

Observation of White-necked Raven on Galveston Island, Texas.—On 3 April 1960, Victor L. Emanuel, Steve Williams, Trevor B. Feltner, Dudley Deaver, and I observed a White-necked Raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*) on Galveston Island. The bird was found four miles west of the intersection of Termini Road and Stewart Road, on the western end of the island.

We were proceeding west on Stewart Road at 2:15 PM and passed a black bird which was standing on the left shoulder of the road. Expecting a Common Crow (*C. brachyrhynchos*), which is unusual on the island, we stopped approximately 50 yards beyond. Feltner and Deaver were following and stopped closer to the bird. As the cars came to a halt the bird flushed and spiraled upward in the strong wind coming from the Gulf of Mexico. At this time the bird was 150 yards from the Gulf.

All five members of the party were able to study the bird for several minutes through 8×40 and 9×35 binoculars and spotting scopes. The bird was the size of a Common Crow but the broad tail and large beak separated it from this species. The tail was decidedly broader in the middle than at the tip. As the bird flew upward and toward the southwest, it alternately flapped and soared. This flight pattern continued until we lost sight of the bird approximately four minutes after it had been discovered.

We did not hear the bird call and were not able to see the white on the bases of the feathers of the neck, but a combination of characteristics involving size, flight pattern, tail, and beak left no doubt that it was a White-necked Raven—the first record for the Upper Gulf Coast of Texas.

There are several spring records of this species for the vicinity of Rockport, on the Central Coast of Texas.—CARL H. AIKEN III, 3767 Georgetown, Houston 5, Texas, 26 August 1960.

Age variation and time of migration in Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes.—On 8 October 1959, Harold Wing found a total of 268 birds of 29 species dead near a TV transmitting tower at Onondaga, Ingham County, Michigan. These birds were given in the flesh to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. They all appeared to have been freshly killed, presumably by flying into the tower when attracted by red lights at night (Cochran and Graber, 1958. *Wilson Bull.*, 70:378-380). The bulk of this more or less random sample of nocturnal migrants consisted of 73 Swainson's Thrushes (*Hylocichla ustulata*) and 99 Gray-cheeked Thrushes (*H. minima*). Measuring wing lengths, tail lengths, and bill lengths and comparing the birds with identified specimens in the Museum of Zoology collection indicated that they represented the subspecies usually occurring in Michigan, *H. u. swainsoni* and *H. m. minima*.

Published U.S. Weather Bureau data and weather records from airports at Battle Creek, Lansing, Jackson, Willow Run, and Detroit, all stations within 100 miles of Onondaga, indicated a low ceiling with fog or drizzle at Onondaga beginning between 2300 and midnight on the night of 7-8 October and continuing for several hours. The absence of recognizable, undigested food remains in gizzards of all but four birds (beetle elytra and ants' wings in Gray-cheeked Thrushes) may have indicated that these diurnal and crepuscular feeders were not killed until at least a few hours after sunset, allowing time for digestion. Probably more generalizations about time of migration during the hours of the night in passerines have been drawn from observations of *Hylocichla* thrushes than from any other North American genus. Ball (1952. *Peabody Mus. Nat. Hist. Bull.* No. 7) and Graber and Cochran (1959. *Wilson Bull.*, 71:220-235) heard more call notes in the predawn hours than at other times, but this may mean that thrushes call more at that time, rather than that more thrushes are actually flying at that time (Lowery