

marinus). Both jaegers were in good condition with moderate fat deposits.

The two species of jaegers are known from coastal records (Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore, Distributional check-list of the birds of Mexico. Pacific Coast Avifauna 29:102-103, 1950), but these specimens seem to be the first inland records for Mexico.

On 31 November 1986, at Presa del Tulillo and the nearby Presa de El Gato, approximately 1 km southeast of the town of Hipolito, I collected a female Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*), a female Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), a female Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), and a female Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). Except for the Wood Duck, these seem to be the first records for this inland region of northern Mexico.

Two specimens of the Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) have been collected in Coahuila. On 18 March 1979, I collected a male (?) Winter Wren near a small creek in an otherwise arid area north of the village of Santo Domingo, 35 km north of Saltillo. On 20 November 1986, I collected a female Winter Wren near a small creek in a montane pine forest, approximately 40 km northeast of Saltillo. There are records for the Winter Wren from southern California to southern Texas (AOU Check-list, 6th ed., 1983), but there seem to be no previous records for Mexico.

I thank C. G. Sibley for suggesting that I publish these records and for preparing the English translation.

The Condor 89:673-674
© The Cooper Ornithological Society 1987

FIRST DESCRIPTION OF THE NEST OF THE OLIVE FINCH, *LYSURUS CASTANEICEPS*¹

THOMAS S. SCHULENBERG

Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

FRANK B. GILL

Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th & the Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Key words: *Lysurus*; *Emberizinae*; Ecuador; nest; Atlapetes.

The genus *Lysurus* contains two poorly known, generally uncommon species of finch that inhabit humid lower montane forests, *L. crassirostris* (Sooty-faced Finch) of Costa Rica and Panama and *L. castaneiceps* (Olive Finch) of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Little has been published on the natural history of *L. crassirostris* (Slud 1964) and even less is known of *L. castaneiceps*. Aside from one description of the eggs of the latter, the nesting biology of *Lysurus* is completely unknown. We made the following observations on the nest and eggs of *L. castaneiceps* in June 1984 in the Cordillera de Cutucú, Province of Morona-Santiago, eastern Ecuador (02°39'S, 78°05'W), where this species was recorded almost daily in small numbers at 1,075 m in tall humid forest.

On 18 June, Gill flushed an unidentified bird from a large rock overhanging a shallow side channel of the Río Chiguasa, on the trail from Logroño to Yaupi. By carefully inspecting the rock face, Gill located a moss nest containing two eggs about 1.5 m above the water. An occupant of the nest was flushed on at least two subsequent occasions by members of our field party

but was never satisfactorily identified. Schulenberg visited the nest site after nightfall on 20 June and collected the incubating bird, a female *L. castaneiceps*, and the two eggs (Academy of Natural Sciences 177066).

The nest, a completely domed structure with a side entrance, was placed at the base of a slender fern in a small niche of a large, moss- and fern-covered rock (Fig. 1). Green moss composed the outer wall of the nest, and although the nest was located in an exposed position over the stream, the nest's cryptic color and texture so perfectly matched the vegetation growing on the rock that the nest was quite well-concealed. Dry leaves lined the inside of the nest. The outside dimensions of the nest were 14 × 16 cm (width by depth), with the entrance 7 × 6 cm (width × height).

The eggs were immaculate white and measured 24.3 × 17.8 and 25.4 × 17.6 mm (length × width). These eggs are quite different from the description given by Sclater and Salvin (1879:441) for this species: "Eggs . . . white, thickly spotted at the larger end with red." The eggs that Sclater and Salvin attributed to *L. castaneiceps* were contained in a shipment from Colombia of study skins, nests, and eggs, in which the nests were numbered by the collector to correspond to the specimen of the bird. We suspect that some error was made, either by the collector or by Sclater and Salvin, in the numbering or subsequent matching of the specimens. We note with caution, however, that the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology contains an egg attributed to *L. castaneiceps* (but otherwise

¹ Received 3 October 1986. Final acceptance 28 January 1987.



FIGURE 1. Domed nest of *Lysurus castaneiceps* on side of rock; arrow indicates entrance to nest cavity.

