

anthoides, both in adult and juvenal plumage, but *sclateri* is of a considerably darker shade, this being most apparent in the juvenal plumage which in *sclateri* has a mottled throat and in *anthoides* a white, unspotted one. *Humilis* differs from both by having, in the adult plumage, a strongly mottled throat instead of a plain one. The wing pattern is different in all three species. The rusty speculum formed by the color of the primaries is largest in *sclateri*, smallest and darkest in *humilis*. The coverts of the secondaries have a blackish center with sharply contrasting pale margins in *anthoides*, while they are almost uniformly colored in *humilis*. This difference is linked by *sclateri*.

All three species are of almost the same size, but *sclateri* seems to have by far the longest tail. Measurements are:

<i>S. anthoides</i>	♂ ad.	wing	76 mm.	tail	73 mm.
	♂ juv.	wing	69 mm.	tail	66 mm.
<i>S. sclateri</i>	♂ ad.	wing	76 mm.	tail	in molt
	juv.	wing	75.5 mm.	tail	90 mm.
<i>S. humilis</i>	ad.	wing	74 mm.	tail	70 mm.
	ad.	wing	73 mm.	tail	61 mm.

Asihenes sclateri seems to be restricted to the Sierra de Córdoba, where it has been found by Dr. Döring to live only among rocks. It is, as emphasized by its discoverer, "a true mountain species." The two Berlin specimens (the type and a bird in juvenal plumage, sent in 1882 from the Sierra de Córdoba by the well-known naturalist Fritz Schulz, No. 27155) are apparently the only ones so far collected.

MATERIAL EXAMINED.—*A. anthoides*: ARGENTINA: Chubut, 1 ♂ ad.; Bariloche (Gob. Río Negro), 1 ♂ juv. *A. sclateri*: ARGENTINA: Sierra de Córdoba, 1 ♂ ad. (type), 1 juv. *A. humilis humilis*: PERÚ: Maraynioc (Dept. Junín), 2 ♂♂ ad. (cotypes). *A. hudsoni*: ARGENTINA: Buenos Aires, 1 ad., 1 juv.—ERWIN STRESEMANN, Zoological Museum, Berlin, Germany.

A new name for *Xiphorhynchus spixii similis* Zimmer.—Mr. James L. Peters and Mr. W. E. C. Todd have both kindly called my attention to the fact that in describing this form from Buena Vista, Colombia, I obviously overlooked the earlier *Dendroplex similis* Pelzeln, a synonym of *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus obsoletus* (Lichtenstein). In view of the decided priority of Pelzeln's usage, I propose to rename the north-east Colombian bird as follows:

Xiphorhynchus spixii buena-vistae, new name for *Xiphorhynchus spixii similis* Zimmer (not *Dendroplex similis* Pelzeln, Orn. Bras., 1: 46, 1868), Amer. Mus. Novitates, no. 756: 9, Nov. 30, 1934.

My thanks are due to Mr. Peters and Mr. Todd for advising me of my blunder.—JOHN T. ZIMMER, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.

Eastern Goldfinch feeding on June berry.—There are only a few scattered records in ornithological literature of fruit-eating by the Eastern Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis tristis*). On July 2, 1947, the writer and Ernest Limes, Jr. spent several hours in the Oak Openings, Lucas County, Ohio, observing the birds that came to feed in a very large June berry tree (*Amelanchier laevis*) heavily laden with fully ripened fruit. One of the most common visitants to this tree was the Eastern Goldfinch. As we observed these birds, of which there were never less than eight or ten in the tree at one time, it was clearly determined with the aid of binoculars that they were feeding on the fruits, pulling them off and crushing them in their beaks, then evidently consuming both seeds and pulp. Other birds which fed on the fruits during our observa-

tion were Cedar Waxwings, Robins, Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, Baltimore Orioles, and a single Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—FLOYD B. CHAPMAN, *Division of Conservation, Columbus, Ohio.*

Cowbird behavior.—The usual pattern of behavior of the Cowbird in parasitizing the nests of other species, as described by Hanna (Wilson Bull., 53: 229–231, 1941), is occasionally varied, as the author points out. A case of such variation seems worth recording. On June 3, 1947, while at work near my lakeside cottage, I became aware that a female Cowbird had settled on a Yellow Warbler's nest, in process of building, two feet up in a small spirea and just twenty feet from where I sat. My immediate reaction—fatal, perhaps, to a more revealing observation—was to start protectively toward the nest whose construction I had been watching. Of course the Cowbird flew. On examination I found that the interloper had not dropped its egg—possibly, I considered, because the nest, as yet unlined, was too flimsy. However, next morning, there was a Cowbird's egg in the nest, embedded so deeply by its own weight as not to interfere with the placing of the lining. I removed it and, on the following day, the lining had been added, the nest was firm and the Yellow Warbler had laid an egg. Two days later the nest was empty. This observation gave me to reflect that perhaps some two-story nests are not so in fact but rather those in which the egg has become embedded in similar circumstances.—E. R. FORD, *Newaygo, Michigan.*

Long-eared Owls and red foxes.—While I was following a red fox (*Vulpes regalis*) trail in the snow on the Moingona Area south of Boone, Iowa, on January 7, 1947, my attention was attracted to two Long-eared Owls (*Asio otus wilsonianus*) that flushed from a large red cedar. The fox trail continued directly under the owls' roost where it was evident that the fox inspected the pellets and possibly searched for uneaten food remains. The fox defecated among the pellets and then continued on its way.

The opportunistic tendencies of red foxes in taking advantage of situations promising to yield food have been observed before. This visit to this Long-eared Owl roost by the red fox encouraged more than average interest in the possibility of such a relationship with the owls. The number and estimated age of the pellets beneath the tree indicated that the owls had probably not been using the roost in the red cedar for more than about two weeks. Wilson (Auk, 55: 189, 1938) found that these "— owls never used one roost more than two or three weeks . . ." Unfortunately, the owls continued to use the roost only until January 16, 1947, when they were last seen. No pellets were found beneath the roost after that date. Evidence that the foxes had visited the roost again during occupancy by the owls was not found; however, track 'sign' is quickly lost under new fallen or shifting snow such as occurred at this time.

A total of 55 owl pellets were collected from beneath the roost, and these provided data on the food habits of the owls. The bulk of the prey taken was mice (94.8%). By per cent of frequency of occurrences these were largely meadow mice (*Microtus* spp.) (51.6%) with equal representations of harvest mice (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*) (20.2%) and white-footed mice (*Peromyscus* spp.) (20.2%). Remains of the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) occurred once. A record was made of the numbers of individual mice represented in the pellets by teeth and skull fragments. A total of 105 mice were represented: 2 undetermined mice, 58 meadow mice, 24 harvest mice, 20 white-footed mice and 1 house mouse. Examination of the enamel outline of the molar teeth showed 26 of the 58 meadow mice were *Microtus pennsylvanicus* and 30 were *Microtus ochrogaster*. The remains of three perching birds were identified in