

The only nest of this pigeon which came to my attention was shown to me on December 7, 1944, by Mr. Vigneron who lived on the lower slopes of Mt. Mou at an altitude of about 400 feet. He found the nest under construction about November 25. The nest was on the ground three feet uphill from the old, long-abandoned Noumea-Paita trail. It was about 100 yards in from the edge of a semi-open forest of tall trees. The undergrowth along the trail consisted primarily of scattered bunches of coarse grass and a few clumps of *Lantana camara* and other shrubs about four feet in height. A lush growth of bracken fern (*Pteridium*) three or four feet high nearly covered the forest floor to the edge of the old trail.

As we approached the nest, I caught sight of one of the parents on the ground beneath a dense growth of bracken. The bird walked a few feet; then, on loudly flapping wings, it flew swiftly out of sight, keeping within ten feet of the ground in its twisting uphill flight.

The well-hidden nest was a slightly cupped structure of small, black twigs, all apparently from the same species of tree and all about the same diameter (3 to 5 mm.) but varying greatly in length. The nest was ten inches in diameter and four inches deep at its thickest part. Leading up the slope from the nest for a distance of six feet was a slightly curved, well beaten path six inches wide. Although the surrounding forest floor was littered with leaves and twigs, this path was absolutely bare of everything but bits of caked mud. It was by way of this path that the incubating bird had left the nest.

One white egg, measuring 40.1 by 30.0 millimeters, was in the nest. It was in an early stage of incubation. Although I remained in the vicinity of the nest for several hours that day, neither parent returned. However, the loud, hooting call, 'CooooOOO-OOOO,' of this species continued to be heard throughout the middle of the day from the woods several hundred yards above the nest. The call, surprisingly reminiscent of the hoot of the barred owl, was given at about two-minute intervals. Apparently the pair never returned to this nest because on a later visit the egg was cold and a few leaves lay on the nest and path.—DWAINE W. WARNER, *Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.*

Identity of Trinidad barn owls.—The two barn owls from Trinidad that were listed as *Tyto alba tuidara* (Gray) by Roberts (Trop. Agric., XI (4): 92-93, 1934) are obviously referable to the recently described *hellmayri* Griscom and Greenway (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 81: 421, 1937) hitherto known from the Guianas south to the Amazon Valley. Both specimens are adult males and have wing lengths of 315 and 316 millimeters respectively.

The identity of Tobago barn owls has not been determined, but they are probably *hellmayri* or an undescribed form closely allied to this large, light colored race, since the affinities of almost all of the birds of Tobago lie with Trinidad and continental South America, the Antillean element in both of these islands being negligible. *Tyto insularis* found on nearby Grenada, the southernmost of the Lesser Antilles, is a very small and dark bird. Less is known of Tobago ornithologically than of any island of comparable size in the Caribbean Sea, and we have little information concerning its night birds.—JAMES BOND, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

Sexual selection in woodpeckers.—G. K. Noble (Auk, 53: 269-282, 1936) wrote "That the courtship of the Flicker differs from that of other local Woodpeckers in that two or more females may gather about a single male and apparently compete with one another for his attention." I have not only seen a flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)

do this, but I also saw two female yellow-bellied sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus v. varius*) obviously competing for the attentions of a single male on January 31, 1941, in Charlton County, Georgia. On April 11, 1948, on a golf course at St. Martins, Philadelphia, I saw a female hairy woodpecker (*Dendrocopos villosus*) make advances to a male. This apparent courtship of the male woodpecker by the female is interesting in view of the fact the male woodpecker "regularly incubates at night and often more often in the day time than does his mate" (Nice, Trans. Linn. Soc. New York, II: 220, 1943).

In the case of the yellow-bellied sapsucker, two females were mewing and pursuing a male. The male seemed to be indulging in a copulation call somewhat like that of a female flicker. Finally the male accepted one of the females. They copulated and moved away. The rejected female waited quietly until the pair moved away and then flew off in a different direction.

In the instance of the hairy woodpecker, the male had been occasionally drumming on a large tree in a hollow for some time. The female flew from near by woods across an abandoned fairway and almost alighted on the male's back. They scrambled around for a moment or two. Then the male followed the female from limb to limb. Finally the female flew back across the abandoned fairway and the male followed.—FREDERICK V. HEBARD, 1500 Walnut Street Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

A flycatcher new to Lower California.—On June 24, 1896, a female "Mexican Crested Flycatcher" was taken in the Sierra Laguna of southern Baja California by Loye Miller, who was collecting for W. W. Price. The specimen (no. 369380) later found its way to the American Museum of Natural History, where it attracted my attention in a series of *Myiarchus tuberculifer olivascens*. Through the courtesy of the authorities of that museum and of the United States National Museum, I was able to compare it with both their series of specimens. The bird is badly worn, the back being a dull, pale brownish; the bill is larger than in Arizona females of *olivascens*; the rump is grayish brown; and the crown, lores, and auriculars are dark, even where not soiled. These characters identify it as *Myiarchus tuberculifer tresmariae* Nelson. This is the first record of this species in Lower California.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona.

Further notes on *Empidonax affinis*.—Through the courtesy of the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History, I was able in 1946 to restudy their series of *Empidonax affinis* and to take the more difficult specimens to Washington for comparison with the series in the United States National Museum (including the Fish and Wildlife Service collection). The results amplify my previous study of this species (Auk, 59: 424-428, 1942).

The type of *Empidonax fulvipectus* is good *affinis*, as had been presumed previously. The concept of *affinis* as an essentially non-migratory race remains unchanged. *E. a. pulverius* appears to be even less migratory than supposed. The "typical example" from San Mateo, Guatemala, proves to be *vigensis*! A specimen in the Fish and Wildlife Service collection, overlooked in my earlier study, was taken at Mojarachic, Chihuahua, January 31, 1940. The range may thus be extended west to include western Jalisco; the two females left undetermined in 1941 show only very minor differences from an April female from Durango.

The best differentiation of "*bairdi*" occurs at Momostenango and in the Department Totonicapan; the reference of the specimens from Tecpan and Quezaltenango to this race was correct, but they are not so typical, except that the wing-bars average darker. The recognition of *vigensis* in Guatemala, however, makes my previous ap-