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Notes from Dr R Ciferri on the Birds of Hispaniola

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The other sight record is of the White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus majusculus*). It was not seen until August 5, so it may not necessarily have bred here, but it was seen in exactly the same locality two weeks later.—ALDEN RISSER, *St. Paul, Minnesota*.

Two Noteworthy Records for California.—There have recently been two noteworthy specimens obtained by members of the San Diego Society of Natural History's museum staff, one of which provides an addition to the known avifauna of California. The writer is indebted to Mr. A. J. van Rossem, of the California Institute of Technology, for the positive identification of these specimens, both of which are young birds.

Otus flammeolus. FLAMMULATED SCREECH OWL.—This specimen, an immature female, now No. 14919 in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History, was found dead on August 11, 1931, lying on the sands of a dry creek bed in Shepherd Canyon, Argus Mountains, Inyo County, California, by Samuel G. Harter. The bird is in juvenal plumage and had not been long out of its nest. It is thus evident that Flammulated Screech Owls were nesting in the Piñon belt on the highest parts of this desert range.

There are several records of this species from the higher Sierra Nevada and San Bernardino ranges of central and southern California, but this instance is the first recorded occurrence from a desert locality within the state.

Vermivora virginiae. VIRGINIA'S WARBLER.—An immature female, now No. 14967 in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History, was shot on September 3, 1931, near Lemon Grove, a short distance east of San Diego, California, by Frank F. Gander. The bird first attracted Mr. Gander's attention by its peculiar flight and later by its yellowish rump. The capture of this specimen adds another bird to the California list.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.*

Notes from Dr. R. Ciferri on the Birds of Hispaniola.—In connection with the recent publication of a list of the birds of Hispaniola¹ Dr. R. Ciferri of Santiago, Dominican Republic, has forwarded certain observations that it is desirable to have on permanent record.

With regard to the Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) Dr. Ciferri writes that at Moca, Dominican Republic, on May 14 and 15, 1928, there was a very strong north wind with heavy rain accompanied by thunder and lightning. About three a.m. on the morning of May 15 he was awakened by the peculiar calls of a kind of bird unknown to him which he found came from these petrels, of which he estimated that fully one hundred were present over the town of Moca and the nearby experiment station. The birds came from the north and at about five o'clock seemed to leave, going south toward the Cordillera Central. Four were captured

¹ The Birds of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. By Alexander Wetmore and Bradshaw H. Swales, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 155, 1931, pp. 1-483, 26 pls., 2 text-figs.

by hand, the birds seeming much fatigued. In view of the supposed rarity of this species this note is of exceptional interest.

With regard to the record of a Thick-knee (*Oedicnemus dominicensis*) that we quoted from Moltoni as coming from San Juan, October 19, 1929, Dr. Ciferri writes that this was a captive bird obtained originally in Moca and taken to San Juan, where it was made into a specimen, this leading to error with regard to the locality. He reports that in his experience this species ranges from Bonao to Dajabon, along the northern slopes of the Cordillera Central where there are open savannas, grasslands and fields. It is found to the foot of Cordillera Septentrional so that its home is comprised in the great valley of Cibao, beginning near Monte Cristi and extending to Sabana de la Mar. The bird is found also in the southeast where it occurs through the great Sabana de Guerra or Sabana de Guabatico, the largest savanna in the republic. He believes that it has been recently established there by the agency of man in bringing in captive birds, as otherwise it would have a wider distribution in the southern area. These birds deposit two to four eggs in slight depressions on the ground without nesting material. The eggs are grayish in color, mottled closely with spots of brown.

The three specimens of Cedar Waxwing reported were taken from a flock of twenty or twenty-five birds.

The White-bellied Booby, *Sula leucogastra leucogastra*, he found breeding on rocky headlands on Beata Island.

Dr. Ciferri reports that the Hispaniolan Short-eared Owl (*Asio domingensis domingensis*), is common on the Sabana San Thomé, where it nests in clumps of grass (*Paspalum*) in sheltered situations, building its nest of grass-stems. The three eggs are white in color and rather spherical in shape. He has kept both this species and the Stygian Owl (*Asio stygius noctipetens*) in captivity for considerable periods.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Seed-cache Robbers among Winter Residents.—Recently I have witnessed two interesting cases of our winter resident birds in the act of pilfering seed-caches of other winter residents. Both of the occurrences were observed on the campus of Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

On September 18, 1931 I saw a Blue Jay pecking at something on a section of a dead pear branch which had lodged in a bush near one of the college dormitories. I drove the jay away to see what it was after. There were two well-weathered bird-pecked holes in the branch. In the bottom of one of these small cavities I found three well-weathered sunflower seeds. The holes, in one of which the seeds were stored, were undoubtedly the work of a woodpecker, probably a Downy Woodpecker, this species being most commonly seen in the pear trees just outside of my dormitory windows. That a nuthatch "cached" the sunflower seeds is probable; though they might have been stored by a Carolina Chickadee or a Tufted Titmouse.

The second occurrence of this nature was observed on October 3, 1931,