of approximately 1000 pelicans. Johnson (M.S. thesis, Mich. Tech. Univ., Houghton, Michigan, 1976) reported round-trip foraging distances of 96–611 km for this colony.

Types of wetlands used by feeding pelicans included seasonal, semi-permanent and permanent ponds and lakes with fresh or slightly brackish water. The vegetative cover of these areas was disjunct or was primarily open water. Pelicans actively fed along the shoreline or in shallow, open water and avoided dense emergent vegetation.

Wetland conditions varied considerably between 1976 and 1977. During May–August 1974–1976, 30–65% of wetland basins occurring on the Woodworth Study Area (19.2 km NE of Chase Lake) contained water. In 1977, only 5% of the basins had water in them, despite similar amounts of precipitation (1974–1976 $\bar{x}$ precipitation = 36 cm, 1977 = 31 cm) (Leo Kirsch, unpubl. data). The natural drawdown phase of the potholes in 1977 allowed exploitation of prey in areas inaccessible the previous year. Black bullheads (*Ictalurus melas*), carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), brook stickleback (*Eucalia inconstans*), and fathead minnows (*Pimephales promeias*) were concentrated in portions of drying sloughs, making them vulnerable to pelican predation. Consequently, these species formed a larger proportion of the pelican's diet in 1977 (Table 1). In 1976, higher water levels inundated shoreline vegetation which provided cover for smaller fish, such as brook stickleback and fathead minnows. Tiger salamander larvae and noetenic forms feed largely on these 2 species (Buchli, M.S. thesis, Univ. North Dakota, Grand Forks, N.D., 1964) and a greater use of salamanders by pelicans occurred in 1976 (Table 1).

Since approximately ¼ of the North American breeding population of White Pelicans nests at Chase Lake, the success of this colony is essential to the maintenance of the continental population. Chase Lake now has additional protection under the 1964 Wilderness Act; however, the foraging areas of the Chase Lake flock suffer under land-use practices which favor drainage, channelization and large reservoirs. This will eventually have an adverse effect, not only upon the pelicans, but also on the multitude of waterfowl and marsh birds nesting there.

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Notes on the birds of Honduras.—The study by Monroe (A Distributional Survey of the Birds of Honduras, A.O.U. Monogr. No. 7, 1968) brought together previous information and recorded the results of his own field work in many parts of the country. During a brief visit to Honduras from 23 May–5 June 1973, we obtained a few specimens and sight records that extend the time or area of occurrence of some species recorded by Monroe. Significant records were obtained at Lake Yojoa, elev. 630 m, in the Dept. Cortes in west-central Honduras; at Tela, sea level, in the Dept. Atlantida on the Caribbean coast; and at Choluteca and the Bay of Fonseca area, sea level, in the Dept. Choluteca on the Pacific slope. All specimens obtained have been deposited in the Yale-Peabody Museum collections.

On 30 May, we collected a nonbreeding male Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) on the shore

of Lake Yojoa. This represents the second specimen for the country of this common species (YPM [Osteo.] 8150).

On 31 May, 4 h were spent exploring the coastal mangrove swamps at Tela. The following 3 species may summer regularly in the mangrove lagoons along the Caribbean coast; the scarcity of records probably reflects the scarcity of visits by ornithologists.

Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*). A small flock of these terns was seen and 1 immature male was collected (YPM [Osteo.] 8161). This is the second specimen record for Honduras (see Brown and Monroe, Condor 76:348–349, 1974).

Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*). Several of these terns, in nonbreeding plumage, were present with other terns. The only previous spring record was 13 April.

Black Skimmers (*Rynchops nigra*). Several skimmers were seen, and 1 male was collected (YPM [Osteo.] 8160). This is the first specimen record and the third record for the country.

The afternoon of 3 June and the morning of 4 June were spent exploring the farmland and brackish backwaters around Choluteca and the eastern side of the Bay of Fonseca.

Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*). On 3 June a light phase adult of this species was seen feeding an immature bird (YPM 88922). This is the first record from the Pacific slope of Honduras, but the occurrence was predicted by Monroe (1968).

American Oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*). On 3 June, 2 oystercatchers were observed as they fed around a small pond. The previous 3 records for Honduras (Brown and Monroe 1974) are all from the Caribbean coast.

A number of shore and marsh birds may summer regularly in the marshy country around the Bay of Fonseca. Again the lack of records probably reflects our limited knowledge of bird life in that area. For example, the following species represent later spring records than any reported by Monroe (1968): Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), 1; Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), 10; Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*), several; Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), several; dowitcher (*Limnodromus* sp.), 8–10; Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 100–150.

We are grateful for the friendly assistance of the officials of the Escuela Agricola Panamericana, and wish to express our special thanks to Miguel Avedillo and Antonio Molina.—FRED C. SIBLEY, GEORGE F. BARROWCLOUGH AND CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *Peabody Museum, Yale Univ., New Haven, Connecticut 06520.* (PRESENT ADDRESS GFB: *J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History, Univ. Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455.*) *Accepted 10 Jan. 1979.*

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A nest of the Ringed Gnatpipit (*Corythopis torquata*).—The nest of the Ringed Gnatpipit (*Corythopis torquata*) seems not to have been described. While studying Amazonian birds in swampy, mature forest of the Aurá Reserve (Oniki, Acta Amazonica 2:59–79, 1972) near Belém, Brazil, on 30 November 1972, E. O. Willis located, on the ground by a log, an oven-shaped nest of this species.

One singing bird walked near a second individual, which entered the nest. The moss-covered nest, now in the collection of the Museu Goeldi in Belém, has the side entrance somewhat overhung on the upper rim. Other than external mosses, the nest material is mostly leaves, twigs and rachises of Leguminosae; just beneath the lining is a layer of softer decomposed leaves. The lining is of fine rhizomorphs. The nest weighed 45 g when dry, and measured 12 cm high by 13.5 cm long outside; the entrance was 5.5 cm in diameter and the nest chamber 9.5 cm deep from the entrance.

When discovered, the nest contained 2 large pinkish or buffy eggs with very slight mottling of darker buff around the large end. On 8 December, the nest contained 1 young and 1 egg.