

in my study previously referred to. Attacks delivered under water in an attempt to ram an adversary from below are of interest as they have been described for other species of grebes. Of special interest, however, were the repeated attacks on the female Ring-necked Duck, in explanation for which the following hypothesis is offered: When seen together it was apparent that the female ring-neck bore rough resemblances to a Pied-billed Grebe, both in color pattern and behavior. It is a small duck with a ring on its bill and a white eye ring. It is dark brown above and lighter buff below. In behavior, it dove frequently and repeatedly lifted its body at a forty-five degree angle to the surface to shake and readjust its plumage, thus exposing its white belly. The grebe, when diving, has a similar performance, but has a peculiar way of snapping back to its original position. The female Ring-necked Duck may have had sufficient "releasers" to elicit attacks which the male grebe would normally have launched only against rivals of its own species. The ring on the bill may not have been the principal "releaser" as an immature grebe and a female Hooded Merganser were also attacked. The merganser, with its distinctive reddish crest, was only attacked momentarily, possibly on account of its small size and drab color. Once the grebe had a closer look, however, no further attacks were made. In summary, the male Pied-billed Grebe was perpetually alert to activities of other birds and animals in its territory, attacking what it considered rivals, but showing well-marked curiosity toward new situations.—LAWRENCE KILHAM, 8302 Garfield Street, Bethesda, Maryland, April 25, 1954.

Miscellaneous notes on Mexican birds.—During the past several years the California Academy of Sciences has secured several thousand study skins of birds from various parts of Mexico. Most of these were either purchased from the late Wilmot W. Brown or obtained by the senior author. Smaller accessions were received through the courtesy of Drs. Ernest P. Edwards and G. Dallas Hanna. Included in these collections are certain new state records and extensions of the ranges of a few species. In the course of studying some of this material it was necessary to examine pertinent specimens in the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History. The writers are indebted to the officials of these institutions for permission to examine collections under their care and to make mention of certain specimens found therein.

Podilymbus podiceps antillarum. Pied-billed Grebe. A male taken by Webster on a pond 12 miles northeast of Durango City, Durango, June 26, 1952, was paired and apparently breeding. Its testes were enlarged. The wing length (120 mm.) is equal to the minimum listed for males of this race by Hellmayr and Conover (1948, *Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser.*, 13, pt. 1, no. 2:37). This species has heretofore neither been reported from Durango nor have members of this race been recorded this far north.

Falco columbarius richardsonii. Pigeon Hawk. An adult female, taken January 28, 1952, near Chilpancingo, Guerrero, and prepared by W. W. Brown, appears to be of this race. It is decidedly paler above and below than any comparable examples of either *F. c. columbarius* or *F. c. bendirei* examined. This not only constitutes a considerable southward extension of the wintering range of the race *richardsonii* but also the first record for this species from Guerrero.

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus. Willet. An adult female secured at the north end of Socorro Island on November 20, 1953, by G. Dallas Hanna, is the first record of this species from the Revillagigedo Islands.

Crocethia alba. Sanderling. A single female was seen and collected by G. Dallas Hanna at the north end of Socorro Island, Revillagigedo Islands, on November 20, 1953.

This species is not recorded from these islands by Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore (1950. *Pac. Coast Avifauna*, 29:99).

Coccyzus americanus. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Two adult males were secured by W. W. Brown near Chilpancingo, Guerrero, one on October 1, 1950 and the other on September 1, 1952. The wing measurements (145 and 146 mm.) of these two specimens are such as to leave doubt regarding subspecific identity. Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore (*op. cit.*:132), however, do not record this species from Guerrero.

Otus scops flammeolus. Scops Owl. This species has not, heretofore, been recorded from Guerrero. A female, secured December 25, 1950, near Omilteme by W. W. Brown exhibits none of the characters assigned by Griscom (1935. *Ibis*:549) to the race *guatemalae* (=rarus). It is actually grayer and exhibits paler ochraceous markings than 9 specimens of *flammeolus* examined from southern Arizona.

Asio flammeus flammeus. Short-eared Owl. On February 11, 1950, W. W. Brown secured a female Short-eared Owl near Omilteme, Guerrero, which, so far as known, is the first record for that state.

Sayornis nigricans nigricans. Black Phoebe. One was seen by Webster at Arroyo Mimbres, Durango, on June 18, 1950; and on June 21, 1952 two adults and an immature were seen at a small tank near Nombre de Dios in the same state. The immature, which was collected, has the blacker crown and black shaft streaks on the under tail coverts characteristic of the more southern race, *S. n. nigricans*, rather than *S. n. semiatra*. Although Miller (1906. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 22:168) recorded this species from Durango under the name *S. n. nigricans* the present concept of this race is considerably different (cf. A. O. U. Check-List Supplement 20, *Auk*, 1945, 62:443) and its northern limits are not clearly known.

Contopus virens placens. Wood Pewee. An immature male was taken July 25, 1950, at 5,000 ft., 10 miles east of Mezquital, Durango, by Webster. This race has not previously been recorded from the state.

