

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).

I secured a clutch of *C. o. ornatus* on July 25, 1949, in Matto Grosso, Brazil, on the Upper Río Xingú, in the region explored by the Fundação Brasil Central. The nest contained only one egg—the normal set according to the testimony of the Juruna Indians. The egg is oblong and rather pointed at one end. It measures 56.0 x 35.8 mm. The empty shell weighs 2.1 grams. The shell is khaki-colored, spotted with light chocolate and purplish brown and lightly stippled with dark brown. The shell has little gloss.

Further details concerning the biology of the Umbrella Bird I plan to communicate later.—HELMUT STICK, *Fundação Brasil Central, Avenida Nilo Peçanha 23, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*

***Empidonax albigularis* in southwestern Tamaulipas.**—One of the most interesting specimens in the bird collection obtained for me by E. K. Miller and J. H. Poppy in the Gómez Farías region of southwestern Tamaulipas in the summer of 1948 is a male White-throated Flycatcher, *Empidonax albigularis*, collected July 21 on the foothill above the Río Sabinas, at an elevation of about 3500 feet, half a mile south of the Rancho del Cielo. To the best of my knowledge, *E. albigularis* has not been taken in Tamaulipas before.

The specimen is similar to four *albigularis* from Michoacán in my collection, but less brown in tone throughout. The sides of the head, the chest and flanks, and especially the wing-bars, remiges edgings, and under tail coverts are almost without brown or buff. The crown, hind neck and back, too, are largely devoid of brown, though a slight staining of the back plumage makes color comparisons involving this region difficult. A notable feature is the darkness of the middle and greater wing coverts. The tips of these feathers are grayish white, in rather sharp contrast to the blackish brown basal part.

This Tamaulipas bird is so different from any of the ten *albigularis* (four from Chiapas, four from Michoacán, one from Costa Rica, one from Durango) before me that I suspect it belongs to an undescribed race. It is closest, apparently, to the Durango bird, a male taken by Paul S. Martin near the village of San Luis, at an elevation of about 8500 feet, 16 miles west of the Laguna del Progreso, on July 8, 1950. This Durango specimen (wing, 63 mm., tail, 54) I have identified as *E. a. timidus*. According to label-comment it was "singing in willows along a stream in open meadows." This habitat, as well as the general appearance of the specimen, suggest close affinity to *E. trailli*.

The Tamaulipas specimen of *albigularis* weighed 11 grams. According to label comment its eyes were dark brown, its mouth yellow, its lower mandible "pale yellow," and its feet black. The wing measures 64 mm., the tail 56. It is much less frayed and faded than the Durango specimen, whose wing-bars have almost disappeared through wear.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor.*

September nesting of the Barn Swallow in Arizona.—O. S. Pettingill, Jr. (1946. *Wilson Bulletin*, 58: 53) has reported young Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*) still in the nest as late as September 24, 1945, at Regina, Saskatchewan (about 50° 30' N. Lat.). The record calls to mind a late nesting I observed at Springerville, Apache County, Arizona, in September, 1934. Springerville is at the northeastern base of the White Mountains, in central-eastern Arizona, at an elevation of 6,965 feet. On September 16 of that year, in a barn in town, Randolph Jenks and I found a Barn Swallow's nest containing three young birds and an addled egg. The young were at least two weeks old. Two of the young, on being frightened from the nest, flew distances of 20 and 50 yards, respectively, from the barn. This was their first flight. We returned the two birds to their nest. On September 21, we saw the adult swallows feeding a young one perched on a rafter in the barn. On September 27, we saw two adult swallows flying inside the barn, but we failed to find any of the young.

Flocks of from 20 to 40 Barn Swallows were noted almost daily in and near Springerville throughout September—as late, in fact, as October 2. So far as I know, none was observed between that date and October 23, when I left the region. Whether the young birds mentioned