

lieu of a chase. Wagner (Veröff. Mus. Nat. Volker, Handelsk. Bremen, 2, 1951:5-44) does not mention these postures for *Lampornis clemenciae*.

It seems that postures *a* and *b* may operate to reduce the intensity of intraspecific aggressive action in Blue-throated Hummingbirds, and, in conjunction with the strikingly marked tail, these postures may be important in specific recognition. I wish to thank Myra E. Rising for the illustration.—JAMES D. RISING, *Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, December 10, 1964.*

Correction of Erroneous Records of the Ash-throated Flycatcher for Northern Guatemala and Yucatán, México.—Reporting on a collection of birds made by Harry Malleis, Van Tyne (Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool. Misc. Publ. No. 27, 1935) identified six specimens from northern Petén, Guatemala, as Ash-throated Flycatchers, *Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens*. These included four males and two females, collected between the dates of May 16 and June 20, 1923. Subsequently, Smithe and Paynter (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 128, 1963:245-324) accepted Van Tyne's identifications and asserted (p. 285) that *cinerascens* "is to be expected as a visitor at Tikal," although their extensive collecting in that section of Petén had not produced any specimens. Van Tyne's identifications seemed dubious to me, in view of the lack of any evidence that *cinerascens* breeds south of Michoacán, México. The species is known to winter regularly through the Pacific lowlands and central highlands of Central America (Lanyon, Condor, 63, 1961:421-449), but there is no evidence than any of the migrants pass through northern Guatemala. With the aid of Lester Short, I located the six specimens in question at the United States National Museum where, significantly enough, they had already been correctly reidentified by Allen Duvall as *Myiarchus tyrannulus nelsoni* [= *cooperi*], a relatively common resident throughout northern Guatemala. The proper identification of these specimens is published here in order to avert further perpetuation of this error.

Taibel (Atti Soc. ital. Sci. Nat., 94, 1955:15-84), reporting on another collection of birds made in Petén, identified a female flycatcher taken near Flores on July 17, 1932, as *cinerascens*. Although I have not seen this specimen, which is in Italy, the July collecting date makes it highly suspect. The fact that Taibel states that the measurements of his specimen are less than those given by Ridgway for *cinerascens* suggests that it may actually be the smaller *Myiarchus tuberculifer*, which would be expected at Flores in July. He collected no other *Myiarchus*. I'm grateful to Frank Smithe for calling my attention to Taibel's report.

The contention that *cinerascens* occurs in Petén, even if only as a casual visitor, would be more credible if the species had been taken elsewhere in the Yucatán peninsula. Griscom (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 64, 1932) stated that *cinerascens* (p. 253) ranges "south in winter to Yucatán and Guatemala." His basis for including Yucatán within the winter range of the species was two specimens (AMNH nos. 66866, 66867) which Chapman had previously reported (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 8, 1896:271-290) as *cinerascens* and which I have re-examined and find to be *Myiarchus tyrannulus cooperi*. It was these same two misidentified specimens that induced Paynter to include *cinerascens* in his Yucatán monograph (Peabody Mus. Nat. Hist., Yale Univ., Bull. 9, 1955:194). All 18 wintering specimens of *Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens* reported on by Griscom in 1932 were from localities in southern Guatemala. I know of no specimens of *cinerascens* that have been taken to the northeast of Chiapas and the central highlands of Guatemala.—WESLEY E. LANYON, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York, January 12, 1965.*

Only One Species of Galápagos Mockingbird Feeds on Eggs.—The habit of feeding on the eggs of other birds is not widespread among small passerines, so that the interest in the eggs of seabirds displayed by the mockingbirds (*Nesomimus macdonaldi*) of Hood Island, in the Galápagos Islands, merits attention. Many ornithologists visiting Punta Cevallos on Hood Island have probably noticed this habit, but it has received scant mention in the literature. Gifford (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. 4, 2, pt. 2, 1919:189-258) remarks that (p. 209) they "undoubtedly break eggs when the opportunity offers," but does not comment on this behavior on other islands.

