

The type locality of *Atlapetes albinucha*.—The apparent discontinuous distribution of *Atlapetes albinucha* (the "White-naped Brush-finch") in eastern Mexico and Colombia has long been suspect. The species was described by Lafresnaye and d'Orbigny (*Rev. Zool.* [Paris], 1: 165, 1838) from a specimen said to have been obtained in Cartagena, Colombia, by Ferdinand de Candé, a French naval officer who visited both Cartagena and Mexico during the same voyage. In addition to the type, which is now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, there are only two other specimens of apparent Colombian origin. These are specimens of the Sclater collection in the British Museum (Natural History), which were recently examined at my request by I. C. J. Galbraith. They are listed in P. L. Sclater's *Catalogue of a collection of American birds* (London, N. Trübner and Co., [1861–1862; see p. 91) as specimens 532a and 532b (the "b" has been misplaced in printing) and also appear in the "Catalogue of the birds in the British Museum" (Vol. 11, p. 261, 1886; P. L. Sclater). Mr. Galbraith informs me that the label of one specimen reads, in part, "Hab. Colombia | Authy. Verreaux" and that of the other bird "Hab. New Grenada | Authy. De Lattre." In spite of more than 100 years of active collecting in tropical America since these specimens were first recorded, all other specimens and published reports of the form are from the slopes of eastern Mexico, where the bird is moderately abundant.

There seems no doubt that the Colombian records are erroneous. As indicated by de Schauensee (*Caldasia*, 5: 1099, 1951), the arid Caribbean coast at Cartagena is a highly unlikely habitat for any species of *Atlapetes*. It would seem logical to conclude that de Candé obtained the type specimen of *albinucha* in eastern Mexico, perhaps in the mountains near the city of Veracruz, which was an active port in the early 1800's and presumably where his vessel called. The Sclater specimens were doubtless trade skins obtained in Paris from Verreaux and Delattre. The label notations "Authy. Verreaux" and "Authy. De Lattre" would seem to indicate that these men were responsible for the identification of the specimens, rather than for their collection. The Verreaux brothers, active dealers in natural history specimens in Paris in the 1850's, are not known to have visited the New World. The Delattre specimen is less certainly erroneously labeled since Delattre collected in Colombia and Mexico in the first half of the 1800's. However, the notation "Authy. De Lattre," rather than "Leg.," or a similar indication, the failure of the form to occur among the thousands of "Bogotá" trade skins which streamed back to Europe in the nineteenth century, the absence of any observations by the many reliable collectors who have worked in Colombia during the last 100 years, and the near certainty that the type specimen came from Mexico, all strongly suggest that the provenance of the Delattre bird was not Colombia.

I propose, therefore, that the type locality of *A. albinucha* be corrected to the Caribbean slope of eastern Mexico. The form ranges from Puebla and Veracruz (and possibly San Luis Potosí) south to eastern Chiapas.

If *albinucha* does not occur in Colombia its relationship with *A. gutturalis* (the "Yellow-throated Brush-finch") is clarified. *A. gutturalis*, which, except for the absence of yellow on the breast and abdomen, closely resembles *albinucha*, ranges from the Pacific slope of southwestern Chiapas to Colombia. It is separated from *albinucha* by a barrier of high mountains and the dry central valley of Chiapas. Geographical variation in size and coloration of *gutturalis* necessitate the recognition of several races. The race which occurs in southwestern Chiapas, Guatemala, and adjacent El Salvador (*A. gutturalis griseipectus*) is characterized by a somewhat larger area of yellow on the throat than the more southern races. The yellow extends to the fore-neck, thus showing an approach, albeit slight, toward the completely yellow venter

of *albinucha*. Although *gutturalis* and *albinucha* do not meet and intergrade, owing to geographical barriers in central Chiapas, it would seem they should be treated as conspecific, taking the older name *albinucha*.

I am grateful to I. C. J. Galbraith for providing information on specimens in the British Museum and to J. Berlioz and E. Stresemann for helpful details about the collections of Delattre and Verreaux.—RAYMOND A. PAYNTER, JR., *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.*

A nesting of the Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*) in Ohio.—A detailed account of the nesting behavior of this species follows because, in reviewing the literature, we found an apparent scarcity of precise nesting data, except for articles by Gross and Van Tyne (*Auk*, 46: 431-466, 1929) on a nesting in the Canal Zone, and Meanley (*Auk*, 80: 545-547, 1963) on pre-nesting activity in Georgia. Also, this nesting appears to be the northernmost in North America.

In early May of 1962, one of us (Glines) saw what he believed to be a Purple Gallinule at Baumgartner's Pond in eastern Jackson Township, Franklin County, central Ohio (approximately 10 miles south of downtown Columbus). Under normal conditions this pond covers an estimated 13 acres. It is very shallow, and in mid-summer about 70 per cent of the pond contains a profuse growth of the yellow pond-lily (*Nuphar advena*). Its shallowest waters and shores are densely vegetated with buttonbushes (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*); widely scattered, small stands of broad-leaved cat-tails (*Typha latifolia*); pickerel weeds (*Pontederia cordata*); several species of sedges (Cyperaceae); and their associates.

On several days in May and early June, Glines had glimpses of one or two Purple Gallinules, but it was not until 15 June that he discovered a nest, assumed to belong to these birds. He did not examine the nest closely until 17 June, when it contained six eggs. On 18 June the nest contained seven eggs, the full complement. On 24 June he first saw a Purple Gallinule on the nest. By late afternoon of 4 July, two of the eggs had hatched and the two newly-hatched young were not quite dry. Glines informed Mr. C. Eugene Knoder, then of the Ohio Division of Wildlife, and the senior author (Trautman), who immediately went to the nest site with Glines. The nest was about 20 feet from the southeastern shore in a small stand of cat-tails growing in 15 to 20 inches of water. The clump of cat-tails was surrounded by a dense stand of yellow pond-lilies. The nest was firmly attached to five vigorous stalks of cat-tails; its foundation and much of the upper structure were composed of the green and brown blades from the five supporting and neighboring cat-tail stalks, most of the blades having been pulled down and intricately woven together. A small quantity of detached cat-tail leaves from other plants had been added. The completed nest was approximately nine inches in diameter and eight inches deep, and the cup-shaped depression containing the eggs was 2.5 inches deep. The rim was about 20 inches above the water's surface.

As noted elsewhere by Gross and Van Tyne (*Auk*, 46: 432-433, 1929), one of the striking features of the nest was its runway. The runway of the present nest was substantially constructed, almost entirely of cat-tail blades laid so as to form a flat surface two to four inches wide extending from the water's surface upward at about a 40° angle to the rim of the nest.

As we approached the nest an adult gallinule left it, followed by the two now-dry young which, after descending to the water via the runway, swam, dived, and ran rapidly across the emergent vegetation. One of the young was captured. Each of the