

Alexander Wetmore kindly made the identification of the specimens at the United States National Museum. I follow Zimmer (Am. Mus. Novitat. No. 1193, 1942:2) in using the name *Dacnis* rather than *Hemidacnis*.—HELMUT SICK, *Fundação Brasil Central, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 5, 1959.*

Roadrunner a Predator of Bats.—On two occasions in the summer of 1959, the author observed a Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) killing and eating Mexican free-tailed bats at Davis Cave, Blanco County, Texas. On June 15 a bird picked up two bats from a group of baby bats that had been placed on the ground about fifteen meters from the cave entrance. These animals had been removed from the cave floor where they had fallen. After the second bat was consumed, the bird was accidentally frightened away. On July 28, a Roadrunner was surprised at 6:00 a.m. about five meters from the cave entrance with a bat held in its beak.

It was not necessary for the Roadrunner to have entered the cave to have obtained the bat. On many occasions, particularly when the young bats are beginning to fly in July and August, they crawl and hang to rocks outside the entrance to the cave. Many of these animals after falling near the mouth of the cave or colliding with a wall, ceiling, or another bat at flight time, are able to take off again, but some remain for some time outside the cave and are thus easy victims for various predators.—CLYDE F. HERREID II, *Laboratory of Comparative Behavior, School of Hygiene and Public Health, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, August 25, 1959.*

Black-and-white Warbler and Purple Finch in New Mexico.—On December 30, 1957, I collected a Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) along the Gila River near the town of Cliff, Grant County, New Mexico. The bird proved to be a male, with an incompletely ossified skull. It had only a slight amount of fat and weighed 9.8 grams. During the fifteen minutes or so that it was under observation it fed on and near the ground under some large cottonwoods, foraging apart from several Audubon Warblers (*Dendroica auduboni*) and Bridled Titmice (*Parus wollweberi*) which fed in the same trees.

On January 2, 1958, I discovered a highly plumaged male Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) feeding on the seeds of mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) with a number of Cassin Finches (*Carpodacus cassinii*) five miles northwest of Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico, elevation 7000 feet. It weighed 22.8 grams and had little fat. The specimen has been deposited in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology where I have identified it as the western race, *C. p. californicus*. The warbler specimen is in my collection at New Mexico Western College. I have found no previous New Mexican record for either of these species.—DALE A. ZIMMERMAN, *Department of Biology, New Mexico Western College, Silver City, New Mexico, September 20, 1959.*

King Eider at Monterey, California.—On February 3, 1958, we saw a King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) in the harbor of Monterey, Monterey County, California. It was first seen swimming among the moored boats near the United States Coast Guard Pier. Later we saw it perched on a mooring raft in the same area, about 150 yards from shore, where we were able to observe it with the aid of a 20×60 telescope for about an hour. It was in the brown plumage of a female or of a first-winter male. The head-and-bill profile, together with the diagnostic patterns of feathering and processes of the bill, could be clearly seen.

The bird was subsequently watched on a number of days, sometimes for prolonged periods, often at close range. It was always between the Coast Guard Pier and Municipal Wharf No. 2, an area not more than about a quarter of a mile square. Much of its time was spent sleeping and preening while perched on the raft. Its presence was not noted after March 16, 1958.

On several occasions the King Eider was seen swimming and diving close to the sides of some of the boats at anchorage. Once, on February 3, it "tipped up," in the manner of a dabbling duck, along side a boat, apparently feeding on green algae, or some other organism adhering to the hull. Harry C. Adamson writes that he watched the King Eider on March 1 as it swam and dove at a distance which was sometimes not more than 10 yards away. Each time it returned to the surface it held in its bill a pale flesh-colored starfish, estimated to be about four or five inches across. The bird "seemed to 'chew' the starfish into smaller pieces" which were then quickly swallowed. "Some of these pieces were dropped in the process of 'chewing' and quickly picked up before they could sink."

Echinoderms are listed among the animal items eaten by this species (Kortright, *The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*, 1943:320). Bent (*Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl*,