

Schoengarth and Victor Vicendoa came on two coyotes and one Golden Eagle. The scene was set on the dry alkali lake bed, approximately 75 yards from the sagebrush surrounding the lake bed at this point. From a distance the larger coyote and the eagle were observed within three to six feet of each other. Each was obviously occupied in trying to bluff and outmaneuver the other for the dead jack rabbit lying between them. For about ten minutes an active battle was watched, the eagle feinting and jumping at the coyote with wings partly opened, and the coyote in return making passes at the eagle by quick short jumps with teeth bared. Neither would give ground until the coyote sensed the vehicle nearby. At this time the coyote left the scene at a fast trot for the sagebrush. The eagle immediately became airborne and pursued the coyote, attacking in a series of dives. The observers believed the high brush kept the eagle from making full contact with the coyote. Any resistance made by the coyote was done on the run, as it made no effort to stop and fight. Throughout this observation the second coyote, a smaller animal, sat near the brush line watching the battle but not offering to participate, leaving only when the first became frightened and fled.

On March 5, 1963, another Golden Eagle was sighted making an attack on a coyote in White Pine County, Nevada. James C. Harris and Wendell Ross were engaged in aerial hunting for coyotes on sheep lambing ranges in Long Valley. In sagebrush and sand dune terrain a Golden Eagle was observed making dives on a coyote about 500 yards from the airplane. The plane was turned toward the fight and during the time which elapsed before arrival at the location the eagle continued to attack. In the course of two attacks observed at close range the eagle came in contact with the coyote but did not completely knock it down either time. Blood was evident on the coyote's back and at the time of the second pass the coyote lost a considerable amount of hair. The coyote was traveling at full speed at the time of both attacks and at no time made an effort to fight the bird or take cover. Due to the nearness of the airplane the eagle stopped the attacks and moved on. This may have also interfered with the coyote's willingness to defend itself.—HOMER S. FORD and J. R. ALCORN, *Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, Nevada, June 6, 1963.*

A Breeding Colony of Agami Herons in Veracruz.—The Agami or Chestnut-bellied Heron (*Agamia agami*) occurs widely throughout tropical America. It is known from México on the basis of "a few records from Chiapas, Veracruz and Tabasco" (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 29, 1950:31). Little is known about the breeding habits of this species.

While driving along Mexico Route 180 in southeastern Veracruz on July 16, 1961, we saw a group of Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) and Anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*) perched about 100 meters to the south of the road in dead trees containing a few nests. We entered the colony, wading through chest-deep water and the dense mangrove border. The colony itself was located in scattered trees with a sparse mangrove understorey. Several Agami Herons flushed from the lower trees, and we subsequently found about 20 more Agamis and about a dozen of their nests, most of which contained fresh eggs; no young were seen. The nests were built of twigs, about 4 to 6 feet above the water level, with the water 3 to 4 feet deep. Because it was very difficult to make headway in the colony, we did not explore it nor determine the total number of nests or birds. Three adult Agamis were collected; two were prepared as study skins and deposited in the Cornell University Collection (CU nos. 29231, 29232), while the third was prepared as a skeleton and presented to the Museum of Zoology at the University of Michigan. The adult females examined had enlarged left oviducts and the ovaries contained several 4 mm. ova.

The heron colony is located near the town of Minatitlán close to kilometer-post 263, approximately 11 miles southwest of the Pemex Ferry at Coatzacoalcos and 25 miles east of Acayucan. Edwards (Finding Birds in Mexico, 1955:32) refers to this colony but does not mention the presence of Agami Herons.

Because the Agamis tend to perch and nest low in stands of large trees, they cannot be seen from any great distance. Their habitat preference discourages close-up investigation. Even boating is impossible. For these reasons we conjecture that these birds may be commoner than the few Mexican records would suggest.

These observations were made in the course of field work for Dr. Charles G. Sibley, whose studies are supported by the National Science Foundation and the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University.—MARTIN C. MICHENER, *Biological Laboratories, Harvard University, Cam-*

bridge, Massachusetts, JOHN SEDDON WESKE, *Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*, and ROGER B. CLAPP, *Newton, Connecticut, June 7, 1963*.

