

Mexico: John Durrie collected a bird on October 24, 1958, at Bernardo, Socorro County, and Allan R. Phillips took an immature male near Anthony, November 1, 1954. The specimen taken by Durrie is in the University of New Mexico collection; the bird taken by me was deposited in the collection of Western New Mexico University, Silver City.

Icterus cucullatus. Hooded Oriole. A male was observed at Washington Ranch on April 4, 1962, and one was seen there on May 5, 1963.

Euphagus carolinus. Rusty Blackbird. One was collected at Stevens Tank, Lea County, on October 31, 1962. This evidently constitutes the first specimen for the state, although there are several sight records, and a bird was banded by James Travis at Los Alamos on November 29, 1957.

Passerina versicolor. Varied Bunting. A male was carefully observed at close range at Carlsbad Caverns National Park on June 23, 1962. This bird had been under observation by Park personnel for several weeks, and a female was also reported in the area. There is apparently only one other sight record for New Mexico, a bird seen in Hidalgo County in June, 1962, by Dale A. Zimmerman (personal communication).

Phœticus ludovicianus. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A male was observed at Stevens Tank, Lea County, on May 10, 1962. On May 20, 1963, an immature male was collected by Benjamin Warfield and me at Sitting Bull Falls, Eddy County. This is the first known specimen for the state, although sight records are available.

Zonotrichia albicollis. White-throated Sparrow. On November 19, 1962, a single bird was observed at Stevens Tank, Lea County. On December 19, 1962, another was seen at Washington Ranch.

Rhynchophanes mccownii. McCown Longspur. One bird was collected from a flock of 17 discovered at Lake McMillan on November 26, 1962. On February 14, 1963, another was taken from a flock of nine birds about 40 miles east of Carlsbad, in Lea County. These are apparently the first records for this species in New Mexico since 1940.—BRUCE K. HARRIS, *New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Silver City, New Mexico, September 5, 1963.*

Another Pacific Record of the Black Swift Off México.—On September 20, 1933, a Black Swift, *Nephoecetes* [= *Cypseloides*] *niger*, was collected aboard the S.S. "Antigua" at 12° 52' N latitude and 91° 50' W longitude (Davidson, Condor, 36, 1934:37); the specimen was referred to the migrant race *borealis* on the basis of measurements.

On May 19, 1963, at 3:00 a.m., a Black Swift flew into a cabin aboard the M.V. "Red Rooster," a fishing vessel under charter to the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Biological Laboratory, San Diego. The bird was captured and preserved by the junior author, and presented to the Dickey Collection (no. 51,462) at the University of California, Los Angeles. At the time of capture of this specimen, the "Red Rooster" was lying in waters at 14° 30' N latitude, 92° 34' W longitude, a point approximately 18 miles southwest of Puerto Madera, Chiapas. The bird was a female, the largest follicle measuring less than 1 mm.; it was extremely fat, weighing 41.5 gm.; the stomach was empty. Measurements are: chord of closed wing, 157 mm.; tail, 52.3 mm.; exposed culmen, 6.1 mm.; tarsus, 12.2 mm.; middle toe, 9.3 mm. In view of these measurements, which are intermediate between those of *C. n. borealis* and *C. n. costaricensis* (Ridgway, Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus., 50, pt. 5, 1911:708), racial designation is uncertain. The large amount of fat and the hour at which it came aboard the vessel suggests that the bird was a migrant, probably representing the race *borealis*.

Willis (Condor, 63, 1961:419) reported a Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor*, which flew aboard the M.S. "Oakville" on September 25, 1960, at 12° 37' N latitude and 92° 31' W longitude.

An interesting fact is that all three records occurred in a restricted area comprising less than one degree of longitude and only 1° 53' of latitude. Furthermore, neither species is otherwise known to occur on the Pacific slope of southern México or Guatemala. Although the race *borealis* of the Black Swift winters in México, it has not been recorded south or east of Oaxaca. A possible explanation for the presence of these migrants at this particular location may be found in the presence of off-shore winds that travel in a north-to-south direction over the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and which veer both to the west and to the east after crossing the Isthmus. These winds form a potential mechanism for carrying birds from the Gulf of México or the region of the Isthmus over the Isthmus

of Tehuantepec, first southward, then eastward, over Pacific waters adjacent to the frontier of Chiapas and Guatemala.

