

All the specimens collected at Tarata, males as well as females, are in worn plumage, as is the bird from Checayani; indeed the same is true of all the specimens I have examined except an immature male from Argentina collected in late February and an adult male from Bolivia collected in late November. Their plumage seems at least comparatively fresh.

Ecology and behavior.—On the high Andean slopes, and along ridges that here and there rise out of the puno grass plains of southern Perú, occur tracts of bushy *Polylepis*, small trees with dull reddish scaly bark. The tracts may extend a few miles or a mere few hundred yards and generally the trees are widely spaced. Most of the birds which occupy them, such as *Asthenes dorbignyi*, *Phrygilus plebejus*, *P. fruticeti* and *Spinus magellanicus* also frequent other habitats, but *Spinus crassirostris* seems to be confined to *Polylepis* and especially to the unprospering patches that contain few trees over 12 feet in height. When the trees are taller and more luxurious, forming a true woodland (as at Nunoa, Department of Puno), *Spinus atratus* seems to replace *crassirostris*.

The birds went about in pairs at the Tarata location in late March. One of the collected females possessed large ovarian follicles and appeared to possess a trace of a brood patch. With one exception, the collected males had testes averaging about 5 mm. or more in diameter. Since only adult birds in worn plumage were present, it would seem that the breeding season was at least approaching, if not already at hand, although no sign of territoriality or of nest building, and not a single breeding display, was noted. The birds spent their time feeding on the buds of *Polylepis*, sometimes hanging upside down in the leaves while nibbling at the food. They remained silent until routed out. Flying away, they sounded a coarse and threatening *chler-ee*.

Specimens examined.—BOLIVIA: Vacas, 1 ad. ♂ (Carnegie Mus.); Oploca, 4 ad. ♂, 4 im. ♂, 3 subad. ♀, 2 im. ♀ (Phil. Acad. Sci.). ARGENTINA: Puente del Inca, 2 ad. ♂, 1 im. sex ? (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.). CHILE: Cordillera de Aconcagua, 1 ad. ♂, 2 ad. ♀ (L. A. County Mus.). PERÚ: Lampa, 1 ad. ♂; Tarata, 4 ad. ♂, 3 ad. ♀ (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.). It should be noted here that the specimens from Vacas, collected by Steinback on November 27, 1921, predates all published Bolivian records of the species.

I wish to thank the curators of the bird departments of the Carnegie Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum, and the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences for the loan of specimens, and the National Science Foundation (NSF-G34383), as well as the American Museum of Natural History, for financial assistance in Perú. I am most grateful to Eugene Eisenmann and Kenneth C. Parkes, who furnished technical suggestions.—WILLIAM G. GEORGE, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City, New York, September 14, 1963.*

Distribution and Status of the Wied Crested Flycatcher in the Lower Colorado River Valley.—The Wied Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus magister*), sometimes referred to as the Arizona or Lesser Crested Flycatcher, was first reported from the lower Colorado River Valley by Dickey (Condor, 24, 1922:134). He recorded two male specimens which had been taken by Mrs. May Canfield in a willow-cottonwood association near Bard, Imperial County, California, on May 17, 1921. These birds were assumed to have been migrants. Two other early specimens of *M. t. magister* have been found recently in the Laurence M. Huey collection, where they had been mislabeled as the Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). Both specimens were collected by Mrs. Canfield. A male taken two miles north of Bard on May 7, 1924, is marked "breeding," but the criterion for this determination is not indicated. The other bird, also a male, was taken one mile north of Potholes (approximately four miles northeast of Bard), Imperial County, California, on May 12, 1924.

Monson (Condor, 51, 1949:262-265) reported this species in the Colorado River Valley of Arizona. Birds were seen approximately two miles south of Parker, Yuma County, on July 28, 1946, and May 19, 1947; a specimen was obtained there on August 11, 1946. Another specimen was secured in the delta of the Bill Williams River (near the Mohave-Yuma county line) on July 23, 1948. Four birds were seen, and one collected, in willow woodland on the Havasu Lake Refuge near Topock, Mohave County, on May 23, 1951 (Aud. Field Notes, 5, 1951:270).

