

A Hybrid between the Painted and Varied Buntings.—Following the death in 1945 of the veteran collector, H. H. Kimball, the late Max M. Peet purchased his residual collection, numbering 15,146 bird skins and numerous sets of eggs. Through the generosity of Mrs. Peet, Dr. Peet's collection was donated to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. Unfortunately, most of the Kimball birds bear labels with only the sex and date of collection. We do know that he moved from Reserve, Catron County, New Mexico, to Cameron County, Texas, between 25 March and 18 April 1930, and resided in southern Texas through 1944.

Among the birds Kimball collected in southern Texas is an adult male bunting which appears to be a hybrid between the Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) and the Varied Bunting (*P. versicolor*). The bird was taken 9 June 1934, presumably near Los Fresnos, Cameron County, where Kimball lived at the time. (We have another specimen collected on the same date with "Los Fresnos" in Kimball's writing on the label.)

Compared with two adult male Painted Buntings and four adult male Varied Buntings taken in June in Cameron County, the presumed hybrid is more like the Painted Buntings in pattern and general appearance. The underparts are red as in the Painted, but somewhat paler and duller. The top and sides of the head are solid blue as in the Painted, but the color is lighter (near Light Blue-Violet of Ridgway, 1912, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature), but not so pale as the forehead of the Varied. The back is a duller, bluer green than in the Painted (the two tones present being near Peacock Green and Meadow Green of Ridgway) and lacks the golden tones of that species. The green extends less far posteriorly than in the Painted, resembling in extent the mantle of the Varied. The lower back, rump, and upper tail coverts are intermediate in color between the rose-red of the Painted and the blue of the Varied, being between Light Violet and Hortense Violet of Ridgway. The rectrices are also intermediate in color between those of the presumed parental species, being paler and less blue (more violet) than in the Varied. The primary edgings are bluish as in the Varied Bunting, but one left "tertial" has a broad dull green outer web as in the Painted but of a darker and bluer green.

The wing length (chord) of 25 adult male Painted Buntings from southern Texas varies from 68.5 to 74.0 mm (mean, 71.3). Four adult male Varied Buntings from the same area have wing lengths of 65.5, 66.0, 67.0, and 68.0 mm (mean, 66.6). The wing of the hybrid measures 69.0 mm and is thus within the expected range of variation for the southern Texas populations of both species. It is, however, almost exactly intermediate between the means for my two samples. (These populations of the two species do not differ significantly in tail length, and the hybrid, with a tail length of 55.5 mm, agrees with both.)

The Indigo and Lazuli Buntings (*Passerina cyanea* and *P. amoena*) hybridize over a wide area in the Great Plains (Sibley and Short, 1959. *Auk*, 76:443-463). Although the Painted and Varied Buntings are probably less closely related, hybridization between them in southern Texas, where their breeding ranges overlap, is not surprising.—ROBERT W. STORER, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 31 March 1960.*

Recent brood records for the White-winged Scoter in North Dakota.—White-winged Scoters (*Melanitta deglandi*) were once considered to be locally common as breeders in parts of North Dakota, especially in the Devils Lake region (H. K. Job, 1898. *Osprey*, 3:39; 1899. *Auk*, 16:161-165; 1902. Among the water-fowl, pp. 189-190, Doubleday, Page and Co., New York, N.Y.; A. C. Bent, 1951. Life histories of North American wildfowl [reprint edition], Vol. II, pp. 132-133, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, N.Y.). These observations constituted the most southerly breeding records for the species in North America.