

Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus., 93: 306, 1943; Mayr, Auk, 63: 67, 1946). While differing strikingly in voice, brown color pattern, and long bill, *Ramphocaenus* does resemble *Polioptila* in being a thicket dweller, in its slender build, and in the nervous twitching of its tail, which usually is carried erect. Though *Ramphocaenus* ranges from tropical Mexico southward, no description of the nest of any form of the genus has apparently been published. On July 15, 1950, I found a nest of *R. rufiventris* in the Juan Franco suburb of the city of Panama, Panama. This area consists chiefly of open country, but the nest was in a damp thicket, about 15 feet from a narrow stream used as a drainage ditch, which was well shaded by a growth of fair sized trees. The nest was an open cup built among the vertical shoots of a small shrub, about six inches off the ground. It was composed chiefly of grass-stems, with a few twigs and dried leaves, and to the exterior were attached several large dried leaves that hung loosely along the sides and extended below the nest proper, forming a sort of ornamental skirt. Measurements: exterior diameter, 4 inches; interior diameter, 3 inches; exterior depth, 5 inches; interior depth, 3 inches. The nest contained two almost naked young, apparently a few days old. It was discovered by watching an adult carrying an insect to the nest.

Dr. Alexander F. Skutch writes me that he found a somewhat similar nest in Costa Rica in 1939; the two eggs were laid on April 14 and 15. Skutch also reported that the incubation period was 17 days, the nestling period, 12 days (Auk, 62: 21, 1945). Dr. Skutch also tells me that when hatched, the young are completely devoid of down, and that both parents incubate and care for the nestlings.—EUGENE EISENMANN, 11 Broadway, New York 4, New York.

Notes on the Yellow Warbler in Surinam.—The Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) is a common winter visitor in Surinam. According to Zimmer (Amer. Mus. Novit. No. 1428, 1949: 5), only the race *aestiva* has been taken there, but the race *brewsteri* probably also occurs there since it has been found in both British and French Guianas. The earliest known arrival date, August 28, 1921, was recorded by the late Thomas E. Penard (Auk, 44, 1927: 425). The Penard brothers earlier (De Vogels van Guayana, Vol. II, 1910: 483) gave a series of six arrival dates (September 10, 6, 7, 17, 16, and 3) but did not mention the respective years. I have been unable to find any published information on the date of departure for the breeding grounds. My records of the dates of arrival and departure are as follows:

Season	First Seen	Last Seen
1945-1946	—	March 17
1946-1947	September 17	March 29
1947-1948	September 22	April 8
1948-1949	September 1	March 25
1949-1950	September 6	April 10
1950-1951	September 4	March 28
1951-1952	September 3	April 5
1952-1953	September 8	April 13

In Surinam, the Yellow Warbler is one of the most striking of the northern migrants and is found in trees and shrubbery in the smallest gardens and back yards of Paramaribo. I do not agree with Penard that it is a shy bird, and it certainly does not confine itself to the tree tops. When foraging, Yellow Warblers frequently utter their call note, a characteristic "chip," by which their presence is first noticed each year. Having never been in the breeding haunts of this species, I do not know its song,

but a few times (November 21 and 27, 1949, and March 4, 1950), I heard a rhythmical four-syllabled "chee, chee, chee, chee," call which was repeated again and again.

This species seems fond of bathing, and I have observed two different types of this behavior. During a heavy rainstorm, a warbler will frequently perch in an exposed place and, with spread tail and trembling wings, will let the rain go all over its body. This behavior is alternated with periods of preening. The Yellow Warbler also takes what I call "rubbing baths," a habit characteristic of several kinds of hummingbirds. For instance, after a heavy shower on November 8, 1948, I saw a Yellow Warbler fluttering over the drenched leaf of a frangipani (*Plumiera rubra*) and rubbing the ruffed-out feathers of its belly over the leaf.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *P. O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam.*

Recent Increase of the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) in State of Veracruz, Mexico.—In the course of almost daily field work in the central and southern parts of Veracruz, carried on over a period of more than five months in 1937 and 1939, I was unable to find a single English Sparrow. In fact, the first published record for the state seems to be that of Lowery and Dalquest (Univ. Kans. Publ., Mus. Nat. Hist., 3: 631, 1951), who write: "abundant about human habitations in central Veracruz."

Returning to Veracruz in the summer of 1952, I was, therefore, not surprised to find these birds now common in almost every town visited in the central part of the state, including many of the same places where I had seen none thirteen years before. They are now about equally plentiful from sea-level at the city of Veracruz up to an elevation of 8000 feet at Las Vigas, and south at least as far as Tlacotalpam, where none was seen by Wetmore and Carriker in 1939 and 1940 (Wetmore, Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus., 93, 1943). Moreover, they are now well distributed in most or all of the settled areas throughout northern Veracruz, from Pueblo Viejo and Empalmé Tamós, near Tampico, south through Poza Rica, Papantla, and Gutiérrez Zamora to Martínez de la Torre and Tlapacoyan.

This recent dispersal may be due in part to the new highways linking northern and central Veracruz with Tampico, where they are numerous, for on two occasions I noted a few English Sparrow stowaways on trucks passing through unpopulated districts on their way from Tampico to Poza Rica. One isolated pair was seen at a culvert in a pine forest on the highway about 15 kilometers north of Perote, the nearest town of any size.

That this sparrow is now also invading other areas in Mexico has recently been recorded by M. A. del Toro (Condor, 52: 166, 1950), reporting the sudden appearance of small numbers at Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas.—FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER, JR., *Centre College, Danville, Kentucky.*

Further Taxonomic Notes on the White-crowned Sparrow.—Let me say at the outset that I favor every effort being made to avoid disturbing changes in names of familiar species. I was most reluctant to propose such a change in the genus *Zonotrichia*, as is shown by my written notes made some years ago, before I saw Hope's Fort Severn specimens. At that time, I suggested that the only way I could see to save *leucophrys* of Forster for the White-crowned Sparrow was to restrict the type-locality to Fort Albany. Since then the A.O.U. Committee has designated Fort Severn instead, and a series of specimens from that place is now available.

But now it is argued that, since birds of both the white- and black-browed types occur at Fort Severn (although apparently not in equal numbers), Forster's name *leucophrys* could apply to either one. Since the name is therefore indeterminable on