

same area (Stiles and Hespeneide, unpubl. data) indicate that a major part of the insect food of nectar-feeding species is flies. The food of *Acanthidops* is thus intermediate between that of *Spodiornis* and *Diglossa* since it includes at least some seeds and a fair proportion of flies (12 of 49 insects), in addition to insects such as the springtails, which may not be taken by either of the other two.

As Vuilleumier (1970) suggests, the morphological similarities could reflect convergence as well as relationship—and the same could be said of the similarities in foraging between *Acanthidops* and *Spodiornis*.

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OBSERVATIONS ON COPULATORY BEHAVIOR OF A PAIR OF SCREECH OWLS (*OTUS ASIO*)

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Pre-copulatory and copulatory behavior is rarely described, even though it may differ significantly between species, between individuals, and between mating encounters of the same pair. As for nocturnal species of birds, mating behavior is probably seldom witnessed in the wild, much less recorded. I report here the observation of one instance of the mating behavior of Screech Owls.

At about 22:30 on 15 January 1971 a pair of Screech Owls was called to a tree by a whistled imitation of the species' tremulous "song" (of the "bouncing-ball" rhythm, as described by Peterson (A field guide to western birds. Second ed. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1961, p. 157). Both sexes responded with a similar call, the female's being higher in pitch. Eventually the female approached her mate, who remained in position, and sat, in contact, beside

THE BRAN-COLORED FLYCATCHER IN GUYANA

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On 4 July 1970, one of us (J.A.D.), obtained a female Bran-colored Flycatcher, *Myiophobus f. fasciatus*, in Guyana, 1 mi. S of Ituni, 600 ft, Berbice County, West Demerara District. This bird was caught in a mist-net set for bats in brushy vegetation at the edge of savannah. De Schauensee (The species of birds of South America with their distribution. 1966, p. 357, and A guide to the birds of South America. 1970, p. 302, both of Livingston Publ. Co., Narberth, Pa.) includes "The Guianas" in the range of this species. However, Snyder (The birds of Guyana. Peabody

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him. The pair remained thus for over 10 min, calling frequently, and nibbling one another around the area of their bills. Suddenly the call of the male changed to a rapid tremulo, consisting of a short phrase followed by a longer one of equal intensity. This call was repeated with more regular and shorter intervals than the earlier "song," and during each interval a short, unbroken tremulo of the female's, at a higher pitch, was interspersed. This "pair-song" terminated when the male suddenly mounted his mate. Coition consumed 1.5-2.0 sec, the male flapping continuously to keep his position, and the pair separated by flying in opposite directions.

About 30 min later the male was back on the same branch and was again approached by the female. Without calling and without the pre-copulatory nibbling of the earlier encounter, he mounted her immediately. His eyes remained closed while he seemed to be attempting to grasp the nape of her neck with his bill. Again they flew to different trees after coition.

This particular pair of owls is resident on the University of Oregon campus and is exceptionally tame, being accustomed to the traffic of students at all hours. Most of the observations were made by flashlight, from distances rarely exceeding 15 ft.

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Museum, Salem, Mass. 1966), although realizing that this species must occur in Guyana because of its presence in neighboring countries, places *M. f. fasciatus* on the hypothetical list for lack of a specimen from there. Thus our specimen (which is now no. 107438 in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum) is the first from that country, and confirms the suspicions of the above-mentioned authors.

Our bird, in unworn plumage, had a completely ossified skull, no body fat, and weighed 9.8 g. The ovary measured 6 × 3 mm and the largest ovum was 1.5 mm in diameter. This individual has a yellow crown patch rather than an orange one. The orange patch in both sexes is frequently mentioned as a diagnostic species character in the literature (Snyder op. cit., de Schauensee 1970), but apparently yellow patches are more common in both sexes (Haverschmidt, The birds of Surinam. Oliver and Boyd, London, 1968). Thus crown patch color in this species is polymorphic, rather than a sex or age related character.

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