

day in this habitat in western Zacatecas in June and July of 1952, 1954, and 1957. In the fall, we noted one or two a day, September 10 to 13, 1955, at Moyahua.

Camplostoma imberbe. Beardless Flycatcher. I am unable to allocate to subspecies a female taken July 4 at Moyahua. From one to three were seen each day at Rio Florido in June and July, 1952 and 1954; in the Juchipila Valley, from 4 miles north of Jalpa to Moyahua, in September, 1955; and in the Juchipila Valley in June and July, 1957, at Santa Rosa and Moyahua.

Stelgidopteryx ruficollis psammochrous. Rough-winged Swallow. An adult female taken July 12, 9 miles west of Zacatecas City, and an immature male taken July 17 at Momax are slightly darker (blackier) dorsally than comparable specimens of *psammochrous*. This suggests a tendency toward *stuarti*, of the highlands of southern Mexico. I saw the species daily in small numbers along almost every river in western Zacatecas in June and July, 1954 and 1957, and in September, 1955. Pairs entered nesting holes in sandy banks at Rio Florido June 20, 1954, and at Moyahua, July 4, 1957.

Phainopepla nitens. Phainopepla. An adult female was taken, and another seen, July 25 and 26, near the eastern border of Zacatecas, in a desert flat grown to tree yuccas at 6600 ft. on the north slope of the Sierra Rocamonte (Sierra Encarnación of Goldman). In the western part of the state Phainopeplas are uncommon, but individuals were seen in Acacia grassland June 17, 1952, 11 miles northwest of Sombrerete at 7000 ft.; in oaks at 7700 ft. just east of Monte Escobedo, July 22, 1954; and near El Cruz, 10 miles west of Fresnillo, at 7000 ft. in Acacia-cactus scrub, June 26, 1957. Subspecific allocation of the single specimen is impossible.

One common species merits comment:

Pyrocephalus rubineus flammeus. Vermilion Flycatcher. An adult male was taken July 21 at Rio Florido. The color and the large size (wing 86 mm., maximum even for *flammeus*) require that this specimen be assigned to the northern race. I measured 56 other adult males of the larger race, *flammeus*, from Texas, Arizona, California, Baja California, Sonora, and Sinaloa, and several of *mexicanus* from Guerrero and Vera Cruz. The species is ubiquitous in Zacatecas, chiefly along streams from 4000 to 7800 ft., but also far from water in grassland and desert areas. The basis for the extension of the range of *mexicanus* north to Zacatecas by Miller, *et al.* (Pac. Coast Avif., 33: 69, 1957) should be re-examined.—J. DAN WEBSTER, Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana and California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.

Cowbird Parasitizes Nest Containing Young.—The deposition of eggs by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) in the nest of a host species containing young is evidently a rare occurrence. Friedmann (The Cowbirds. A study in the biology of social parasitism: 186, 1929) says, "Normally, Cowbirds do not lay in nests containing eggs in which incubation is well started, but a Cowbird has been known to lay an egg in a nest of an Indigo Bunting, containing young. This was a very exceptional case and was doubtlessly a last resort in an emergency." Bent (U. S. Natl. Bus. Bull., 211: 421-450, 1958) mentions no such case.

During the summer of 1957, the nest of a Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) produced another instance. The nest was located on the Edwin S. George Reserve, near Pinckney, Livingston County, Michigan. When first discovered, June 11, the nest contained four vireo eggs. The contents were the same June 13, but on June 15 it held only two newly-hatched vireos. Beneath the nest were broken, vireo

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.