The birds were first observed by Dr. Noble about July 1, 1945, and on almost every subsequent morning between 6:00 and 6:30 when they were seen and heard as they came to feed on food set out for the dog and cat and on bread crumbs scattered for birds. They stayed in the neighborhood most of the day and were often seen just before dusk. On the occasions I observed them they were seen in the top of a eucalyptus tree in a vacant lot adjoining his home and in the eucalyptus trees and coast live oaks on the steep chaparral-covered slope below his house and southeast of Jefferson School. From about August 13 to August 20, only one bird was seen and since the latter date none has been seen.—MARY M. ERICKSON, *Santa Barbara College, University of California, November 17, 1945.*

Brewer Sparrow Banded at Hollywood, California.—On September 28, 1945, I caught a Brewer Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) in a water trap in my yard. The bird was first observed on September 26 but did not venture into the trap until the 28th, which was a very warm day. The bird was no longer seen after banding. Its under parts were unstreaked in contrast with the streaked breast of immature Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*) with which the Brewer Sparrow might be confused in the fall.

This seems to be the first observation of this species in Los Angeles County since a specimen was taken in the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles County, by J. E. Law, on December 27, 1903 (Willett, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 7, 1912:80).—C. V. DUFF, *Hollywood, California, November 24, 1945.*

A New Race of Aphelocoma unicolor from Southern Mexico.—Recent study of a collection of 141 specimens of *Aphelocoma unicolor* from all parts of the range of that species has revealed the presence of an unrecognized race in Oaxaca. Although only three specimens are available to me from that state, the racial characters displayed by them are so distinct that continued nomenclatural association of the Oaxacan population with that of Vera Cruz, Puebla, and Mexico (Hellmayr, Cat. Birds Amer., part 7, 1934:58) would be erroneous. These populations are called *A. u. unicolor* by Hellmayr, but *unicolor* Du Bus has been found recently to apply to and antedate *coelestis* Ridgway of Chiapas and Guatemala; as a consequence, *unicolor* of Hellmayr has become *concolor* Cassin (van Rossem, Wilson Bull., 54, 1942:212; Brodkorb, Auk, 61, 1944:402).

In Oaxaca, *Aphelocoma unicolor* is known only from the central highlands surrounding Mount Zempoaltepec. *A. u. guerrerensis* occurs approximately 200 miles to the west, *A. u. unicolor* approximately 200 miles to the east on the other side of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and *A. u. concolor* (*sensu stricto*) approximately 100 miles to the northwest. Thus, the Oaxacan population lies geographically between *A. u. concolor* and *A. u. unicolor*. This point is of particular interest in the light of the characters distinguishing the Oaxacan race, which may be known as

Aphelocoma unicolor oaxacae, new subspecies

Type.—Adult female, no. 39121, collection of R. T. Moore, Pasadena, California; taken at Moctum, Oaxaca, Mexico, on October 18, 1941, by M. Toro Avilés.

Racial characters.—Similar to *A. u. guerrerensis,* but smaller; closest to that race in color, but slightly less purplish (between Cyanine Blue and Dusky Blue, tending toward Azurite Blue-Indulin Blue, of Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912); compared with *A. u. concolor,* distinctly darker (more purplish) and with tail proportionally longer.

Geographic distribution.—Central highlands of Oaxaca, southern Mexico; known only from the three specimens for which locality data are given in table 1; reported by Du Bus (Esquisses Ornithologiques, livr. 4, 1848:pl. 17 and text) as "*Cyanocorax unicolor*" from Tepitongo and San Pedro, an unidentifiable locality, Oaxaca.

The possibility that an unrecognized race of *A. unicolor* occurs in Oaxaca first came to my notice

Table 1

Measurements of *Aphelcoma unicolor oaxacae*

	Adult male (RTM-33382: Totontepec, April 7, 1942)	Adult female (type, RTM-39121: Moctum, October 18, 1941)	Juvenal male[2] (BS-144681: Mt. Zempoaltepec, July 31, 1894)
Wing	156 mm.	160 mm.	150 mm.
Tail	157	162	146
Bill length	20.2	18?[1]	—
Tarsus	39.7	39.8	39.0
Wing-tail ratio	0.994:1	0.988:1	1.027:1

[1] Tip broken.
[2] In early stage of postjuvenal molt.

