

GENERAL NOTES

The type locality of the Olive Warbler.—Dr. John T. Zimmer has recently (Auk, 65: 126–127, 1948) called attention to the fact that *Sylvia olivacea* Giraud is preoccupied and must be replaced by *Sylvia taeniata* Du Bus as the species name of the Olive Warbler. However, as to the type locality I do not believe Dr. Zimmer's designation of "San Pedro, Oaxaca" is correct.

My own examination of the type of *Sylvia taeniata* Du Bus at the Royal Natural History Museum at Brussels in July, 1939, is in substantial accord with the determination by Delacour and Verheyen (Zimmer, *l. c.*) and there can be little doubt of the subspecific identity of the type. The chief point of divergence is that while they considered the type as "greatly faded" my own rather detailed notes consider it as slightly faded but not to an extent as to obscure the color characters. I set forth the data concerning this type in the Wilson Bulletin (54: 212–213, 1942) and on that basis Brodtkorb (Auk, 61: 404, 1944) has designated San Cristóbal, Chiapas, as a logical type locality for *Sylvia taeniata* as well as for *Cyanocorax unicolor* Du Bus.

Since Dr. Zimmer obviously has overlooked both of the items above referred to it is not unlikely that others have done the same and such probability has prompted the present note.¹—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *University of California, Los Angeles.*

Note on the identity of *Cuculus cornutus* L.—In his *Systema Naturae*, ed. 12: 171, 1766, Linnaeus named a bird *Cuculus cornutus*, basing his description on "Atingacu camucu" of Marcgrave (1648, p. 216) and the accompanying woodcut. In later years, Linnaeus's name has been discarded altogether, after Cabanis and Heine [*Museum Heineanum*, 4 (1): 89, footnote, 1862] had judged it to be founded on an artefact. This, however, is not so. The original painting which served as a model to the carver is still preserved in the State Library of Berlin (Lib. pict. A. 33) and has been examined by the late Adolf Schneider and myself in 1937. It unmistakably shows a specimen of *Piaya cayana* with several of its crown feathers standing upright. The disorderly position of these feathers apparently fascinated the painter (A. van den Eeckhout), and was later utterly misinterpreted by his copier, the engraver who transformed them into a horn-like structure. This has already been pointed out by my friend Schneider (*Jour. für. Orn.*, 86: 98, 1938), who, however, overlooked the fact of Marcgrave's "Atingacu camucu" having been named by Linnaeus. The north-Brazilian *Piaya cayana pallescens* Cabanis and Heine will thus have to stand as *Piaya cayana cornuta* Linnaeus; type locality, Pernambuco.—ERWIN STRESEMANN, *Zoological Museum, Berlin, Germany.*

Male Hudsonian Chickadee feeds mate in mid-air.—On June 10, 1947, Walter Tholen and I were pulling a boat from Fishing Lake into a beaver pond near the cabin in which we were staying about 75 miles north of Nipawin, Saskatchewan, when we frightened a female Hudsonian Chickadee (*Parus hudsonicus hudsonicus*) from a small, dead white birch (*Betula*). She scolded us with many *Dee-dee-dee-dee* calls and flew from one neighboring willow to another. The stub was about 15 cm. in diameter and the opening, made by the chickadees themselves, was about

¹ Van Rossem (1942) stated that Bonaparte was in error in saying that the type of *Sylvia taeniata* Du Bus came from San Pedro, Oaxaca, as claimed by Bonaparte (1850). Nevertheless, he offered no evidence in support of that statement. I did not designate San Pedro as type locality but accepted Bonaparte's statement at face value. He may have obtained direct information from Du Bus as I suggested in my article, or from Ghiesbreght, the collector of the type. I am quite willing to accept Brodtkorb's later amendment if Bonaparte was wrong, but until this is proved, Bonaparte has some ninety-six years priority over Brodtkorb.—J. T. ZIMMER.

three centimeters across and 242 cm. above the water in the beaver pond. Inside were five eggs. As we examined the nest, the male was heard approaching, flying from tree to tree until he reached a small willow about eight meters from us. He had a bulging mouthful of insects. The female was in another willow about four meters away. The male continued to give the *Dee-dee-dee-dee-dee* call and suddenly, at exactly the same time, he and his mate left their respective willows to go to the other. They met about three meters above the water and while they maintained their positions by very rapid wing beats, the male gave the complete contents of his bill to his mate which returned to the willow she had just left. Here she alighted, swallowed the food and soon returned to the nest only about one meter from where I was standing in the boat. The male disappeared along the edge of the beaver pond, evidently in search of more food.

The beaver pond, except on the lake side, was surrounded with white spruce and black spruce forests and jack pine ridges. A number of half-living and dead spruce, birch and poplar grew in the shallow areas of the pond. Here Robins and Solitary Sandpipers were found while Lesser Scaup Ducks and Soras nested in the grass and sedge areas near by.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, 1703 Central National Tower, Battle Creek, Michigan.

Mallard nesting in an old Magpie nest.—On May 26, 1947, Dr. Harry Swallow reported to us that a Mallard was nesting in an old Magpie nest. With his assistance we were able to go to the farm of Fred Harris, three miles south of Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Here we found that a Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*) had built a nest in a small woodland across the road from the Harris's home. This nest was used by the Magpie during 1945. During 1946 a Mallard (*Anas p. platyrhynchos*) had taken over as recorded in The Blue Jay, the official Bulletin of the Yorkton Natural History Society, Yorkton, Saskatchewan (4 [no. 4]: 42, 1946).

The nest was 12 feet above the ground, in a thick stand of poplar and willow that covered several acres, and was well lined with down built over the stick nest of the Magpie. When we visited it on May 26, 1947 it contained eight eggs. I frightened the female Mallard from the nest and she flew quacking out of the woods. A ninth egg was found broken on the ground near by. Apparently the Mallard had used the nest two successive years.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, 1703 Central National Tower, Battle Creek, Michigan.

Unusual feeding behavior of a Cape May Warbler.—This fall (1947) a Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) spent about two weeks in and around my back yard in Urbana, Illinois. The period of its visit was about September 23 to October 8. At almost any time of day during that period it could be found in or near a willow tree which has for many years been a favorite feeding spot for migrating Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*). The sapsuckers had drilled a series of small holes in the bark of the willow and spent considerable time feeding there. Whenever the sapsuckers' feeding was interrupted for any cause and the tree was free, the Cape May Warbler immediately moved to the spot and began to climb on the bark from hole to hole draining the sap that could be obtained at each spot. This bird was observed daily for most of the period mentioned, and its visits to the sapsucker borings were noted through field glasses not only by myself but by two other amateur bird-watchers. Between the visits to the sapsucker borings the warbler fed on insects on neighboring elms and grapevines in the usual manner of warblers.—C. S. MARVEL, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.