DANIEL K. NIVEN, Dept. of Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution, Univ. Illinois, 606 E. Healey St., Champaign, Illinois 61820 (Present address: Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, P.O. Box 28, Edgewater, Maryland 21037). Received 7 Feb. 1992, accepted 18 Aug. 1992.

Wilson Bull., 105(1), 1993, pp. 193-194

Olive-sided Flycatchers in southeastern Brazil. - The Olive-sided Flycatcher (Contopus borealis) winters principally in the highlands of Central America and the Andes, with occasional birds in the lowlands to Amazonian Brazil (A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds, 6th edition, 1983, plus observations of Willis and Stotz near Manaus and of Stotz, 10 Oct. 1987, at Colonia Apiau, Roraima, 2°39'N, 61°12'W). On 27 Nov. 1983, Snow saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher at the Boracéia Biological Station (23°38'S, 45°51'W) of the Univ. São Paulo, at 850 m elevation in the Serra do Mar of São Paulo State, southeastern Brazil. On 10 Nov. 1987, Stotz encountered possibly the same bird at the station, and on 5 Jan. 1991 he found a bird about 4 km away. Willis encountered a bird at a forest overlook at 800 m (24°17'S, 48°26'W) near Intervales, in cloud forests of the similar coastal range of the Serra do Paranapiacaba, on 14 Feb. and 3-4 March 1987. Parker found two separate birds at 1200 and 1400 m in Itatiaia National Park, Serra da Mantiqueira, in neighboring Rio de Janeiro State (30 Nov.-2 Dec. 1986 and 30 Nov., respectively). Willis and students encountered another bird atop a small eucalyptus line in a forested valley just east of the Serra do Mar on 16 March 1990 (Ubatuba Agricultural Experiment Station, 100 m, 23°25'S, 45°08'W). On 18 March, yet another was located in the next valley, 5 km northeast, atop cecropias of a cocoa plantation with forest canopy (Fazenda Capricornio, 100 m, 23°23'S, 45°05'W). Like the other birds encountered, these called "pip pip pip" frequently and sallied conspicuously from the tops of exposed branches at forest edges or over mountain escarpments.

São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro have been well studied ornithologically since the early 1900s. Collectors such as von Ihering, the Garbes, the Limas, Pinto, Sick, A. Olalla, and E. Dente have worked in the region. While the reclusive Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) winters regularly in small numbers but had not been recorded until Willis and Y. Oniki found it in 1982, one wonders if a reasonably conspicuous bird like *C. borealis* could have been overlooked. Perhaps a wintering population has developed recently. If so, deforestation in central-western Brazil may have provided the forest clearings the species favors, allowing it to spread eastward. Parker saw one on 30 Oct. 1989 near Alta Floresta, northern Mato Grosso. With further deforestation, the species may disappear once again because of lack of winter habitat, as Marshall (Condor 90:359–382, 1988) has suggested for Californian individuals wintering in excessively deforested Central America. Alternatively, recent spread of Africanized honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) around the Amazon may have helped it move to southeastern Brazil, as it is reported to eat them (Beal, U.S. Dept. Agr. Surv. Bull. 47, 1912).

It may be, however, that low numbers of this and other northern migrants have always wintered in southeastern Brazil but were overlooked until observations increased recently. Other species recently found in southeastern Brazil include a Swainson's Thrush (*C. ustulatus*) Dente collected 1 Feb. 1974 near Boracéia (MZUSP collection, identified as the subspecies *C. u. swainsoni* by Stotz), Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*; Parker et al., Am. Birds 37:274, 1983), and Cerulean Warbler (*D. cerulea*; D. A. Scott and M. deL. Brooke. The endangered avifauna of southeastern Brazil: a report on the BOU/WWF expeditions

of 1980/81 and 1981/82; pp. 115–139 in "Conservation of Tropical Forest Birds" [A. W. Diamond and T. E. Lovejoy, eds.], 1985). Stotz saw a female Cerulean Warbler at Boracéia on 5 Jan. 1991.

If small numbers of these northern migrants winter regularly in the southeastern uplands, similarities of Andean and southeastern avifaunas are strengthened and concern about populations of wintering landbirds must extend farther southeastward than generally thought.

EDWIN O. WILLIS, Dept. Zoologia, UNESP, 13500 Rio Claro, SP, Brazil; DAVID W. SNOW, British Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tring, Herts. HP23 6AP, United Kingdom; DOUGLAS F. STOTZ, Museu de Zoologia, USP, C.P. 7172, 01064 São Paulo, SP, Brazil; and T. A. PARKER III, Museum of Natural Science, LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803. Received 6 March 1991, accepted 1 Sept. 1992.

Wilson Bull., 105(1), 1993, p. 194

Nectar feeding by European Starlings. - The European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris) is highly adaptable in its feeding techniques and its diet embraces a wide spectrum of food types (Feare, The Starling, Oxford Univ., 1984). Several members of the starling family include nectar in their diets, and the crests of some members of the genus Acridotheres may have evolved in association with nectar feeding as pollination structures. The tongue of the Brahminy Starling (S. pagodarum) has a brush tip, which Beecher (Bull. Chicago Acad. Sci. 11:269–298, 1978) considered to be an adaptation for harvesting nectar. The Spotless Starling (S. unicolor), which is morphologically and behaviorally similar to the European Starling, has been recorded taking nectar from Agave flowers (Cortes, Alectoris 4:26-29, 1982), and it is therefore surprising that this habit does not seem to have been previously recorded in S. vulgaris. In early March 1992, European Starlings were frequently seen feeding in trees in the Newport Beach area of California. In Eucalyptus spp. flocks of up to 50 birds fed along with House Finches (Carpodacus mexicanus) among the flowers, but consumption of nectar could not be confirmed by direct observation. However, flocks of starlings were also seen in flowering *Erythrina* trees. In the large flowers of these trees, the birds were clearly drinking, dipping the bill deep into the corolla and then throwing the head back and swallowing. This behavior was seen each day from 2-6 March in trees planted around the Hyatt Newporter Hotel in Newport Beach and was also seen elsewhere in the city. Nectar feeding by European Starlings may thus be regular where Erythrina has been introduced.

CHRISTOPHER J. FEARE, Central Science Laboratory (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), Tangley Place, Worplesdon, Surrey GU3 3LQ, England. Received 26 June 1992, accepted 3 Sept. 1992.

194