

OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE MUSEUM OF
ZOOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS

BIRD RECORDS FROM NEW PROVIDENCE AND ELEUTHERA
ISLANDS, BAHAMAS

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IN 1949 we spent the period of January 17 to February 13 (Van Tyne until February 18) in intensive field work on New Providence and Eleuthera islands. Of the total 59 man-days of field work, 42 were devoted to New Providence, 17 to Eleuthera. All specimens taken are now in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. The following list includes only the new or otherwise noteworthy records we secured.

One of our major objectives was to observe the Kirtland Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) on its wintering grounds, since we had studied it for some years on its very restricted breeding ground in central Michigan, but we failed to find the species, in spite of careful search in every sort of habitat. As pointed out elsewhere (Van Tyne, *Tenth Internatl. Ornith. Congress*, 1952:537-44), this warbler seems to be the only North American species whose wintering ground is restricted to the Bahamas.

We are greatly indebted to James Bond, William J. Clench, C. Russell Mason, and Richard H. Pough for indispensable advice and assistance based on their earlier experience in the same region; and to Arthur S. Vernay of Nassau, who generously promoted our studies in every possible way. We are also grateful to the Donald Lawrances of New Providence and to the D. C. Hollenbecks of Eleuthera for their very friendly help and hospitality. The Colonial Secretary kindly granted us permits to collect the necessary specimens.

BALDPATE. *Anas americana* Gmelin

Eleuthera: On February 13 Mayfield saw 7 Baldpates on the pond inland from the town of James Cistern. This species is a rare winter visitant in the Bahamas and had apparently been previously recorded only from Andros and Acklin Island.

MARSH HAWK. *Circus cyaneus hudsonius* (Linnaeus)

New Providence and Eleuthera: We saw a single Marsh Hawk on New Providence—an adult ♂, 2 miles east of Adelaide, on January 23.

On Eleuthera, where the species had apparently not been recorded before, we saw a single brown-plumaged Marsh Hawk (near Hatchet Bay) on five occasions, February 9 to 15. This hawk is an uncommon winter visitant to the Bahamas.

PIGEON HAWK. *Falco columbarius columbarius* Linnaeus

Eleuthera: On February 11 we collected a ♀ Pigeon Hawk near Hatchet Bay; it was fat and weighed 220.5 grams (stomach empty). On February 12, 14, and 15, we also saw a Pigeon Hawk near Hatchet Bay, each time following a Marsh Hawk. The Pigeon Hawk was never seen to molest the Marsh Hawk, but it was clearly following, usually flying somewhat above and behind the Marsh Hawk. Prairie Falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) have been repeatedly seen following Marsh Hawks and robbing them of their kills (Parmenter, *Condor*, 43, 1941: 157).

The Pigeon Hawk is generally considered a rare winter visitant to the West Indies.

SPARROW HAWK. *Falco sparverius* subsp.

Eleuthera: On February 8 we saw a ♂ Sparrow Hawk perching on a transmission wire near the chicken pens at Hatchet Bay Farms. The species had not previously been recorded from this island. Presumably the bird was a winter visitant from continental North America (*Falco s. sparverius*).

KEY WEST QUAIL-DOVE. *Geotrygon chryisia* Bonaparte

New Providence: On January 31 we collected an adult ♀ $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Adelaide. It was walking on the ground in dense deciduous brush. Weight—174.6 grams (trace of fat). Ovary small. Iris—Zinc Orange; orbital ring—Pompeian Red; basal half of bill—Madder Brown, distal half—Hair Brown; toes and tarsi—about Pallid Mouse Gray, with scutes of Eugenia Red. (Capitalized color names are from R. Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, 1912.) On February 1 we saw a single bird on the ground by the roadside in the pine barrens $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Lake Killarney.

BAHAMAN LIZARD CUCKOO. *Saurothera merlini bahamensis* Bryant

New Providence: This great cuckoo has apparently become quite rare on New Providence, where Bonhote (*Ibis*, 1903: 294) found it "fairly common" in 1901–2, and where Worthington (*Ann. Carnegie Mus.*, 7, 1911: 419) collected 6 during four weeks' field work in 1909. We saw but one, a ♀ collected in the heavy deciduous brush south of Lake Cunningham on January 17. It was fat and weighed 186 grams. The stomach contained a small lizard (*Anolis* sp.). We neither saw nor

heard other Lizard Cuckoos (which are reputed to call throughout the year).

