

six nestlings. Female 2's eggs hatched on 28 May. Throughout the incubation period the male attended both nests and guarded both when the females were gone. While the young were in the nest he concentrated mainly on female 1's nest. He fed her young at a normal frequency, and fed female 2's nestlings only occasionally. He and female 2 were never hostile toward one another, and he continued to defend her from other males and House Sparrows. She allowed him in her nest, though he never visited her for long periods.

Female 1's young fledged on 19 and 20 June, and the male helped her in post-fledging care. Several days after female 1's young left, I saw an adult male feed female 2's young in the nest several times, but I do not believe the polygamous male showed any further interest in female 2. Her young left the nest on 25 and 26 June and she cared for them alone. Later the male and female 1 displayed postbreeding nest defense.

It is conceivable that polygamy may occur in a situation where the first birds arriving on the breeding grounds (most often all males) perish in unseasonably cold weather and the later arriving population consists of more females than males. But plenty of breeding places were available in my neighborhood in 1973, and I noted no dearth of males. Early arriving males frequently defend several nesting compartments, then later confine all defensive activity to their mate's chosen compartment. Apparently the early territorial claims of these two males extended throughout the season, and when second females appeared within this territory, they were also accepted as mates.—CHARLES R. BROWN, 1804 West Hunt Street, Sherman, Texas 75090. Accepted 6 Jun. 74.

Ruddy Ground Dove in south Texas.—I saw a Ruddy Ground Dove, *Columbina talpacoti*, on the North Trail on Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Alamo, Texas, on 28 January 1971. The bird was sitting in a huisache tree, and I made out all identifying characteristics clearly with 7×35 binoculars at 30 feet. The bird remained on the refuge for 7 weeks, and many bird watchers came to see it. It was last reported on 17 March 1971. The several photographs I took of the bird make this the first authenticated record for the species in the United States. A color slide sent to the editor of The Auk shows the bird to be a male (confirmed by E. Eisenmann). The only previous report from the United States was that of one male seen from 23 December 1950 to January 1951 west of San Benito (near Harlingen), Texas, listed on the hypothetical list of the A.O.U. Check-list (1957, fifth ed., Baltimore, Amer. Ornithol. Union, p. 647). The species is widespread in the American tropics and occurs regularly north to southern Tamaulipas, Mexico.—WAYNE A. SHIFFLETT, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alamo, Texas 75816. Accepted 28 Jun. 74.

Substrate choices of oxpeckers.—The two species of African oxpeckers (*Buphagus africanus* and *B. erythrorhynchus*) have been reported to be undifferentiated in food choice (Attwell 1966, Puku 4: 17; Olivier and Laurie 1974, Auk 91: 169). This conclusion is supported by similarity in their stomach contents (Moreau 1933, Bull. Entomol. Res. 24: 325; van Someren 1951, E. African Agr. J. 17: 1) and by their mutual and sometimes simultaneous occurrence on certain species of large mammals where they feed on ticks, flies, and tissue from sores (Attwell *ibid.*, Olivier and Laurie *ibid.*). The importance of differential choice of foraging substrates (i.e. species of large mammals) in reducing interspecific ecological overlap between these two species has not been identified.