

five jays were back at the same place. Two of them (the pair?) left at once while the other three pecked down into holes over the sand pile, frequently rising several feet into the air as they quarreled with each other.

There was no evidence that the Blue Jays were finding food on these occasions. They were not picking up objects of appreciable size, and other species of birds, including Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), which came in numbers to our adjacent feeding station, showed no interest in the sand pile. In order to obtain more precise observations, I placed some washed sand on a bare log above the snow-covered pile on March 7. The pair of jays came down immediately. One of them picked up 100 or more grains or small aggregates of sand and two other jays, which succeeded each other on the log shortly afterward, took 15 to 20 billfulls from the center of the head of sand, tipping their heads sideways to do so. One of these latter jays fed on snow at the same time. During a snowstorm on March 10, the pair came at 6:45 a.m. and fed peacefully on the log where I had put additional sand. The other three jays which arrived 5 minutes later made an amusing sight, for, as one drove another from the log, the evicted jay would land belly-deep in fresh snow, then struggle with outspread wings to free itself. Altogether, there were jays at the heap of pure sand from 6:40 until 6:55 a.m. The punctuality of their arrivals was indicated by their coming for sand on the following two days at 6:40 and 6:35 a.m., respectively.

Beal, in a study of the food of the Blue Jay (quoted by Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull., No. 191, 1946:480 pp.) stated that "One of the first points to attract attention in examining these stomachs was the large quantity of mineral matter, averaging 14 per cent of the total contents." The nature of the mineral matter taken by the jays in our yard was not always obvious. On mornings after the foregoing observations were made, for example, there were patches of the sand pile which were bare of snow and the jays visited these in seeming preference to the pure sand on the log. I wondered whether they really preferred a mixture of sand and dirt. A fresh snowfall on March 17 provided an opportunity for an additional experiment in which I placed a mixture of sand and dirt at one end of the log and of pure sand at the other. Five jays alighted on the log between 6:35 and 6:55 a.m. All fed on the heap of sand and none of them on the mixture, even though some of them perched in the middle of it. My observations and experiments were far from complete. It would appear, however, that Blue Jays eat sand on a daily basis in the fall and winter and my interpretation is that the habit is related to the digestion of grains, acorns, or other hard fare.—LAWRENCE KILHAM, *Bethesda, Maryland, April 12, 1960.*

**A Drongo New to the Philippine List.**—In January of 1959, through the kind cooperation of Dr. Dwain W. Warner and Mr. Robert W. Dickerman of the University of Minnesota Museum of Natural History, 475 specimens from the historic Menage collection of Philippine birds were exchanged to Carnegie Museum. Among these specimens are three drongos from the island of Sulu, labelled "*Chibia borneensis*" (= *Dicrurus hottentottus suluensis*). Two of these are labelled as adults, and one as "juv." Although the latter specimen differs conspicuously from the two adults, these differences were apparently attributed to immaturity by the collectors and subsequent workers who have handled these drongos. Believing that the identification of this specimen, Menage collection no. 1581, was incorrect, I checked it against the series of drongos in the American Museum of Natural History. It proves to be a typical example of the Crow-billed Drongo, *Dicrurus annectans*, the first record of this species from the Philippines. I am indebted to Dr. Charles Vaurie for confirming my identification.

The Crow-billed Drongo is the most highly migratory member of its family (Vaurie, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 93, 1949:267). It breeds from the foothills of the Himalayas in Nepal and Assam southeast to northern Thailand, migrating through the Malay Peninsula and adjacent islands to Sumatra, Java, and Borneo. The easternmost previously known record appears to be the specimen from Sandakan, North Borneo, listed by Vaurie (*loc. cit.*), a record not mentioned in Smythies' Borneo check-list (Sarawak Mus. Jour., 7, 1957:774).

