FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Record of the Slaty Finch for Honduras.—When Miller and Moore (Condor, 56, 1954: 310–311) reported on a female Slaty Finch, *Spodiornis rusticus uniformis,* taken on Volcán Tacaná, Chiapas, México, they were unaware that there were two additional specimens of the species from Honduras in the Moore Collection. These specimens, both adult males, were taken on July 9 and 12, 1936, by C. F. Underwood at Montaña El Chorro and apparently constitute the first record of the species in Honduras. The specimen of July 12 has the label notation, testes "½ enlarged."

The validity of *S. r. barrilesensis* was questioned by Miller and Moore (*op. cit.*) and it was suggested that "further material may result in more definite suppression of *barrilesensis* in contradistinction to *uniformis,*" and this, in fact, seems to be the case. The bill of the type of *barrilesensis* was found to be abnormal and some of the characters must therefore be discredited. *Barrilesensis* does, however, share with *uniformis* a more massive bill than the populations of *S. r. rusticus* to the south. The width of the bill at the nostril of the Honduran specimens is 4.6 and 4.7 mm. and is therefore in agreement with previous findings. This, then, brings us to the supposed greater size of *uniformis* which according to Hellmayr (Cat. Birds. Amer., pt. 11, 1938:371) differentiates it from *barrilesensis.* The wings of the types of *uniformis* and *barrilesensis* as measured by Miller and Moore are 74.5 and 72.2 mm., respectively. However, as they show, this apparent disparity is somewhat reduced by Costa Rican examples, referred to *barrilesensis* by Hellmayr, which measure 72.2 and 73.8 mm. The wings of our specimens from Montaña El Chorro measure 73.6 and 71.2 mm., suggesting a slightly greater degree of individual variation than was previously realized. Although the sample is still too small for any significant statistical treatment, it would appear that there is no sound basis for considering *barrilesensis* as distinct from *uniformis* and it is to the latter that we refer our specimens.—ROBERT T. MOORE and DON R. MEDINA, *Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, California, May 9, 1956.*

Nesting of the Ruffed Grouse in California.—The Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) has long been known as a breeding bird in the extreme northern portion of California. However, most of the breeding records have been based on broods of young. Little information has been available as to nesting requirements and the nature of the nest. Through the courtesy of the late James Patterson of Willow Creek, Humboldt County, California, three nests of this bird were observed near that locality which is situated in the Trinity River area.

The first nest observed was found in late June of 1952, at which time the eggs had hatched and the young had left. The nest was situated on a rather steep slope at least fifty yards from the nearest riparian growth of a small side stream. It was sunk into the forest floor about six inches down hill from the butt end of a down log. The forest at this point was mixed growth of Douglas fir, madrone and oak, with little or no understory. The nest cavity was small for the size of the bird, which was reputed to have deposited ten eggs.

The second nest was found on May 7, 1955, and contained nine eggs, which had been incubated for about three days. The nest was deserted due to logging operations in the immediate vicinity. Again the nest was about fifty yards from the nearest riparian growth and was situated on a steep hillside. The usual mixed forest growth was present, with little or no underbrush. The nest cavity measured about five inches across and was at least four inches deep, the eggs being well below the surface of the forest floor. An oak tree was just above the nest cavity and formed an effective protective covering. A few dried leaves had fallen into the cavity, breaking up the outline of the clutch of eggs, which was difficult to see.

The third nest was found on May 14, 1955, and this contained eleven eggs. When the bird was flushed, the deep nest was not noticeable, and the few leaves falling into the deep cavity broke up the shape of the clutch of eggs. This nest was about six inches in diameter and about five inches deep. Again, the nest was located about fifty yards from the nearest running water and on a steep hillside. The usual mixed forest growth was present, but in this case there was considerable understory of the black huckleberry in the vicinity. The nest was outside the huckleberry area and again at the base of an oak.

All three nests were notable for their smallness and depth compared to those of other galliforms