

## GROOVE-BILLED ANI AND GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW IN NEW MEXICO

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On 4 December 1966 a Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) was observed from 14:20 to 15:30 in a suburban area of the Rio Grande Valley in the northwest section of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. Eight people watched the bird from approximately 35 feet; two of them advanced to within 20 feet while photographing it. James S. Findley observed that the bird was in good plumage with the exception of the tip missing from one of the rectrices and three small spots of guano, and thought that it did not show any obvious signs of former captivity. There is no specimen known for New Mexico, although there are fall and winter records from nearby states (AOU Check-list 1957). J. S. Ligon (New Mexico Birds and Where To Find Them, pp. 140-141, 1961) lists two sight records, one in Albuquerque. There are also sight records from Santa Fe (Audubon Field Notes 19:1, 1965), and from Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy County, New Mexico, 13 November 1966 (Patricia Snider personal communication). A photograph of the bird taken 4 December

1966 is on file at the Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

On 5 January 1967 a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) was taken from a mist net at Cedar Crest, Bernalillo County, New Mexico, a rural area at 6700 feet elevation in the Sandia Mountains east of Albuquerque. The bird was examined in the hand by six observers, measured and photographed, banded, and released. The crown was gold, superciliary stripes very dark brown with a few gold feathers interspersed, upper mandible black; measurements: wing (chord) 80.2 mm, tail (quite worn) 77.0 mm. A subadult White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) netted at the same time provided a good basis for comparison; one photograph was taken of the two birds together. The Golden-crowned Sparrow was caught again 17 days later on 22 January 1967 in the same net at Cedar Crest. No specimen is known for New Mexico. There is one other record of one banded (F. and W. S. Band No. 27-178815) in Los Alamos, Los Alamos County, New Mexico, at 7500 feet elevation in the Jemez Mountains west of Santa Fe, 5 October 1959 by James R. Travis (Audubon Field Notes 14:1, 1960).

Two photographs of the Cedar Crest bird are on file at the Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

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## A NOTABLE SPECIMEN OF VIREO NELSONI

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The little Dwarf Vireo, *Vireo nelsoni* Bond (*V. nanus* Nelson, *nec Empidonax nanus* Lawrence) is among the rarest of North American birds. Found only in parts of México, it was known only from the type—a bird so badly worn that its characters were in doubt—until eight additional summer-taken specimens were recorded recently (Miller *et al.*, Pacific Coast Avifauna 33:225, 1957). Finally I summarized (Rev. Soc. Mex. Hist. Nat. 22:308, 1962) the few records of this interesting bird, calling attention to its apparent upward migration from the low, arid breeding grounds. There were then two records from the high mountains, both in April (in Morelos and Jalisco). To date there is still no winter record anywhere, nor has an adequate description of the species been published. With five specimens personally collected in Oaxaca, the total known to me was 16.

To these may now be added a third and most unexpected mountain record: No. 1634, Berlin Museum, taken by Ferdinand Deppe at Real Arriba, western Estado de México (see Stresemann, Condor 56: 87, 1954, on the locality). This bird is of exceptional interest for several reasons: (1) it was the first of the species taken, over 70 years before Nelson's description; (2) besides being the third mountain record, it is the first for the state; (3) though undated, it is clearly in fresh, unworn first basic (first winter)

plumage and must have been taken in August or September, when Deppe is known to have visited nearby Temascaltepec. As such it is the first unworn fall specimen known, and unique. Finally, (4) it furnishes dramatic proof, if such were needed, of the eternal value of the specimen record. Unrecognized or misidentified, it lay unnoticed for 140 years until I came across it in September 1966; yet the record is not lost. Parenthetically, it shows *nelsoni* to be a normal *Vireo* as regards seasonal variation. All plumages, except perhaps the juvenal, are much alike. My May birds are rather worn, showing that the species has only the usual, single annual (prebasic or postnuptial) molt. The chief seasonal difference seems to be the usual graying, or loss of olive or yellowish tones, with wear.

*Vireo nelsoni* looks much like the grayer-faced (less blackish) females of *V. atricapillus*, though its bill is somewhat longer. The chief difference is the duller, less greenish body color; the back is accordingly less contrasted to the crown and the sides of the head, and the flanks are pale, dull olive (less yellowish green). This difference is now confirmed by the Berlin Museum immature, which resembles a darkened *Phylloscopus borealis examinandus* above. Thus its upperparts are like those of the usual fresh autumn *Empidonax hammondi* (not the bright green phase), though somewhat darker and greener. The bill is not black like spring and summer *nelsoni*, but of course may be somewhat faded in an old mounted specimen.

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