1941, and I saw one other on 1 May. They were found feeding at flowers. From 15 to 27 March 1945, Carriker encountered them again near El Conejo in western Guajira, where he took three adult and two immature males, and two females. The race is found locally in northern Venezuela from Zulia through Carabobo and the Distrito Federal to Sucre.

Aulacorhynchus prasinus cognatus (Nelson).—A male and two females of this race of the Emerald Toucanet in the American Museum of Natural History were collected by Harold E. Anthony and D. S. Ball, 30 March and 4 April 1915 at the head of the Río Cutí, Chocó, on the eastern slope of Cerro Tacarcuna. The presence of these blue-throated birds there is not remarkable since they are common on the Panamanian side of the boundary on this mountain. The distinct gray-throated *A. p. griseigularis* is found in the western Andes in Antioquia on the opposite side of the great valley of the Río Atrato.

Veniliornis dignus baezi Chapman.—In 1952 Carriker collected a male of this race of the Yellow-vented Woodpecker at Belén, 21 March, and a female at La Candela 16 May, in the Department of Huila. These two, compared with our series of *V. d. dignus*, are distinguished clearly by heavier dark barring of the breast, the bars being broader and also deeper blackish olive. The race *baezi*, named from northern Ecuador from an area drained by a tributary of the Río Napo, has been known previously only from the Andes in central Ecuador.

Conirostrum leucogenys cyanochrous (Todd), White-eared Conebill.—Four specimens of this honeycreeper taken by Carriker 7 kilometers east of the Río Sardinata, near Petrólea, Norte de Santander, represent this race, described from the Sierra de Mérida, and recorded elsewhere along the eastern base of the Sierra de Perijá in Zulia, Venezuela. Males are distinguishd from typical *C. l. leucogenys* by the lesser extent of the white patch over the auricular region. Females appear darker than those of the typical race, but males while dark are equalled in this by some individuals of the nominate subspecies.

It should be noted that the race *C. l. panamensis*, named by Griscom from Darién, Panamá, with a range extending into northwestern Colombia, is not separable in the more extensive material now available. This name is to be listed as a synonym of *C. l. leucogenys*.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, 25 July 1967.*

Copulatory behavior of the Red-necked Grebe on open water.—All species of grebes usually copulate on a nest platform or similar object (Palmer, 1962. Handbook of North American birds. Vol. 1:62–112), but to my knowledge no descriptions of copulation on open water have been reported. It was hypothesized by McAllister and Storer (1963. *Wilson Bull.*, 75:166–173) that copulation on open water is possible only in species with an intromittent organ i.e., the Anatidae.

An apparent copulation on open water by a pair of Red-necked Grebes was observed on 1 May 1965 at Spenard Lake, Anchorage, Alaska. One pair of birds were present on a small bay, approximately 30 yards from the nearest shore. One bird (presumably the male) had more brightly colored plumage than the other. The male was seen to emerge from a dive with a piece of vegetation in its bill. The plant material was then dropped and picked up several times. Suddenly the male seemed to become alert, picked up the weed, and began swimming toward the female, who was approximately thirty feet away. The two came together with necks arched, until their bills appeared to touch. Several times the male turned to the side and then back and again presented

the plant material to the female. This activity lasted 15 to 20 seconds. The female then assumed an inviting posture with the neck extended and the fore part of the body lowered in the water so that the basal portion of the neck was nearly submerged, while the cloacal region was quite high. The male swam to the female and placed the plant on her back, near the cloaca. The plant immediately slid into the water but was replaced several times by the male. The female then began to move very slowly forward while maintaining the inviting posture. The male followed, without the weed, and gently nudged the cloacal region of the female with his breast. The male then, with crest up, wings closed, and neck stretched forward, hopped onto the female's back, while the female continued to move forward. Mounting resulted in the female being pushed quite low in the water, with only her head and a small portion of her back above the water. Vigorous paddling with the feet, as indicated by forward movement, probably prevented the female from becoming completely submerged. Mounting lasted three to five seconds and was followed immediately by calling and a bill-touching display. The birds then became quite passive and moved away in a normal swimming attitude. At no time during the above activities was there any sign of aggression.

The bill-touching display has also been described by Johnstone (1953. *Canadian Field-Nat.*, 67:181).—James E. Hemming, *Department of Zoology, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana, 2 August 1966.*

Turkey Vultures found to feed on coconut.—While in Jamaica (23 December 1966 to 3 January 1967), I studied the feeding habits of the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) in and around Hector's River, Portland Parish. During that period, over 100 specific instances of the vultures feeding on coconut (*Cocus nucifera*) were recorded.

Because the feeding habits noted above are not normal for the Turkey Vulture, additional evidence was obtained by crop analysis. During a six day period, ten Turkey Vultures were captured using a Bal-chatri trap. Six of the ten regurgitated on being handled and the remaining four were induced to regurgitate by massaging their crops. By visual estimate, the regurgitated material consisted of 90 per cent coconut and 10 per cent rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), a partially digested grasshopper, and some leaves. Meat was used to attract the birds to the trap but none was consumed in this phase of the study. Dead hamsters, white rats, mice, and guinea pigs served as the meat supply.

Bent (1937. Life histories of North American birds of prey, Part I. Dover Publications Reprint, p. 20) mentions that "the birds (Turkey Vultures) have been known to feed on grasshoppers; and they readily eat fish." He summarizes Green's 1927 comments (op. cit., p. 20) as follows: "James Green reports a remarkable observation of finding a flock of 62 vultures, hard pressed for food, feeding on pumpkins." The texture of rotten coconut is similar to that of pumpkin.

Coconut is extremely abundant around the small coastal town of Hector's River. Several small coconut cutting huts supply the vultures with this material through discards. These opened coconuts are found in piles 6 to 8 feet high just outside the huts. The vultures stand on these piles as they feed on the rotting coconuts.

The vultures were given preference tests at the trap location involving a choice between meat, fish, and coconut. The first choice was unanimously meat. After the meat had been eaten or if one bird was occupying the meat successfully, the second choice was the fish. The coconut was touched only in two of the thirteen attempted preference tests. The tests were conducted over an eight day period with gatherings of five to ten