

**Notes on two rare birds in Chiapas, Mexico.**—In a former communication [Auk, 56 (4): 447–450, 1939], I reported the rediscovery of *Heleodytes chiapensis* (Salvin and Godman) and *Tangara cabanisi* (Sclater) in the state of Chiapas, southern Mexico. Both species had previously been known only from the unique types, taken many years before. Since my report, further collecting has shown the wren to occur at several localities in the Pacific lowlands of Chiapas, but no additional information on the tanager has been obtained.

During the course of recent field work in Chiapas, I had the good fortune to obtain the two additional rare species listed below. The trip on which one of these species was collected was supported by a grant from the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies of the University of Michigan.

***Xenotriccus callizonus* Dwight and Griscom**

*Xenotriccus callizonus* Dwight and Griscom, Amer. Mus. Novit., 254: 2, March 8, 1927 (Panajachel, Lake Atitlán, Guatemala).

This remarkable flycatcher was described from a male and an immature bird collected during the autumn of 1926. Another immature specimen was obtained at the type locality in August, 1930, and a fourth bird shot was inadvertently destroyed. I secured two specimens at Chichimá, Chiapas, on March 29 and April 1, 1941. Chichimá, which has an elevation of about 1700 meters, is a *rancheria* situated in a large sink hole on the barren limestone plains two miles southeast of Comitán. The birds were found in a grove of trees along a ditch. The male was collected first. The light in the grove was so poor that his markings could not be made out, but from the bird's behavior and its long crest I realized at once that it was something which I had never before collected. Unfortunately I had to shoot it with a large-bore gun, and the specimen was rather damaged. The female was seen in the same grove three days later. Although restless, like most small flycatchers, she allowed me to approach close enough to kill her with a .22-calibre collecting pistol. The only sound I heard either bird utter was a simple, whistled note. Both birds kept to the undergrowth of the grove. The crest was carried erect. The iris was recorded as brown; maxilla black; mandible pale fleshy orange. The female had molted all her rectrices a short time before she was collected.

The two birds agree perfectly with the description of the type, except for slight discrepancies in wing formula and proportions. Their measurements are as follows: wing, (♂) 61.5, (♀) 59 mm.; tail, 64, —; culmen from base, 14, 13; exposed culmen, 12, 11; width of bill at nostrils, 5, 5; depth of bill at nostrils, 3.7, 3.2; tarsus, 18, 17.5; middle toe without claw, 9, 8.5; middle toe with claw, 12.5, 10.5.

The wing formula of the male (with the outermost primary numbered as 10) is as follows: 7 = 6 > 8, > 5 > 4 > 9 > 3 > 2 > 1 > secondaries > 10. In the female: 7 = 6 > 5 > 8 > 4 > 9 = 3 > 2 > 1 > secondaries > 10.

There can be no question about the generic distinctness of *Xenotriccus*. The much-rounded wing, lengthened tail in relation to the wing, long tarsus in relation to the wing or middle toe, and extremely developed crest set it off at once from its allies. It is probably most nearly related to *Empidonax* and *Mitrephanes*. The bill resembles that of certain species of the former genus; it is much narrower and with straighter outlines than the bill of *Mitrephanes*. The crest is much more developed even than that of the latter genus. Its actions, so far as I observed, resembled those of both *Mitrephanes* and *Empidonax*.

***Spodiornis uniformis* (Sclater and Salvin)**

*Haplospiza uniformis* Sclater and Salvin, Nomenclat. Avium Neotrop.: 157, 1873, (Jalapa, Veracruz).

The genus *Spodiornis* contains three forms, all usually treated as full species, but which have lately been referred to the same formenkreis. *S. rusticus* (Tschudi), the best known form, has a rather extensive range in the Subtropical Zone of the Andes, from Venezuela and Colombia to Bolivia. *S. barrilesensis* Davidson was based on a single male from Chiriquí. Three other specimens from the Volcán de Irazú in Costa Rica have also been referred to this form although without direct comparison. *S. uniformis* of Jalapa still remains known only from the type. Only the female sex is known of *S. rusticus*, which is brownish olive and streaked.

I secured a female *Spodiornis* at Chiquihuite, Chiapas, on March 21, 1939. Chiquihuite is the uppermost 'settlement' (consisting of two Indian huts) on the southeast slope of the Volcán de Tacaná. On the day of our arrival at Chiquihuite a loud, chipping call attracted my attention to a sparrow hopping around in a bamboo thicket in a ravine. After shooting the bird I had an hour's hard work to recover the specimen. We left Chiquihuite on March 24 for the summit of the volcano, but found no further trace of *Spodiornis* there or elsewhere during three weeks work at various elevations on Tacaná. The altitude of the spot where the bird was collected was 2500 meters. I would place Chiquihuite about at the border of the Subtropical and Temperate zones. Perhaps it should be stated, however, that my interpretation of these zones is apparently not quite the same as Griscom's, since of the seventeen other species of resident birds taken at Chiquihuite, one is listed by Griscom as belonging to the Tropical Zone, two are assigned to the Subtropical Zone, five to the lower part of the Temperate Zone, and nine to the higher altitudes of the Temperate Zone.

