

seemingly insightful action. Miller (Condor, 41: 255-256, 1939) watched a Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) seize grass heads in its bill and pull them down to a fence wire, where they were held with the feet while feeding; but this behavior is actually quite similar to pulling the seed head to the ground with the bill, and is an extension of the normal feeding behavior. Thorpe ("Learning and Instinct in Animals," 1956, p. 100) defines insight-learning as "the sudden production of a new adaptive response not arrived at by trial behaviour or the solution of a problem by the sudden adaptive reorganisation of experience." It is possible that the Song Sparrow's behavior is an example of true insight, but to assume so without full knowledge of the individual's previous perceptual experience is unwarranted.—JACK P. HAILMAN, 4401 Gladwyne Drive, Bethesda, Maryland.

Notes on the Systematics of the Tanager Genus *Conothraupis*.—In 1939 Berlioz (Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, 59: 102) described *Rhynchothraupis mesoleuca*, a new genus and species of tanager from Juruena, northeast of Cuyaba, Mato Grosso, Brazil, and in 1946 published Barruel's attractive colored plate (Oiseau, n. ser., 16: opp. p. 1) with a further account of the species. Zimmer (Amer. Mus. Novit. No. 1367: 20, 1947), after comparing Barruel's plate with specimens of the rare Peruvian species, *Conothraupis speculigera*, concluded that the differences between the two forms "can be no more than subspecific."

Subsequent to 1946, Professor Berlioz acquired a male of *speculigera*, and in 1954 kindly permitted me to compare it with the type of *mesoleuca*. The two forms are quite clearly congeneric; however, I prefer to consider them full species. The tail is relatively shorter in *mesoleuca* (81 per cent of the wing length, as against 88 per cent in *speculigera*). In addition to the black (versus gray) rump and flanks, largely black (versus white) under tail coverts, and greatly reduced speculum, *mesoleuca* has a greenish sheen to the black of the plumage whereas *speculigera* has a purplish sheen. Both species inhabit arid forest or scrub (cf. Berlioz, Oiseau, n. ser., 16: 3, 1946, and Carriker, Auk, 51: 497, 1934), but the known ranges of the two species are separated by approximately 1,500 miles, much of the intervening country consisting of humid, tropical lowlands. This suggests that the two populations have been geographically isolated from each other long enough for speciation to have occurred.

Hellmayr (Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ., Zool. Ser., 13: pt. 9, 433, 1936) credits the genus *Conothraupis* to Taczanowski (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, pl. 21, p. 198, 1880 [read 16 March 1880]) but remarks in a footnote that the name "should probably be credited to Sclater, for it seems unlikely that Taczanowski's paper was actually published before the appearance of the April number of 'The Ibis.'" Inasmuch as Taczanowski's paper contains a page reference (footnote, p. 198) to Sclater's description (Ibis [4], 4: 252, 1880), it is quite clear that Sclater's description was published first. The nomenclature of the genus should thus stand as follows:

Genus *Conothraupis* Sclater
Conothraupis speculigera (Gould)
Conothraupis mesoleuca (Berlioz)

The systematic position of *Conothraupis* remains to be determined. Although Berlioz (Oiseau, n. ser., 16: 2, 1946) placed *mesoleuca* among the tanagers, he pointed out the possibility that in spite of the differences in bill form, it might turn out to be a finch allied to *Sporophila*. This possibility is supported by the

strong resemblance of the plumage of both species of *Conothraupis* to some of the seedeaters, notably to *Sporophila luctuosa*. Zimmer (*loc. cit.*) also expressed uncertainty as to whether *Conothraupis* belonged among the finches or the tanagers, whereas Hellmayr (*loc. cit.*) believed *C. speculigera* to be "nearly related to *Lamprospiza melanoleuca*."

In my opinion, the systematic position of *Conothraupis* and of several other "tanagrine" genera, including *Schistochlamys*, *Cypsnagra*, *Neothraupis*, *Nemosia*, *Cissopis*, and *Lamprospiza*, remains to be determined. Of the genera listed among the tanagers by Hellmayr, *Conothraupis* seems to me closest to *Schistochlamys* and *Neothraupis*, whereas close relationship to *Lamprospiza* seems to be precluded by the brightly colored bill, pointed wings, pattern of sexual dimorphism, and rather high gloss of the black in the plumage of that genus.—ROBERT W. STORER, *The University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

Arctic Loon at Palm Beach.—An Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) was found dead on the causeway to Ibis Island on 21 November 1959 by the writer. The short, straight bill and the small size of the body aroused the suspicions of Mr. Robert Cointepoix, Mrs. Roberta Knight, and the writer. Mr. Cointepoix collected and mailed the head and a foot to Dr. Alexander Wetmore, who identified the bird as this species and stated that the subspecies could not be ascertained by this head and foot. Dr. Wetmore retained the remains, which have been assigned No. 431142 in the Division of Birds, United States National Museum. This specimen appears to be the first record in Florida and the first south of Long Island on the Atlantic Coast.—H. P. LANGRIDGE, *1421 W. Lantana Avenue, Lantana, Florida.*

Northern Waterthrush Returning to Same Winter Quarters in Successive Winters.—In the course of trapping and banding resident forest birds in the Northern Range of Trinidad, we have caught a small number of winter visitors and have banded them with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands. In the winter season 1958–1959 we banded four Northern Waterthrushes (*Seiurus noveboracensis*). One of these (band No. 61–70604), caught on 10 December 1958, was recaptured on 23 December 1959, in a mist net in the identical position in which it had been caught the year before. Wing length and weight were recorded as 74 mm., 15 gm., on the first occasion and 73 mm., 15 gm., on the second occasion.

Northern Waterthrushes arrive in Trinidad in September and leave in April. They are probably fairly sedentary when they have settled down; we have had two cases of recaptures in the same winter, at intervals of 53 and 136 days. They live solitarily, mainly along streams. We have no evidence that they defend territories, but they may well do so as such observations are difficult to make in the forests in which they live. A bird was heard singing once, on 12 April.

Wing lengths of birds trapped in the Northern Range of Trinidad range from 73 to 79 mm. Weights range from 14.5 to 18 gm. (mean of 12, 16.2 gm.), but one bird, trapped on 17 October 1958, on Chacachacare, an arid island off the northwest corner of Trinidad, and obviously newly arrived from the north, weighed only 13 gm.

As far as we know, no northern migrant wintering in the tropics has up until now been proved by banding to return to the same wintering area in successive years, although from their known navigational ability it might have been guessed that they do so. Recoveries of bands from the tropics are few and are almost