

livers and can be tolled up with them very close to a boat. Should a liver sink before it can be picked up by a gull while hovering, the bird will settle on the water and disappear under the surface in the effort to obtain the coveted tidbit.

The following special report was received from Capt. William F. Stanley, September 23, 1902.

"The first flight of Herring Gulls, about 800, arrived at Great Duck Island, March 12; their numbers steadily increased until the 20th of May. The first egg was found May 15, and the first completed set of three eggs on May 22. The last set of eggs hatched August 3-5. Fifteen nests were marked and watched in order to determine the time occupied in incubation, which proved to be as follows: 1 in 24 days; 2 in 25 days; 5 in 26 days; 4 in 27 days; 3 in 28 days. Young birds were about five weeks old when they began to fly. September 16 all the old birds left the island, leaving the young birds to care for themselves."

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF NIGHTHAWK FROM THE BAHAMA ISLANDS.¹

BY J. H. RILEY.

THE nighthawk of the Bahama Islands has generally been recorded as *Chordeiles minor*, but while collecting birds, in conjunction with Mr. S. H. Derickson, on the Geographical Society of Baltimore's Bahama Expedition, we managed to secure a small series of these birds. A comparison of this material with a series of *Chordeiles virginianus minor* from Cuba and the Isle of Pines, and with *Chordeiles virginianus chapmani* from Florida, proves the Bahaman bird to be a well-marked geographical race. As it is apparently without a name it may be known as:

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***Chordeiles virginianus vicinus*, subsp. nov.**

Type, No. 189689, U. S. National Museum, ♂ ad., Long Island, Bahamas, July 16, 1903. Collected by J. H. Riley (Orig. No. 183).

Similar to *Chordeiles virginianus chapmani* but smaller, with the crissum and abdomen suffused with buff and the white patch on the primaries smaller.

Measurements of type; wing, 176.5; tail, 100.5 mm.

Female similar to the male but buff of abdomen and crissum deeper; white of throat less pure and more restricted; and the white terminal bar on the tail nearly if not quite obsolete.

Distribution.—Nighthawks were either taken or seen on the following islands by us: New Providence, Andros, Eleuthera, Watling's, and Long Island. They have also been recorded from Great Bahama, Abaco, Fortune Island, Acklin Island, and Great Inagua, and are probably found during the breeding season throughout the Bahama group of islands.

Remarks.—While in size the Bahaman Nighthawk is about equal to *C. v. minor*, in color it more nearly resembles *C. v. chapmani*, but whereas the latter has the crissum and abdomen nearly pure white barred with black in *C. v. vicinus* they are suffused with buff. *C. v. vicinus* differs from *C. v. minor* of Cuba in lacking the tawny mottling above and the ochraceous-buff below, the latter color being represented in *vicinus* by the buff wash on the abdomen and crissum. In fact, the Bahaman bird is intermediate in color between the form found in Cuba and the one in Florida, with a leaning towards the latter.

Three males of *C. v. chapmani* from Florida average: wing, 186; tail, 100.5 mm.

Four males of *C. v. vicinus* average: wing, 169; tail, 93.5 mm.

Six males of *C. v. minor* from Cuba and the Isle of Pines average: wing, 170; tail, 94.5 mm.

Habits.—These birds would come out early in the evening and hawk about for insects in the same manner as *C. v. virginianus* in the North, but it seems to be more of a day flyer than that form, as they could frequently be seen flying about in the heat of the mid-day sun, in this respect reminding one of *C. v. minor* of Cuba. The note resembles that of the latter bird also and it gets the native name of *pick-a-me-dick* from its call given while flying. They are said not to be permanent residents on the islands, but to come from the south in the latter part of April.

Dr. Coker gave me an egg, with incubation nearly complete, found by flushing the parent off the nest, July 11, on Watling's Island. He also showed me a nest on Long Island, July 17, containing one young in the down on which the feathers had just begun to grow. In both cases there was no nest other than a slight hollow in the little sand that had collected in the cavities of the rough coral rock of the beach.

The egg has a slight greenish-white ground color with larger and smaller spots and blotches, which run together at the larger end to form an indistinct wreath, of lighter and darker shades of plumbeous. Over this there are small streaky spots of raw umber, evenly distributed over the shell. It measures 23.4×12.5 mm. In color it is exactly intermediate between eggs of *C. v. minor* and *C. v. chapmani*.

GENERAL NOTES.

Sabine's Gull at Monterey, California.—While carrying out a line of work for the Field Columbian Museum, last April in the vicinity of Monterey, Cal., I came across a small bunch of Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) in perfect spring plumage. They came into the Bay with hundreds of Bonaparte Gulls and Red Phalaropes after a storm of a week's duration.—GEORGE F. BRENINGER, *Phoenix, Arizona*.

The Snowy Plover in the Bahamas.—Mr. S. H. Derickson shot a specimen of *Ægialitis nivosa* on Long Island, Bahamas, July 16, 1903. It was in the company of another of the same species, he tells me. This is the first record of this species, I believe, for the Bahamas. The specimen is now in the U. S. National Museum.—J. H. RILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

Richardson's Owl (*Nyctala tengmalmi richardsoni*) in Illinois.—In recording the second capture of this owl for the State, I mentioned¹ that another specimen had been reported, but that I was then unable to get

¹Auk, Vol. XX, p. 305.



Riley, J H. 1903. "A New Subspecies of Nighthawk from the Bahama Islands." *The Auk* 20, 431–433. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4069757>.

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