

dove may have triggered the aberrant behavior observed. Although there was still sufficient light for us to observe birds, apparently it was dark enough that the flycatcher erred on visual cues, in the presence of the correct acoustical stimuli coming from the presumed female flycatcher somewhat behind it.

Alsop (Wilson Bull., 83:312, 1971) reported a case of interfamilial copulation between a flycatcher and a bluebird. In this case the tyrannid mistook the food-begging immature turdid for a soliciting female. Griffin (Auk, 76:238, 1959) noted a male Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) giving invitational display to a male House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) which repeatedly mounted and copulated. I believe our Venezuelan observation may represent the first report of interordinal copulation.

I wish to thank Roger Pearson and his parents for making possible my studies in Venezuela and for assisting me in the field in numerous ways and Paul Schwartz for his technical assistance and for critically reviewing the manuscript.—AMADEO M. REA, Center for Man and Environment, Prescott College, Prescott, Arizona 86301, 14 September 1972.

House Sparrow dispossesses nesting Eastern Kingbirds.—On the afternoon of 9 June 1972 a pair of Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) was observed building a nest 21 feet up in a sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) at the Brookville Ecological Research Center of Earlham College and Miami University. They were frequently seen chasing a male House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) which would fly into the nest while the kingbirds were away gathering nesting material. After being chased from the nest the House Sparrow would perch about three feet away, lift its wings slightly from its body, and apparently call to or scold the kingbirds. The House Sparrow would often attempt to sit in the nest while the kingbirds were present, always being chased away immediately. These activities were continued for two hours. The kingbirds were always seen together, sometimes attacking the House Sparrow simultaneously. Throughout this period of activity a female House Sparrow was seen in the sycamore about 12 feet from the nest, apparently watching the activity at the nest.

On the afternoon of 15 June 1972 a male House Sparrow was observed in the kingbird nest continually for 20 minutes. No kingbirds were in evidence during the period of observation.

Around midday on 19 June a male House Sparrow was seen perched about six inches above the nest. A male Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) was seen to hover immediately over the nest, at which time the House Sparrow hopped down into the nest, driving the hummingbird away. The House Sparrow was later observed feeding on the ground about 30 yards away from the nest, frequently flying back to or directly above the nest to preen, fluff its wings, and occasionally call. It sometimes flew into the upper parts of the tree some 30 feet above the nest where other House Sparrows were heard calling. At one point a Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) was seen chasing the House Sparrow, which sought refuge in the kingbird nest.

After the activity on 9 June no female House Sparrows were observed near the nest or the male as he flew about. No activity was observed at the nest after 19 June. On 26 June when the nest was examined it was empty, unlined, and it was not cupped over in the manner of a House Sparrow nest.

On the evening of 28 June an Eastern Kingbird was observed defending a territory which included the sycamore with the nest. This kingbird was then seen to fly about 50

feet away into a large patch of poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) for the night. The kingbird was seen in the poison hemlock every evening to 10 July 1972, but no nest was found in this area.

Apparently the male House Sparrow dispossessed the Eastern Kingbirds of a nest under construction.

A literature search has turned up five instances of Eastern Kingbirds losing interspecific battles. Bent (Life histories of N. Amer. flycatchers, larks, swallows, and their allies, Dover Publications, Inc. pp. 21-22, 1963) reports a case of a kingbird losing to a Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), and another of a kingbird being chased by a sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus* sp.). Davis (Wilson Bull., 53:157-168, 1941) tells of two instances in which Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) defeated kingbirds, and one case where a Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) was the victor in a duel. King (Auk, 72:148-173, 1955) mentions that he observed a nesting Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) harassing a kingbird.

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First specimens of certain thrushes and vireos from New Mexico.—The following specimens are in the Delaware Museum of Natural History, except for the first which has been deposited in the United States National Museum of Natural History. I am grateful to Roxie C. Laybourne for taxonomic help, to my wife, Claudia, for preparing the specimens and other aid, and to the many others who have contributed to my studies of the birds of New Mexico.

Gray-checked Thrush (*Catharus minimus minimus*).—An adult female (USNM 564,789) was collected on the Ed Sheets Ranch, about 3 miles southwest of Clayton, Union County, on 13 May 1971. The bird weighed 35 g and had moderate fat deposits and a granular ovary measuring 4×6 mm. There are several published sight records of this thrush for eastern New Mexico (Hubbard, 1970. Check-list of the birds of New Mexico, New Mexico Ornithol. Soc. Publ., 3:67), but in view of similarities of this species to certain Swainson's Thrushes (*Catharus ustulatus*), such reports should continue to be regarded with question.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens salicicola*).—An adult male (DMNH 12,255) was collected on the Sheets Ranch (see above) on 13 May 1971. It weighed 37.5 g and had heavy fat deposits and testes measuring 8×6 mm. Four other Veeries were banded by me at the ranch in May 1971 and five in May 1972. There are a few sight records of this thrush from New Mexico, including two questionable summer records obtained early in this century (Hubbard, op. cit.: 67-68).

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus noveboracensis*).—An adult male (DMNH 25,220) was collected 2 miles west of Hermanas, in southern Luna County, on 24 May 1972. The bird had no fat and had testes measuring 6×4 mm. The only other record attributed to New Mexico is a specimen collected by T. C. Henry in the last century, but as he did not mention taking the bird there (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 7:306-317, 1855; *Ibid.*, 11:104-109, 1859), the validity of the record is questionable.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*).—An adult female (DMNH 22,097) was taken at the Hermanas locality (see above) on 25 May 1972. The bird weighed 16 g and had no fat, while the ovary was granular and measured 8×4 mm. There are only two other reports for the state, both sight records (Hubbard, op. cit., 73).—JOHN P. HUBBARD, *Delaware Museum of Natural History, Greenville, Delaware, 19807, 13 November 1972.*