

FROM FIELD AND STUDY



Female Franklin Grouse in meadow three miles west of Payette Lake, 5400 feet, Adams County, Idaho, July 4, 1932. Photograph by Robert T. Orr.

Striped Cuckoo Fed by Rufous-and-white Wren in Panamá.—Evidence of the Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) parasitizing small passerines is not lacking. Wetmore (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 133, 1926:189) has summarized reports of *Synallaxis spixi* being victimized, while Naumburg (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 60, 1930:167-168) records a nest of *Schoeniophylax phryganophila* containing a young Striped Cuckoo.

On July 31, 1949, while staying at Boquete, Chiriquí, Panamá, my wife reported seeing a wren feeding red berries to a much larger streaked brownish bird with a mobile crest. Two days later, in the same bushy field at the edge of the village, I was fortunate enough to find a young Striped Cuckoo sitting on a brush heap where a Rufous-and-white Wren (*Thryothorus rufalbus*) was giving it a red berry about one centimeter in diameter. At intervals of about five minutes the wren would return from heavier growth across a nearby stream, always carrying a berry. Invariably, at the approach of its foster parent, the cuckoo would raise its crest and extend its wings, showing the blackish alulae. Except for an immaturely shaped bill it appeared to be almost fully grown, and it easily flew off when after an hour I attempted to catch it.

Having been familiar in life with both this cuckoo and this wren for fifteen years, I have no doubt as to the identity of either species. The dull-colored *Thryothorus modestus* was also common at Boquete. I am equally certain the foster parent with its conspicuous white superciliary was not *Synallaxis albescens* or any of the other local Furnariidae, the family which has supplied most of the previously recorded victims of *Tapera*.—FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER, JR., *Department of Biology, Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, November 22, 1951.*

The Arizona Crested Flycatcher in Nevada.—On July 19, 1951, while in the southeastern part of Clark County, Nevada, at the tip of the state bordering on California and opposite the site of old Fort Mohave, Arizona, a pair of crested flycatchers was heard. These birds were gradually

working overhead, some 30 to 40 feet high, through the denser foliage of a cottonwood-willow association. When a glimpse of them was obtained, they appeared larger than the Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), a common summer resident of the area. One of the two birds was collected and proved to be an Arizona Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus magister*). It was an adult male with gonads fully developed.

Another Crested Flycatcher was obtained on August 18, 1951, in an area at least a mile and a half from that in which the birds were first found on July 19. This specimen again proved to be an adult male but of paler coloration.

In the early afternoon of September 17, 1951, the observer drove through this area. Only three *Myiarchus* were seen at this hour; two were identified as *tyrannulus*, the other was not closely seen. No specimens were collected, however, at this time. It is believed that at least two pairs of crested flycatchers were breeding in the area.

It is remarkable that this species has been reported so seldom in the lower Colorado River Valley. Its occurrence has been reported only from south of the Fort Mohave area and to the east of it, in the Big Sandy Valley of Mohave County, Arizona. The southern records are from Bard, California, by Dickey (Condor, 24, 1922:134); from the Parker and Bill Williams Delta areas, Arizona (Monson, Condon, 51, 1949:264); and from Topock, Arizona (Monson, personal correspondence, 1951). The birds taken by me, although just within the boundary of the state, are first records of the occurrence of this species in Nevada.—WARREN M. PULICH, *Boulder City, Nevada, December 5, 1951.*

Feeding Behavior of Golden Plover in Captivity.—A Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) was captured alive at Carmel, California, on November 4, 1950, and kept in captivity for eight days. It had an injured wing and was unable to fly.

At first the bird was force-fed with earthworms. By November 6, two days after capture, the plover would watch my hand holding a worm above the cage and would immediately peck at the worm when it was held against the wire mesh.

On November 7, the bird was transferred to a larger cage, about three feet square and of the same height, with a sprinkling of sand on the floor. When the small dish which had been customarily used for food in the small cage was being carried through the open door of the new cage, the plover rushed toward it in obvious anticipation of food. On this day the following items of live food were presented and eaten: earthworm, sow bug (*Porcellio*), earwig (*Forficula*), and a small black beetle. The plover would pinch a live earwig in its bill, then flip it so that the insect was thrown off, then recover it. This process was repeated several times before the earwig was swallowed. When presented with an earthworm and a sow bug simultaneously, the worm was devoured first. The bird occasionally uttered a two-parted call note.

On November 8 the plover pecked at a rolled-up pill bug (*Armadillidium*), flipped it from its bill, then retrieved it. A snail (*Helminthoglypta*) was presented. The bird pecked at some part of the snail's body which was protruding from the shell, then flipped the snail vigorously from the bill. This tore the body apart. Most of the body, free of the shell, was thrown to the other side of the cage where the bird went for it, pecked it a little, then ran after and captured a crawling sow bug. Later the plover returned to the dislodged part of the snail's body and swallowed it. During the course of the day the double call note was heard several times. Once the bird poked its bill into the earth on the food dish (a sprinkling of soil was usually kept in the food dish to maintain earthworms), then dipped the bill in the water dish, apparently to clean it.

On November 9 the plover ate a beetle (*Pterostichus*). It picked this insect, still alive, from between the points of a pair of bird banding pliers held out to it, flipping the beetle twice before swallowing it.

On November 10 a salamander (*Batrachoseps*), about 70 mm. in length, which was more or less torpid when collected, wriggled violently when pecked by the plover, resulting in the disjunction of the amphibian's tail. This the plover swallowed. A pill bug, rolled up, was taken from the hand and swallowed. The bird by this date had become conditioned to take readily a variety of foods from the hand.

On the morning of November 12 the plover was found dead on the floor of the cage. Upon dissection the specimen proved to be a male. The skin was presented to the Museum of Vertebrate