GENERAL NOTES

Bachman's Sparrow Hiding in a Burrow.—On 22 October 1944, the day following a hurricane, the vicinity of Orlando, Florida, was being checked for any unusual birds by a group including Drs. George M. Sutton, B. F. McCamey, Marshall W. Nirenberg, and the author. In a pineland area east of Orlando a sparrow was flushed but disappeared almost immediately into a small relatively isolated clump of saw palmetto *(Serenoa serrulata)*. In order to obtain a more certain identification, an unsuccessful attempt was made to flush the bird again. When examined more closely, the palmetto clump was found to hide the entrance to a burrow of the gopher tortoise *(Gopherus polyphemus)*. At first no sign of the sparrow could be discovered. However, Dr. Sutton thought he had glimpsed the bird just at the limit of visibility in the burrow, so we enlarged the hole (originally perhaps slightly less than a foot in transverse diameter) enough to allow a better search. As the work progressed, Dr. Sutton suddenly sighted and grasped the bird at a depth of approximately 3½ to 4 feet from the mouth and 2 feet below the surface of the ground. It proved to be a Bachman's (Pine Woods) Sparrow *(Aimophila aestivalis aestivalis)* and was released after identification. Although it is famous for its shyness, to my knowledge this is the first record of a bird of this species taking refuge in such a place.—JAMES A. PITTMAN, JR., *University of Alabama Medical Center, Birmingham, Alabama.*

Mutation in an African Flycatcher, *Dyaphorophyia concreta*.—The Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, *Dyaphorophyia concreta,* is widespread, although nowhere common, in the forested regions of tropical Africa. It is local in distribution, particularly in areas where the forests are broken up, and consequently has subdivided into numerous races. The basic pattern of all forms, however, is the same. The upper parts, sexes alike, are uniform, varying from olive-gray to a metallic green or blue-gray, with upper tail coverts and tail dark metallic green. The underparts are yellow, but in the females the throat and breast are washed with chestnut, which extends onto the belly and flanks in some forms. The characters used in the discrimination of subspecies are the color and luster of the upperparts, and the extent and intensity of the chestnut wash in the females. Consequently, females have been more useful than males in separating subspecies, and several races including *ansorgei* Hartert of Angola (see *note* at end) have females as types.

D. c. ansorgei was originally known only from a single female from Cabeca de Ladroes in Benguela. A second female was collected at Roca Congulu in the rain-forest region of Gabela by Rudolf Braun (Sick, 1934: 170), and in 1954-55 Gerd Heinrich collected six males and two females from Gabela and Canzele for Chicago Natural History Museum. More recently an expedition of the British Museum collected four males and four females, virtual topotypes of *ansorgei,* from Chingoroi. The known range of *ansorgei* in Angola, therefore, is at three isolated localities in evergreen forest: Canzele, Gabela, and Cabeca de Ladroes, separated in each case by over 150 miles. This isolation, however, may be more apparent than real. Suitable habitat exists in the region Ndala Tando-Dondo and possibly in small pockets of evergreen forest along the escarpment.

Normally colored males have been taken at all three localities. They are typical of the race in being gray washed with olive-green above. The underparts are a uniform, deep-rich yellow, and a male from Canzele and one from Gabela have even a light chestnut wash on the breast and belly. Three other males from Gabela, however, have a striking mutant character not found elsewhere in the

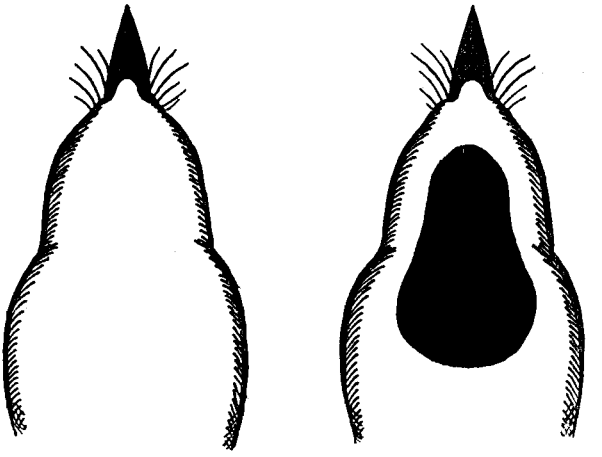

Figure 1. Ventral view of normal (left) and mutant (right) *Dyaphorophyia concreta ansorgei*. The black breast patch is approximately 15 × 30 mm.

