

21.40 \pm 0.54 (range 20.2-22.0) in 10 first-year males from central coastal California taken in the months of December through April. The specimen showed no fat (weight not taken). The testis measured only 3 mm indicating nonbreeding. It was alone and quiet when collected in a redwood grove. Other Steller Jays were present in the area; the species is a common resident locally.

From studies of this and other species of American jays, it can be said that the basic geography of molt spread over the body is very similar among them notwithstanding wide-ranging differences of latitude and climate. The main differences come in timing and in extent of postjuvinal molt. It is of interest that in curtailment of molt in the Santa Cruz specimen described here, those features common to races or species of lower latitudes occur. The additional features that it shows raise the question as to whether it was under metabolic strains during molt greater than those inferred to be more usual to more southern jays and presumably responsible for the fact that their less extensive and more variable postjuvinal molt also takes longer. The Santa Cruz specimen thus gives us some suggestion of molt characteristics for individuals in populations in which factors curtailing molt could be aggravated by the more compressed schedule of the molt as a whole for that and other more northern populations.—FRANK A. PITELKA, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California*.

Favorite Foods of Neotropical Birds: Flying Termites and *Cecropia* Catkins.—On recent visits to Panama I have noted two food sources that attract a wide variety of birds, seemingly without regard to whether they are primarily insectivorous or vegetarian.

Flying termites. Colonies of termites (Isoptera) are conspicuous in the tropics, but they seem generally well protected from bird predation. While certain trogons, puffbirds, and parrots dig nest holes in arboreal termitaria and have been reported eating the exposed termites, I have yet to see a bird opening the termite passageways that are so abundant on tree trunks in the tropics. I suspect that most birds do not seek ordinary termites as food any more than they do the worker ants. Periodically, however, broods of sexually active, winged males and females are produced, which take to the air in swarms for their nuptial flight. These termites are enormously attractive to birds. The specially nurtured brood may well be more nutritious than the worker caste fed on wood pulp or other relatively indigestible material. On 11 May 1961, near Gatun Dam, Panama Canal Zone, James E. Ambrose, Jr., and I were surprised to see a large variety of birds sallying out into the air, evidently "flycatching." The time was 1300, a time of day when there is usually a minimum of activity. We were in a cleared area, adjacent to a building, partly bordered by second growth. The attraction was a swarm of winged termites. A slight drizzle indicated the beginning of the rainy season. In the course of about 20 minutes we noted from one spot 16 species of birds catching termites in the air: Tyrannidae—Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) 1, Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) 2, Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) 2, Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) 1, Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) 1. Hirundinidae—Brown-chested Martin (*Phaeoprogne tapera*) 3, Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) 2. Mimidae—Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) 2. Turdidae—Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*) 1. Coerebidae—Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) 1. Thraupidae—Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis virens*) 1, Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) 1. Fringillidae—Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila aurita*) 2,

Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*) 2, Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) 2, Green-backed Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) 1. Later that same afternoon at Fort Davis, Canal Zone, along a wide trail in second-growth woods, we observed a Black-bellied Wren (*Thyrothorus fasciato-ventris*), ordinarily a sulking, undergrowth species, flying out to catch winged termites of apparently the same kind. Of the birds mentioned, catching insects in flight was normal only for the Tyrannidae and the Hirundinidae. The Tropical Kingbird was especially adept, coursing back and forth in the air much like the swallows. The short-winged mockingbirds and the fringillids seemed to have difficulty maintaining themselves in their aerial sallies. The seed-eaters and grassquits feed as adults primarily on grass seed, and they were not yet nesting (or even singing) in this area. The honeycreeper is essentially a nectar and fruit eater, and the tanagers are mainly frugivorous. The tyrannids, robin, and mockingbird were all probably nesting nearby, but they appeared to be swallowing their prey.

