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El Quizarrá, San Isidro del General, Costa Rica, November 19, 1956.

BENT'S LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

The Smithsonian Institution has accepted for publication as a Bulletin of the United States National Museum the first volume of "Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Finches, Towhees, and Allies," written by A. C. Bent and a large number of collaborating authors. This volume comprises the species in the genera *Richmondia* through *Pipilo*, following the order of the 1957 A.O.U. Check-list. Over fifty authors are engaged in preparing a second volume, which will complete the *Fringillidae*—and the Bent series.—WENDELL TABER.

Pipilo maculatus oregonus taken at Victoria, B. C., on August 1, 1888. Eastern towhees with spotted scapulars have been recorded before but such specimens are always of interest."

SUMMARY

A collection of 515 adult specimens of the Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) taken in the Great Plains between 1953 and 1957 is described. A secondary post-Pleistocene contact between the eastern (unspotted) and western (spotted) populations has occurred along the streams crossing the Plains. A gradient in the amount of spotting and in female color character is present. Size differences are not significant.

The present situation is one of normal geographic variation in which the area of contact between the eastern and western groups of races is restricted to the narrow riparian strips of habitat. Selection against alien genes helps to prevent marked introgression in both directions. The differences in degree of white dorsal spotting appear to be adaptive.

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Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE TREASURER

Dr. Charles G. Sibley, Treasurer of the American Ornithologists' Union and Professor of Ornithology at Cornell University, will spend the year from July 1959 to August 1960 in England as a Guggenheim Fellow. Nevertheless, correspondence relating to A.O.U. membership, dues, etc. should continue to be addressed to him to Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Dr. Sibley's personal address in England will be c/o The Edward Grey Institute, Botanic Garden, Oxford.

SUMMARY

Encounters between male Ovenbirds in the breeding season consisted of vocalizing (songs and call notes), chasing, threat displays, and rarely physical contact. Encounters were prolonged and highly aggressive before the arrival of females, and became briefer and less intense as the breeding season progressed.

When tape-recorded Ovenbird songs were played through a speaker located within an Ovenbird's territory, the territory-holder reacted in much the same way as in a natural encounter with another male.

Birds reacted faster and more strongly to songs of non-adjacent birds than to songs of their neighbors. Probable causes and survival value of this behavior are discussed.

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Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B. C., Canada, and Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

STOMACH CONTENTS

About 20,000 specimens of bird and mammal stomach contents remaining in the Patuxent Research Refuge Food Habits Collection of the Fish and Wildlife Service have been transferred to the Department of Zoology, University of Massachusetts. The specimens will be available after February, 1960, to qualified research personnel for food habits studies. Address inquiries to Dr. L. M. Bartlett, Associate Professor of Zoology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.

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Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

ERRATUM

"The Auk," **79** (2), pp. 133, 138, April, 1959. Dr. K. C. Parkes sends a useful correction. The Piping Plover reported banded at "Penn Yan," New York and recovered at Long Beach, Ontario, "about 150 miles west" of where it was hatched, was actually banded at "Sandy Pond, Oswego County," (a bay of Lake Ontario), "about 250 miles southwest" of the recovery site. The error was in the records of the Fish and Wildlife Service, which, on checking, found that the bander's residence (rather than the banding site) had been listed.

INFORMATION ON COLOR PHASES

D. F. Owen, Dept. of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, is investigating the possibility of preferential, non-random mating between animals having distinct color phases. He would like to receive records of the color of known breeding pairs of polymorphic birds, particularly the Screech Owl (*Otus asio*), Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), and the western race of the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis calurus*). Data on color is of interest whether the members of the breeding pair were the same or different in coloration.

eggshells. On June 17 the nest contained one young vireo and one cowbird egg. I was, unfortunately, unable to visit the nest again until June 22, when I found it empty; a broken cowbird egg lay on the ground beneath it.

One interesting point in connection with this nest is the fact that a young vireo had disappeared from it when the cowbird egg was discovered. This causes one to ponder whether the cowbird removed the vireo before laying. Perhaps some future worker will be fortunate enough to observe such behavior.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, *Department of Forestry and Conservation, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.*

Living Nematodes Within Hen's Eggs.—Wood and Mizelle (*Journ. Parasitology*, 41: 115, 1955) summarized approximately a dozen known occurrences of the nematode *Ascaridia galli* Schrank within eggs of the domestic chicken (*Gallus gallus*). None of the references cited were in the ornithological literature. An additional occurrence is here described, in order to call this phenomenon to the attention of ornithologists who may be unfamiliar with it.