The Menage specimen was collected on the island of Sulu, 200 miles east of Sandakan, by F. S. Bourns and D. C. Worcester, on September 30, 1891. It is sexed as female and exhibits the white tips to abdominal feathers, under tail coverts, and under wing coverts typical of young birds of this species. The Sandakan specimen is also an immature female. The iris of the Sulu bird was described as "dark

cherry red," and the legs, feet, nails and bill as black. The stomach contained grasshoppers. The specimen is a taken-down mount in excellent condition.

In Delacour and Mayr's key to Philippine drongos (Birds of the Philippines, 1946:250), *Dicrurus annectans* would key out to *D. b. balicassius*. The latter species does not occur in the Sulu Archipelago, but it is possible that other specimens of *annectans* from elsewhere in the Philippines may repose unrecognized in collections. The two species may be separated by the shape of the tail, which is scarcely forked in *balicassius* and definitely forked, with terminal half of outer rectrices outcurving, in *annectans*. In addition, *annectans* has a proportionately smaller bill and is less brilliantly iridescent than *balicassius*.

In discussing the drongos in the Menage collection it may be appropriate to mention the fact that two "cotypes" (more properly syntypes) of *Chibia menagei* Bourns and Worcester (= *Dicrurus hottentottus menagei*) from Badajoz, Tablas Island, are now in Carnegie Museum. Vaurie (*op. cit.*: 313) listed as "cotypes" two specimens in the United States National Museum. Bourns and Worcester were in the habit of attaching red type labels to a series of specimens rather than to a single holotype. —KENNETH C. PARKES, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, January 28, 1960.*

**Acorn Woodpecker Resident East of the Sierra Nevada in California.**—The Acorn Woodpecker (*Balanosphyra formicivora*) has been considered a resident in California only in that part of the state lying west of the Sierra Nevada where oak trees are present. There is only one record of occurrence on the east side of the Sierra in California; a single specimen was taken near Lone Pine, Inyo County, on September 8 (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:232*). In their work on the vertebrates of the Lassen Peak area, Grinnell, Dixon, and Linsdale (*Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 35:250*) found no Acorn Woodpeckers east of the western edge of the yellow pine belt.

On June 4, 1959, we observed an Acorn Woodpecker near a stand of black oaks (*Quercus kelloggii*) about 5 miles southeast of Janesville, Lassen County, California, along highway 395. On June 21, another individual was found in the same locality, and four others were observed in the town of Janesville. Further observations on June 28 revealed the presence of a nest containing young in a black oak one-half mile southwest of Janesville. In this area we found three dead ponderosa pines (*Pinus ponderosa*) covered with typical nut-storage holes, many of which were filled with acorns. The ground beneath one of the trees was covered with acorn shells to a depth of over two inches. Black oaks were abundant in this area.

Specimens were collected at Janesville for subspecific identification. A male and female were taken on July 4, 1959, and four females were collected on October 2. Comparison of these specimens with others at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology show that they belong to *Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi*. All were typical of this subspecies except the two specimens collected in July; these had orange-red napes instead of the bright red of all other specimens examined.

Black oaks occur in a continuous stand along the base of the Sierra from seven miles south of Janesville north to Susanville. From Susanville the stand extends west for a short distance along the lower portion of the Susan River and east along Antelope Mountain to Willow Creek. No other oaks occur within several miles of this stand. The Acorn Woodpecker population in the Janesville-Susanville area apparently is therefore an isolated one.—STURGIS MCKEEVER, *Department of Zoology, University of California, Davis*, and LOWELL ADAMS, *Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, United States Forest Service, Berkeley, California, December 4, 1959.*

**Brown Thrasher in Death Valley, California.**—A Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) was found dead near Furnace Creek Ranch, in the center of Death Valley, Inyo County, California, on November 1, 1959. The bird had been dead for several days, but the skin was preserved and sent to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley, California, for identification; racial identification proved to be impossible. This species has now been reported several times in California as a rare winter visitor and most recently at San Diego by Morley, on November 26 and 27 (*Condor, 61, 1959:374*). —ROLAND H. WAUER, *Death Valley National Monument, California, November 15, 1959.*