

As to the purported type locality of *Cyanocorax unicolor*, both Pierce Brodtkorb 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 auranliacus* 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 Brodtkorb, 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.



We went to this nest several times during the following two or three days, finding the sitting bird (presumably the female) to be surprisingly wary. On April 23 one of our party, Robert B. Lea, climbed to the nest. There were six eggs. These evidently comprised the complete set, for when Lea returned, several days later, to take the photograph reproduced herewith, no more eggs had been added. They were uniform in coloration, all being buffy gray, thickly and evenly spotted with dark brown. They were not collected.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Ithaca, New York*, and OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR., *Northfield, Minnesota*.

A Robin Anting—On July 12, 1942, Dr. George M. Sutton and I watched a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) “anting” on the Edwin S. George Reserve, near Pinckney, Livingston County, Michigan. Neither of us had ever observed “anting” in birds before and we were keenly interested in this unusual behavior.

We saw the Robin on a large ant hill that we estimated to be about five feet in diameter and nearly two feet high. This hill was situated in a growth of bushes and saplings near the edge of a swamp. The bird flew from the ant hill into a nearby bush when we first noticed it, but came back onto the hill a few moments after we had retired several paces. We observed that the bird appeared to pick up the ants in its bill, placing them at the base of the primaries, chiefly at the wrist joint, and occasionally at the base of the tail. We did not see any ants crawling up the legs of the bird. The bird was quiet throughout the period of observation and its actions appeared most definite and purposeful. The Robin left the ant hill when a car was parked nearby, but returned to the hill a few minutes after the people walked away.

Altogether the Robin spent at least fifteen minutes on the ant hill (9:10 to 9:20 A.M.). As far as we could determine, the bird appeared to be normal in every way. Its plumage was wet and disarranged. We believed that it had either bathed or had become wet from the heavy dew that was still on the bushes and grass. Although we saw no definite evidence of molt, the worn plumage of the bird indicated that the molt was about to begin. Sutton flushed a Robin and a Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) from this same ant hill on August 23 and both of these birds had short, newly molted tails.