

Goldfinch accept young after long and short incubation.—In the summer of 1965, in Toledo, Ohio an experiment was carried out in which eggs of the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) from clutches just laid were exchanged for eggs that were in advanced incubation.

On 31 July I exchanged eggs between nests of 11 day incubation and those where the fifth egg had just been laid. The eggs that had been laid for only the short time were taken by a predator on the following day. The other female Goldfinch continued to incubate for an additional 12 days until the entire clutch had hatched. She had been incubating for a total of 23 days. I was not able to examine this nest until 10 days later. At that time the nest looked "used" but since there was no defecated material on the nest it would appear that the young had not been in the nest for long.

On 5 August, I exchanged eggs that were in day four of incubation with a clutch that had two eggs piped. The eggs hatched in both nests and the young were all fledged. The one female had incubated for about five days and the other had incubated for 19 days.

The mean incubation period for this species has been reported as about 11–12 days, (Walkinshaw, 1938. *Jack-Pine Warbler*, 16:3–11 and 14–15). From the preceding experiments it is obvious that at least in some instances, the female will accept young after one-half the length of or twice the length of the mean incubation time.—LARRY C. HOLCOMB, *Department of Biology, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, 11 July 1966.*

New status for the Rufous-crowned Sparrow in Utah.—The first record of the Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*) for Utah (Wauer, 1965. *Condor*, 67:447) was based on a specimen taken at Oak Creek Canyon, Zion National Park, Washington County, Utah, 5 November 1963. The writer reported the species as wintering in Zion Park. He concluded that, "early fall records, in August, in Zion Park indicate a fall wandering tendency for the species, but the presence of Rufous-crowned Sparrows throughout the winter months appears to suggest a northerly movement in fall and, perhaps, a return to southerly breeding grounds in spring."

However, an immature Rufous-crowned Sparrow (deposited at Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of Utah), taken by the author at Oak Creek Canyon, Zion National Park on 10 August 1965, suggested that the species may be more than a wintering resident there. It, like a specimen collected on 5 November 1963, was of the race *scottii*, according to Lester L. Short. The possibility was suggested that the species resides permanently in the vicinity, nesting on the upper slopes of the canyons and moving into the lower canyons after nesting and to winter. In Arizona, the species is a spring to late summer nester; its period of breeding closely tied with summer rainy season. Brandt (1951. "Arizona and Its Bird Life" p. 702) reports a completed nest as early as 24 May, nests as late as 15 August, and that the height of the season for fresh eggs is during the latter half of June. Assuming that the species did reside within the Zion Canyon area, the author searched appropriate habits during May and June, 1966; on 29 June on the west slope of Steven's Wash, Parunuweap Canyon of Zion National Park, a lone singing adult was found. I watched it for several minutes through 9× binoculars. It moved to several perches within an approximate 100 foot circle singing all the while. Suddenly a second Rufous-crowned Sparrow, its bill full of grass, flew to a perch about two feet from the singing bird. Both remained there for five to ten seconds before they departed, flying up the slope and around a number of large rocks out of sight. I was unable to locate them again.

Although I was not able to return to the scene before being transferred from Zion Park, this observation of one singing adult and another carrying nesting material offer good evidence of nesting. The habitat, too, is typical of Rufous-crowned Sparrow nesting grounds. The elevation is about 4,200 feet. Huge sandstone boulders dominate the seven degree slope where *Pinus monophylla*, *Juniperus osteosperma*, and *Quercus gambellii* are common. The heavy patches of grasses that occurred there were under study as a choice "relict grassland" by LaMar Mason and James Carley of the Soil Conservation Service. Mason's identifications of the major grasses on the site include needle-and-thread (*Stipa comata*) as the dominant grass, while Indian rice grass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), black grama (*Bouteloua eriopeda*), and mutton grass (*Poa fendleri*) were abundant.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

THE XV INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The International Ornithological Committee decided, at the close of the XIV International Congress, that the next Congress would be held in the Netherlands in 1970 and appointed Professor N. Tinbergen as President. The Netherlands members of the International Ornithological Committee elected Professor K. H. Voous as Secretary-General and formed a Netherlands Executive Congress Committee.

The International Committee accepted the Dutch proposal that the date of the Congress would fall within the first week of September, as it was feared that appropriate accommodation would not be obtainable earlier in the summer months. No major ornithological excursions will be organized, but in the middle of the congress week a variety of one-day excursions will be held. After full consideration the Netherlands Executive Congress Committee decided that the XV International Congress would be held at 's-Gravenhage (The Hague), with the provisional date: 30 August–5 September 1970.

Applications for membership in the Congress will be accepted until 4 months before the opening date of the Congress, viz. till 1 May 1970. Applications for presenting papers and for arranging "Specialists Meetings" should reach the Secretary-General not later than 1 April 1969.

Further information regarding the Congress can be obtained from The Secretary-General, XV International Congress, c/o Burgemeester de Monchyplein 14, The Hague, Netherlands.
