

This being the case, we returned to the same field four days later (August 30) and hunted until we found a nest. Two wrens obviously were in possession of it, for one sang frequently and the other scolded vigorously while we were in the immediate vicinity. The nest held four eggs. After watching the scolding bird enter, we waited about three minutes, then flushed and collected it, finding that it had a well defined brood-patch. On obtaining the singing bird, we noted that its plumage, like that of the first specimen, was much worn, but that it had no brood-patch. The birds proved to be a male and female (UKMNH Nos. 29665 and 29666). Neither was fat. In each the skull was completely ossified. In neither had the postnuptial molt started. The testes of the male measured about 7 x 5 mm., the ovary of the female about 4.5 x 3.5 mm., the largest ovum having a diameter of about 1 mm. The four eggs proved to be considerably dehydrated and without visible embryos.

The population of wrens from which the three adults and the nest and eggs were taken ranged over nearly ten acres of gently southward sloping hillside. The vegetation of the area was a mixture of rank weeds and grasses, approximately four feet high, interspersed with many clumps of smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra* L.). The nest itself was 12 inches above the ground in little blue stem (*Andropogon scoparius* Michx.) and was constructed of dried and green blades of the same and other species of grass. The hillside, although heavily overgrown with weeds and grasses, could not by any stretch of the imagination have been called a marsh or swamp. In years of normal spring and summer precipitation, it would doubtless be relatively dry. In 1950, however, approximately 23.6 inches of rain fell in the Lawrence area between June 1 and September 1, and this excessive moisture may have been responsible for the wrens' nesting. Many lowland meadows in eastern Kansas should, it seems to us, offer a suitable nesting environment for this species even in seasons with much less rainfall.

Bent (*op. cit.*, 276) gives August 20 (New Jersey) as the latest "egg date" for the Short-billed Marsh Wren. Although the condition of the eggs in the nest described above indicated that they had been incubated for some time, the date, as far as we can tell, is the latest on record for a clutch attended by a female.—HARRISON B. TORDOFF AND GEORGE P. YOUNG, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence.*

***Turdus migratorius achrusterus* and *Passerculus sandwichensis mediogriseus* in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia.**—On April 2, 1949, at Beech Bottom, Brooke County, West Virginia, I collected from a flock of about 200 Robins two male specimens which appear to belong to the small 'southern' race, *achrusterus*. They measure respectively: wing, 122, 124 mm.; tail, 90, 90; exposed culmen, 19, 20; tarsus, 30, 32.

The Savannah Sparrow is a rather common summer resident in the open hilltop farmlands of the Northern Panhandle at elevations from 1000 to 1200 feet. To ascertain which subspecies nested in the region, I collected a breeding male on May 28, 1949, half a mile northeast of West Liberty, in Ohio County, finding that it represents the race *mediogriseus*, the breeding form of northern Ohio. It measures: wing, 70 mm., tail, 49, exposed culmen, 10.5, tarsus, 19.

Dr. Herbert Friedmann of the U. S. National Museum has handled the above discussed three specimens and concurs as to their identification.—LT. KARL W. HALLER, *Killeen Base, Killeen, Texas.*

Notes on *Icterus nigrogularis* and *I. chrysocephalus* in Surinam.—In his interesting and important paper, 'Convergent Evolution in the American Orioles,' Beecher (1950. *Wilson Bulletin*, 62: 70) states that the Yellow Oriole (*I. nigrogularis*) is an "arid zone" bird. This is wholly counter to my experience in Surinam, where the species is confined to swampy areas along the rivers and outer coasts. Conspicuous because of its melodious, flutelike notes, it is one of the most characteristic birds of the *parwa*, the broad strip of mangrove (*Avicennia nitida*) along the seashore. It is also found in the *brantimaka*, the thorny thicket of sickle-pod (*Drepanocarpus lunatus*) fringing the muddy banks of the rivers. I have never found it breed-

ing in the savanna belt in sandy country in the interior. Its long pendent nest is built near the end of an outer branch of either an *Avicennia* or *Drepanocarpus* plant, in the former often at considerable distance above the ground.

Eggs of *I. nigrogularis* in the large Penard oölogical collection from Surinam were collected in February, June and August (Hellebrekers, 1942. *Zoologische Mededeelingen*, p. 268). I can give some additional data. On July 9, 1946, not far from the coast at Coronie, I observed a pair



Nest of *Icterus nigrogularis* in low-growing mangrove. The entrance, which is at the top, leads directly down into the nest. Photographed at Coronie, Surinam, on July 11, 1946, by F. Haverschmidt.

building a nest in a low *Avicennia* plant. The first egg was laid on July 11 (see photograph). I observed birds building nests in low-growing *Avicennia* also at Nieuw Nickerie on July 24 and December 19, 1946. Along the Surinam River, at the plantation 'La Liberté', on March 9 and June 29, 1947, I observed birds at nests built in *Drepanocarpus*. On the coast, near the mouth of the Surinam River, I saw occupied nests on August 1 and 5, 1946.