The iris of my specimen was brown. The color of the bill was not recorded from the fresh bird, but in the skin the maxilla is blackish brown with the mandible distinctly paler. The ovary was 5.5 mm. long.

In view of the marked sexual dimorphism in this genus, the identification of the Tacaná specimen with *S. uniformis* can be considered only tentative, since it is a female and only the male sex is known of the forms occurring to the north and the south. In most cases other Subtropical Zone species of Jalapa, Tacaná, and Irazú are at least subspecifically distinct in all three places.

Compared with a female *S. rusticus* from Ecuador, the Tacaná bird differs considerably by being darker and browner (less olive) above and in having the crown and nape more heavily streaked. The ground color of the anterior under parts and flanks is brownish instead of golden buff, the belly is buffy rather than yellowish, the crissum is browner, and the streaks of the throat, breast, sides, and crissum are more prominent. The bill is considerably larger and stouter, as it is said to be also in the types of both *uniformis* and *barrilesensis*.

The measurements of the Tacaná female are as follows: wing, 69 mm.; tail, 46.5; culmen, 13.5; tarsus, 18.5; middle toe, 13. Its wing formula (with the outermost primary numbered as 1) is as follows:  $3 > 2 = 4 > 1 > 5$ . The outer primary is 2.5 mm. longer than the fifth and 4 mm. shorter than the longest (third) primary. This agrees pretty well with the wing formula of the type of *uniformis*, as given by Hellmayr (Novit. Zool., 13: 308, 1906).

*Acanthidops bairdi*, which Ridgway thought might be the same as *S. uniformis*, has quite differently shaped bill and wing. The female of that species has a

grayish chest and is unstreaked, besides showing other differences. The nasal fossae of *S. barrilesensis* are said to resemble those of *Acanthidops* rather than those of *S. rusticus*. The fossae of the Tacaná bird, however, agree with those of *rusticus* in being round in contrast to the long narrow slits of *Acanthidops*.

Another rare sparrow showing the same general style of coloration in the male sex is *Amaurospizopsis relictus* Griscom, known from a single male from Guerrero (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 75, no. 10: 412, 1934). This, however, belongs to a different subfamily than *Spodiornis*. It has a stout, ridged, seedeater-type of bill and an entirely different wing formula. *Amaurospizopsis* is thought to be very closely related to *Amaurospiza*. The style of coloration of the female of *Amaurospiza moesta* is utterly unlike that of *Spodiornis*.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

**Nesting of the Southern Robin in northwestern Alabama.**—The Eastern Robin (*Turdus migratorius migratorius*) is a common winter visitor in northwestern Alabama, and but rarely lingers later than March 30. About that time the smaller, paler Southern Robin (*Turdus m. achrusterus*) puts in its appearance, overlapping the former, and it is now and has been for several years one of our most common nesters; every yard, lawn, and open shade-tree grove about town has one or more nesting pairs. A few years ago, a Robin was never known here in late spring or summer, and the only previous record I have of a nest being found or heard of, was in June, 1911, when a pair nested in a tree on the campus of the State Normal College at Florence. It seems that the Southern Robin has very materially increased its range southward within the last few years.—F. W. McCORMACK, *Leighton, Alabama*.

**Notes on some ducks collected in Kentucky.**—Several scoter and scaup specimens in our collection seem to be of particular interest because of the limited collecting of waterfowl which has been done in Kentucky.

Greater Scaup, *Nyroca marila*.—We have two specimens of this species; a female and an immature male, both taken November 9, 1941, on the Ohio River, near Brandenburg, Meade County, Kentucky. Because of the great difficulty of positive field identification of the scaups, we believe these specimens to represent the first authentic record of the Greater Scaup for the state.

American Scoter, *Oidemia americana*.—Two specimens in our collection, both females, were killed November 9, 1938, near Carrollton, Carroll County, by Mr. Jacob P. Doughty of Louisville. These also were taken on the Ohio River. We reported them in a previous article (Monroe and Mengel, *Kentucky Warbler*, 15: 41, 1939) but full particulars were not given. They are apparently the only specimens for Kentucky.

White-winged Scoter, *Melanitta deglandi*.—November 6, 1938, two female specimens were secured near Twelve-mile Island in the Ohio River in Oldham County, by Monroe and Doughty (Monroe and Mengel, loc. cit.).

Surf Scoter, *Melanitta perspicillata*.—A female Surf Scoter was collected October 16, 1940, on the Ohio River near Brandenburg, Meade County, by Mr. James Fetter of Louisville, and is now in our collection. This appears to be the first specimen of this maritime species taken in Kentucky.—BURT L. MONROE, *Anchorage, Kentucky*, and ROBERT M. MENDEL, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*.

**Krider's Hawk in Kentucky.**—In our collection at Anchorage, Kentucky, is an immature female Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*) taken October 16, 1940, near