

fall to the ground. In July and August the larvæ having matured descend to the trunk of the tree where they crawl under the loose bark and form pupæ. For the last three years I have noticed English Sparrows working on the trunks of badly infested trees, but this year they were especially active, I having observed from one to four working on the trunk of a tree at a time. They would creep around the tree in Nuthatch fashion up as high as the first limbs for the descending larvæ. I stopped to watch a pair of sparrows working on a tree to be sure that they were feeding on the larvæ, I was only five feet away so I could positively see that they were taking the larvæ and as they flew away with their beaks full they evidently were feeding young. As I have never observed them taking the pupæ or imagoes so I could not say whether or not they take them, although I have seen them working on the ground at the bottom of the tree amongst the pupæ which became dislodged and fell to the ground. I believe the English Sparrow is becoming more insectivorous each year, as I have on several occasions observed them catching small moths on the wing, also breaking May beetles by pounding them on the sidewalk. Still, I believe the English Sparrow is decreasing in West Haven owing to the fact that the Starling, which is abundant at all times and occupies all available cavities, has forced the Sparrow to resort to the backs of blinds, where the nests are thrown out as soon as discovered. So, under the prevailing conditions I do not think that two pairs out of ten successfully rear a brood in a season. But nevertheless, let us hope that the English Sparrow will continue to be insectivorous, especially in July and August when the larvæ of the Elm tree beetle are at their height.—NELSON E. WILMOT, 24 New Street, West Haven, Conn.

**The Slate-colored Junco in Colorado.**—Dr. A. K. Fisher collected a specimen of the Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) from a mixed flock in the suburbs of Denver, January 21, 1917. As this form is comparatively rare in Colorado, it seems desirable to record its occurrence in Denver, where hitherto I am inclined to believe it has not been detected. The specimen is in the collection of the Biological Survey at Washington.—W. H. BERGTOLD, Denver, Colo.

**Nesting of the Chiapas Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca cærulea chiapensis*).**—Ridgway in his 'Birds of North and Middle America' gives this species as occurring on the "Plateau of western Chiapas." His data being derived from two specimens, one of which, from the State of Oaxaca, not being typical. Both of these specimens are females, the male being, to date, not described.

On May 26th, of the present year while on a collecting trip near the city of Tehuantepec with two youthful companions, I chanced upon the nest of this subspecies. Until this time I was not aware that it occurred in this locality and its discovery was therefore a surprise. Both during the fall and spring migrations the western form of the Blue Grosbeak is very

abundant and it is quite possible that this rarer subspecies may have been overlooked and confused with the migratory bird.

The nest was situated on the horizontal branch of a small mesquite bush in an abandoned cornfield. Being only about three feet from the ground it was well concealed by the rather tall grass and some vines of a little blossoming passion flower. The situation of the old cornfield was near the river bank which accounts, in this dry section of the State, for the grass and other green growth.

Upon discovery the parent bird was not present and a long watch was necessary before she made her appearance. Upon arrival she went at once to her nest, from which she was driven and shot.

Three fresh eggs were found in the nest, and dissection of the parent proved that the set was complete. The eggs appear to be pure white in color when unblown and exposed to the direct rays of the sun, but upon being emptied show a very delicate blue, lighter than that of our Eastern Bluebird. Through an accident two of these eggs were badly broken before our arrival home. The specimen not broken measures  $23 \times 17$  mm.

The nest was well constructed and, roughly speaking, about 100 to 110 mm. in height and about the same in width. The coarser part, or foundation, is constructed of dried leaves, some finer portions of corn husks and, worked in through from one side to the other, the shed skin of a rather large snake. Forming the outer layer of this foundation are some dried weed stalks which are apparently held in position by coarse spider webs wound about the exterior after they have been placed in position. The nest proper is very neatly constructed of fine grass stems and lined with fine rootlets, yellow in color. The bowl of the nest is about 51 mm. deep and 60 mm. wide.

The parent is in full breeding plumage, and, unlike Ridgway's description, is lighter in color than specimens of *G. c. lazula*, especially below. It also shows washings of blue on the ear coverts and wings.—P. W. SHUFELDT, *Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, Mexico.*

**Brewster's Warbler (*Vermivora leucobronchialis*) in Lexington, Mass.**—In 'The Auk' for October, 1907, I recorded a Brewster's Warbler found during the summer of that year in a swamp in Lexington, Mass. In the decade that has since elapsed, this bird has been found established in the same swamp every summer except that of 1909, when no search was made for it. In 1910 and 1913, Dr. W. M. Tyler and I made a careful study of this hybrid and its relations with the Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*) and the Blue-winged Warbler (*V. pinus*). The results of our observations were published by me in the Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Vol. XL, Nos. 2 and 6, January 1911 and August, 1913. The persistence of this hybrid form in the same locality through so many consecutive years is in itself well worthy of record; I wish, too, to summarize the knowledge acquired relative to the matings of these birds and the duration of the nestling period.