“accompanied by virtually no data”) that is also white with reddish-brown spots (L. Kiff, in litt.).

White or pale blue, unmarked eggs are widespread in Emberizinae, both in cup-nesting and dome-nesting species (Harrison 1979). Completely covered nests, however, are rare in this subfamily. Among New World genera, covered or partially covered nests are known only from *Tiaris* (Skutch 1954, French 1976), *Arremon* (Carraker 1910, Skutch 1954), and *Arremonops* (Carraker 1910, Skutch 1954, Austin 1968). Genera placed near *Lysurus* in recent classifications (Paynter 1970), and to which *Lysurus* is presumably most closely related, include *Atlapetes*, *Pezopetes*, *Oreothraupis*, and *Pselliophorus*. The nest of *Oreothraupis* is unknown. Cup nests are built by *Pezopetes capitalis* (Carraker 1910), the only member of this genus, and by *Pselliophorus tibialis* (Carraker 1910); the nest of *Pselliophorus luteoviridis* is unknown. Nests are known for only eight of the 24 species of *Atlapetes* currently recognized by Paynter (1978): *A. albinucha*, *A. melanocephalus*, *A. citrinellus*, *A. brunneinucha*, *A. torquatus* (nest and egg

descriptions of preceding five species summarized in Paynter [1978]); *A. rufinucha* (Schulenberg, pers. observ.); *A. pileatus* and *A. virenticeps* (Rowley 1962). All of these species build cup nests except for *A. melanocephalus*, the nest of which was described as “domed over” (Todd and Carraker 1922:525). Paynter (1978:334) questioned whether the nests of *A. melanocephalus* were covered, unlike other members of the genus. Given the small number of species of *Atlapetes* for which the nest is known, and that the presumably related *L. castaneiceps* builds a covered nest, it seems premature to us to rule out the possibility that some *Atlapetes* may also build covered nests. Aside from *Lysurus*, few members of this group are known to use moss as the main constituent of the nest. All known nests of *Atlapetes* and *Pezopetes* are constructed primarily of dry grass and leaves; nests of *P. tibialis* are constructed of similar material (Carraker 1910) or moss (fide L. Kiff, in litt.).

We thank the Board of Trustees of the Catherwood Foundation for their generous support for the ANSP 1984 Ecuador expedition, and the Ministerio de Agricultura, Quito, and the Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales, Quito, for their cooperation and hospitality. J. Bond, L. Kiff, J. V. Remsen, Jr., R. S. Ridgely, and B. G. Stewart commented on drafts of the manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

- AUSTIN, O. L. 1968. Olive Sparrow. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 237 Part 1:544-547.
- CARRIKER, M. A., JR. 1910. An annotated list of the birds of Costa Rica including Cocos Island. Ann. Carnegie Mus. 6:314-915.
- FRENCH, R. 1976. A guide to the birds of Trinidad and Tobago. Harwood Books, Valley Forge, PA.
- HARRISON, H. H. 1979. A field guide to western birds' nests. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.
- PAYNTER, R. A. 1970. Emberizidae, p. 3-214. In R. A. Paynter, Jr. and R. W. Storer [eds.], Check-list of birds of the world. Vol. 13. Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, MA.
- PAYNTER, R. A., JR. 1978. Biology and evolution of the avian genus *Atlapetes* (Emberizinae). Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 148:323-369.
- ROWLEY, J. S. 1962. Nesting of the birds of Morelos, Mexico. Condor 64:253-272.
- SCLATER, P. L., AND O. SALVIN. 1879. On the birds collected by the late Mr. T. K. Salmon in the state of Antioquia, United States of Colombia. Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1879:486-550.
- SKUTCH, A. F. 1954. Life histories of Central American birds. Pacific Coast Avifauna 31.
- SLUD, P. 1964. The birds of Costa Rica. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. 128.
- TODD, W.E.C., AND M. A. CARRIKER, JR. 1922. The birds of the Santa Marta region of Colombia: a study in altitudinal distribution. Ann. Carnegie Mus. 14:1-611.