

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.

I thank Eugene Eisenmann, Michael Gochfeld, Wesley E. Lanyon, William H. Phelps, Jr. and Paul Schwartz for critically reading the manuscript. The observations were made incidental to studies supported by the L.C. Sanford Trust Fund of the American Museum of Natural History.—DAVID EWERT, Dept. of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York, NY 10024. Accepted 2 July 1974.

**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

ducks, geese and swans of North America, Stackpole Co. and Wildl. Inst., Harrisburg, Pa., 1942; McCartney, The Fulvous Tree Duck in Louisiana, Louisiana Wildl. and Fisheries Comm., New Orleans, 1963). My observation confirms that wild male Fulvous Tree Ducks, like male Black-bellied Tree Ducks share incubation.—EDWARD L. FLICKINGER, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Victoria, TX 77901. Accepted 15 July 1974.

**Cases of birds reducing or eliminating infestations of tobacco insects.**—The tobacco hornworm (*Manduca sexta*) and tobacco budworms (*Heliothis virescens* and *H. zea*) commonly attack growing tobacco and are controlled by chemicals. I have observed that birds sometimes eliminate or substantially reduce local infestations of these insects. Six such cases are here reported, involving six species of birds. These observations were made near Oxford, Granville Co., North Carolina, during the summer of 1972.

I made observations between 05:00 and 09:00 and between 17:00 and 21:00. The food of the birds was usually determined in the field with aid of  $7 \times 35$  binoculars and knowledge of where the birds were feeding. Some birds were collected and contents of their digestive tracts examined using a stereomicroscope. I made counts of larval populations to determine the extent of infestations and predatory activities of birds and approximated ages of larvae from sizes of fecal pellets and areas of leaf damage.

On 3 July I saw three Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) walking in a 1.2 ha tobacco field. I examined 200 plants in various parts of the field; 16 (8%) had hornworm damage. I found two larvae, both in the early fifth instar, which I moved to plants I could easily watch from concealment. On the second day of watching I saw a crow remove one larva. I found no hornworm larvae reaching the prepupal stage in this field. This field was surrounded by woodland, and the three crows remained nearby throughout the 1972 growing season. The crop received no chemical treatment for insect control, and the farmer was satisfied with his yield.

On 26 July I found two Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) feeding on tobacco hornworm larvae in an 0.8 ha tobacco field. Examination of 200 plants revealed that 36 (18%) had hornworm damage. Larvae were gone from 17 of the 36 (47%) plants. Judging from the extent of damage the larvae were removed chiefly at the earlier stages of growth. This tobacco was treated with insecticide on 27 July, thus terminating my study. The field was next to a farmstead and nearby nesting habitat for Mockingbirds.

On 24 August I saw four Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) feeding on tobacco budworm larvae near the edge of a 1.8 ha tobacco field. In the area adjacent to that where the birds were foraging, 32 of 100 plants had larvae in their seed heads. In the area where the birds were foraging, 14 of 100 plants contained larvae. Damage to the plants provided evidence that additional larvae had been present. Thus, the larvae had been removed from 18 of 32 (56%) plants. The larvae were in the third or later instars.

House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were seen foraging on tobacco plants on 5 July. I was unable to find a single larva in the 0.6 ha tobacco field, though six of eight nestling House Sparrows collected from nearby nests had one or two hornworm larvae in their digestive tracts. The nine larvae found in these birds were all small, in the second or late first instar. There were old buildings suitable for use by House Sparrows on three sides of the tobacco field, and 11 nests were found. This field was not treated with insecticides, and it received no detectable damage from insects.

A local farmer reported to me experiences that led him to depend on birds for control of insects on his tobacco. He noted the presence of hornworms on his tobacco late in