

Recently I published notes on four additional birds: the Lesser Snow Goose, *Chen h. hyperborea* (1950. *Auk*, 67: 233-234), Blue Goose, *Chen caerulescens* (*ibid.*), Stilt Sandpiper, *Micropalama himantopus* (1948. *Auk*, 65: 607), and Caspian Tern, *Hydroprogne caspia* (*ibid.*). The following six species (five of which are new for Rockbridge County) I wish to record here. The total list of water birds for the county now numbers 69 forms.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). Colonel and Mrs. Gordon Heiner saw an adult at a small stream in their yard on the edge of Lexington, July 26, 1950. They gave me an accurate description and an easily recognizable drawing of the bird.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*). On September 4, 1948, I observed a bright yellowish brown female at close range at Cameron's Pond, one mile from Lexington. The bird remained there for three days.

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). Robert Paxton saw one in bright summer plumage at the Womeldorf fish pond, August 28, 1949.

Red-backed Sandpiper (*Erolia alpina*). I saw one in bright breeding plumage at Cameron's Pond on May 29, 1950.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*). One which I saw at Cameron's Pond on October 13, 1947, I have already reported (1948. *Auk*, 65: 607). I saw a Stilt Sandpiper at the same place September 22 to 30, 1948.

Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*). One appeared at the Womeldorf fish pond on August 20, 1950, at a time when a hurricane was moving up the Atlantic coast. I collected it August 21. It was a male in first winter plumage. Apparently this is the first inland record for the Atlantic States between Washington, D. C., and Aiken, South Carolina.—J. J. MURRAY, 6 White Street, Lexington, Virginia.

**Bicolored Hawk in Tamaulipas, México.**—An exceptionally beautiful adult female Bicolored Hawk (*Accipiter bicolor*) was shot by a Mexican hunter on August 16, 1950, in heavy forest along the foot of the Sierra Madre Oriental near the Río Sabinas about five miles north of the town of Gómez Farías, southwestern Tamaulipas, México. Circumstances of the capture are interesting. Shortly before August 16, a pair of jaguars (*Felis onca*) with two half-grown cubs had been seen in the forest just upslope from the Sabinas sugar cane fields, and the female shot. When, on the 16th, a party returned to collect the skull of the jaguar and search for the male and cubs, they chanced to see this hawk perched quietly in the dark woods. Vegetation in this area resembles that of the tropical evergreen forest of Leopold (1950. *Ecology*, 31: 507-518), here found as a narrow belt along the base of the Sierra Madre. This habitat apparently marks the northern distributional limit of many distinctly neotropical plants and animals, including *Accipiter bicolor*.

My friend William B. Heed, now a graduate student at the University of Texas, prepared the specimen with great care, making important label comments. The ovary was paired, the whole mass measuring about 12 x 4 mm., the largest ovum being about 1 mm. in diameter. The legs, feet and eyelids were yellow, the eye bright red, the cere dark. The outermost primary was very short (about 65 mm.), the basal half still being sheathed.

The specimen is, apparently, the first for Tamaulipas. It represents the race *fidens*, described from the State of Veracruz. The upper parts are blackish slate, darkest on the top of the head and tail. The under parts, except for the white crissum and rufous flags, are slate gray, each feather having a fine grayish black shaft-line. Some of the median plumage, especially of the throat and lower belly, is light gray basally. The wing measures 254 mm. (primaries pressed flat), the tail 208, the tarsus 72, the culmen (from cere) 19.5. The specimen is No. 11068 in the Sutton collection.—PAUL S. MARTIN, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor.*

**A nest of the Rufous-breasted Spinetail in México.**—The Rufous-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis erythrothorax*) is a not very noticeable furnariid found from Veracruz, Yucatán,

and Chiapas southward to northwestern Honduras and El Salvador. It is a thicket bird about six inches long, with a quiet, four-noted call.

While collecting birds along the Río Atoyac at Ojochico, a few miles east of Córdoba, Veracruz, in mid-April, 1947, we found a nest of this spinetail about four feet above the ground in a thicket at the base of a hill just west of the cane plantations of the Potrero sugar mill. Externally the nest was composed entirely of rather long, slender twigs, sturdily inter-



Nest of Rufous-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis erythrothorax*). Photographed in mid-April, 1947, near Córdoba, Veracruz, by Robert B. Lea.

locked. It was, as can be seen in the accompanying photograph, completely domed over. It was about eighteen inches long and ten inches in diameter at the large end. The entrance was at the small end, and the bird passed through a narrow tunnel in reaching the nest chamber at the large end.

We frequently heard and saw an adult spinetail near this nest. Occasionally we saw a bird (sex ?) going in, but so far as we could tell neither incubating of eggs nor brooding of young was going on there. An adult male which we collected about fifty feet from the nest on April 19 had enlarged testes (each about 6 x 5 mm.).—ROBERT B. LEA, *Charity Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana*, and ERNEST P. EDWARDS, *Third Chemical Mortar Bn., Ft. Bragg, North Carolina*.

**An egg of the Umbrella Bird.**—The eggs of many species of the family Cotingidae have never been described. The eggs are rare in collections and identification of some specimens is open to question. Virtually nothing is known about the nidification of the famous Umbrella Bird (*Cephalopterus ornatus*). E. Pöppig's statement (1831. Pugillus descriptionum ad Zoologiam Americae australis spectantium. Supplement to *Frorieps Notizen aus dem Gebiete der Natur und Heilkunde*, Number 681, Vol. 31) that the clutch consisted of two eggs was based on local hearsay and was not accompanied by a description. Pöppig's account was repeated by Burmeister (1856. "Systematische Übersicht der Tiere Brasiliens," Vol. 2, Aves).