

GENERAL NOTES

Are there two species of Shrub Flycatcher (*Sublegatus*)?—The forms of *Sublegatus* in northeastern South America are presently all considered as subspecies of *modestus*, but evidence of possible sympatry exists, although seasons and habitats are not specified. In Colombia Meyer de Schauensee (1950) reports both the races *sordidus* and *glaber* at Villavicencio, and he remarks the difficulty of accounting for the presence of both subspecies unless one is a migrant or wanderer to the region. Phelps and Phelps (1963) mention four specimens of *sordidus* from Venezuela and comment that they were obtained in the same locality as other races, *sordidus* may be possibly a different species. Snyder (1966) emphasizes the fact that in Guyana *Sublegatus* occurs in two different habitats, mangroves and swamps, and dry scrub and open forest, but she lists only *obscurior*.

In Surinam I (Haverschmidt, 1968) similarly found *Sublegatus* a rather common bird in the coastal mangroves of *Avicennia nitida* where it is present all through the year and where it certainly breeds, though I never found a nest. I have collected it at different localities in the mangroves from the Nickerie District (the east bank of the Corantijn River) in the west, near Leonsberg (on the left bank of the Surinam River where it meets the Commewijne River), and further eastward in the mangroves bordering the Matapica Creek in the Commewijne District. I also collected four specimens in quite a different habitat in high forest near Phedra on the Surinam River about 80 km south of the coast, all out of the top of the same tall tree spreading over a forest road: 3 ♂♂ on 21 June 1964, 7 and 13 August 1966 and ♀ 30 October 1966 (not November as stated in my book). These inland specimens, though in worn plumage, can be distinguished at a glance from the coastal birds by their paler yellow abdomens, more extensively grayish underparts, and duller (less olive) upperparts.

I sent these four inland specimens together with three mangrove birds (2 ♂♂ Leonsberg, 5 March 1959, ♂ Matapica 16 June 1962) to the American Museum of Natural History at New York where Wesley E. Lanyon kindly compared them with the material in that institution. Eugene Eisenmann wrote me agreeing with Lanyon's conclusion that the coastal birds from Surinam belong to the subspecies *obscurior* described by Todd (1920) from neighboring Cayenne (French Guiana), and the four inland birds from Phedra to the race *sordidus* described by Zimmer (1941) from Utinga near Para, Brazil. Eisenmann adds that as *sordidus* is a tropical form, as a specimen was taken as late as 30 October, the southern temperate breeding season, and as two males (21 June and 7 August) had greatly enlarged testes, the inland forest birds probably represent a breeding population rather than a migrant one from farther south. Further field work, and particularly the discovery of where and when *sordidus* breeds, will be necessary to solve this interesting problem.

LITERATURE CITED

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