Additional records of both migrant species and resident forms of highly volant species in the Tehuantepec region are to be expected over the Pacific in the area of Chiapas and Guatemala.—O. MARCUS BUCHANAN and HARRY L. FIERSTINE, *Dickey Collections and Department of Zoology, University of California, Los Angeles, California, September 27, 1963.*

A Vagrant Occurrence of the Black Phoebe in Southeastern Washington.—On September 4, 1962, four biologists and I observed two Black Phoebes (*Sayornis nigricans*) on the Atomic Energy Commission's Hanford Reservation in southeastern Washington. The birds were seen feeding and perching within a narrow, precipitous walled ravine about 30 feet deep and perhaps twice as wide. A small permanent stream flows through the ravine. The riparian vegetation consists of a dense growth of herbaceous plants and shrub willows. The surrounding upland vegetation is dominated by vast expanses of sagebrush.

Previous sight records of the Black Phoebe from Chehalis, Washington, and from Umpqua Valley and Salem, Oregon, date from before 1900 (Jewett, Taylor, Shaw, and Aldrich, *Birds of Washington State*, 1953:675; Gabrielson and Jewett, *Birds of Oregon*, 1940:605).—W. H. RICKARD, *Hanford Atomic Products Operation, Richland, Washington, July 26, 1963.*

Note on the Feeding Habits of the Caracara in South Texas.—Various published notes on the feeding of the Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) concur on two points in particular. One has to do with the place of carrion in the bird's diet, and the other relates to its frequent association with vultures. Bent (U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. 170, 1938:133) referred to a peculiar habit of the Caracara in robbing Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) of fish being carried to their young. On the other hand, Haverschmidt (Condor, 49, 1947:210) reported that in Dutch Guiana, Caracaras fed on the drying meat of cocobanuts.

For years in lower south Texas, Caracaras cruising along over highways just at daybreak have been a common sight. Each morning they find and feed on animals killed by highway traffic in the preceding afternoon and night. Food thus readily available includes rodents, rabbits, armadillos, opossums, skunks, raccoons, an occasional coyote, snakes, and a variety of birds. This was particularly noticeable along U. S. Highway 281, between Falfurrias and Edinburg, through the 1940's.

Another interesting practice on the part of some Caracaras is to rob vultures of their partly digested food, but I have not found any account of this in the literature. On four occasions I have watched Caracaras swoop down over Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) and drive them up from where they were feeding on carrion. Then, in each instance, the Caracara pursued a vulture until the latter regurgitated. Thereupon, the pursuer flipped over into a dive and snatched one or more pieces of the falling food before it reached the ground. In three of the instances, the Caracaras were observed to land and pick up additional material, presumably some particle missed in the aerial grab. All of the occurrences were out in open pastures where the view was not obstructed by trees or shrubs.

The four observations mentioned above were made at the following times and places: October 20, 1940, on the Stafford Ranch, 11 miles west of Eagle Lake, Colorado County, Texas; September 23, 1942, on the O'Brien Ranch, 15 miles southwest of Goliad, Goliad County, Texas; September 3, 1945, on the Lasater Ranch, 6 miles southeast of Falfurrias, Brooks County, Texas; August 18, 1955, on the Welder Refuge, 10 miles northeast of Sinton, San Patricio County, Texas.

On the last occasion, Dr. Clarence Cottam and I were together, driving over the Welder Refuge. I had barely finished telling him of my earlier observations when we saw a lone Caracara swoop down over two feeding Turkey Vultures, drive them into flight and pursue one until it regurgitated.—W. C. GLAZENER, *Welder Wildlife Foundation, Sinton, Texas, May 16, 1963.*

Open-billed Probing by the Princess Stephanie Bird of Paradise.—In discussing the skull structure of the Paradisaeidae, Bock (Condor, 65, 1963:91-125) has commented on the lack of information concerning the feeding habits of most of the species in this family. I have been able to observe feeding behavior of an adult male of the Princess Stephanie Bird of Paradise (*Astrapia stephaniae*)