

feet out and chattering the while; they assumed the side-by-side position on the new limb. The birds now began to engage in the elaborate behavioral patterns that Hardy (*op. cit.*) has described in detail in this species and has termed mutual preening and appeasement. Mutual preening, fluffing of the plumage, closing the eyes, nuzzling, and "wing-up" actions were observed in the pair. This pattern of behavior was maintained intermittently for approximately 25 minutes, at the end of which period one individual began to "fawn" the other by raising its leg and "clawing" the wing and back of its partner. This action was followed in a few seconds by an attempt to mount on the part of the individual that had been engaged in the "clawing." Under the impression that this behavioral pattern represented an unusually early date for breeding in the species, the two individuals were forthwith collected while in the attempted mounting posture. The two specimens (U.C.L.A. nos. 51,588-9) proved to be two adult males, weighing 85.4 g and 82.2 g, and with testes 10 mm and 9 mm, respectively.

It is difficult to assess the evolutionary significance of such a behavioral characteristic in wild psittacines without additional information on the natural history as well as the ethology of the species concerned. For example, no information is available on sex ratios in wild populations of *A. canicularis*, of seasonal variations in flock compositions, of the ratio of available nesting sites to the number of breeding pairs of birds in any given area, or of the frequency of the homosexual character within wild populations. Certainly these are only a few of the many critical questions that must be answered before an evaluation of this character can be attempted.

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**Breeding Record of the Cassin Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*) in Arizona.**—While conducting research on the breeding biology of the Rufous-winged Sparrow (*Aimophila carpalis*), I was fortunate enough to find three nests of the Cassin Sparrow (*A. cassinii*). Nesting of the species occurred from the latter part of July to early September 1965. The habitat was mixed bunchgrass and thornbrush located 7 miles E, 7 miles S Tucson, Pima County. The nests were constructed 6 to 12 inches off the ground in bunchgrasses. All nests were constructed beside mesquite trunks, but none was attached to the trunks. A total of eight young fledged from the three nests. I banded five of the young and one maternal adult with Fish and Wildlife Service bands.

The A.O.U. Check-list (1957:603) reports Arizona as being in the breeding range of *A. cassinii*, but Phillips *et al.* in *The Birds of Arizona* (1964, pp. 200-201) reports no record of the birds breeding in the state. One 15-day-old fledgling (Univ. Ariz. Dept. Zool. no. 5683) was secured for the record.

Study of the breeding adults plus the observation of the Cassin's song flight during the nuptial displays eliminated any confusion with the Botteri Sparrow (*A. botterii*). Also, the Botteri Sparrow has not been reported in the Tucson area during its breeding season, and the nest has not been found in the state (Phillips *et al.*, *ibid.*:200).—ROBERT D. OHMART, *Department of Zoology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, 15 December 1965.*

**Notes on Costa Rican Birds.**—During the summer of 1965 incidental observations were made on birds in Costa Rica. Several items of interest are recorded here.

*Elanus leucurus*. White-tailed Kite. Slud (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 128, 1964) gave several sight records for this kite, but reported that no specimens had yet been taken in Costa Rica. On 27 June I saw a lone bird foraging over a densely overgrown pasture along the Pan American Highway about 15 miles south of Buenas Aires, Puntarenas Province. Later, on 19 July, I collected an example of this species as it foraged with another individual over a pasture along the