

Western Kingbird and Inca Dove in Costa Rica.—Current bird guides and regional lists give the southern limit of the winter range of the Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) as Guatemala, El Salvador, or, at farthest, Nicaragua. Accordingly, I was surprised to discover three of these large flycatchers near Escazú, on the central plateau of Costa Rica a few miles southwest of San José, on 23 November 1964. Possibly they had arrived earlier but, if so, I had failed to distinguish them from the resident Tropical Kingbirds (*T. melancholicus*) which they closely resemble. Once I had become aware of these migrants from western North America, I noticed their distinguishing marks—white outer vanes of the outermost rectrices; straight rather than conspicuously indented posterior margin of the tail—too clearly to admit confusion. It was soon evident that the Western Kingbirds were far more abundant than the Tropical Kingbirds in this neighborhood. I usually found the former flocking over the essentially open country in company with more numerous Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (*Muscivora forficata*), which I first noticed on 2 November. In the evenings, the Scissor-tails would stream in from the surrounding country to roost in the trees in the noisy central plaza of San José; I did not learn whether the Western Kingbirds accompanied them there. The latter were still moderately abundant in the open country west of the capital city in early December, when I left for El General in the southern part of the country, where Western Kingbirds have not yet been seen.

After these observations were made, I found in the newly published "Birds of Costa Rica" (P. Slud, *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 128: 1-430, 1964) a reference to a Western Kingbird collected at Villa Quesada by Austin Smith (*Oologist*, 51: 99-100, 1934). This, evidently the single earlier record of the Western Kingbird in Costa Rica, was from a point some 30 miles northwest of San José. It appears that several birds of the Middle American arid tropical avifauna, and migrants that winter with them, are gradually extending their range southward. Another example is the Inca Dove (*Scardafella inca*), which seems first to have been recorded in Costa Rica at La Cruz, in northern Guanacaste near the Nicaraguan border, by Austin Smith in 1928 (Slud, *op. cit.*: 109). In 1937, I found this dove abundant at Las Cañas, in southern Guanacaste. Now, continuing its southward spread, it is present in small numbers on the central plateau, west of San José.—ALEXANDER F. SKUTCH, *El Quizarrá, San Isidro del General, Costa Rica*.

Fossil birds from the Sand Draw local fauna (Aftonian) of Brown County, Nebraska.—The Sand Draw local fauna has been known for over 30 years. Earlier workers (see references in D. W. Taylor, *Geol. Surv., Professional Paper* no. 337, pp. 32-33, 1960) have studied the mammalian and molluscan remains of this fauna, but have failed to note the presence of avian fossils. In late July, 1965, as part of his studies on late Pliocene and early Pleistocene faunas, Claude W. Hibbard, of The University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology, and his field party, collected a few bird remains from the sandy silt layers below the sands and gravels at two Sand Draw localities: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 26, T 31N, R 22W, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 25, T 31N, R 22W, Brown County, Nebraska. Dr. Hibbard's work was supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF-GB-1528), and these fossils have been made available to me through his courtesy.

The stratigraphy of the Sand Draw section has been discussed by Taylor (*op. cit.*) and P. O. McGrew (*Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Geol. Ser.*, 9[2]: 34-35, 1944). Both McGrew and Hibbard (*Michigan Acad. Sci., Arts and Letters*, 62nd Ann. Rept., pp. 19, 1960) consider this fauna to be Aftonian in age. None of the avian fossils con-

tradict this interpretation, and the presence of a large stork seems to support their view that this fauna lived in a warm, interglacial period. The birds are as follows.

Podiceps auritus. Horned Grebe.—The proximal end of a right tarsometatarsus (UMMP no. 52225) is indistinguishable from tarsi of *Podiceps auritus*. The specimen is slightly worn and the cnemial crest is missing.

Stork, cf. *Ciconia maltha* L. Miller.—A fragment of a synsacrum (UMMP no. 52599) that has been slightly distorted laterally is clearly that of a large stork. The fossil is similar in size and contours to synsacra of *Euxenura maguari*. According to Miller (*Univ. California Publs. Geol.*, 5[30]: 440, 1910), the large Pleistocene stork *Ciconia maltha* was apparently the same size as *Euxenura*. No other large stork is known from the Pleistocene of North America (P. Brodkorb, *Bull. Florida State Mus.*, 7[4]: 289–290, 1963), and it is probable that the Sand Draw specimen is referable to *C. maltha*. However, *C. maltha* is presently known only from Middle and Upper Pleistocene deposits (Brodkorb, *loc. cit.*) and it does not seem wise to extend the range of this form into the Lower Pleistocene on the basis of an imperfect specimen.

Branta canadensis. Canada Goose.—An unworn left coracoid (UMMP no. 52170), complete except for tip of sterno-coracoidal process, is that of a Canada Goose. The element measures 65 mm from head to internal distal angle and is similar in size to coracoids of the larger races of *B. canadensis*.

Bucephala albeola. Bufflehead.—The Bufflehead is represented by parts of two femora. The left femur (UMMP no. 52597) is nearly complete and lacks only the distal condyles. The shaft shows the characteristic abrupt bend attributed to *Bucephala* by G. E. Woolfenden (*Bull. Florida State Mus.*, 6[1]: 72, 1961). This element is 36 mm long and the length of the intact bone is estimated at 36.5 mm. This length is within the range of female *B. albeola*; femora of nine females range from 33.7–38.0 mm, with a mean of 35.1 mm.

The second fragment (UMMP no. 52598), the distal end of a right femur, is not separable from femora of male *B. albeola*.—JOSEPH R. JEHL, JR., *Museum of Zoology, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

Aerial census of Laysan Albatrosses breeding on Midway Atoll in December, 1962.—In the course of a conversation with Captain Robert F. Burke, of the Foreign Technology Division of the U. S. Air Force, I mentioned the difficulty in censusing the Laysan Albatross, *Diomedea immutabilis*. He and the crew of his photographic reconnaissance plane most graciously offered to make a low-level photographic survey, if I could get permission from the Naval Commander, Captain N. D. Johnson.

This request was granted immediately.

My sincere appreciation goes to both these gentlemen, and to Willard D. Klimstra and Robert D. Klemm who assisted in making ground counts of albatrosses and their nests, to Keith Thomas and to Mrs. Mildred L. Fisher for assistance in tallying birds in the prints, and to the latter for aid in computing the scale of magnification for each film strip. For continuing support of my research on these birds, I wish to thank the Office of Naval Research, Contract 3479(00).

Procedure.—On 3 December 1962, mid-day, flights were made at an altitude of 400 feet over Sand Island and at 500 feet over Eastern Island. Juxtaposition of flight lines provided nearly 50 per cent overlap, as did the six-inch focal length Zeiss RMK 15/23 charting camera for successive frames in the roll film (Eastman SO-136, Aerial Panatomic X) exposed at f 5.6 at 1/1000 sec. The negatives were printed at Southern Illinois University after deletion of frames showing classified installations.