

Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) were collected from flocks feeding over fields. The three birds are of the race *stuarti*, which is similar to, but considerably darker than, *S. r. ridgwayi* of the Yucatán Peninsula. *S. r. stuarti* does not seem to have been recorded heretofore from Chiapas. However, it was to be expected there since it breeds in Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala, the type area, and has been found wintering in Veracruz (Motzorongo, February 11 and 15; M.C.Z. nos. 233622-3), in Tabasco (Brodkorb, Misc. Publ. Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool. No. 55, 1943:70) and on the Yucatán Peninsula (Paynter, Peabody Mus. Bull., 9, 1955:210). The specimens displayed no signs of breeding. All were molting.

In the summer of 1954, at El Real, a ranch 40 kilometers east of Ocosingo, Chiapas, several samples of Rough-winged Swallows were taken from the large flocks which appeared over the pastures each evening. On July 12 seven specimens were obtained, six of which were adults in early stages of molt and which exhibited no indications of breeding; the seventh was a juvenile. The birds are referable to *S. r. fulvipennis*, the resident race of Chiapas (Brodkorb, Condor, 44, 1942:216). Previously I believed *S. r. fulvipennis* to be doubtfully distinct from *S. r. serripennis* (Paynter, *op. cit.*: 209), but since that time I have examined larger series of the species and find that the rufous chin (an approach toward the rufous-throated races farther south), the dark shafts of the under tail coverts, and the darker spotting of the crissum are good characters distinguishing *S. r. fulvipennis* from *S. r. serripennis*, as noted by Brodkorb (*loc. cit.*).

Between August 22 and 25, again at El Real, 25 additional swallows were collected at random from the flocks about the fields. Thirteen proved to be *S. r. fulvipennis* and twelve were *S. r. stuarti*. Both subspecies were in well-advanced molt.

From these data it appears that *S. r. stuarti* occurs in Chiapas as a migrant, or visitant, arriving sometime between mid-July and the third week in August. Molt appears to take place either after the birds have reached their winter quarters or while they are en route, which agrees with Dwight's observations on *S. r. serripennis* (Annals N. Y. Acad. Sci., 13, 1900:230).

In the Museum of Comparative Zoology there are two specimens of Rough-winged Swallows which were collected at Augustine, Cayo District, British Honduras, on April 23 and 25, 1928. These were identified by Austin (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 69, 1929:384) as *S. r. ridgwayi*, although he mentioned that one bird was atypical, in that it had an unmarked crissum. The birds were said to be taken from a small colony which was thought to be nesting in a cavern. Examination of these birds indicates that one, a female, collected on April 23, is typical of *S. r. stuarti*, a subspecies not previously known from British Honduras, while the other, a male taken on April 25, is a good example of *S. r. serripennis*. Unfortunately, the labels bear no notations relative to the condition of the gonads of the specimens, but it would seem that the female was one of the flock thought to be breeding and that the male was a visitant or migrant. April 25 is rather late for *S. r. serripennis* to be so far south, but there are records from Chiapas even as late as May 3 (Brodkorb, *op. cit.*:215).—RAYMOND A. PAYNTER, JR., *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 9, 1956.*

Birds Mobbing a Snake Skin.—Mobbing behavior of birds, especially that directed toward avian predators, has frequently been reported. Less common are reports of birds mobbing non-avian predators or remains of them.

On July 14, 1956, two and one-half miles north of Orinda, Contra Costa County, California, I observed a group of about 20 birds which were obviously excited about something on or near the ground. Four species were present: Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), both adults and young, Wren-tit (*Chamaea fasciata*), Bewick Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), and Plain Titmouse (*Parus inornatus*). All were scolding, but the wrens and titmice were by far the loudest. The birds moved rapidly about in a small patch of brush, approximately four feet from the ground, occasionally diving at an object below them. On my approach most of them flew, but two Bewick Wrens remained active until I was within a few feet. From this new position I could see that they were diving at something on the ground. They were directing their attention to a shed skin of a large snake, partly exposed and partly extending into a hole beneath a stump. The skin was later identified by James D. Anderson as that of a rattlesnake, *Crotalus viridis*.—RICHARD C. BANKS, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 2, 1957.*