Table 2

Measurements of *Aphelocoma unicolor* in millimeters

		A. u. guerrerensis (Guerrero)			*A. u. concolor* (Vera Cruz)		
		Number of specimens	Range	Mean	Number of specimens	Range	Mean
Wing	♂ adult	16	163 -170	166.7	6	161 -167	163.5
	♂ 1st-year	4	157 -161	159.5	3	153 -156	155.0
	♀ adult	9	162 -168	164.8	1		163
Tail	♂ adult	16	164 -179	171.9	6	152 -163	158.2
	♂ 1st-year	3	163 -170	166.6	3	143 -153	148.0
	♀ adult	9	163 -175	168.4	1		159
Bill length	♂ adult	16	20.1- 23.4	22.09	6	18.1- 20.2	19.35
	♀ adult	9	19.7- 22.3	21.39	1		19.0
Tarsus	♂ adult	16	39.3- 42.3	41.08	7	39.3- 41.8	40.31
	♂ 1st-year	4	38.1- 42.0	40.73	3	40.1- 41.8	40.80
	♀ adult	9	39.8- 41.5	40.72	1		40.5
Wing-tail ratio	♂ adult	16		0.970:1	6		1.034:1

when a single juvenal specimen (table 1) from that state was examined critically. Compared with one juvenal specimen of *concolor*, the body plumage of the Oaxacan bird is darker (between Fuscous and Fuscous-Black, not Chaetura Drab), the flight feathers are more purplish (Nigrosin Blue, not Indigo Blue), and the light areas of the bill are of a richer yellow (Honey Yellow, not Colonial Buff). Compared with juveniles of *guerrerensis*, that of *oaxacae* differs in color only in that the flight feathers are slightly less purplish (both, however, closest to Nigrosin Blue).

Subsequently, two adults from Oaxaca were borrowed from R. T. Moore, to whom I am indebted for the opportunity to study these specimens. These bear out all color differences evident in the single juvenal specimen. Both are darker than all available adults of *concolor* and are only slightly less purplish than *guerrerensis*. When an adequate series of *oaxacae* becomes available, it is probable that considerable overlap in color will be found between that race and *guerrerensis*, but in length of wing and tail, all three specimens of *oaxacae* fall below all specimens of a good sample of *guerrerensis* (table 2). (Wing and tail lengths do not differ between fully grown juvenal and first-year birds: see Pitelka, Condor, 46, 1945:234.) In length of wing, the three specimens of *oaxacae* are smaller than all available specimens of *concolor* of corresponding age and sex groups; but since only three specimens of the latter race are available, one can conclude only that the wing of *oaxacae* is not larger and may be smaller than that of *concolor*. The two races do not differ in tail length; as a result, the wing-tail ratio of *concolor* is greater than 1.00 in all available adult specimens, less than 1.00 in the two adults of *oaxacae*.

Thus, the characters of *oaxacae* appear to be a combination of the color and wing-tail ratio of *guerrerensis* with a small wing which is comparable in size or smaller than that of *concolor*. Consequently, the color contrast between *oaxacae* and the lighter, more bluish race *unicolor* of Chiapas is even more striking than that between the geographically more distantly separated races *concolor* and *unicolor*. The expression of color and size characters in *oaxacae* is distinct enough in only three specimens, especially when considered together with geographic relations, that I cannot regard them as intergrades or assign them to one of the presently recognized races pending the acquisition of more material.—FRANK A. PITELKA, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, November 1, 1945.*

Golden Plover at Sea.—On May 8, 1941, while crossing the North Pacific at about 155° 50′ W, a Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) was observed from the desk of the ship. It circled the vessel twice and continued northward. The following day, May 9, a bird of the same species came aboard the ship. It seemed very tired and was easily caught by one of the seamen. After a close examination and check for identification it was released, but it returned to the ship and was seen running about the deck an hour later. It eluded capture and remained on the deck until after sundown, going to rest on the canvas cover of the ship's boat. The following morning it was gone. Shortly after our arrival at Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, a Golden Plover was found dead on the beach.—ARTHUR L. BERRY, *Alhambra, California, June 11, 1945.*