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Egg-carrying by a Common Flicker.—From 3 May through 19 May 1973 I was studying the nesting behavior of a pair of Red-shafted Flickers (*Colaptes auratus cafer*) near Fort Collins, Colorado. On the morning of 15 May, while trying to enlarge the entrance of the nest, which was in a fairly rotted cottonwood tree about 18 feet off the ground, I accidentally dropped a saw blade into the cavity. Being unable to reach it, I left the blade in the nest for about 2½ h, during which time it appeared the flickers were going to desert their nest as both the male and the female visited it frequently but would not stay. At 1300, 2 min after I had finally removed the blade, the male returned to the nest, entered, came out with an egg in his beak, and flew with it 30 yards to the north. This was not observed with binoculars so I cannot verify whether it was a whole egg or a large piece of egg shell. I followed him part way to the stand of dead cottonwoods to which he flew and found him with the female, his beak empty. Soon he returned to the nest and I got into position, about 18 yards away, to watch more closely with 7 × 35 binoculars. He peered out of the cavity holding what I could clearly see was a whole egg, crosswise in his beak. This time he flew to the west, but 6 yards from the nest he dropped the egg and immediately landed on a nearby log where he sat for 30 sec and then returned to the nest. The same thing occurred again with another whole egg, which was dropped in about the same place. He then flew off to some nearby trees. At 1700 I found the female back in the nest, and I located one of the dropped eggs, which was broken open and appeared to be fresh. I could find no second nest in the area where the first egg could possibly have been taken.

At 1400 on 18 May I cut a small hole below the entrance at the bottom of the same nest, counted three eggs, and then wedged the bark back into place

so as to cover the hole. The male was first to return but did not stay in the nest, while the female entered hesitantly but appeared to accept it. On 19 May at 2100 I returned and found the eggs and birds gone. Early the following morning I looked for the eggs near the base of the tree and spent 2 h looking for a possible second nest. Having seen the eggs being carried on 15 May, I thought it likely that these also were carried, but I found neither the birds nor the eggs.

Truslow (1967, *Living Bird* 6: 227) reported and photographed an incident of egg-carrying by a Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). In the article he also cites an incident of a Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes a. auratus*) carrying an egg, as reported and photographed by George P. Hitchcock. Both instances were preceded by nest disturbance, but in neither case was it determined where the eggs were carried. These incidents and the present case suggest that woodpeckers sometimes remove their eggs after their nest is disturbed.—JAMES N. BAKER, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521*. Accepted 5 Aug. 74.

Observations on the Seychelles White-eye *Zosterops modesta*.—The Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean have had two endemic species of white-eyes, *Zosterops modesta* on the main island, Mahe, and the now extinct *Z. semiflava* on the small island of Marianne. Newton (1867) found *Z. modesta* to be "tolerably plentiful" in groves of clove trees *Eugenia caryophyllata*. He noted that they did not sing, but from dissection he thought that the specimens he shot in late January would soon have bred. Subsequent workers in the Seychelles (Nicoll 1906, Vesey-Fitzgerald 1940, Lousteau-Lalanne 1962, Gaymer et al. 1969) did not add to our knowledge of this species, and Watson et al. (1963) said that "nothing is known of its biology."

The following observations on the Seychelles White-eye were made between January and August 1972, and November 1972 and May 1973. The Seychelles have two seasons: the wet northwest monsoon from November to March, and the drier southeast trades, from April to October, so that these observations were mainly during the rainy season.

Like many white-eyes, *Z. modesta* is relatively tame, and on many occasions I watched them from a distance of about 2 m. The head, back and tail are olive-gray, the rump is paler with a yellowish tinge. The breast is paler, less olivaceous, and the belly is tinged yellow. The throat is white, and in poor light the forehead also appeared white, but this was less noticeable in sunlight. The flanks are rusty, this being especially noticeable during wing-flicking, when the crown feathers are also raised. The white eye-ring is complete but for a small gap in front of the eye.

Four males and one female, collected on 16 February 1867 by E. Newton and now in the University of Cambridge Museum of Zoology, showed the rusty flanks to variable extents, being barely visible in one of the males. These specimens also showed a variable amount of rust on the primaries. In one male, the primaries were almost entirely rusty, while in another they were brown with rust restricted to spots around the rachis. In the other three specimens this feature was hardly noticeable.

Thus *Z. modesta* retains a limited amount of yellow pigment that is not mentioned in Newton's (1867) original description or in subsequent reports (Moreau 1957, Lousteau-Lalanne 1962). Mees (1957) however, stated that the mantle