uniformly gray above and cream below without the saddle-shaped marking and bands of mainland *Natrix sipedon*. Camin and Ehrlich (Evolution, 12:504–511, 1958) compared the pattern of 11 different females from the Bass Island complex to the distribution of patterns within their litters and found that in all but one litter the female was more uniformly patterned than the majority of her offspring. They argued that only differential elimination could explain these observations and suggested that Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), common birds in the Bass Island region, may be the selecting agent.

During the summer of 1967 I observed a mature Herring Gull which had captured a three-foot water snake along the east shore of Gibralter Island, Ottawa Co., Ohio. This part of the island has dense vegetation on a dolomite substrate. The gull, which appeared to have swallowed about six inches of the anterior end of the live snake, flew off with most of the snake's body dangling from its mouth. The snake resembled mainland water snakes in coloration and patterning. Thus, this instance of predation supports Camin and Ehrlich's model of selection.—PETER GOLDMAN, *Department of Zoology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210, 20 July 1970.*

***Turdus grayi* feeding on snake.**—Recent records of the North American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) killing and/or feeding on snakes (Davis, Wilson Bull., 81:470–471, 1969; and Netting, Wilson Bull., 81:471, 1969) prompt me to place on record the following observation of the common Central American robin (*Turdus grayi*). On 19 May 1968, on a gravel road between Turrialba and Siquirres, Costa Rica (1 mile east of bridge over Rió Reventazón), I observed an individual of *Turdus grayi* pecking at a small snake (*Tantilla armillata*) about the size of the North American DeKay's snake (*Storeria dekayi*). The robin killed the snake, but I collected the reptile before the robin had a chance to demonstrate whether or not it was an intended food item. Skutch (Pacific Coast Avifauna, 34:68, 1960) reported that *Turdus grayi* may include an occasional small lizard in its diet. The snake was identified by Douglass Robinson of the Department of Biology, University of Costa Rica.—J. ALAN FEDUCCIA, *Department of Biology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas 75222, 16 June 1970. (Present address: Department of Biology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina)*

Predatory behavior in Montezuma Oropendola.—The diet of some of the larger icterids, especially grackles (*Cassidix* spp.) includes vertebrates, even other birds (Skutch, Life histories of Central American Birds, Pacific Coast Avifauna, 31, 1954; McIlhenny, Auk, 54:274–295, 1937). However, according to Skutch, the diet of oropendolas consists of fruits, and perhaps nectar.

During early June, 1970, a large fruiting tree at Finca La Selva, Heredia Province, Costa Rica, attracted numerous individuals and species of fruit-eating birds (as well as a concentration of frugivorous fish in the stream just below the tree). Black-faced Grosbeaks (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*) and Montezuma Oropendolas (*Gymnostinops montezuma*) were regular foragers in the tree. Flocks of each species tended to come and go from the tree, never using the total available food supply. On the morning of 8 June 1970, a noisy flock of *Caryothraustes* was foraging in the tree when several oropendolas flew in. After a short period there was a commotion in the area of the tree occupied by individuals of the two species and the grosbeaks set up a loud screeching note and converged on a single point. Coincidentally a male oropendola flew out of the area to a nearby tree followed closely by one then several other individuals. The grosbeaks stopped the loud calling and left the tree shortly after the oropendolas. The

oropendolas continued to fly from tree to tree, the male leading the others, in a nearly circular path. As they flew across a large open area I could see that the male oropendola was carrying something in its bill. The male stopped and while manipulating it in the bill dropped a young *Caryothraustes* to the ground. The *Caryothraustes* was fully grown but still in nearly complete juvenal plumage, having just begun the postjuvenal molt. The carcass was bleeding from one leg, probably not a mortal wound, and from a puncture in the parietal region on the righthand side of the skull. The skull had not yet started to ossify and probably was very easy for the oropendola to pierce. It appeared to be this wound that killed the bird.

Very possibly oropendolas, probably of all species, are facultative predators, especially when prey is readily available during the course of regular foraging activities in a fruiting tree coincidentally visited by smaller species of frugivorous birds. A facultative predator of this sort might also have a marked influence on the pattern of utilization of fruiting trees that are such an important part of the exploitation patterns of many tropical frugiviores (Land, Wilson Bull., 75:199–200, 1963).

Field work in Costa Rica was supported by the National Science Foundation (GB-7611).—LARRY L. WOLF, *Department of Zoology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York 13210, 14 August 1970.*

Blackpoll Warbler on winter quarters in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.—The Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) is one of the most common North American migrants on the coast of Venezuela (Beebe, 1947). More to the south the records of this species are rare and spotty, probably because of the lack of observers and also because fewer birds may reach so far. From Brazil there seem to exist only two records, both from the northern border of Amazonia: upper Rio Negro and Rio Branco (Pinto, 1944:433). Apparently, no species of migrant North American warbler has hitherto been recorded from eastern Brazil south of the Amazon. The only other records of the Blackpoll known to us from southeastern South America are from the Argentine (1—Misiones, and 1—Buenos Aires); there are records in western South America as far south as Valdivia, Chile (once) (Meyer de Schauensee, 1966:445). Migration from the Venezuelan coast to the region of Rio Negro and the reappearance in the interior of the Argentine could suggest a route used by certain other northern birds, such as the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), and apparently also the Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). Such species, however, are not usually found in eastern Brazil (Sick, 1968:268). The Blackpoll Warbler winters also in the Guianas (Snyder, 1966), including Surinam (where taken three times in November, December, and February (Haverschmidt, 1968:371)). According to Meyer de Schauensee (1966) the reported dates from South America run between September and April.

On 28 January 1969, I noted for the first time the presence of a Blackpoll Warbler in Rio de Janeiro. I heard a call unknown to me in that region, coming from a bird in a large tamarind tree (*Tamarindus indicus*) which spreads its crown at the height of our house, situated on a steep slope at Santa Teresa, near the very center of the city of Rio. It was not until 4 February that I was able to see the bird well enough to identify it as a male Blackpoll. The bird was observed again in the leafy branches of that tree, feeding on small insects (probably Diptera), which were swarming around its perch. On 6, 21, 22, and 28 February I recorded the Blackpoll again, in the same or in a neighboring tamarind, usually in the afternoon. The conditions were so similar that I assume it was the same individual. The bird was noted to the beginning of May.