Pulich (Condor, 54, 1952:169-170) saw and collected the Wied Crested Flycatcher in extreme southern Clark County, Nevada, opposite Fort Mohave, Arizona, on July 19, 1951. The male taken at this time was an adult "with gonads fully developed." A second male was taken nearby on August 18, 1951, and the species was again seen on September 17, 1951.

On June 17, 1952, the species was found "a few miles above Needles," Riverside County, California (Aud. Field Notes, 6, 1952:294). A male labeled "breeding" with testes 17 and 2 mm. was taken in a willow-cottonwood association at Potholes on June 26, 1952, by Huey. Additional reports are for Parker Dam, Riverside County, California, May 21 and 25, 1954 (Aud. Field Notes, 8, 1954:323), Bard, May 7 and 12, 1955 (Aud. Field Notes, 9, 1955:349), and Yuma, Yuma County, Arizona, July, 1955, where it was "believed to have nested" (Aud. Field Notes, 9, 1955:394).

McCaskie has observed the Wied Crested Flycatcher on the California side of the Colorado River on several occasions. On June 1, 1962, and again on June 1, 1963, single birds were seen opposite Yuma. A pair was seen approximately six miles north of Blythe, Riverside County, on June 2, 1962, in a grove of cottonwoods, and one bird was seen in tamarisk and cottonwood at Blythe on June 8, 1963, by McCaskie, Paul DeBenedictis and Dave Person. At least five birds of this species were seen at Bard on June 1, 1963, and one of them had nesting material in its beak.

Banks saw at least two pairs of Wied Crested Flycatchers approximately three-fourths of a mile north of Laguna Dam, Imperial County, California, on June 1, 1963, and others were probably present. One pair came to a burned, dead willow snag and sat a few feet apart. One held a large dragonfly in its bill; this bird moved to a perch next to a hole in the snag. The wings of the insect fell to the ground, but whether the body was eaten by the captor or fed to something within the cavity could not be determined. This bird proved to be a female with an active brood patch; no collapsed follicles were noted in the ovary, however. The charred edge had been removed from the upper part of the keyhole-shaped opening in the snag, either by deliberate enlargement of the hole or by continued use. The opening was about 10 feet above the ground and could not be investigated, but no sounds, as from young birds, were heard.

In our opinion, the records just cited indicate conclusively that *Myiarchus tyannulus magister* is a regular, and probably not uncommon, breeding species in the lower Colorado River Valley, from southern Nevada at least to the Mexican border. It would not be surprising to find the species along the river farther to the south, in Baja California and Sonora. Most available records are since 1945, but whether this reflects an increase in the number of birds or of observers, or both, cannot be determined. Much of the lack of earlier records may result from the lack of discrimination by observers between this species and *M. cinerascens*.

Grinnell (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 12, 1914:147) mentioned that Ash-throated Flycatchers were observed "more sparingly" south of Potholes than farther north along the Colorado River in the spring of 1910. In June, 1963, McCaskie did not see Ash-throated Flycatchers in the denser, taller vegetation near the southern part of the river but found them quite common farther north where the vegetation is sparser and where more mesquite is mixed with the cottonwood. Banks noted a lack of Ash-throated Flycatchers in the rather dense willows north of Laguna Dam, where Wied Crested Flycatchers were nesting. These bits of evidence suggest a slight habitat difference for the two species in the Colorado River Valley and that there is not an active replacement of the Ash-throats by the larger species.

Two records for west of the Colorado River should be mentioned to complete the distributional picture in the southwest. Gullion, Pulich, and Evenden (Condor, 61, 1959:278-297) reported a bird at Ash Meadows, Nye County, Nevada, on August 25, 1951. McCaskie, DeBenedictis, and Person saw and heard a bird at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino County, California, June 9, 1963. The first of these records may be of a post-breeding wanderer, but the second suggests that further range extensions may be expected.—RICHARD C. BANKS, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, California*, and R. GUY MCCASKIE, *Tahoe City, California, August 7, 1963*.