

small testes apparently represent North American migrant populations and one darker bird with slightly larger testes measuring 2×8 mm probably represents a locally nesting population. These specimens are now being studied in a review of the Mexican and Central American populations.

Pinnated Bittern. *Botaurus pinnatus*. An adult male, testes measuring 11×3 mm, was collected in a small cattail marsh at Taboga, 22 February. This is the first specimen from the Pacific coast lowlands of Costa Rica and the second specimen from the country. It will be discussed further in a review of *B. p. caribaeus* based on material collected since the original description (Dickerman 1961).

Black-and-white Owl. *Ciccaba nigrolineata*. A pair of these owls, possibly including the individual mentioned by Orians and Paulson (ibid.) was collected from the same tree at Taboga, 20 February (weights: female, 1179.5 g; male, 1074.7 g). The stomach of the female contained 20 orthoptera and 2 beetle elytra. The testes of the male measured 9×6 and 7×5 mm.

Long-tailed Hermit. *Phaethornis superciliosus*. A specimen was collected in tropical dry forest 4 mi. NW of Puntarenas junction, adding evidence of its distribution in the heavier forested areas of the Pacific northwestern area of Costa Rica.

Pale-breasted Spinetail. *Synallaxis albescens*. A bird in slightly worn juvenal plumage collected 9 March at Buenos Aires de Terraba, Puntarenas Province, indicates probable dry season nesting in this savannah species. It is possible the bird might have been from a very late nest of the previous season that had long delayed the initiation of its first pre-basic molt, but the small amount of wear in a grassland-inhabiting bird, makes this hypothesis unlikely. Slud (ibid.) does not mention nesting dates for Costa Rica.

Barred Becard. *Pachyrhamphus versicolor*. A male was collected 10 March, 10 km by road SE of Empalme, 28 km by road NW of Villa Mills, San José Province. This is the first record for the Talamanca Cordillera of Costa Rica, although the species is well known in adjacent Chiriquí, Panamá. Its testes were slightly enlarged, measuring 6×4 and 5×3 mm. It was collected in little disturbed moist montane forest.

Ochraceous Pewee. *Contopus ochraceus*. A male of this rare endemic pewee was collected 4 March by Larry L. Wolf, Lloyd Kiff, and myself at the same site as the Barred Becard discussed above. This is the first record for the Talamanca Cordillera. Hitherto it has been known only from Irazú and Turrialba volcanoes of the Central Cordillera to the west.

HERRING GULL ATTACKS EARED GREBE

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On 24 January 1970 we stopped at Bolinas Lagoon about 3 mi. N of Stinson Beach on Highway 1, Marin County, California. At approximately 15:30 one of my companions observed an adult Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) attacking an Eared Grebe (*Podiceps caspicus*) 30–50 yards off shore. For the next 15 min we watched through a $30\times$ spotting scope as the Herring Gull grasped the Eared Grebe's neck in its beak and shook the grebe back and forth as if trying to choke it or cause it to regurgitate. Four times the gull relaxed its grip, dropping the grebe into the

Lesser Elaenia. *Elaenia chiriquensis*. A female was collected 10 March at Buenos Aires at a nest containing a two- to three-day-old young. The nest was exceptionally low, about 2 ft from the ground in a *Bursanima* bush in the open dry savannah.

Skutch (1960:310) reported March 22 as the earliest date for which he had observed nest building. Allowing about a week for nest building, two to four days for laying, and two weeks for incubation, the Buenos Aires nest must have been initiated nearly 45 days earlier than Skutch's record. It should be noted that this is at the height of the dry season.

Nicaraguan Seed-Finch. *Oryzoborus nuttingi*. An adult male, (testes, 9×5 mm; weight, 25.7 g) collected by Lloyd Kiff and myself at Tronadora along the eastern edge of Laguna de Arenal 15 February, is the first record of this species for Costa Rica. The species was formerly considered to be restricted to Nicaragua. Several individuals of both sexes were seen in the vicinity in open fields with abundant weeds and low shrubs, or in the extensive border of tall woody reeds along the edge of the lake.

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water. As soon as the grebe hit the water, it dove but these escape attempts were futile because the water was only 4–6 inches deep. The grebe might have been sick or injured before the attack, but judging from its quick, defensive maneuvers, it appeared to be healthy. After the 15-min attack the grebe floated motionless on the surface of the water, surrounded by some of its plucked feathers. At first the gull tried to swallow the dead bird head first. Finding the entire bird too large to swallow, the gull punctured the grebe's abdomen and began to eat entrails.

The literature is heavily sprinkled with reports of gull predation on other birds, lizards, fish, and the like, but the present account appears to be the first recorded instance of predation by a Herring Gull on an adult Eared Grebe.

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