Cecropia catkins. Among the most characteristic plants of the Middle American tropical lowlands are the trees of the genus *Cecropia* (generally called *guarumo*). Though rather small and scrawny, the trees are distinctive: a slender, smooth, whitish or pale green trunk, forks at the top into a few bare branches, from the tips of which grow large, deeply-lobed, peltate leaves. They are among the first trees to appear in a newly made clearing, but do not survive in the shadow of a canopied forest. Few trees in Panama are so favored by birds. Their bare, almost horizontal, branches are used as lookouts by many species and even more find their fruit attractive. This seems strange, for the fruit is not juicy, sweet, or colorful. The fruiting bodies are long, pendant, fingerlike aments or catkins (20-40 centimeters long in *C. mexicana*), clustered together on a peduncle near the place where the tree branches. The birds eat the tip of the rather green fruiting spike, which to my palate is dry and insipid. Yet it must be nutritious to mammals. On Barro Colorado Island, at the edge of the clearing of the biological station, I have frequently watched White-faced Capuchin Monkeys (*Cebus capucinus*) nibbling at one catkin tip after another, and at night seen Kinkajous (*Potos flavus*) and, once, even a Woolly Opossum (*Philander laniger*) similarly engaged. The leaves of *Cecropia* are said to constitute the principal food of the Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus griseus*), and I have repeatedly noted Tayras (*Tayra barbara*), large, partly frugivorous, members of the weasel family, on *Cecropia* trees. The hollow trunks of these trees are inhabited by biting ants, but they seem to cause no inconvenience to the birds and mammals. In the course of three afternoons, 21-23 August 1954, I noted 13 species of birds eating the tips of the *Cecropia* catkins of a single tree (which I identified as *C. mexicana*) at the border of the clearing at Barro Colorado Island. In subsequent visits to the island additions have been made to the list. As will be noted, some of the species, notably the woodpeckers, belong to families that are distinctly insectivorous.

Columbidae—Short-billed Pigeon (*Columba nigrirostris*). Psittacidae—Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*). Trogonidae—White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon viridis*). Ramphastidae—Collared Araçari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*); Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulphuratus*); Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsonii*). Picidae—Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Centurus pucherani*); Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Phloeocastus melanoleucos*). Cotingidae—Blue Cotinga (*Cotinga nattererii*); Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*). Tryannidae—Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*); Boat-

billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*). Coerebidae—Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*); Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*); Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*). Icteridae—Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Zarhynchus wagleri*). Thraupidae—Fulvous-vented Euphonia (*Tanagra fulvicrissa*); Golden-masked Tanager (*Tangara larvata*); Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*); Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis virens*); Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*). Fringillidae—Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila aurita*).

This list is certainly far from complete. Skutch (1960, *Pac. Coast Avif.*, 34: 68, 453) mentions two other common Middle American species seen feeding on the *Cecropia* aments: Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) and Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*). Invariably, in my experience, the birds eat only the tips of the catkins—moving from one to another. The smaller species hang upside down on the catkin as they peck at it; the larger species usually perch on the peduncle and bend down to get at the fruit. But the flycatchers and trogons bite at the fruit in flight. Once I saw a Plain-colored Tanager (which ordinarily perches on the catkin) whirling below as it hung by its bill from the tip of the spike.—EUGENE EISENMANN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, New York*.

New Records in Micronesia for the Bar-tailed Godwit and Black-crowned Night Heron.—The Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica baueri* (Naumann), has been frequently recorded from the Western Caroline Island archipelago and as far eastward as the Atoll of Truk (7° N lat, 152° E long) in Micronesia. Transients moving to or from arctic breeding ground generally along the Asiatic Coast, but stragglers have been reported as far off course as Hawaii. The possibility of the species reaching the Eastern Carolines has been considered likely but has remained unconfirmed. On the evening of 3 April 1958, Dr. Kyle Barbehenn, of the Pacific Island Rat Ecology Project, and I collected two specimens of this bird on Napali Island, Metalanim harbor, on the east-coast reef of Ponape (7° N lat, 158° E long), which lies some 620 km (358 miles) east of Truk. The birds were feeding on a sandy beach facing the lagoon. One skin prepared was a female and is now No. 225087 in the collection of the U.S. National Museum.

The Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*, has been reported by various observers from the Marianas Islands and in the Caroline Archipelago from Palau, Yap, Ulithi, and eastward as far as Truk. On 30 October 1957, Dr. Kyle Barbehenn collected an immature male of this species at Ponape Island. The specimen was devoid of fat. This specimen is now in the collection of the U.S. National Museum, No. 217465.

This places the known range in Micronesia of both *N. n. nycticorax* and *L. lapponica baueri*, during migration, almost 650 km (400 miles) farther eastward than previously recorded.

Mr. Herbert G. Deignan, of the Division of Birds, U.S. National Museum, kindly confirmed the identifications (pers. comm. 8 January 1960).—JOHN H. BRANDT, *Truk, East Caroline Islands*.

First Tufted Duck Seen in Oregon.—On 14 February 1960 I discovered a male Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) with eight Ring-necked Ducks (*Aythya collaris*) on the Laurelhurst Park pond in Portland, Oregon. The latter were part of a wintering population of at least 40 birds known to frequent several such ponds on the east side of the Willamette River inside the city limits.