absence of significant intraspecific variation in ossification in just-hatched young of other passerines (Wetherbee, Comparative Phylembryogenetic Dimensionality of Neonatal Birds, pp. 1–260, University Microfilms, 1958) and the decided crook observed in the femur and humerus argue against causation by premature hatching.

It is almost impossible from such isolated cases to speculate about the mechanism(s) of origin. However, it seems appropriate to record that the first specimen came from a population sympatric with a population of Common Grackles, *Quiscalus quiscula* (probably exposed to intensive agricultural chemical applications), from which a microphthalmic individual was described (Wetherbee, Auk, 75: 101–103, 1958). The second specimen was the only bird hatched in a breeding wild colony of blackbirds experimentally exposed to tetramethyl thiuram disulfide (thiram).

If this teratological condition described in the Red-winged Blackbird is either a sporadically occurring, natural genetic expression or an exogenously, chemically induced one, the condition has potential significance in the population dynamics of the species.—David Kenneth Wetherbee, *Department of Poultry Science and Massachusetts Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit supported by the University of Massachusetts, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Game and the Wildlife Management Institute, Amherst, Massachusetts.*

Red-eyed Cowbird Parasitizes Song Sparrow and Mexican Cacique.—The Red-eyed Cowbird *(Tangavius aeneus)*, previously unrecorded as a breeding bird from the Valley of Mexico (Miller *et al.*, Pac. Coast Avifauna, 33, 1957), is a frequent parasite of Song Sparrows *(Melospiza melodia)* in Chapultepec Park, in the heart of Mexico City. This is the first record of the Song Sparrow as a host of this cowbird species.

The nesting area studied (the southern half of the horticultural gardens) covered approximately an average city block. Within this area I found seven active or abandoned Song Sparrow nests in August 1956; six in June 1957; and six or seven in April 1958. Not all of these could be examined, so the proportion of active to abandoned nests could not be accurately determined; however, these numbers indicate a high and concentrated local breeding population of Song Sparrows. I believe no other area in the park contained such a concentration of sparrows or any other suitable host for the Red-eyed Cowbird. In the gardens the vegetation is rigorously clipped and all lower branches removed, thus forcing the sparrows to nest higher than normal. Nests were found from two to 10 feet above the ground. The presence of a population of rats (cf. *Rattus norvegicus*) probably also has an effect on the choice of nesting site. The nests are less well concealed than in more natural areas.

Thirteen Song Sparrow nests examined from the park contained 14 eggs and six nestlings of the sparrow, and 13 eggs and two juveniles of the parasite. Three active nests with two or three sparrow eggs each contained also a single cowbird egg. Two nests contained a single sparrow egg and a juvenile cowbird. A cowbird egg in an active nest with two Song Sparrow eggs was slightly more advanced in development than were those of the sparrow.

Song Sparrows in Chapultepec Park apparently will abandon a nest when two or more Red-eyed Cowbird eggs are deposited in it. Six of the 13 sparrow nests examined had been abandoned; five of these contained one to three cowbird eggs. One of the two nests with three cowbird eggs also contained two sparrow eggs; the other contained none of the host species. In the latter nest the cowbird eggs

varied so much in both size and degree of freshness as to indicate that they were probably laid by different females over a considerable period of time. The three in the other nest did not vary greatly and might have been laid by a single bird.

The Brown-headed Cowbird *(Molothrus ater)* has been recorded laying eggs in a nest prior to laying by the host species (Bent, Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus., 1958), but this does not seem to have been reported for the Red-eyed Cowbird. The largest number of eggs found in a single nest was three (Friedmann, The Cowbirds, 1929). Near a greenhouse in the horticultural garden on 2 July, I found five eggs of the Red-eyed Cowbird in a weathered, nearly flat nest (probably *Pipilo fuscus*). Two of these were broken, two were bleached white, while the fifth was spoiled, but still retained the bluish cast present in newly laid eggs. This obviously long-abandoned nest probably acted as a dump nest, such as is well known in pheasants and some ducks.

The Red-eyed Cowbirds in the Chapultepec Park population begin laying by at least early April. An egg taken from a Song Sparrow nest 8 April contained an embryo approximately half developed, and fresh eggs were found as late as 2 July. Sixteen eggs collected in the park measure 17.2 to 18.4 (av. 17.78) by 21.6 to 24.4 mm. (av. 22.91).

A second species previously unreported as a host for the Red-eyed Cowbird is the Mexican Cacique *(Cassiculus melanicterus)*. On 13 July 1956 John and Richard Campbell and I collected a nest about five miles southwest of Navarrete, Nayarit. The nest contained three eggs of the cacique and one of the Red-eyed Cowbird. Dr. Friedmann *(in litt.)* informed me that Dr. Travis Meitzen collected a nest of the Mexican Cacique at Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, 11 June 1945 that contained four eggs of the host and one of the Red-eyed Cowbird. The use of the deep nests of the caciques by the cowbirds as a place to deposit their eggs is an interesting extension of their well-known preference for other species of orioles of the genus *Icterus*.—Robert W. Dickerman, *University of Minnesota, Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

The Black Noddy at Los Roques, Venezuela.—In the spring of 1862 the renowned British ornithologist Osbert Salvin (1864) discovered a colony of Black Noddies *(Anoüs tenuirostris)* on a little islet off British Honduras known as Southwest-of-all Cay, and collected there a series of skins and eggs for the British Museum. These specimens formed the basis of a new subspecies, *A. t. americanus*, described by Mathews (1912) as *"Megalopterus minutus americanus."* There was no further information on the Caribbean race of the Black Noddy until an individual was caught and photographed in mangroves at Bonaire in 1952 and recorded by Voous (1957). In 1956 and 1957 specimens were collected on Los Roques (Bequevé, Los Canquises, and Sarquí) in late May and early July, and it was presumed by Phelps and Phelps (1959) that the species was breeding there at the time.

On 26 and 27 March 1960 we had the privilege of going ashore on two islets, Esparquí and Carenero, of the Los Roques archipelago in company with Dr. William H. Phelps and Mr. William H. Phelps, Jr., while aboard their yacht "Ornis." We soon noticed that the Noddy terns flying overhead or perching in the mangroves that densely cover these sandy cays uttered two very different calls, and it was apparent that two species were present. In addition to the hoarse, rooklike growling of the Brown Noddy *(A. stolidus)* was heard the high-pitched, rattling *tek-kerrek* of the Black Noddy.