

but straggle along one behind the other, often several trees apart, and often keeping in contact by calling. Its foraging activities were confined mainly to the inner branches of high shrubbery, small to medium trees, and rarely large trees (Table 1). The foraging pattern of the Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo included gleaning from branches, twigs, and leaves; and flycatching or hawking. Gleaning was the more frequent tactic employed and flycatching was the less frequently used (Table 1). As the number of feeding observations was small (17), it may not be truly representative. More extended observations could possibly show that other techniques or other feeding methods are used more frequently.

Of the 17 feedings recorded, 14 (82 percent) were on invertebrates, and 3 (18 percent) were on vertebrates (Table 1). The food items taken included slugs (Stylommatophora), insects (Orthoptera, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, and other unidentifiable insects), tree frogs (*Eleutherodactylus?*), and lizards (*Anolis*). The most common food items recorded were insects, particularly orthopterans and lepidopterans. The stomach contents of a female Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo collected on 10 May 1970 consisted of one slug (*Vaginalus* sp.), four snails (Xanthonychidae?), six grasshoppers (Acrididae), two hairy caterpillars (Lepidoptera), and lizard egg shell fragments (Gekkonidae). There was no evidence of snail shell fragments in the stomach contents, although the soft parts of the snails were present almost intact. This suggests that the cuckoo extracts the snail from its shell before eating it.

While these observations show the foraging pattern of the Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo to be flexible and diverse, much work still needs to be done to complete our knowledge of its niche utilization pattern.

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**Interordinal copulation on coastal Venezuela.**—The evening of 26 December 1970 between 18:10 and 18:30 Roger F. Pearson, William J. Schaldach, Jr., Allan R. Phillips, and I were driving slowly through a grassy coconut grove at Playa de Guaicamacuto, 7 km east of Puerto Cabello, Carabobo, Venezuela, in search of certain members of the Tyrannidae in which we were interested. Our attention was drawn to a pair of *Myiozetetes* flycatchers calling from electricity wires about 30 m from us. To the left of the nearer flycatcher was perched a pair of Ruddy Ground Doves (*Columbina talpacoti*). All four birds were facing us, each approximately one meter apart, but with the flycatcher farthest from us perched separately on the hind wire, and thus somewhat behind the nearer flycatcher. As we watched the nearer dove departed. The nearer flycatcher (presumed male) flew at once and lit beside the remaining dove (presumed female). The dove lifted its rufous wings, holding them vertically in intimidation display. The flycatcher immediately mounted the dove. It appeared to us that copulation was successful and the flycatcher returned to its original position on the wire.

I am not familiar with the posture and movements used by receptive *Myiozetetes* females but Paul Schwartz, Estación Biológica de Rancho Grande, later informed us that both *M. similis* and *M. cayanensis* occur at Puerto Cabello (and Phillips later collected both near by). The race of the latter from that region shows considerable rufous in the wings and to some extent in the tail. Hence I suspect *M. cayanensis* was the flycatcher involved, in which case the visual signals of color and some appropriate wing movements by the

dove may have triggered the aberrant behavior observed. Although there was still sufficient light for us to observe birds, apparently it was dark enough that the flycatcher erred on visual cues, in the presence of the correct acoustical stimuli coming from the presumed female flycatcher somewhat behind it.

Alsop (Wilson Bull., 83:312, 1971) reported a case of interfamilial copulation between a flycatcher and a bluebird. In this case the tyrannid mistook the food-begging immature turdid for a soliciting female. Griffin (Auk, 76:238, 1959) noted a male Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) giving invitational display to a male House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) which repeatedly mounted and copulated. I believe our Venezuelan observation may represent the first report of interordinal copulation.

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**House Sparrow dispossesses nesting Eastern Kingbirds.**—On the afternoon of 9 June 1972 a pair of Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) was observed building a nest 21 feet up in a sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) at the Brookville Ecological Research Center of Earlham College and Miami University. They were frequently seen chasing a male House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) which would fly into the nest while the kingbirds were away gathering nesting material. After being chased from the nest the House Sparrow would perch about three feet away, lift its wings slightly from its body, and apparently call to or scold the kingbirds. The House Sparrow would often attempt to sit in the nest while the kingbirds were present, always being chased away immediately. These activities were continued for two hours. The kingbirds were always seen together, sometimes attacking the House Sparrow simultaneously. Throughout this period of activity a female House Sparrow was seen in the sycamore about 12 feet from the nest, apparently watching the activity at the nest.

On the afternoon of 15 June 1972 a male House Sparrow was observed in the kingbird nest continually for 20 minutes. No kingbirds were in evidence during the period of observation.

Around midday on 19 June a male House Sparrow was seen perched about six inches above the nest. A male Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) was seen to hover immediately over the nest, at which time the House Sparrow hopped down into the nest, driving the hummingbird away. The House Sparrow was later observed feeding on the ground about 30 yards away from the nest, frequently flying back to or directly above the nest to preen, fluff its wings, and occasionally call. It sometimes flew into the upper parts of the tree some 30 feet above the nest where other House Sparrows were heard calling. At one point a Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) was seen chasing the House Sparrow, which sought refuge in the kingbird nest.

After the activity on 9 June no female House Sparrows were observed near the nest or the male as he flew about. No activity was observed at the nest after 19 June. On 26 June when the nest was examined it was empty, unlined, and it was not cupped over in the manner of a House Sparrow nest.

On the evening of 28 June an Eastern Kingbird was observed defending a territory which included the sycamore with the nest. This kingbird was then seen to fly about 50