

specimens were known. Stresemann (Condor, 49, 1947:210) reported a seventh, and Loetscher (Condor, 54, 1952:204) an eighth. All were collected in Veracruz. A subspecies of this vireo, *Neochloe brevipennis browni*, was described by Miller and Ray (Condor, 46, 1944:41) from the region near Chilpancingo, Guerrero. According to the authors there are no significant differences in the wing, tail, or foot measurements, the length, depth, and width of the bill being the only varying dimensions. There are also differences in the plumage, especially on the lower back. This form is known from a single specimen.

It would seem worth while then to report eleven additional specimens of *Neochloe brevipennis brevipennis* in the University of Florida collection. These skins were taken by Mario del Toro Avilés from April 1 to May 26, 1949, at Amatepec, Oaxaca. Amatepec is located in the region of Mixe, which is part of the same cordillera forming the Nudo de Zempoaltepec. It is in the cold zone at an altitude of 2100 meters. Previously recorded altitudes for *brevipennis* are 4400 and 4500 feet; for *browni*, 4000 feet. The birds from Amatepec were taken at a much higher altitude therefore.

Bill measurements of these specimens vary considerably from those listed by Miller and Ray, although this is probably due in part to a difference in method. The discrepancy is especially clear in comparing the measurement of the middle toe, which is listed by Miller and Ray as 7.2-7.5 and by Ridgway as 11 mm. In regard to the plumage of the Oaxaca birds, the rump and the scapular region are slate gray with only a faint suggestion of olive green in some specimens. The white of the belly seems to vary greatly with the care used in preparing the skins. Two of my specimens show the extremes from extensive whiteness on the venter and sides to very little whiteness. The iris was recorded as white in all cases. The females of both forms were previously unknown. One of my birds is sexed as a female and does not differ in plumage from the males, as is true of most vireos.

The mean measurements with extremes of the ten males are: wing 56-60.3 (58.3), tail 53-56.5 (54.9), culmen from base 13.5-14 (13.8), length of bill from edge of nostril 7-7.7 (7.3), maximum depth of bill 4-4.9 (4.4), width of bill at nostril 3.9-4.7 (4.3), tarsus 19-21.5 (20.5), middle toe without claw 10-11 (10.5). One female measures: wing 57, tail 54.5, maximum depth of bill 4.4, width of bill at nostril 4.1, tarsus 20, middle toe without claw 10.3. Culmen from base and length of bill from edge of nostril could not be taken because of defects.—MARJORIE A. BRIGGS, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, August 25, 1952.*

Three Cases of Twin Embryos in Passerine Birds.—During the course of field work at Ann Arbor, Michigan, from 1946 through 1951, I made observations on 96 nests of the Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) and 93 nests of the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). From the data presented below it appears to me that one must conclude that in two of the former and one of the latter nests, two birds hatched from single eggs.

On April 27, 1946, I found a Song Sparrow nest containing four eggs. There were still four eggs on May 5, but the next day the nest contained two eggs, two nestlings (about the same size), and about one-half of an intact egg (the pointed end) containing a fully-formed, but dead, embryo. This embryo was about the same size as each of the two nestlings. On May 7, the nest still contained two eggs (which did not hatch) and two nestlings, but one of the latter was nearly twice the size of the other. The smaller nestling disappeared between 6:00 p.m., May 8, and 7:45 a.m., May 9. The larger nestling fledged on May 16. It seems likely that the smaller nestling was one of the twins. It is interesting to note that when I inspected the nest on the day that the eggs hatched (May 6), all egg shell had been removed from the nest except for the half containing the dead embryo.

P. B. Hofslund called my attention to a female Goldfinch constructing a nest on July 11, 1949. The nest contained two eggs on July 21; five eggs on July 25 and 28, and August 3. When I inspected the nest on August 4, I found four young birds and two eggs. There were six young in the nest on August 6, but on August 15, there were only four. These fledged on August 20.

On August 11, 1949, I found a Goldfinch nest with five heavily incubated eggs. Two days later there were four young (down still wet on one) and two eggs. Unfortunately, this nest was later destroyed (before August 15).

