

A Tree Sparrow in Western Oregon.—On November 18, 1962, I was mistnetting birds in a brushy area about 3.5 miles north of Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon. From a small flock consisting mainly of Golden-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) I captured a single Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*). After the bird was compared with three non-local skins in the collection of Oregon State University, it was photographed, banded with Fish and Wildlife Service band number 67-84338, and released. The sex of the bird was not determined. This appears to be the first Tree Sparrow recorded in Oregon west of the Cascade Mountains since 1949 (Gullion, Condor, 53, 1951:146).—JOSEPH G. STRAUCH, JR., *Corvallis, Oregon, December 8, 1962.*

Barrow Golden-eye Using Crow Nests.—Edwards (Wilson Bull., 65, 1953:197) describes two Barrow Golden-eye (*Bucephala islandica*) nests in Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) nests in western British Columbia. On June 13, 1962, I found another such nest near Riske Creek, British Columbia (lat. 52° 00' N, long. 122° 30' W). The area is situated in that part of the Cariboo Parklands characterized by intermittent stands of Douglas fir (Munro and Cowan, The Bird Fauna of British Columbia, 1947). The nest was 20 feet up in a living lodgepole pine, 4 inches in basal diameter, at the edge of a small pothole. A female golden-eye was incubating five eggs.

Of 13 nests of the Barrow Golden-eye which I have examined in the Cariboo Parklands, all but this one were in holes of Douglas firs or aspens. The nests mentioned by Edwards (*op. cit.*) were in areas above the elevation of Douglas fir forests. Aspens tend to grow smaller at such elevations and would generally constitute inferior nesting trees. Consequently, it is probable that utilization of crow nests by golden-eyes is more important at higher elevations than in the lowland forest areas.—LAWSON G. SUGDEN, *Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton, Alberta, October 25, 1962.*

A Critique of "Birds from Coahuila, México."—The appearance of an annotated listing of the birds of any geographic area is of interest to systematists and biogeographers. When the area is as large and ecologically diverse, as close to the area of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list, and as little known as the Mexican state of Coahuila, the first such compilation becomes an immediate and constant reference for workers in American ornithology. "Birds from Coahuila, México" by Emil K. Urban (Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist. 11, 1959:443–516) is a report on some 500 specimens in the Kansas University collections and the first compilation of the information available in the literature for this state. Although the title may have been chosen to warn the reader that the work is not necessarily exhaustive, few will heed this warning. Having collected over a fifth of the specimens reported on, and having spent a considerable amount of time in the state, I looked forward with great interest to this publication as in part a justification of the effort spent in gathering this material. The work contains much new information and partly fills a void in ornithological literature; however, readers not familiar with the region involved may well not be able to evaluate the shortcomings of the publication.

Unfortunately, no indication is given of Urban's lack of experience in Coahuila, and all discussions of ecology, distribution and abundance, and the systematics appear to be taken from the literature. This has led to the repetition of ecological concepts which are in need of reconsideration. It has also led to erroneous conclusions as to the status of various species within the state.

A general summary of the topography, climate and biotic communities is presented as well as the standard "eco-taxonomic" analysis of the avifauna. The "island-like" appearance of the boreal forest zones of the mountains surrounded by rolling plains is reiterated without apparent knowledge of the regions involved. Today many of the boreal areas capping these ranges do indeed appear to be islands in the desert, but the occurrence of pines and oaks at low elevations scattered through eastern and central Coahuila indicates that the present observable discontinuity may be of but historical age or at most a few thousand years old. On the [Hacienda or Rancho] Las Margaritas, mature, but dying, pines exist in moderately extensive stands at elevations of 3000 to 4000 feet; and 16 miles east, 18 miles north of Ocampo they were present in 1954 at 4500 to 5000 feet, far below the 6000 to 7000 foot elevation at which the boreal "islands" occur (*cf.* diagram in Baker, Univ. Kans. Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist. 9, 1956:125–335). Baker considered that "such small, isolated areas influence the distribution