

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Lawrence Goldfinches Feed on Jumping Galls.**—In the week beginning August 7, 1944, some observations were made on a flock of Lawrence Goldfinches (*Spinus lawrencei*) which were feeding on seed fleas or jumping galls (*Neuroterus saltatorius*). Several valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) in my yard, four miles north of Fresno, California, were heavily infested with this very small gall. The galls occur on the leaves, are spherical and are about one millimeter in diameter. The dry shell covering the gall is extremely thin. The jumping is caused by the rapid extension of the abdomen of the contained larva which strikes against the inner wall. The adult insect before emerging from the gall also causes it to bounce, in which case the motion is caused by the extension of the legs. When on the ground the active galls bounce in various directions, sometimes leaping as much as a centimeter in vertical distance.

There is a sound made by the gall which is readily heard, particularly when one stands under an infested tree. This seems to be caused by the larva undergoing the same motion which causes it to bounce on the ground.

The bouncing of the galls was first observed about August 1, and the goldfinches were also noticed at that time, but there was no particular association made between them. When a flock of about thirty birds continued to appear every day, the birds were observed more closely at short range with field glasses. At almost any time of day the goldfinches were present picking up the galls from the ground and gleaning them from the leaves in the trees. Most of the feeding was done on the ground but when the birds were disturbed, they would fly into the trees and pick the galls from the leaves. There was no way of determining whether the movement or the sound of the galls were in any way concerned with the feeding. Supposedly these two factors would be of little concern to a predominately seed-eating bird. Perhaps the galls were just juicy seeds to these birds.

Examination of the droppings of the birds disclosed only gall "hulls," suggesting that the diet, for the time being, was exclusively of these insects.

Goldfinches were present and actively feeding on the galls on August 26, the date of my last record.—A. E. CULBERTSON, *Fresno State College, Fresno, California, November 28, 1945.*

**The Composite Nature of the Name *Cissilopha yucatanica* (Dubois).**—The five specimens upon which Dubois based the name *Cyanocitta yucatanica* (Bull. Acad. Roy. Belgique, ser. 2, 40 (no. 12), December, 1875:797), were examined by me at the Musée Royal d'Histoire Naturelle in Brussels in July, 1939. These five cotypes (Dubois named no holotype) were found to represent two species and two named races of one of them. Three of these specimens, an adult, a pied immature, and a juvenile, were sent to the Museum by Ghiesbreght and belong to the species to which the name currently applies. The other two, both adults, were purchased from the dealer Parzudaki and are *Cissilopha sanblasiana*. Subspecific determination of the two *sanblasiana* was made on the basis of comparative measurements and colors as there were no other specimens available at the museum. None has the sex indicated.

All five of the birds are mounted on the conventional type of small bar perch and are in good condition. All are inscribed on the stands as "Type" and in the old register, written by Dubois himself, they are likewise so designated. They are numbered 5236 to 5240, inclusive, and are identifiable as follows:

- 5236, adult. On stand marked "Yucatan?", in register, "Mexique. Parzudaki"  
[= *Cissilopha sanblasiana sanblasiana* (Lafresnaye). Wing, 139; tail, 153 mm.]
- 5237, adult. On stand marked "Yucatan", in register, "Yucatan. voy. Ghiesbreght"  
[= *Cissilopha yucatanica yucatanica* (Dubois)]
- 5238, adult. On stand marked "Yucatan", in register, "Yucatan. Parzudaki"  
[= *Cissilopha sanblasiana nelsoni* Bangs and Penard. Wing, 135; tail, 135 mm.]
- 5239, pied imm. On stand marked "Yucatan", in register, "Yucatan. Ghiesbreght"  
[= *Cissilopha yucatanica yucatanica* (Dubois)]
- 5240, juvenile. On stand marked "Yucatan", in register, "Yucatan. Ghiesbreght"  
[= *Cissilopha yucatanica yucatanica* (Dubois)]

Under the circumstances selective action is necessary, and I therefore designate number 5237 as the restricted type of Dubois' *Cyanocitta yucatanica*. This preserves the established name of the Yucatan Jay; otherwise some later investigator might justifiably, in case of loss or destruction of this individual, consider *yucatanica* to be a synonym of *sanblasiana*.