Bird Notes from Southeastern Alaska.—During the period February 24 to June 30, 1962, I was assigned to work at the Petersburg Experimental Fur Station, Petersburg, Alaska, on a study of effects of DDT on the Bald Eagle. I spent much time at or near this station and spent some time daily making general bird observations. Some observations supplement information given in Gabrielson and Lincoln's (1959) "Birds of Alaska" and appear to be worthy of record.

Petersburg is located on the northern end of Mitkof Island in southeastern Alaska. The island is bordered on its western side by Wrangell Narrows and is roughly bisected by Blind Slough and Blind River. A public road extends about 30 miles along the edge of the island beside Wrangell Narrows and Blind Slough, the water being within good view of the road in many places. Most field work was done near this road.

Specimens needed to support identifications were collected whenever feasible, but it was not possible to collect some that were desired. Those collected were deposited in the collection of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife at the United States National Museum. Subspecies identifications were made by Roxie C. Laybourne.

Falco sparverius. Sparrow Hawk. A Sparrow Hawk was observed on a sparsely tree-covered muskeg area near Blind Slough on March 27 and again at the same place on April 10. The bird remained perched on top of a dead tree about 20 feet from the ground until I walked directly beneath it, close enough to see its rufous tail. The observation on March 27 was a month earlier than the earliest previous record for Alaska, and it seems probable that this bird wintered in the area.

Lanius excubitor. Northern Shrike. On April 6, a shrike was seen flying across Wrangell Narrows from Kupreanof Island. It lit on a telephone wire in Petersburg, and I was able to drive to within about 30 feet of it and to observe it for several minutes before it returned to Kupreanof Island. The latest spring record for southeastern Alaska reported by Gabrielson and Lincoln was March 5.

Dendroica coronata. Myrtle Warbler. The Myrtle Warbler was first observed on April 18, 11 days earlier than the previous earliest date for Alaska. On June 22, five birds were seen at three sites on sparsely tree-covered muskeg areas; the birds were gathering and carrying food at two sites and so presumably were breeding birds. Gabrielson and Lincoln reported three possible breeding records of Myrtle Warblers in southeastern Alaska.

Dendroica townsendi. Townsend Warbler. The Townsend Warbler was first observed on April 18, nine days earlier than the previous earliest date for Alaska. On June 30, a female was observed gathering food at the Petersburg Experimental Fur Station. This was presumably a breeding bird. The Townsend Warbler has previously been observed in southeastern Alaska during the breeding season.

Molothrus ater. Brown-headed Cowbird. On May 18, a female Brown-headed Cowbird was collected at the Petersburg Experimental Fur Station, and another female was seen at the same site on the following day. A male Brown-headed Cowbird was observed on June 16 in Petersburg as it followed a Starling to its nest. The Starling was carrying food to young in the nest and soon left the nest, closely followed by the cowbird. The specimen taken is the first record of the Brown-headed Cowbird in Alaska, and it was identified as *M. a. ater*. This bird was far beyond the limits of its usual range, for, according to the 5th edition of the A.O.U. Check-list, the northwestern limit of the range of *M. a. ater* is eastern Minnesota. The race *M. a. artemisiae* is more to be expected than *M. a. ater* since it ranges north and west to northeastern British Columbia.

Piranga ludoviciana. Western Tanager. On June 13, a male was observed at the Petersburg Experimental Fur Station. This is the third record for Alaska and the second record for southeastern Alaska. The presence of the Western Tanager in southeastern Alaska was to be expected, however, as the bird regularly occurs in northwestern British Columbia.

Sturnus vulgaris. Starling. A maximum of 53 Starlings was observed in and near Petersburg during March; the birds apparently fed chiefly at or near the town dump. Nine nests were located before my departure from Petersburg. Five of the nine were beneath the eaves of a large building occupied by the Petersburg Cold Storage Company; four were in cavities of trees. On June 6, a male was collected when it was feeding young in a nest near the town dump. The Starling was first observed in Alaska on April 18, 1952 (Kessel, Condor, 55, 1953:65). There appears to be no earlier published breeding record of the Starling for Alaska.