As for the so-called Moriche Oriole (*I. chrysocephalus*),¹ on the other hand, I have never

¹ Hellmayr (1937. *Cat. Birds Amer.*, part 10, p. 114) gives this species the common name 'Moriche Oriole.' *Moriche*, *morichi*, *murichi* and *miriti* are listed as common names of the palm *Mauritia flexuosa* in H. L. Gerth van Wijk's "A Dictionary of Plant Names" (1916. 1: 821), but I find no statement there concerning the derivation of any of the words. *Moriche* is conceivably a barbarism—a mere mispronunciation or misspelling of *Mauritia*.—G.M.S.

found it in the above-mentioned swampy habitat. It is, according to my experience, a bird of dry areas—sand reefs on which the vegetation grows in long rows paralleling the coast, and forest-fringed savannas of the interior. In the large savanna near the airfield at Zanderij, on March 6, 1949, I observed a pair of the handsome birds building their nest in a *Mauritia flexuosa* palm tree. (For a photograph of a palm of this species see *The Auk*, 1948, plate 6.) The nest was neatly woven of dry leaves and sewn under a frond just too high for me to reach from a standing position on the ground. On March 20 it contained two eggs which broke as I was trying to collect them and the nest.—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, P.O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam, Dutch Guiana.

Brewer's Blackbird in Indiana.—On May 18, 1950, I collected an adult male Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) in Noble County, just north of Ligonier, Indiana. I observed the bird for about fifteen minutes before collecting it. During most of this time it perched on a fence along the highway at the edge of a large pasture. It sang several times. It was not part of a blackbird flock, but I saw and heard Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) and Red-wings (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) in the vicinity that day. So far as I know the Brewer's Blackbird has not actually been collected before in Indiana. Butler, in his "Birds of Indiana" (1897. Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources, 22nd Annual Report, p. 1178) listed it hypothetically on the basis of Ridgway's records from Mt. Carmel, Illinois. It has, I understand, been seen several times recently (in the early spring of 1950) in the vicinity of South Bend, Indiana. My specimen was collected about thirty miles east of South Bend. The skin is now in the Joseph Moore Museum at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, 812 East Hendrix Street, Brazil, Indiana.

Generic Placement of the Rufous-winged Sparrow.—Most recent authors have given the Rufous-winged Sparrow the scientific name *Aimophila carpalis*, a notable exception being van Rossem (1936. *Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 8: 144) who, without going into details, referred to it as "a typical *Spizella* in almost every respect," then, nine years later, unaccountably revised his position (1945. "A Distributional Survey of the Birds of Sonora, México," *La. State Univ. Mus. Zool. Occ. Papers No. 21*: 274). The suspicion that *carpalis* may be a *Spizella* seems to me to be justified.

My field experience with the species has been confined to Sonora. In his work on the birds of Sonora, van Rossem (*op. cit.*, p. 275, footnote) expressed doubt that *carpalis* bred in the southern part of that state. Reporting a lack of records for the period from June 22 to November 5, he stated that specimens taken in May and early June "showed only the beginning of sexual activity, none were paired, and all were in various stages of the complete prenuptial . . . moult." In 1946, Moore (*Condor*, 48: 117–123) reported evidence that *carpalis* bred in southern Sonora, and extended the species' known range southward into south-central Sinaloa. My observations at Pitahaya, 40 kilometers southeast of Empalme, Sonora, from October 29 to November 1, 1946, confirm earlier observations that *carpalis* breeds commonly in that part of the state.

At that time Rufous-wings were found in pairs or individually, spaced about as they would be in the breeding season. When one member of a pair was collected, the other remained nearby. Association with small, wandering flocks of non-resident Brewer's Sparrows (*Spizella breweri*) and Clay-colored Sparrows (*S. pallida*) occurred, but such association was loose and only brief. The Rufous-wings sang intermittently, a few of them regularly (for varying periods) from prominent perches. They were most common in open mesquite groves throughout which the trees were ten to fourteen feet high and the interspaces largely grassy.

On November 1, I discovered a pair of adults with three bob-tailed juveniles at most two or three days out of the nest. I collected the young birds and the male parent, finding the