

## GENERAL NOTES

**Bachman's Sparrow Hiding in a Burrow.**—On 22 October 1944, the day following a hurricane, the vicinity of Orlando, Florida, was being checked for any unusual birds by a group including Drs. George M. Sutton, B. F. McCamey, Marshall W. Nirenberg, and the author. In a pineland area east of Orlando a sparrow was flushed but disappeared almost immediately into a small relatively isolated clump of saw palmetto (*Serenoa serrulata*). In order to obtain a better identification, an unsuccessful attempt was made to flush the bird again. When examined more closely, the palmetto clump was found to hide the entrance to a burrow of the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*). At first no sign of the sparrow could be discovered. However, Dr. Sutton thought he had glimpsed the bird just at the limit of visibility in the burrow, so we enlarged the hole (originally perhaps slightly less than a foot in transverse diameter) enough to allow a better search. As the work progressed, Dr. Sutton suddenly sighted and grasped the bird at a depth of approximately 3½ to 4 feet from the mouth and 2 feet below the surface of the ground. It proved to be a Bachman's (Pine Woods) Sparrow (*Amophila aestivalis aestivalis*) and was released after identification. Although it is famous for its shyness, to my knowledge this is the first record of a bird of this species taking refuge in such a place.—JAMES A. PITTMAN, JR., *University of Alabama Medical Center, Birmingham, Alabama.*

**Mutation in an African Flycatcher, *Dyaphorophya concreta*.**—The Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, *Dyaphorophya concreta*, is widespread, although nowhere common, in the forested regions of tropical Africa. It is local in distribution, particularly in areas where the forests are broken up, and consequently has subdivided into numerous races. The basic pattern of all forms, however, is the same. The upper parts, sexes alike, are uniform, varying from olive-gray to a metallic green or blue-gray, with upper tail coverts and tail dark metallic green. The underparts are yellow, but in the females the throat and breast are washed with chestnut, which extends onto the belly and flanks in some forms. The characters used in the discrimination of subspecies are the color and luster of the upperparts, and the extent and intensity of the chestnut wash in the females. Consequently, females have been more useful than males in separating subspecies, and several races including *ansorgei* Hartert of Angola (see note at end) have females as types.

*D. c. ansorgei* was originally known only from a single female from Cabeca de Ladroes in Benguela. A second female was collected at Roca Congulu in the rain-forest region of Gabela by Rudolf Braun (Sick, 1934: 170), and in 1954-55 Gerd Heinrich collected six males and two females from Gabela and Canzele for Chicago Natural History Museum. More recently an expedition of the British Museum collected four males and four females, virtual topotypes of *ansorgei*, from Chingoroi. The known range of *ansorgei* in Angola, therefore, is at three isolated localities in evergreen forest: Canzele, Gabela, and Cabeca de Ladroes, separated in each case by over 150 miles. This isolation, however, may be more apparent than real. Suitable habitat exists in the region Ndala Tando-Dondo and possibly in small pockets of evergreen forest along the escarpment.

Normally colored males have been taken at all three localities. They are typical of the race in being gray washed with olive-green above. The underparts are a uniform, deep-rich yellow, and a male from Canzele and one from Gabela have even a light chestnut wash on the breast and belly. Three other males from Gabela, however, have a striking mutant character not found elsewhere in the