of this specimen later for record purposes.—ERIC CAMPBELL KINSEY, *Manor, Marin County, California, April 14, 1954.*

Ross Goose Observations.—Recent observations and records of winter occurrences of the Ross Goose (*Chen rossii*) on the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Imperial County, California, and adjacent areas are noteworthy. From 1947 through 1949, the writer and U. S. Game Management Agent A. W. Elder received infrequent reports of hunters bagging very small "snow geese" in the vicinity of the refuge. From descriptions it was apparent that Ross Geese were involved. In 1950, U. S. Deputy Agent William Wooten and State Game Warden Guy Noel reported checking a picked Ross Goose at the customs station in Calexico, California.

On December 3, 1951, eight Ross Geese were observed on the refuge at close range by the writer and Mr. William Anderson of the California Fish and Game Department. After that date from one to three were observed often with Snow Geese until spring migration. In 1953, three individuals were seen a number of times. During the regular hunting season two were reported killed by hunters on areas adjacent to the refuge. On December 14, Mr. Eugene Kridler of the refuge staff retrieved a crippled individual and placed it in the headquarters display enclosure.

Other known observations over a wide area would suggest an extension of wintering range rather than accidental occurrences at Salton Sea. Mr. William Anderson also reports six at Los Baños State Refuge on December 23, 1952. One was checked in a hunter's bag at South City Gun Club near Dos Palos, California. In mid-January, two were seen with a flock of Cackling Geese near Los Baños. Warren Pulich reported an occurrence at Havasu Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Parker, Arizona, in 1950 (Condor, 52, 1950:90). Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:71) state that the "southernmost definite record station [in California is] Bolsa Chica Club, near Newport, Orange County, November 10, 1900." Also, they had no records "for any locality east of Sierran divides."—EDWARD J. O'NEILL, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Brawley, California, April 28, 1954.*