

consequence when one speaks of early Pliocene invasions. In any case their absence is explained by the presence of *Icterus leucopteryx* and *Nesopsar nigerrimus*. The latter appears to be simply an aberrant *Agelaius* with bill modified for certain unusual methods of feeding (e.g., probing bromeliads). Incidentally, *Nesopsar* is an inhabitant of mountain rain forest and is entirely black in both sexes, although Beecher states (p. 64) that black plumage "seems singularly unadapted for forest-dwelling orioles." Moreover, the species is even more arboreal than *Agelaius humeralis* and *A. xanthomus*, which fact may be explained by the non-existence of extensive or suitable marsh habitat in Jamaica.

Beecher states (p. 59) that "the Recent inundation [of Cuba] accounts for" the arboreal adaptations of *A. humeralis*. It appears more likely, however, that the species was forced from the marsh environment through competition with *A. phoeniceus assimilis*, an Antillean form which is not arboreal. Since three weak-flying monotypic genera (*Cyanolimnas*, a rail; *Ferminia*, a wren; and *Torreornis*, a finch) now confined to the Zapata Swamp have evidently survived the marsh adaptations of the Pleistocene, it is inconceivable that *A. humeralis* was unable to do so.

In regard to West Indian forms of "*Bananivorus*," it appears to me that "*B.*" *dominicensis* reached the Antilles from Central America rather recently (during the Pleistocene), for there are no specific characters serving to separate it from the Central American *I. prothemelas*, although Hellmayr (1937. Cat. Birds Amer., pt. 10: 117) unites merely the Bahaman *northropi* with *prothemelas*. I agree with Beecher, and for reasons expressed by him, that the three Lesser Antillean forms should be regarded as distinct species. It appears that mutation has progressed more rapidly on these small islands, possibly as a result of the so-called 'Sewall Wright effect.' The extraordinary distinctness of the numerous races of Lesser Antillean wrens of the genus *Troglodytes* may also be due to this factor.

Finally, I wish to point out that no land bridge or "partial bridge" (p. 73) would have been necessary to account for the forms of *Icterus leucopteryx* on Grand Cayman and St. Andrew's. Hurricanes were far more likely responsible for the presence of this species on these islands.—
JAMES BOND, *Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*.

Records from Brewster County, Texas.—During April of 1949 my wife and I saw 119 species of birds in Brewster County, Texas. I am obliged to Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne for going over our notes and suggesting which observations are of sufficient interest to place on record. We collected no specimens. The geographical and ornithological nomenclature of our list follows, for the most part, that of Van Tyne and Sutton (1937. "The Birds of Brewster County, Texas," *Misc. Publ. Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool., No. 37*). Other papers which we have consulted are those of Borrell (1938. "New Bird Records for Brewster County, Texas," *Condor*, 40: 181-182), and of Stevenson and Smith (1938. "Additions to the Brewster County, Texas, Bird List," *Condor*, 40: 184).

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). One which we saw on the Rio Grande near Hot Springs on April 18 appears to be the only spring record for the county. Borrell (1938) and Stevenson and Smith (1938) have recorded it in the fall.

American Egret (*Casmerodius albus*). Three seen wading in the river near Boquillas on April 26. The species has been identified with certainty in Brewster County on two other occasions (Van Tyne and Sutton, 1937: 12-13).

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). Seen three times along the Rio Grande, a single bird on each occasion. Our earliest record (one at Hot Springs, April 18) is considerably earlier than other published records.

Greater Yellow-legs (*Tringa melanoleuca*). A single bird observed at close range and heard calling along the Rio Grande near Hot Springs on April 18 is apparently the first of this species recorded in the county. It was chased off by a Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus*) which made several unsuccessful stoops.

Inca Dove (*Scardafella inca*). Two seen between Persimmon Gap and the Chisos on April 16. The species has been recorded regularly along the Rio Grande but not, heretofore, elsewhere in the county.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). On April 23 one was picked up dead near the cabin of the Big Bend Park engineer. This cabin is located at the base of the Chisos Mountains near the junction of the road to Terlingua and that leading up into the Basin.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). One was heard calling in the Chisos each night from April 24 to 27 inclusive.

Whitney's Elf Owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*). Elf Owls were heard calling around the Basin on April 17, 18, 21 and 22. These dates are all earlier than any previously recorded for the species.

Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*). Two to four were heard calling almost nightly in the Basin between April 16 and 30. The earliest date previously published for the species is April 26.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). This species was common over most of the county. We found a nest with eggs in the Chisos on April 21.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis borealis*). One carefully observed and heard calling on the Lost Mine Trail in the Chisos, April 30. Published spring records for Brewster County are all for May and early June.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*). Two birds seen at close range near Santa Elena Canyon, April 17. The only two published records for this species in Brewster County are in May.

Veery (*Hylocichla fuscescens*). Since no specimen of this species has ever been collected in Texas, it must remain on the hypothetical list. I am sure, however, that it occurs. On April 29 in willows along the Rio Grande near Boquillas I heard a distinctive *vu* which I at once recognized. After a brief search I saw a thrush. I was so close that I could clearly discern the uniform cinnamon-brown back and tail and sparsely-spotted whitish breast.

Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*). We saw one of these attractive vireos on the Lost Mine Trail in the Chisos on April 30. Van Tyne and Sutton (1937: 80) record it only from the Glass Mountains in the northern part of the county.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*). Two seen near Casa Grande in the Chisos Mountains, April 30.

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*). Two seen in the upper part of Pine Canyon, April 30.

Colima Warbler (*Vermivora crissalis*). Two seen in the higher part of Pine Canyon in the Chisos Range, April 30. This should not be taken to indicate the scarcity of the species, since we spent very little time on the higher slopes where this bird lives.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*). A male was seen in the Basin of the Chisos on April 25. The species has been recorded four times in Brewster County, three times in May, once in August (Van Tyne and Sutton, 1937: 88-89).

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*). We saw a beautiful male on the side of Casa Grande on April 28. The earliest spring record for this species otherwise is May 3 (Van Tyne and Sutton, 1937: 96).

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*). One appeared in the Basin on April 22 and was seen almost daily to the end of the month. This arrival date is the earliest on record for the county. Sutton collected a male in the Basin on April 30, 1935 (Van Tyne and Sutton, 1937: 98).

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). One was seen near the house of the park engineer as early as April 21.

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*). Four were seen in Pine Canyon on April 30.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). We saw one near Marathon on May 1. The species has previously been recorded three times in Brewster County.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). We carefully identified one at Hot Springs on April 18. The species has been recorded from Brewster County four times previously.

McCown's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*). We saw a beautiful male near Marathon, May 1. The species has been recorded from Brewster County heretofore only in mid-April (Van Tyne and Sutton, 1937: 114).—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, *Highland Hall, Rye, New York*.

NEW LIFE MEMBER



Robert Albert McCabe was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on January 11, 1914. He received his bachelor's degree from Carroll College, in Waukesha, Wisconsin in 1939. His graduate work was done under Aldo Leopold at the University of Wisconsin. For a time he was game manager at the Faville Grove Wildlife Area and biologist for the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. In 1946 he joined the staff of the University's Department of Wildlife Management. He has published several papers on game birds and mammals. Field work has taken him to Mexico and Canada. He is now studying the ecology and population behavior of several birds and mammals. The Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) has long been of special interest to him. A paper by him on that species is soon to appear in *The Wilson Bulletin*.