On November 17, 1958, Mrs. E. Ghidoni of Pittsburgh brought to me a nematode which she had found, alive, in the albumen of a hen's egg that morning. She stated that there had been no visible flaw in the shell. The specimen, exactly 100 mm. long, was identified by Mrs. M. B. Chitwood of the U.S.D.A. Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland, as a gravid female of *Ascaridia* sp., probably *A. galli*. It is now no. 56190 in the United States Helminthological Collection.

In order to be enclosed within the egg shell, it is obvious that the nematode, normally an intestinal parasite, must have been present within the oviduct at the exact time and place of shell formation. Wood and Mizelle (*op. cit.*) stated, "It is thought that entry into the oviduct was *via* the cloaca, however, the possibility of penetration of the gut and oviduct should not be overlooked."

This phenomenon has apparently not been reported in other species of birds. Collectors who are blowing eggs, particularly of species known to have an abundance of internal parasites, might watch for worms included within the shell. That the chances are slim, indeed, of finding such inclusions is indicated by the small number of reports of *Ascarida*, a common parasite of chickens, within eggs, although the annual consumption of eggs in the United States alone exceeds sixty billion.

I am indebted to Dr. Allen McIntosh for the Wood and Mizelle reference cited above.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.*

A.O.U. Meeting in Regina—A Reminder

The 1959 A.O.U. meeting will be held at Regina, Saskatchewan, August 25–30. Headquarters: Hotel Saskatchewan. Chairman of the Subcommittee on Accommodations and Transportation: Frank H. Brazier, 2657 Cameron Street, Regina.

- Province of Ondo, Nigeria; *Serinus capistratus hildegardae*, Mt. Soque, Angola.—M. A. T.
- RAND, A. L., and RABOR, D. S. 1959. Three new birds from the Philippine Islands. *Fieldiana, Zool.*, **39**, no. 26: 275-277. Three new races are described: *Trichoglossus johnstoniae pistra*, Mount Malindang, Zamboanga Peninsula, Mindanao; *Harpactes ardens linae*, Sandayong, Sierra Bullones, Bohol; *Coracina striata boholensis*, Sandayong, Sierra Bullones, Bohol.—M. A. T.
- VERHEYEN, R. 1958. Contribution à la systematique des Alciformes. *Bull. Inst. Roy. Sci. Natur. Belg.*, **34**, no. 45: 1-15. The alcids are placed in a separate order, with the diving petrels, *Pelecanoides*, treated as a suborder—removed from their traditional place among the Procellariiformes.—E. E.
- WAKEFIELD, N. A. 1958. The Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. With a description of a new subspecies. *Emu*, **58**: 163-194.—Variation and distribution of *Meliphaga melanops* of eastern Australia. New subspecies: *M. melanops gippslandica*, from Gooding, Gippsland, Victoria; the new form shows an approach to *M. cassidix*, formerly occurring in south Gippsland.—E. E.
- WEBBE, R. 1958. Brent Geese (*Branta bernicla* (L.)) in Denmark and the colour problem. *Dansk Orn. Foren. Tidsskr.*, **52**: 41-47.—Raises questions as to the relations between pale and dark-breasted forms in Europe and America.—E. E.
- WHITE, C., M. N. WHITE, AND R. E. MOREAU. 1958. Taxonomic notes on the Ploceidae. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*, **78**: 140-145.—The Estridinae are removed and given family rank. The *Passer griseus-diffusus* group of African sparrows are all treated as races of *P. griseus*, even though *luangwae* is stated to be sympatric with *griseus*.—E. E.
- WINTERBOTTOM, J. M. 1958. Systematic notes on birds of the Cape Province: VI. The classification of the South African Fringillidae. *Ostrich*, **29**: 110-111.
- WINTERBOTTOM, J. M. 1958. A new subspecies of *Parisoma layardi* Hartlaub. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*, **78**: 148-149.—*P. l. aridicola* from Noisabis, Little Namaqualand, Cape Province.—E. E.

MISCELLANEOUS

- KRATOCHVÍLA, J. J. *et al.* 1958. Investigations on vertebrates in Czechoslovakia. A survey of research institutes and addresses of scientific workers. Vertebratological Laboratories, Czechoslovak Acad. Sci., Brno. Lists ornithological organizations and ornithologists with their working aims. (In English.)
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Erratum—"The Auk," **76** (2), p. 256, April, 1959, next to last line on the page: Substitute "MEANLEY, B." for "SCHMID, F." (see correction *Atl. Nat.*, **14** (1): 58, 1959).

Dr. Herbert Friedmann was awarded the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal at the April, 1959, meeting of the National Academy of Sciences for his monograph "The Honeyguides" (*U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, **208**, 1955).