Lack (Darwin's Finches, 1947:81) noted in passing that the mockingbirds on Hood Island feed more extensively on the shore than do those on other islands. From December 12 to 28, 1962, I was able to watch the mockingbirds in the seabird colonies at the eastern end of Hood Island and compare these with other mockingbirds on Tower Island, visited from November 22 to 24, 1962, and from January 4 to 8, 1963, and Champion Island, near Charles Island, visited from January 11 to 15, 1963.

On Hood Island the mockingbirds frequently approached and pecked untended eggs of boobies (*Sula nebouxii* and *S. dactylatra*), and albatrosses (*Diomedea irrorata*). Eibl-Eibesfeldt (personal communication) has seen mockingbirds pecking the eggs of Swallow-tailed Gulls (*Larus furcatus*). They probably also peck those of other seabirds, even those of hole nesters like the tropic birds (*Phaethon aethereus*). The mockingbirds persisted for no more than a minute or two when they were unsuccessful in attempts to break eggs, and there were many old, abandoned albatross eggs lying around unbroken in the colony. If any such egg were moved (for example, by me), it would attract renewed attention. On no occasion did I observe mockingbirds breaking an undamaged egg, but they did open up and eat a slightly cracked fresh egg of *Sula dactylatra*, and a similarly cracked rotten egg of *Diomedea irrorata*. Pecking was partly directed at the cracked area or at marks like cracks, such as a spidery asterisk that I drew in pencil. Thus, it seems likely that *Nesomimus macdonaldi* is an effective scavenger of cracked abandoned eggs and may kill a number of chicks in untended eggs that may be pipping. Once I observed a mockingbird carrying off the egg of a *Tropidurus* lizard, and Eibl-Eibesfeldt has filmed mockingbirds feeding on the eggs of *Amblyrhynchus*, the marine iguana (Die Echsen von Galapagos. Color film No. FT 594, Inst. f. Film und Bild im Wissenschaft und Unterricht, Munchen, 1960/62.)

In striking contrast to *Nesomimus macdonaldi*, the mockingbirds on Tower Island, *Nesomimus parvulus*, are indifferent to the eggs of the seabirds among which they live. Eggs of *Sula dactylatra*, *S. sula*, and *Larus furcatus* were abundant during my visits to the island, but I never saw the mockingbirds take an interest in them. Whole, cracked, or even broken fresh eggs placed well out of reach of the adult seabirds were completely ignored by the mockingbirds. *Nesomimus trifasciatus* on Champion Island, where *Larus furcatus* and *Sula nebouxii* are abundant, seemed almost as uninterested in eggs as *Nesomimus parvulus*. One of three birds after two minutes fed briefly from an egg that I had broken for them, whereas on Hood Island an egg broken under similar conditions was surrounded by several gobbling mockingbirds within half a minute.

This is an interesting example of a behavior pattern differing strikingly between closely related species. One would guess that the behavior is learned from other individuals, and it is relevant to note that *macdonaldi* appears to show much more curiosity than *parvulus* and *trifasciatus*. Such differences invite comparison with Miyadi's observations on the distinct food preferences and feeding habits of isolated groups of Japanese monkeys (Proc. XV Internat. Congr. Zool., 1959: 857-859).

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Bird Records from Midway Atoll, Pacific Ocean.—In 1961, 1962, and 1963 I spent an average of three months on Midway Atoll each year, from mid-June to mid-August and from late November to late December. Although the primary objective was a long-range study of the Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*), supported by contract 3479(00) with the Office of Naval Research, some incidental observations of the occurrence of other species are noteworthy. Unless otherwise stated for each species, these constitute "first published records" for Midway Atoll.

Macronectes giganteus. Giant Fulmar. On two occasions, December of 1959 and December of 1961, a bird thought to be of this species flew over Eastern Island, but it was not until