

spectyti (Osborn) and *Kurodaia* sp., probably *K. pectinatum* (Osborn). Dr. B. B. Morgan of the University of Wisconsin identified the lice. The skin of this owl, prepared by Clinton Conaway, is now in the collection of the Purdue Wildlife Laboratory.

I was with Dr. W. H. Elder when he took a male Burrowing Owl that was the first Wisconsin record (*Passenger Pigeon*, 1, 1939: 62). The date of the Wisconsin record was Sunday, April 9, 1939. It is interesting that the first Indiana record was made on April 16, and the first Illinois record was made April 9, 1930 by E. L. Lambert (*Wilson Bulletin*, 42, 1930: 213). The collection dates for all of these owls fall within a calendar week. All of the birds were males. These facts may be pure coincidence. On the other hand they may indicate a tendency of male Western Burrowing Owls to move eastward in the spring.—CHARLES M. KIRKPATRICK, *Department of Forestry and Conservation, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.*

Strange Behavior of Two Cliff Swallows.—On July 7, 1940 while watching a colony of Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) in the bank of the Ohio River three miles west of Henderson, Kentucky, we witnessed very peculiar actions on the part of two Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon albifrons*).

During a period of about ten minutes both birds entered holes in the midst of the Bank Swallow colony, and disappeared completely from sight. One bird only entered once, emerging in a short time; the other went into a different hole at least three times, remaining a minute or more in each instance. This procedure attracted no attention from any of the Bank Swallows, and we were unable to ascertain whether the holes thus entered were occupied. Many of the Bank Swallow holes, however, contained well-grown young. Both Cliff Swallows were collected and proved to be male and female, well past full breeding condition. No evidence of Cliff Swallow nests was found anywhere in the area, and no others of the species were seen during our two day stay.—BURT L. MONROE, *Anchorage, Kentucky* and ROBERT M. MENGEL, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Du Bus' Types of *Cyanocorax unicolor* and *Sylvia taeniata*.—The type locality of *Cyanocorax unicolor* was given in the original description (*Bull. Acad. Roy. Sci. Belgique*, 14, pt. 2, 1847, séance of Aug. 7: 103) simply as Mexico. It was later (*Esquisses Ornithologiques*, livr. 4, 1848: pl. 17 and text) restricted to Tabasco, although two localities in Oaxaca and also Vera Paz, Guatemala, were included in the range. Hellmayr (*Field Mus. N.H., Zool. Ser.*, 13, pt. 7, 1934: 58, footnote) has very properly challenged the supposition that this species could occur anywhere in Tabasco and suggested a re-examination of Du Bus' type in the Brussels Museum. I examined this type in July, 1939. It is definitely and in detail the specimen from which was drawn the description and subsequent plate. Du Bus had two other birds from Mexico, respectively from San Pedro, near Oaxaca, and Tepitongo, Oaxaca but both of them are young of the year and have parti-colored bills. These were mentioned by Du Bus but have no standing as co-types, although someone (probably Dubois) has marked one of them as such both on the label and in the catalogue. The type, collected by Auguste Ghiesbreght in "Tabasco," probably in the spring of 1838 or 1839, is a very good example, in color, and in size an extra large one (sex not indicated; wing, 172; tail, 165), of the race currently known as *Aphelocoma unicolor coelestis* Ridgway. That name of course becomes a synonym of *Aphelocoma unicolor unicolor* (Du Bus) and the south-central Mexican race will probably be known as *Aphelocoma unicolor concolor* (Cassin) *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 4, 1848: 26). A critical re-examination of Cassin's type must be made, however, especially in view of the initial uncertainty of the type locality.

As to the purported type locality of *Cyanocorax unicolor*, both Pierce Brodkorb and E. A. Goldman inform me that there are no mountains in Tabasco anywhere nearly high enough to accommodate this cloud-forest species which south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec has never been taken below 7,000 feet. The only explanation is either that Tabasco took in more territory then than now, or that Ghiesbreght (who definitely did some collecting in Tabasco) entered an adjacent part of Chiapas without being aware of the fact. Ghiesbreght secured other high mountain species in "Tabasco," such as *Turdus rufitorques* and *Peucedramus olivaceus*. One of these might have been secured in Tabasco through some fortuitous circumstance, but that all three could have come from there verges on the impossible.

Sylvia taeniata Du Bus (*Bull. Acad. Roy. Sci. Belgique, ibid.*: 104) has always been placed in the synonymy of *Sylvia olivacea* Giraud. The type, an adult male in the Brussels Museum, is from "Tabasco" and, although the catalogue does not so state, was without doubt collected by Ghiesbreght in the same locality as the type of *Cyanocorax unicolor*. It is the race now known as *Peucedramus olivaceus auran-tiacus* Ridgway and that name now becomes a synonym of *Peucedramus olivaceus taeniata* (Du Bus). The wing and tail measurements of the type are 70 and 49.5 mm., respectively. Incidentally, Bonaparte's statement (*Consp. Gen. Avium*, 1, 1850: 309) that the subsequent plate (*Esq. Orn. livr.* 6, 1850: pl. 28) was from a specimen from San Pedro, near Oaxaca, is not correct. The type is the basis of the plate and I may add that Wilhelm Meise made a similar notation on the tag in 1938.

While it is certain that Chiapas, not Tabasco, is the type region of both of the above birds, I have no first hand knowledge of the topographical details of that state. Obviously a spot as close as possible to the Tabasco boundary should be selected, but a definite selection may well be left to Pierce Brodkorb, in view of his extensive work in Chiapas.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *University of California, Los Angeles*.

A Nest of the Brown Jay.—Among the commonest and most noticeable birds of southern Tamaulipas is the so-called *Papán*, or Brown Jay (*Psilorhinus morio*). It wanders about the brushy lowlands in companies of four or five to ten to twelve (often family parties, apparently) mobbing such enemy species as lynxes, owls, or human beings, and feeding on various fruits and insects and an occasional lizard, mouse, or nestful of young birds. It is exceedingly noisy, its customary call-note being a loud *pee-ah* that is followed by a "hiccup" resulting from the sudden inflation or deflation of its odd furcular pouch (see Sutton and Gilbert, *Condor*, 44, 1942: 160-165). It is decidedly gregarious, even during the nesting season. An alarm cry from any single Jay is sufficient to cause all the Brown Jays of the neighborhood to foregather promptly.

Along the Sabinas River, in the Gomez Farias region of Tamaulipas, Brown Jays came daily to the Rancho Rinconada where our party lived from March 12 to May 4, 1941. During this period we rarely saw a lone Brown Jay. As early as March 21, we watched a bird carrying material to an exposed crotch twenty feet from the ground, but this nest was never completed. Twig-carrying (which we interpreted as nest building) was observed almost daily throughout latter March and the whole of April. Two birds carrying twigs were seen on several occasions. Numerous partly built or old nests were found. These were broad, not very deeply cupped nor neatly lined, and usually in comparatively open woodland from fifteen to thirty feet from the ground.

The only occupied Brown Jay nest discovered during our stay at the Rancho was found by our aide, Maclovio Rodriguez, who happened to frighten the bird from its nest as he was thrashing through a wild pineapple thicket looking for tinamous, April 21. There were three eggs in it then.