Auriparus flaviceps ornatus. Verdin. The southernmost published records for the Verdin are from Saltillo, Coahuila, by Burleigh and Lowery (1942. *Occas. Papers Mus. Zool. Louisiana State Univ.*, 12:197) and near Fresnillo, Zacatecas, by Webster and Orr (1954. *Condor*, 56:157). There are two specimens in the University of Kansas collection from Jalisco (2 miles west-northwest of Lagos de Moreno, 6,390 ft., August 12, 1949) and one specimen in the same collection from San Luis Potosi (10 miles northeast of San Luis Potosi City, 6,000 ft., July 29, 1950). We believe that the range of the species in Mexico will eventually prove to be coextensive with the ranges of the "Desert" and the "Mesquite Scrub" as mapped by Leopold (1950. *Ecology*, 31:507-518).

Sitta carolinensis umbrosa. White-breasted Nuthatch. The species has been reported from Sinaloa by Hawbecker (1948. *Condor*, 50:28), who did not, however, give a racial identification. We consider this specimen (California Academy of Sciences collection), a male from Pinos Gordo, taken September 30, 1934, to be *S. c. umbrosa*.

Certhia familiaris albescens. Brown Creeper. The species has not previously been recorded from Sinaloa. We have examined six specimens from that state: a female from El Batel, October 15, 1946, and a male from El Batel, October 14, 1946 (both in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology); a male from Pinos Gordo, September 22, 1934, and three females from the same locality taken September 24 and 27, 1934 (California Academy of Sciences collection).

Anthus spinolella pacificus. Water Pipit. A female secured on the north end of Socorro Island, Revillagigedo Islands, on November 20, 1953, by G. Dallas Hanna, resembles wintering specimens of *A. s. pacificus* from central California.

Vireo huttoni caroliniae. Hutton Vireo. The breeding form of Durango has in the past

been referred to *V. h. stephensi*, most recently by Hellmayr (1935. *Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser.*, 13, pt. 8:120). Two specimens taken by Webster in 1952, 15 miles west-southwest of El Salto (a female with an egg in her oviduct, June 23, and a male, June 24), as well as two specimens in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (a male from 4 miles southwest of El Salto, June 26, 1952, and a male from Resolana, near the Chihuahua border, June 23, 1952) we refer to the darker, less green, race of north-central Mexico.

Dendroica auduboni nigrifrons. Audubon Warbler. The most southerly breeding area reported in the literature is extreme southern Chihuahua by Moore (1946. *Auk*, 63:241-242). Actually, the species seems to breed commonly in southern Durango, and probably even farther south. Singing males were taken by Webster at Hacienda Coyotes, 8,200 ft., 7 miles northeast of El Salto, Durango, June 27, 1950, and June 24, 1952. The former specimen had testes 4 mm. long; the latter was in full breeding condition, with testes 10 and 9 mm. long and cloaca (seminal vesicles) enlarged with sperm.

Dendroica graciae graciae. Grace Warbler. On June 25, 1952, Webster observed an adult female feeding two immatures in the pines above Arroyo Mimbres, Durango, 8,000 ft. All three birds were collected. We have previously (Webster and Orr, 1952. *Condor*, 54:311) reported a sight record from the same area, but this is the first specimen to be recorded from the state.

Sporophila minuta parva. Ruddy-breasted Seedeater. An adult male was secured by Ernest P. Edwards, July 24, 1952, at Pie de la Cuesta, near Acapulco, Guerrero. The testes measured 5 and 6 mm., respectively. Edwards saw several other individuals that day, and Webster saw a single male at the same place on July 26. This species has previously been recorded in Mexico only from the states of Nayarit, Oaxaca, and Chiapas.

Loxia curvirostra stricklandi. Red Crossbill. Two red males in nonbreeding condition were taken by Webster on June 23 and 24, 1952, 15 miles west-southwest of El Salto, Durango, from several small flocks seen. There is no previous record from the state.

Aimophila ruficeps simulans. Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Since the description of this race by van Rossem (1934. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, 77:486-487), determination of specimens from Sinaloa and southern Durango has not been reported. There are two males in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology taken October 14 and 16, 1946, at El Batel, Sinaloa. Webster took a breeding pair on June 22, 1952, six miles west of Durango City, Durango, at 7,200 ft., in mesquite grassland; his only Durango sight records were from the same area.

Aimophila cassini. Cassin Sparrow. On July 10, 1952, an adult male in full breeding condition (testes 7 and 6 mm. long, cloaca enlarged and full of sperm) was taken by Webster in San Luis Potosi. The bird sang a typical flight song and exhibited territorial behavior. The locality was 24 miles northeast of San Luis Potosi City, at 5,900 ft., in mesquite grassland with a good growth of new grass. We find no previous records in the literature of the Cassin Sparrow from this state.—J. DAN WEBSTER AND ROBERT T. ORR; *Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana; California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, and University of San Francisco, California*, March 5, 1954.

English Sparrow seeks refuge in ground burrow.— Several large outside cages are maintained in connection with the Ornithological Laboratory at Ohio State University. Some of these cages are 16 × 10 × 8 feet in size and are covered with one inch mesh poultry netting. They are used to confine such birds as ducks and pheasants. The doors on some of the cages are slightly sprung out at the bottom, and English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) enter and leave through the holes thus formed. A Norway rat also entered one of the cages and dug a burrow into the ground beside the rat-proofing wire which is buried around the edge of the cage.