

Bobolink and Summer Tanager on Galápagos Islands in Late Summer.—During a stay on the Galápagos Islands in 1962–63 I made two observations that bear on migration routes and times. The expedition to the islands was supported by a grant from the “Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft” to E. Curio of the University of Tübingen.

On Tower Island on July 25, 1963, I sighted an adult male Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*); this is the earliest record for the islands representing the autumnal migration. The bird was continually chased by a Galápagos Mockingbird (*Nesomimus parvulus*) and seemed to be very hungry. On the next morning I caught it with a handnet; it was very weak and died shortly after. It weighed only 17.5 grams and its plumage was heavily worn. The skin is now in the Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, No. 64,2701. Bobolinks are regular winter visitors to the Galápagos, having been observed on James, Charles, and Chatham islands, and at points between the Galápagos and the coast of México (Swarth, Occas. Papers Calif. Acad. Sci., 18, 1931:136).

On August 30, 1963, I found a dead adult male Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) near Punta Suarez on Hood Island. The dry mummy lay under a rock about 60 feet from the surf. This is the first recorded occurrence of the species in the Galápagos. The specimen is now in the Berlin Museum. *Piranga rubra* normally winters from México to Brazil. The Galápagos bird has therefore to be regarded as a rare straggler from the normal more easterly migratory route.—PETER KRAMER, *Helmholtzstrasse 2, Heidelberg, Germany, June 4, 1964.*

The Composition of a Wintering Population of White-crowned Sparrows in Kern County, California.—Attention was focused recently on the White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) as a potential host for the interepidemic survival of western equine encephalitis virus, as this virus was isolated from the blood of two naturally infected birds collected in the winter of 1960–1961 in Kern County, California (Dr. W. C. Reeves, personal communication). The subspecies of these two birds was not determined. Thus, for epidemiologic interpretation, it was important to learn which subspecies of White-crowned Sparrows overwinter in Kern County.

From February 3 to 26, 1964, 952 White-crowned Sparrows were netted from three localities in Kern County. Of these, 949 were identified (by Banks) as *Z. l. gambelii*, and 3 as *Z. l. leucophrys* (= *oriantha*). This indicates that *Z. l. gambelii* predominates in these localities in midwinter, and suggests that the two isolations of virus probably came from this subspecies.

Age of 949 *Z. l. gambelii* was determined by their crown color. The ratio of first-year to adult birds was 1 : 1 (470 : 479). Sex was determined by examination of the gonads of 869 birds and was tabulated as follows:

Collection area	First-year		Adult		All ages	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Bakersfield	79	85	113	92	192	177
Buttonwillow	83	117	73	78	156	195
Spicer City	22	34	60	33	82	67
All areas	184	236	246	203	430	439

There were more females among first-year birds and more males among adults. Only 43.8 per cent of 420 first-year birds were males (chi square 6.44, significant at the 0.02 level), whereas 54.8 per cent of 449 adults were males (chi square 4.12, significant at the 0.05 level). However, significant differences were not found within collections from each of the three localities, which were similar in habitat and in close proximity. Thus, the overall ratio of 1 : 1 is taken as the sex ratio for this wintering population of White-crowned Sparrows.

Mewaldt and Farner (Condor, 55, 1953:313–314) found an excess of males in wintering White-crowned Sparrows (race *gambelii*) in southeastern Washington and western Idaho. Emlen (Condor, 45, 1943:196) reported a partial segregation of sexes among wintering populations on opposite sides of the Sierra Nevada in central California, with more males on the west side and more females on the east, but he found no segregation of sexes south of the Tehachapi Mountains. The sex ratio of the population in Kern County, in the southern end of the Central Valley of California and

north of the Tehachapi Mountains, agrees with that to the south of this range rather than that farther north in the Central Valley. Although this could indicate a crossover in the southern part of the Sierra Nevada, the different findings of the several studies may merely reflect latitudinal or temporal differences.

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Harrier Observed Catching a Fairy Tern in Tahiti.—On September 4, 1964, a harrier was observed flying slowly over the grounds of Hotel Taaone two miles north of Papeete, Tahiti, followed by half a dozen screaming Fairy Terns (*Gygis alba*). The hawk kept well above the cocoanut trees and the terns were above and behind the hawk, although from time to time one would swoop down upon it, banking sharply upward just before making contact. As this procession passed near me, one tern did not break its dive but dropped below the hawk, which banked sharply and immediately took after the tern in hot pursuit. The chase was wildly gyrating above the cocoanuts, the hawk following every maneuver of the tern and swiftly closing the lead. Capture was made within 75 yards. The harrier took the tern with both feet, rolled over in a slow easy glide, and departed toward the mountains in level flight, with the white wings and tail of the tern flopping beneath.

The hawk presumably was *Circus approximans*, the common harrier of the southwestern Pacific islands. This species is designated by Mayr (*Birds of the Southwest Pacific*, 1945:55), as "introduced" in the Society Islands, including Tahiti, although it is native in Fiji, Tonga, and elsewhere in Polynesia. Mayr (p. 55) characterizes the food habits as follows: "Feeds on frogs, lizards, mice, grasshoppers, and other insects, occasionally on birds." Amadon (*Emu*, 40, 1941:369) mentions an individual taken on the Loyalty Islands that contained most of a fruit pigeon (*Ptilinopus greyii*). Perhaps this harrier captures birds more often than occasionally.

The ubiquitous Fairy Tern was seen daily among the cocoanuts and broadleaved trees on the grounds of Hotel Taaone. No nests were found, although I saw birds entering the canopy of one large tree. Nesting may have stimulated the terns to harass the passing hawk.—A. STARKER LEOPOLD, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California*.