

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Reddish Egret and Bronzed Cowbird in California.**—An immature Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*) was obtained at the mouth of Chemehuevi Wash, along the shore of Havasu Lake, San Bernardino County, California, on September 9, 1954. It had been seen at the same place five days earlier. Although there are a few reliable sight records for California, this is the first specimen. It is now in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (No. 135902).

An adult female Bronzed Cowbird (*Tangavius aeneus*) was taken at the McDougal-Wariner Ranch, adjacent to the small settlement of Bard, Imperial County, California, May 12, 1955, with the assistance of Bruce K. Harris. It is the first specimen from the state, and it is also in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (No. 135903). Earlier, on April 30, 1955, two males were seen at the same place by Burt L. Monroe, Jr., and the writer. I have previously reported seeing this species in the state (Condor, 56, 1954:229).—GALE MONSON, *Yuma, Arizona, November 22, 1957*.

**Blue Goose Observed at the Salton Sea, Imperial County, California.**—On December 14, 1957, Edward J. O'Neill, of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and I were observing a large flock of Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea*) on a large fresh water pond near the southern end of the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Imperial County, California. While we were watching the geese a single engine civilian aircraft flew over the area at a moderate elevation. As the airplane approached, the geese rose en masse, wheeled about the area, and returned to the pond.

When the flock landed, Mr. O'Neill noted a darker goose on a bank about 200 yards from us. Using a 20× spotting scope we identified this bird as a Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). This goose was observed for the better part of an hour. At first it was at the edge of the group of Snow Geese on the bank, but after a half hour it joined the Snow Geese and was finally lost in the middle of the flock.

According to Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:72), the Blue Goose "is a rare winter visitor to the San Joaquin-Sacramento Valley. Two occurrences have been definitely recorded." One of these was near Stockton on about February 1, 1892, and another specimen was taken in the vicinity of Gridley, Butte County, on December 15, 1910. A check through subsequent literature available to me shows no further records of this species for California.—JAMES R. SAMS, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, California, December 19, 1957*.

**The Subspecific Identity of the Oystercatcher in Uruguay.**—Hellmayr and Conover (Cat. Birds Amer., pt. 1, no. 3, 1948:21) designate Santa Catharina, Brazil, as the southern limit of the distribution of *Haematopus ostralegus palliatus*. The same authors (*op. cit.*: 24) affirm the existence of the subspecies *durnfordi* on the Uruguayan coast, ranging southward to southern Argentina (Deseado). G. W. Teague (Com. Zool. Mus. Hist. Nat. de Montevideo, 4, no. 72, 1955:4-5) lists sight records of the species obtained in Cabo de Santa María, on the beaches of La Paloma, Isla de la Tuna, and Isla Grande in the Department of Rocha, Uruguay. He considers the specimens seen to belong to the race *durnfordi*. However, Murphy (Oceanic Birds of South America, 2, 1936:976), noting the sight records published by Wetmore and Burmeister, says "this information gives no clue . . . as to the boundary between the ranges of the two Atlantic subspecies of South America, namely *palliatus* and *durnfordi*." Later on (*op. cit.*: 977), he adds: "In the absence of specimens, it is impossible to fix the identity of Oyster-catchers recorded from southern Brazil and Uruguay."

For a better understanding of the Oystercatchers found in Uruguay, I would like to present the results of a study of some specimens collected by me in the Department of Maldonado. On March 1, 1954, I obtained two Oystercatchers; one was collected in the peninsula of Punta del Este and the other 10 kilometers west in Punta del Chileno, near Laguna del Diario. The specimens taken were from small groups of six or eight. I observed these groups in the summers of 1953 and 1954. Apparently, these birds constituted a homogeneous population that was found from Barra del Arroyo Maldonado to Punta Ballena, including the beaches and rocks of Punta del Este and the islands of Gorriti and Lobos, along 20 kilometers of the Atlantic coast.

In the absence of comparative material I tentatively identified the specimens collected as *palliatus*. One was sent to Emmet R. Blake of the Chicago Natural History Museum. He reported that it should