species, a sharply defined, black oval patch on throat and breast (see Fig. 1). This patch varies from 26 to 30 mm. long by 15 mm. wide, and the black is glossed with bluish-green. Between these three mutants and three normally colored males from Gabela there is no other discernible difference in plumage, proportions, or size. Five of the Gabela males are adults in breeding condition, and there is no possibility of an immature plumage being involved. Meise (1958: 76) has described the nestling and the first-year plumages of males from Canzele, and there is no suggestion of a black patch in either. This mutation has evidently become well established in the region around Gabela, since three of six males possess it. It is not known to occur elsewhere in Angola or in other races of the species, but the evidence is of course negative, and based on few specimens. On the same negative evidence it does not occur in the females, and as there are now nine females known from Angola, the chances are that it will not be found to occur.

In many cases where a mutant character appears in a population, it is possible to find similar characters within the genus or family; that is, there is a potential within the group to produce a certain character. However, I know of no other species within the Muscicapidae that has a similar type of mark. I have had the opportunity to show these specimens to Professor Erwin Stresemann and Dr. J. Chapin, and both agree that they know of no other examples like it. This black breast patch appears to be unique within the family.

I would like to thank Mrs. B. P. Hall of the British Museum for the loan of her specimens and for her notes on the ecology of the region of Angola where she collected in 1957.

Taxonomic note. Dyaphorophyia concreta ansorgei differs from *D. c. harterti* of Cameroon and Gabon in being olive-gray above instead of a glossed blue-gray; males are a richer yellow below, sometimes washed with chestnut, and females have the chestnut paler and confined to the breast with no wash on the flanks—not

the reverse as stated by Bates (1926: 105). It is a well-marked race, and previously all Angola specimens were included in it. Recently, however, Meise *(l. c.)* has divided *ansorgei* into two races, the nominate form from the type locality and Gabela, and a new form *canzelae* from Canzele. He had only an adult female and one immature and one nestling male from Canzele and one adult female from Roca Congulu (near Gabela) which he considered typical *ansorgei*. The characters of *canzelae*, based on a comparison of the two females, were: darker; crown, sides of the head and neck grayer, less olive-green tinted; chestnut breast wash not so intense.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Hall I have been able to examine two males and two females, near topotypes of *ansorgei*, from Chingoroi, and to compare them with our five males and two females from Gabela and one male from Canzele. In the color of the upper parts there is no variation geographically; the male from Canzele is no darker nor grayer on the head than the two males from Chingoroi. There is individual variation among the Gabela males, and one has a bluish gloss similar to *harterti* of Cameroon and Gabon. There is a great deal of individual variation in the presence and amount of chestnut wash on the underparts of the males, but the extremes are two males from Gabela, with the Canzele bird being intermediate with only a slight wash. The females are uniform in the color of the upperparts; the intensity of the chestnut on the breast, however, varies widely between the two birds from Gabela, and this is not a character of taxonomic significance. On the basis of this material, it is not possible to recognize *canzelae* as distinct from *ansorgei*.

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—MELVIN A. TRAYLOR, *Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, Illinois.*

First Specimens of Sooty Shearwater for Delaware.—On 5 June 1959, Klaus Kallman, Josh Wallman, and the writer found two dead Sooty Shearwaters, *Puffinus griseus*, on the shore near Bethany Beach, Delaware, about two miles north of the Maryland state line. When found both birds were in good condition, and the silvery wing linings were noted, but only the heads were saved. These were deposited in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, where identification was confirmed by Dr. R. C. Murphy.

J. H. Buckalew (Auk, *67*: 251, 1950) knew of only two records from the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula, but gave locality and date only for one found on 21 June 1940 at Chincoteague, Virginia. He *(in litt.)* advises that on 13 July 1932 he picked up a dead Sooty Shearwater north of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, near the site of the old Cape Henlopen lighthouse, but that the specimen was too badly decomposed to preserve and therefore was not reported in the literature. A supposed Maryland record is not credited by Stewart and Robbins (Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia, 1958) p. 388.—PETER W. POST, *575 West 183d St., New York 33, N. Y.*