

Now to consider the fate of the generic name *Polyborus*. Hellmayr and Conover (*op. cit.*, p. 281) stated that "the generic features of *Polyborus* were undoubtedly taken from *Falco plancus* [that is, from the true caracara] . . . as is shown by Vieillot's subsequent detailed account (in *Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat.*, nouv. ed., 5, p. 256)." Nevertheless they rejected this name because Vieillot had listed as its only species the "Caracara"; said caracara being based indirectly upon Marcgrave's drawing. But we have seen that this drawing is essentially unidentifiable and may, indeed, be of a caracara, which is what Marcgrave called it. Everyone admits that Vieillot's diagnosis of *Polyborus* applies to the caracaras, and under these circumstances the diagnosis sustains the name. Merrem's name may again go back into synonymy. The status of the name *Falco brasiliensis* is of less moment, inasmuch as Hellmayr and Conover (*op. cit.*, p. 283) consider that the caracaras of Brazil, and northern South America generally, are not separable from the nominate race, *Polyborus p. plancus*, with type locality at Tierra del Fuego.—D. AMADON, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

Two Species New to the Mexican Avifauna.—While in Chiapas, Mexico, in 1952, I collected the following two species which do not appear to have been recorded previously from Mexico.

Dendrocolaptes picumnus puncticollis Sclater and Salvin. On September 22, within an area of pines eight kilometers east of San Cristóbal Las Casas, at an altitude of 2400 meters, a single individual of this species was observed and collected. It was a non-breeding female in fresh plumage and weighed 59.1 grams.

The species, which is fairly widely distributed in South America, is rare and local in Central America. This record represents a considerable extension of range for the form, which was known only as far north as Alta Vera Paz, in eastern Guatemala.

Icterus maculi-alatus Cassin. A breeding male, which weighed 39.6 grams, was taken on August 6 in a low forest 10 kilometers west of Tuxtla Gutiérrez at an altitude of 800 meters.

The species has heretofore been recorded only on the Pacific slope of Guatemala. At the time the specimen was collected, it was assumed to be the sibling species *Icterus wagleri*, which is common in the region, and no notice was taken of the relative abundance of the two forms. Sr. Miguel Alvarez del Toro, of the Museo Zoologico in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, informs me (*in litt.*) that he has collected *Icterus maculi-alatus* on a number of occasions near the town and that it is so common he was unaware that its occurrence in Chiapas had not been recorded previously. Undoubtedly there are more unrecorded specimens in other museums.—RAYMOND A. PAYNTER, JR., *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Reverse Mounting in the the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—On April 20, 1950, while I was observing a nesting pair of Starlings, I became aware of a very odd and perhaps characteristic mating behavior of this species. On 2:30 of this day, Starling A entered the nest with a small twig. After A had disappeared into the nest, B flew to the telephone wire directly opposite the nest. In a few seconds A joined B on the wire and mounted B but immediately returned to perch alongside its mate whereupon B assumed the upper position and definitely copulated with A.

Since the observations were made on four consecutive days and the reverse mounting phenomena observed several times on each of these days, it is logical to assume that reverse mounting was a part of the mating procedure of these two birds and that the female Starling of this pair solicited copulation by imitating the treading of the male.—BRUCE GLICK, 2062 17th Ave., Columbus, Ohio.