

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.

According to my review of the literature, White-winged Scoters became rare as breeding birds in North Dakota between 1900 and 1920. After the observations of Job and Bent, mentioned above, no breeding record is available until 1917, when F. M. Bailey observed half-grown young at Sweetwater Lake, Ramsey County, in late August (original paper not seen; quoted by N. A. Wood, 1923. A preliminary survey of the bird life of North Dakota, pp. 20-21, Misc. Publ. No. 10, Univ. of Mich., Ann Arbor). Wood observed a nest with 12 well-incubated eggs at Stump Lake, Nelson County, on 25 July 1920.

F. W. Cook (1946. *Auk*, 63:251-253) summarized the summer occurrence of White-winged Scoters on National Wildlife Refuges in the north-central United States. Adult birds were recorded on two North Dakota refuges in the summers of 1938, 1940, and 1941. This paper reported the next evidence of breeding by scoters in North Dakota: on 28 July 1936, Seth Low found two White-winged Scoter broods, each containing nine juveniles, on a lake five miles south of Denbigh, McHenry County.

Following this observation no brood records were obtained until 1952, when a female with a brood of nine young was seen at Des Lacs Refuge, Burke County, by Refuge Manager H. Huenecke (1952. *Audubon Field Notes*, 6:287). In 1953, a female with a brood of four young was observed in the same vicinity by Refuge Manager K. D. Dybsetter (1953. *Audubon Field Notes*, 7:314).

On 15 August 1955, while observing waterfowl at the Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge in Burke County, North Dakota, I saw a female White-winged Scoter with a brood of eight ducklings. The ducklings appeared to be about one week old. During a previous visit to this refuge (12 July 1955), I saw two pairs of White-winged Scoters in this same area, a pothole known locally as Knutson's Slough. The female and brood were observed within 100 yards of where the pairs were seen on 12 July.—H. F. DUEBBERT, *North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Oakes, N. D., 28 March 1960.*

Marsh Hawk and Common Crows feeding simultaneously on roadside-carrion.—At 6:45 AM, shortly after daybreak, on 7 March 1960, one mile north of Lone Elm, Anderson County, Kansas, I observed an adult male Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus*) and three Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) simultaneously feeding on a freshly killed Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*). The carcass was lying in the west lane of a hard-surfaced road, and I presumed that the rabbit had been struck and killed by an automobile. All four birds were frightened away from the immediate area by approaching cars, and none returned during the short time that I was examining the eviscerated and well-mutilated rabbit (probably an adult). Crows are commonly observed feeding on roadside-carrion. The Marsh Hawk has also been said (Fisher, 1893. *The Hawks and Owls, etc.*, U.S. Dept. Agric., Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy, Bulletin No. 3) to feed on carrion "when hard pressed." Bent states (1937. *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* No. 167) that the Marsh Hawk willingly partakes of carrion. Errington and Breckenridge (1936. *Food Habits of Marsh Hawks, Amer. Mid. Nat.*, 17:847) and Randall (1940. *Seasonal Food Habits of the Marsh Hawk in Pennsylvania, Wilson Bull.*, 52:170) have reported that the Marsh Hawk feeds on roadside-carrion. Otherwise, I have found no specific examples on record of the Marsh Hawk feeding on carrion, with the exception of game birds freshly killed by hunters (see Fisher, *op. cit.*), which birds are carrion in a broad sense of the word. To my knowledge, the Marsh Hawk has never been reported to feed simultaneously with crows. The hawk's feeding on the rabbit and the feeding together of the two species of birds may have resulted from intensified hunger, perhaps effected by recent and severe snowstorms in eastern Kansas.—CHARLES A. LONG, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, 18 March 1960.*