

Predatory behavior of Smooth-billed Ani.—On 26 July 1972 we found a Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) nest on Munves' finca in Santandercito, Cundinamarca, Colombia. From then until 9 August, when it was abandoned, we watched the nest for 40 hours. The nest was about 9 m above the ground in a small fork of a tree bare of leaves. (Another Vermilion Flycatcher nest found on this finca was also in a bare tree.) Young were first seen on the afternoon of 6 August, when two beaks appeared above the rim of the nest. We assumed from the parents' behavior that the eggs hatched several days earlier.

At 15:35, 8 August, a Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) settled on a branch slightly below the nest and another in the top of a leafy avocado tree 5 m away. The ani perched near the nest called, and the other flew down from the top of the avocado tree and landed about 1 m from the nest. While the male flycatcher made a number of passes, never coming within half a meter of the bigger bird, the ani, head extended, crept along the branch, snatched a nestling in its bill by the neck, flew up a meter or two, and glided to the ground.

The other ani then flew up into the top of the avocado tree, from which it watched the nest until Munves shooed it away. Five minutes later he chased the other ani away and recovered the dead nestling, which it left on the ground. As both nestlings were seen alive 2 hours earlier and the parents were feeding the young a few minutes before the anis' arrival, we assume the ani killed it, but nothing showed the bird tried to eat it.

Continued feeding activity after the raid showed the other nestling was still alive. Observations ended that afternoon at 17:00, 90 minutes before sundown. When they were resumed at 07:55 the following morning, 2 hours after dawn, the nest was abandoned. The fate of the second nestling remains unknown.

Both species are fairly common in the valley of the Bogota River where this occurred. Wetmore (1968, *The birds of the Republic of Panama*, vol. 2, Washington, D. C., Smithsonian Inst. Press, pp. 128–129) gives food of this ani as insects, spiders, small lizards, and berries. We recorded only insects and seeds in the stomachs of 60 specimens in the collection at the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales. We are not aware that this behavior has been reported previously in the ani.—ANTONIO OLIVARES, OFM, and J. A. MUNVES, *Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional, A. Aereo 7495, Bogota, DE, Colombia, South America*. Accepted 4 Oct. 72.

Song mimesis by a captive Gouldian Finch.—A survey of the imitative abilities of birds reveals a spectrum ranging from species such as the White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) and Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), which may copy only the songs of conspecifics, to versatile mimics in the families Sturnidae, Mimidae, and Psittacidae, which may reproduce a variety of alien vocalizations and sounds (reviews in Nottebohm 1972, Baptista 1972). There are few records of song mimesis by estrildid finches (review by Immelmann 1969a). Some forms appear to be better mimics than others. Two estrildid species, namely the African Silverbill (*Lonchura cantans*) and the Zebra Finch (*Taeniopygia guttata*), cross-fostered under Bengalese Finches (*Lonchura striata*), learned the songs of their foster-father (Immelmann 1967, 1969a). On the other hand Nicolai (1965) and Güttinger (1970; see also Güttinger and Achermann 1972) list a number of estrildid species that produced only species-specific vocalizations when reared by Bengalese Finch foster-parents. I know of no record of a Gouldian Finch (*Chloebia gouldiae*) mimicking the song of another species as described here.