

finschi. The range has thus been extended some 660 miles to the northward, into an area where the bird was certainly most unexpected.

Careful comparison of two adult males and an adult female from the vicinity of Brazzaville with the male in the Rothschild Collection from the South Libollo country fails to reveal any difference which I can regard even as subspecific. The female scarcely differs from the males in color or size, except that her tarsus is about 3 mm. shorter and lacks a spur. The wing-length of Brazzaville males is 170 and 181 mm.; that of the female, 173.

If *finschi* is to be regarded as a race of some earlier-known species, I believe that it must be allied with *Francoelinus shelleyi*, and not *levaillantii*. The latter species is represented in Angola by two races, and *F. levaillantii benguellensis* has been collected by Boulton in the Mombolo area, where he also found *finschi*. In general form *finschi* is very similar to the large-billed *F. s. shelleyi*, but differs strikingly in the lack of any black lines encircling the light throat or running from behind the eye down the side of the neck. It is also without black barring on the middle of the under surface. Yet there is fine gray barring on the outer webs of the flank-feathers which suggests alliance with *shelleyi*. When we notice how the black lines around throat and neck have broken up in *F. shelleyi whytei* of Nyasaland and the southeastern Congo to a merely speckled condition, it seems not unlikely that *finschi* may exhibit a still greater divergence from the nominate race. As for the black barring of median under parts in *F. s. shelleyi*, this has been diluted to brown or rufous-brown barring in *F. shelleyi elgonensis* of Kenya Colony, and thus may have been lost by *finschi*.

Doctor Malbrant wrote in 1940 that this "yellow-footed francolin" is widely distributed in the region of Stanley Pool, though less numerous there than *Pternistis afer cranchii*. It frequents grassy savannas, and is very difficult to hunt without dogs. When pursued it may seek refuge near wooded spots, but unless wounded it will not really enter the woods. This brief account of its habits agrees well with what we know of *F. shelleyi whytei* in the Upper Katanga.—JAMES P. CHAPIN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, N. Y.*

Robins' nests on tree branches overhanging roads (Plate 10).—A proclivity of Robins to build nests on branches of trees overhanging the streets has been noticed for some years in Colorado Springs. An opportunity came last fall and winter to take a census of such nests. A gentle chinook had hastened the falling of leaves. In general, in this city, Robins prefer to nest in spruce trees, so plentiful in certain sections. Then Robins' nests are not often seen on other trees. Maples, ash, box elders, some cottonwoods and elms are the principal trees bordering our streets and in park areas. Here and in other Colorado towns, Robins seem to avoid building nests on cottonwood trees.

Coasting at 10 M. P. H. or less, up and down, in different directions and in different lights, I made a count of over 500 Robins' nests. The tabulated result shows that 345 were noted on tree branches overhanging streets, alleys and driveways, 107 on branches bending inwards over sidewalks, and 54 in vertical forks. Many of the latter branches inclined to the streets when other vertical forks could have been selected. These nests are quite conspicuous although those built squat on heavy limbs are sometimes overlooked. Great attention was given to noting nests on inside tree branches in order to arrive at a careful count. Lower branches from fifteen to thirty feet above the streets are usually selected by the birds. In the foothill region, west of the city, roads have been cut through scrub oak patches, and where these grow on high banks, nests have been noted on branches inclining over the roads.

The locations observed seem to have nothing to do with the sun. Nests have been seen in spruce trees close against the north side of my house where few sun's rays reach. Innocently encouraging this research, a Robin built her nest on the lower limb of a spruce tree which overhung the driveway to my garage. Numerous nests have been seen over streets where the traffic is heaviest, so evidently Robins are little disturbed by this.

Forbush, in his excellent work, 'Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States,' 3: 412, 1929, wrote: "Many robins' nests are built in trees along river banks on branches overhanging the water." Vaughans of Chicago, in an advertisement of Robin roosts, state: "Robins will not occupy a nesting box but insist on a covered, sheltered shelf which allows them to see on at least three sides."

Not content with being able to see up and down one street, a surprising number of Robins selected branches overhanging the corners of cross streets. Unfortunately, I did not keep an exact count of them.—GERALD B. WEBB, *Colorado Springs, Colorado*.

An unusual nest of the House Wren.—On July 8, 1945, while visiting my son at Camp Carson, near Fredricksburg, Lebanon Co., Pennsylvania, my attention was called to an unusual nest of the Eastern House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon aedon*). Attached to the outside wall of a wooden cabin about twelve feet above the ground, and supported only by a glass electric insulator, was a well preserved Robin nest, upon which was superimposed a second Robin nest. A wren had constructed a nest on top of the upper nest, as was evidenced by an accumulation of twigs measuring about eight inches wide by six inches deep. No entrance hole was visible from the ground, but I was informed that a pair of wrens had occupied the nest a short time previous to my visit. House Wrens are fairly common at the camp, but strangely enough no bird boxes are in evidence. This, together with the fact that the tree growth of the vicinity is rather scrubby, with a probable minimum of natural cavities, might be the reason for this particular 'outdoor' nest—the first I have observed.—JOHN A. GILLESPIE, *Glenolden, Penna.*

Nesting of Gadwall and Shoveller on the Middle Atlantic Coast.—Waterfowl habits have received the attention of sportsmen and ornithologists for a great many years and as a result of numerous observations, field studies and banding work, waterfowl ranges have been well delineated. However, some breeding ranges as set forth in ornithological literature, while based on the reliable and careful work of capable naturalists, may be subject to extension, perhaps because of conditions causing waterfowl to change their habits. Some modifications in wintering, migrational and breeding ranges of waterfowl can be attributed to protection and the development and maintenance of favorable habitat. This point is well illustrated in the nesting of the Gadwall and Shoveller on two national wildlife refuges located on the Atlantic Coast.

The American breeding range of the Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus*) according to the A. O. U. Check-List (4th ed.) is ". . . from Little Slave Lake, Lake Athabaska, and Hudson Bay (northern Manitoba) to central British Columbia, interior Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, southern Colorado, northwestern New Mexico, southwestern Kansas, northern Iowa, southern Wisconsin, central Minnesota, and Ohio (formerly)." The Gadwall has nested on the salt marshes of the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Kent County, Delaware, in numbers sufficient to remove its breeding there from the accidental category. Gadwalls also nest each year on the Pea Island Refuge, Dare County, North Carolina. These two refuges embrace a variety of marsh and aquatic habitats, including salt, brackish and fresh water con-