MAYNARD HAIRY WOODPECKER. *Dendrocopos villosus maynardi* (Ridgway)

New Providence: Now rare on the island. We saw the species but twice, a pair each time. In both cases the woodpeckers were feeding very close to the ground in deciduous woods. We saw none in pine woods, in spite of many hours spent searching that habitat. Previous observers (Bonhote in 1898 and Worthington in 1909) on New Providence found this resident subspecies only in the pines; Bond (*Checklist of Birds of the West Indies*, 1950) reports that it is still common in the pine woods of Andros. We collected a ♂ and a ♀; they weighed respectively 49.1 and 49.2 grams (both were without fat).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD. *Mimus polyglottos* subsp.

Eleuthera and New Providence: We saw as many as 6 of these mockingbirds in a day about Hatchet Bay, Eleuthera, but failed to collect any there. The species, which had not been reported before from this island, is apparently increasing in numbers and extending its range in the Bahamas.

Bonhote collected the first recorded specimen for New Providence on September 30, 1898, but saw no others during a year's residence (*Ibis*, 1899: 507); G. M. Allen found none in July, 1904 (*Auk*, 22: 132); and Worthington, in 1909, did not record the species during a month's collecting. The species is now common on New Providence. We have identified the three specimens we collected there as *Mimus polyglottos elegans*. A very valuable study could be made of the ecological relationship in the Bahamas between this species and the Bahaman Mockingbird (*Mimus gundlachii*). We frequently found them inhabiting the same thicket.

THICK-BILLED VIREO. *Vireo crassirostris crassirostris* (Bryant)

New Providence and Eleuthera: In 1949, the Thick-billed Vireo was one of the most common birds of these two islands. Similarly, in 1909, according to Worthington (*Ann. Carnegie Mus.*, 7, 1911: 458), it was "an inhabitant of almost every thicket"; and in 1903, Riley (*Auk*, 22, 1905: 357) reported it "rather common in the thick brush." (Both authors were speaking of the Bahamas in general.) It is interesting to note that Bonhote in 1898 did not record the species at all on New Providence, and that Bryant (*Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 7: 112) said in 1859, "It is not a common bird; three specimens were all I obtained" (all three on New Providence).

Vireo crassirostris is considerably larger than *V. griseus* (with which species Hellmayr included *V. crassirostris*); 4 ♂♂ that we collected weighed 14.0, 14.0, 14.5, and (a rather fat specimen) 16.2 grams; a ♀ weighed 14.7 grams.

GOLDEN WARBLER. *Dendroica petechia gundlachi* Baird

New Providence: This warbler, a resident of the Bahamas and Cuba, is apparently rare, at least in winter, on New Providence. We saw but one, an adult ♂, collected in the mangroves at Adelaide on January 24.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. *Dendroica virens virens* (Gmelin)

Eleuthera: On February 11 we collected a ♀ near Hatchet Bay. This northern warbler, which normally winters in Mexico and Central America, seems to have been reported but once before from the Bahamas—a ♂ from Watling's Island, October 12, 1891 (Cory, *Auk*, 9, 1892: 49).

BAHAMAN YELLOW-THROAT. *Geothlypis rostrata rostrata* Bryant

New Providence: The native yellow-throats were not in song, and we saw this species only in the tall deciduous brush on the ridge south of Lake Cunningham (2 individuals) and 4 miles east on the same ridge (a ♂). We collected a ♂ (February 3) and a ♀ (January 29), which weighed respectively 15.7 and 14.4 grams; both were rather fat.

BLUE GROSBEAK. *Guiraca caerulea caerulea* (Linnaeus)

Eleuthera: On February 12 we collected an immature ♂. It showed considerable body molt and was just completing a molt of the remiges. The bird was in good condition, but there was only a little fat. This species, whose normal winter range is eastern Mexico and Guatemala, had apparently not been found before in the Bahamas.

SAVANNAH SPARROW. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna* (Wilson)

Eleuthera and New Providence: We found wintering Savannah Sparrows common in the fields around Hatchet Bay, Eleuthera, recording at least 30 on February 14. We collected 3, February 10 to 14; two of the specimens are typical *savanna*; one is intermediate, near *oblitus*. We collected 2 specimens (*savanna*) at Windsor Airfield, New Providence, on January 26, but we saw no others on that island.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. *Ammodramus savannarum pratensis* (Vieillot)

Eleuthera: We saw a number (8 were counted in one day) on the farmland grazed by cattle at Hatchet Bay, February 9 to 15. These were presumably winter visitors from the United States. Three collected February 9 are very dark-plumaged, but they are quite closely matched by a ♂ taken on January 4 (1938) near Orlando, Florida.

Submitted for publication October 23, 1951