

distally, ectepicondylar process more prominent, and the pit at the base shallower. There appear to be some differences in the attachment for the anterior articular ligament, but this area is much abraded in the type of *I. antecessor*. In anconal view the two species are virtually inseparable except for the difference in the robustness of the shaft. The type of *I. antecessor* is clearly specifically distinct from the specimen here referred to *I. dispar*. Since the other species in the genus are reported to be either larger or smaller than these specimens, it seems most probable that *antecessor* is a valid species of *Ichthyornis*.

I am most grateful to Pierce Brodkorb for permitting me to examine the specimen of *Ichthyornis dispar* from the Peabody Museum, Yale University (YPM) while it was in his care, and for his discussions of the manuscript. John Farrand, Jr. and Robert J. Emry also read and commented on the manuscript. The photographs are by Victor E. Krantz, to whom my thanks are due.—STORRS L. OLSON, *National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560. Accepted 3 July 1974.*

#### Notes on nests of four avian species from the Coastal Cordillera of Venezuela.

—Breeding seasons and nest sites of many Neotropical bird species are generally so poorly known that comparison of reproductive strategies is difficult. These observations from the Coastal Cordillera of Venezuela east of Colonia Tovar in the Federal District, and Rancho Grande (Parque Nacional Henri Pittier), Aragua, are reported to contribute additional data on the nesting of three species, the Golden-crowned Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*), Cinnamon Flycatcher (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea*) and Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*), and to present the first nesting account of the Black-capped Tanager (*Tangara heinei*). The six nests reported here were located at clearing edges resulting from road cuts and forest destruction on generally forest-covered mountain slopes in the subtropical zone. The nests found were within the elevation ranges listed for these species in Venezuela by Phelps and Phelps (Bol. Soc. Venez. Cienc. Nat. 24(104–105):1–479, 1963). The breeding dates supplied in this note confirm the nesting seasons of these species hypothesized by Schäffer and Phelps (Bol. Soc. Venez. Cienc. Nat. 16:3–167, 1964) at Rancho Grande and augment the sparse literature on nest sites and breeding seasons of Neotropical birds.

*Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*.—A nest found 18 May 1969 in an area of tall, lower subtropical forest at about 1360 m in the state of Aragua near Colonia Tovar probably contained young as both parents were carrying food to the nest. The nest was about 12 m above the road in a protected niche on a ledge of a vertical outcrop. The nest was not accessible for closer examination.

Other accounts of nesting *M. chrysocephalus* or its close ally, *M. hemichrysus*, are few. Michael Gochfeld (pers. comm.) located a bulky, largely moss-constructed, cup-shaped nest of *hemichrysus* in Costa Rica on 9 May 1969 and Skutch (Pac. Coast Avif. 34:1–593, 1960) found two nests of *hemichrysus* in Costa Rica about 23 m and 30 m above ground in niches among arboreal mosses and epiphytic roots.

*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea*.—One nest was found 17 May 1969 in the Federal District near Colonia Tovar at approximately 1700 m in subtropical forest. The cup-shaped nest was about 1.5 m up a 3 m high road cut in a recess just large enough to hold the largely moss constructed nest. It contained two white eggs blotched with reddish-brown. Another Cinnamon Flycatcher, presumably its mate, appeared after the incubating bird was flushed from the nest in late afternoon. Gochfeld (pers. comm.) located another nest 30 April 1970 at Rancho Grande at 1000 m. This bulky nest, made of moss and

camouflaged with tree bark, was on a dead stub of a living tree. Nest contents were not known but incubation apparently had begun.

A photograph of a pair at a nest in "A Portfolio of Venezuelan Birds" by Paul Schwartz (undated publication of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology) further implicates crevices in banks as important nest sites of Cinnamon Flycatchers. In notes accompanying the photograph Schwartz wrote that "Cinnamon Flycatchers frequently nest in niches along roadsides."

*Myioborus miniatus*.—An adult was flushed from a nest on 17 May 1969 in the Federal District near Colonia Tovar at approximately 1700 m. The nest, constructed of dried herbs and grasses, was about 1 m above a dirt trail in a recess on the same bank as the 1969 *Pyrrhomyias cinnamomea* nest and contained two white eggs finely dotted with reddish-brown. The nest was partially concealed by overhanging ferns and other plants, which gave the nest a dome-like appearance. Gochfeld (pers. comm.) found a nest at Rancho Grande on 29 April 1970 at 1000 m. This nest was about 1 m above a path in a cavity on a vertical cut bank. The entrance was overhung by mosses. The nest held three eggs.

Slate-throated Redstart nest sites in Central America are similar to these Venezuelan sites. Skutch wrote "The oven-shaped nest was most often placed in a niche in a cut bank" (Pac. Coast Avif. 31:369, 1954). He also reported clutch sizes of two to three.

*Tangara heinei*.—A female was observed carrying herbaceous material to a partially constructed nest being built on an isolated, sparsely-leaved 1 m tall shrub on a steep, moss-covered slope. I observed the birds for about one hour at 1360 m in Aragua near Colonia Tovar on 18 May 1969. Only the female carried nesting material but both male and female molded the material into the nest. This appears to be the first published nesting account of this species.

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**Incubation by a male Fulvous Tree Duck.**—On 26 July 1968, I obtained evidence of a male Fulvous Tree (Whistling) Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) incubating 13 eggs near El Campo, Wharton Co., on the Texas Gulf Coast.

I observed two Fulvous Tree Ducks (sexes indistinguishable by plumage) fly from a nest near the edge of a rice field and then return a short time later. One of the birds settled on the nest and remained, while the other circled and left. I collected the bird on the nest, and on dissection, found it to be an adult male. Three eggs examined from the clutch contained 18-day-old embryos.

Bolen (J. Wildl. Manage. 35:385-388, 1971) reported that wild male Black-bellied Tree Ducks (*D. autumnalis*) share incubation duties with their hens, but to my knowledge, this behavior has not been confirmed for wild Fulvous Tree Ducks. Delacour (The waterfowl of the world, vol. 1, Country Life, Ltd., London, 1954) suggested that male Fulvous Tree Ducks share in incubation, possibly even performing most of it, and contribute as much as the females in looking after the young. Meanley and Meanley (Wilson Bull. 71: 33-45, 1959) also suggested that both male and female Fulvous Tree Ducks share in most phases of nesting activity. However, many life history descriptions of this species have not reported incubation by the male (e.g., Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 130, 1925; Kortright, The