Measurements of the restricted type are: wing (chord), 137; tail (from insertion of central pair of rectrices), 161; exposed culmen (from edge of skin over ridge), 30.5; bill from anterior edge of

nostril, 21.5; depth of bill at nostril, 12.0; tarsus, 35.0; middle toe minus claw, 22.6; graduation of tail, 71 millimeters. The small size would strongly suggest that the bird is a female. Both of the young birds are a little larger and measure, respectively, 135, 154, 31.0, 22.2, 12.3, 41.5, 22.6, 52, and 141, 161, 31.3, 22.5, 13.5, 42.7, 23.2, 56 millimeters.

I have no first hand knowledge of *Cissilopha yucatanica rivularis* of Tabasco and Campeche recently proposed by Brodkorb (Auk, 57, 1940:547), but the measurements given by that author are far larger than those of the Dubois specimens and the race, if recognized, will retain Brodkorb's name. I mention the point since Ghiesbreght also collected extensively in Tabasco.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, October 30, 1945.*

**Visitants to Humboldt Bay, California.**—The writer believes that the occurrence of the following birds is uncommon enough to warrant note. On November 6, 1945, while traveling around Humboldt Bay between Arcata and Eureka, California, a single American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) was noted on the tidal flats. The bird was alone, and its light coloration made it stand out against the drab mud-flats.

On November 14, 1945, a Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) was seen feeding in an alder swamp in company of a small group of Chestnut-backed Chickadees (*Parus rufescens*) and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*). The writer is familiar with this warbler on its nesting grounds in the Trinity Mountains, but this is the first time that he has noted it in this vicinity. The late fall date is particularly noteworthy.—ROBERT R. TALMADGE, *Eureka, California, November 14, 1945.*

**Weights of Resident and Winter Visitant Song Sparrows in Central Ohio.**—In response to Wolfson's (Condor, 47, 1945:95-127) criticism of my failure (Trans. Linnaean Soc. N.Y., 4, 1937) to separate the weights of the resident and winter resident populations of *Melospiza melodia euphonia* in Columbus, Ohio, I have gone through my records and am able to present 174 weights of known resident males from October through March and 85 weights of birds I believed to be winter visitant males. Since these two classes do not differ in appearance nor in average wing measurements, behavior was the final criterion in judging status, and for this purpose the colored bands were indispensable for field identification. Residents proved themselves such by taking up territory in late January or in February. Birds with wing measurements of 65 mm. or over, trapped from November through February, that failed to take up territory were considered winter visitant males. Probably a few potential residents that failed to survive are included, as also possibly a few that settled far from Interpont, although my censuses extended one-half mile to the north and west and one and a half miles south of our house, the area to the east being closely built up and harboring few Song Sparrows. If only those "winter visitants" are considered that were known to have stayed until late February or March, 42 weights are available; the only difference in the averages, however, are 0.2-gram gains in December and January for these birds that were surely winter visitants. The earliest fall date for a known winter visitant was October 15, the latest spring dates March 27, 1931, March 8, 1932, March 27, 1933, April 1, 1934, March 11, 1936.

Weights in Grams of Male Song Sparrows on Interpont, 1931-36

Month	Number of weights	Residents		Number of weights	Winter Visitants	
		Extremes	Average		Extremes	Average
Oct.	10	19.6-23.5	22.2	14	18.9-24.0	21.5
Nov.	12	20.0-22.9	21.4	15	20.0-24.3	22.0
Dec.	16	21.7-26.8	24.5	8	21.7-23.4	22.6
Jan.	24	22.7-30.0	25.2	7	21.2-27.6	23.7
Feb.	53	20.3-28.4	23.7	26	21.6-27.9	25.1
Mar.	59	20.1-27.9	23.1	14	20.3-25.7	23.8
Apr.				1		25.8
Total	174			85		

The weights of the residents follow the expected course with its height in December and January and a falling off in February and March concomittant with territorial activity. The curve of the winter visitants lags behind, with a smaller rise in December and January (the data for these months are scanty), a peak in February, and a drop in March to the January level. The one April weight was of a bird whose three weights in February averaged 25.3 grams, and two weights in March, 24.9 grams; on April 1 I noted: "Very late to be here. Perhaps stays so very heavy, because fills up at the traps."