

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

latter to be in an early stage of the postnuptial molt. One testis was 5.5 mm. long. The male of another pair collected had just started to molt (one testis measured 3.5 mm.) but the female had not begun to molt. In two additional male specimens, both in early stages of the molt, the testis length was 3.0 and 1.5 mm., respectively. These records, with those of Moore (*loc. cit.*) indicate that in southern Sonora the Rufous-winged Sparrow breeds in the fall. Eggs may be laid as late as early October. Whether the species breeds also in the spring and summer, or only in the spring and summer when the season is wet, remains to be ascertained.

Now for available behavioristic evidence as to generic affinities. *Carpalis* moves about through the grass and brush like a *Spizella*. Its posture and manner of perching conspicuously on high twigs in shrubbery distinctly suggest the Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*. The alarm note is a *Spizella*-like *tzeep* or *tsip*. The song suggests that of *Spizella pusilla*, *S. pallida*, *S. passerina* and *S. breweri* in that it is weak, monotonous, and not very noticeable. After opening with several broken, rather clearly enunciated notes, it becomes a series of seven or eight less loud, quickly repeated notes all at the same pitch. One male repeatedly sang a steadily accelerating series of five to nine notes—a song-pattern similar to that of *S. pusilla*. In these features of behavior *carpalis* appears to be far removed from *ruficeps* and *rufescens*, the species of *Aimophila* best known to me in the field. On the other hand, as mentioned above, whenever I saw *carpalis* in flocks of *Spizella breweri* or *S. pallida* I was impressed with the similarity in behavior of the three species.

Some evidence along these lines is available in the writings of early observers of Arizona birds. Henshaw (1875. Zool. Exp. W. 100th Merid., p. 291) stated that *carpalis*, "unlike the other *Peucaea* [*botterii*, *cassini*, and *ruficeps*], never attempted concealment by hiding in the grass, but immediately took wing . . . In habits and actions, it greatly resembles the Chipping Sparrow." Bendire (1882. *Orn. and Ool.*, 7: 121-122), from experience with 43 nests of *carpalis*, wrote that the "nest is usually . . . in low bushes . . . from six inches to five feet from the ground . . . firmly fixed into a fork or crotch . . . The eggs . . . are of a very delicate pale green color and unspotted. . . ." Bendire's observations on nest structure and nest placement again suggest the genus *Spizella*. Absence of spots on the eggs suggests *Aimophila* rather than *Spizella*, but I place no weight on this character. Both Henshaw and Bendire comment on the marked gregariousness and sociability of *carpalis*, in which respect it resembles members of the genus *Spizella*. Moore (*op. cit.*, pp. 119-120) confirms Bendire's observations on nest-site and reports that his field experience with *carpalis* agrees with that of early observers.

Ridgway (1901. Birds of North and Middle America, part 1, p. 231), though admitting difficulty in setting limits for the genus *Aimophila*, nonetheless put the Rufous-wing in that genus without comment other than that the bird was closely related to *Aimophila sumichrasti* of Oaxaca. Hellmayr (1938. Cat. Birds Amer., part 11, p. 522) suggested that *carpalis* and *sumichrasti* might be conspecific. *A. sumichrasti* must therefore be observed closely by anyone wishing to decide the generic placement of *carpalis*. This I have not been able to do, but I report my field experience with *carpalis* in the hope that the information will be useful in future study of the problem.—FRANK A. PITELKA, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley.*