For passerine birds, I know of only one previous reference to twin embryos reaching the stage of hatching. Cartwright (Canad. Field Nat., 53, 1939:122) reported an egg of the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) which was found on the ground below the nest. Cartwright stated that: "The embryos had reached the point of hatching, but had apparently been unable to break their way out

of the egg. Both embryos were perfectly formed and one was only slightly smaller than the other."

I have no doubt that twins hatch more frequently than these four records indicate. In cases where twins do hatch, individual marking, and later banding, of the nestlings would enable one to gather data on the viability of the twins. Observers working on life histories where daily visits are made to nests obviously have the best opportunity to add to our knowledge of this subject.—ANDREW J. BERGER, *Department of Anatomy, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan, September 29, 1952.*

Wilson Phalaropes as Commensals.—Though a few species of birds such as Frigate Birds and Bald Eagles are well known for their parasitism on other birds, Wilson Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) has not been previously reported, so far as I know, as a species whose food on occasion was provided through efforts of another species. On September 5, 1951, near Olmita, in southernmost Texas, I noticed about 50 Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) and 400 Wilson Phalaropes feeding in a large, shallow pond. The water was of such a depth that the Avocets could wade, but the phalaropes, with their shorter legs, had to swim. Evidently the feet of the Avocets were stirring up food from the bottom. Each Avocet was accompanied by, or sometimes completely surrounded by, a small cluster of swimming phalaropes, all excitedly pushing and crowding the Avocets and one another as they snatched at the food floating up from the bottom. Each of the Avocets was providing food for at least a few phalaropes, and one Avocet was providing for no less than 46. The Avocets did not seem to object to the robbery, if that is what it was, or to the crowding. No bird struck another except accidentally in the scramble, and there were no quarrels or fights.—GEORGE G. WILLIAMS, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, November 25, 1952.*

Dipper Eaten by Brook Trout.—Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 195, 1948:111) lists the water snake and several stream-frequenting mammals as predators of the Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*). I identified the partly digested remains of a fledgling bird of this species from the stomach of a male brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) caught by W. V. Woodbury at Hunter Creek, Washoe County, Nevada, in July, 1945. The Dipper was tightly compressed into the stomach, and the approximate size of the bird at the time of the capture by the fish could not be judged. The trout was merely ten inches long, but it was capable of the predation by use of its relatively cavernous mouth. Mortality of this type could be high among Dippers on streams where the bird is closely associated with large fishes.—NED K. JOHNSON, *University of Nevada Museum of Biology, Reno, Nevada, November 3, 1952.*

Notes on the Red Crossbills of the Uinta and Wasatch Mountains, Utah.—Indications are that Utah is an area where several races of the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) meet (Woodbury, Condor, 41, 1939:162, and Behle, Condor, 46, 1944:84). An understanding of the geographic distribution of the races is complicated by the irregular breeding habits and erratic wanderings of this species. The situation in the Uinta Mountains in northeastern Utah illustrates these features.

Twomey (Ann. Carnegie Mus., 28, 1942:464) found breeding crossbills at Green Lake, Daggett County, during June-July, 1937, and obtained 23 specimens, which were referred to *benti*. Of these, he listed nine showing certain characteristics of *grinnelli*. Also, a series (Zoology Museum of Brigham Young University) from Lost Lake, Uinta Mountains, August, 1940, was identified by Ludlow Griscom as *benti*.

In 1950, I collected a new series as follows: 26 specimens at Lake Fork Mountain, 10,000 feet, 32 miles north of Duchesne, Duchesne County, June 17-20, and three at Timothy Creek, 7,500 feet, 10 miles north of Altonah, Duchesne County, June 23-25. These specimens were deposited in the Museum of Zoology of the University of Utah (U.U.M.Z.). At Lake Fork Mountain the birds occurred in the Engelmann spruce-alpine fir forest, while those at Timothy Creek frequented stands of yellow pine.

Despite the time of year, these birds were not breeding. Rather, they occurred in large flocks composed of adults and juveniles, were moderately to very fat, and had gonads which were in a reduced condition. The left testis of 19 fully adult and first-year adult males averaged 1.5 mm. in length, and the average diameter of the ovary of seven adult females was 3 mm. One male and one female of the series are in striped juvenal plumage. Both had a large transparent area in the roof of the braincase.