

by R. P. French

The ornithological team consisted of R. P. French, M. French, and E. Molineaux. Other members of the party also assisted at times. The netting programme took up even more of our time than in May, and the checklist of birds seen and heard is almost entirely concerned with those occurring in the lower valley and the camp area.

The following observations were made.

1. A nest of the Moustache Finch, *Sporophila bouvronides*, was found on 2 August at about 10 feet in the crotch of a sapling in light secondary forest. It contained one or two young birds, which flew early next morning. Both adults were in attendance, feeding the young, and it was interesting that both were in the drab brown female plumage.

This species could be seen and heard quite commonly in the area, and it is interesting that it was not noticed at all during the May visit.

2. Singing was heard quite a lot during the 48-hour visit. Those species especially noticeable were:— Brown Cuckoo, *Tapera naevia*, White-throated Spinetail, *Synallaxis albescens*, House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, Bare-eyed Thrush, *Turdus nudigenis*, Parula Warbler, *Parula pitlayumi*, Picoplat, *Sporophila intermedia*, Moustache Finch, *Sporophila bouvronides*, Bullfinch, *Oryzoborus angolensis*.

Very few calls of the Caribbean Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*, were heard although the species was present in considerable numbers.

3. The Rufous Nightjar, *Caprimulgus rufus*, and the Venezuelan Wood-rail *Aramides axillaris*, were neither seen nor heard on this visit. This contrast with the abundance, particularly of the former, in May serves to accentuate the reason why these birds have not been observed before by random visitors.

#### THE NETTING PROGRAMME

1 — 3 AUGUST

The team again used six mistnets, five of them set in the same location as in May. Net 4 (or 7) was not set, but used as net 8 in a different location, nearer the cultivated area. Nets 9 and 10 were 6-meter 2-shelf nets, set

for limited periods for specific purposes. Nets 1-3, 5 and 6 were set at 1630 on 1 August, furlled at 1800, reset at 0630 next day till 1745, and reset on 3 August from 0630 till 1130 (nets 3, 5, 6) and 1330 (nets 1, 2). Net 8 was first set at 0945 on August 2. Net 9 was set across the shallow stream near the camp in the evening of August 2, in the hope of trapping a Wood-rail. Net 10 was set for 2½ hours on August 3 especially to trap Bananaquits; Except for net 9, the nets were furlled each night to avoid catching bats. Thus the total of net-hours was 116½, a few short of the May total. Altogether 102 birds of 24 species were trapped, two of them twice, and including two birds trapped in May.

From the data in the second table of measurements the following additional points are apparent. Comparisons with the May data are made wherever relevant.

1. It was plain that the breeding season on Monos was well advanced, if not nearly over, by the beginning of August. We trapped 33 immature birds of ten species this time, as against 8 immature birds of three species in May. In addition 22 adult birds of nine species (six of them different from the above ten), were trapped in the process of wing moult, as against none at all in May. Also many other birds in August were moulting other feathers, while in May 72 out of 93 birds were not moulting at all.

2. Although only two individuals of Leotaud's Dusky Flycatcher were taken in August, as against 13 in May, the species was still commonly seen.

3. Of the six species caught in August but not in May, five were taken in nets set up at new locations, while the sixth, the Black and white Manakin, was trapped at the net farthest away from cultivation.

4. The lack of specimens or observations in August of the Red-legged Grampo, whereas it was common in May, probably indicates merely that this species moves around considerably in search of food. It is tempting to jump to Mees' conclusion (1958) that the bird is "decidedly uncommon" but this seems to me less likely.

5. The weights of 8 Caribbean Vireos average at 16.0gm. In view of the fact that most of these were taken before noon, while the May birds, averaging at 16.2gm, were mostly taken after noon, there is still an interesting comparison with the Snows' average of 14.8gm.

One bird weighing 15.5 gm at 0800 was recaptured at 1100 on the same day in the same net, when it was found to weigh 0.5gm more. This is in accordance with the Snows' findings (1963) that mean weights of Bananaquits and Hairy Hermits, and actual individual weights of Manakins, rose significantly during the day. But as they point out, "we do not know to what extent the diurnal increase is due to an increase in stomach contents or reserve within the body".

6. The weights of 20 Bananaquits average at 10.0gm, precisely equalling the May figures. If the weights of the 8 full-grown immature birds are subtracted, the average becomes 9.9gm, still interestingly halfway between the Snows' averages of 9.27gm for Chacachacare and 10.50gm for the main island of Trinidad.

The problem of variation, possibly local, possibly seasonal, perhaps related to migration, is here illustrated so clearly in a common species, that it would certainly seem worthwhile for a detailed study of the whole question of size and weight to be made with various other species as well.

An adult female Bananaquit was trapped both in May and August. The fact that she lost 1.5gm in the interval may be due partly to the fact that the second weighing took place 6 hours earlier in the day, or to the energy requirements of looking after a brood which she did not have in May.

7. The large number of individual Parson birds captured gave us opportunity for interesting observations on the plumage of this species. Of the 27 birds only four were adult males (three of which were moulting flight-feathers), eight were adult females showing distinct brood-patches, and fifteen were immature birds in the chestnut female plumage or in the process of changing into the black and white male plumage.

Nine of the immature birds were undistinguished, some of them showing traces of down-feathers still on the crown, some still growing their tails, and all having the characteristic orange "gape" at the sides of the closed bill, which indicates a recently-fledged bird. But four immatures were showing unmistakable signs of moulting into the adult male plumage, three of them having the first two or three primaries black, and all having some black and white feathers on the forewing or shoulder. What is especially interesting is that two of them showed distinct juvenile "gapes"

and one still had some down on the crown. This would indicate a change into adult male plumage soon after leaving the nest, which is much earlier than most sexually dimorphic species, which attain full adult plumage only after about a year of life. One of these two birds moreover was in a most interesting state of moult. Both wings had the inner three primaries black, the rest brown except that the right wing also had the outer primary black. The greater and lesser secondary coverts were also black, while the median coverts were brown. The head and body were spotted irregularly black and brown while the tail was all brown. If one adds the fact that two of the adult females with brood-patches also had an odd black feather on the nape and the forewing, it is plain that much remains to be understood about the dimorphism of this species and how the male plumage is attained.

In this connection perhaps it is pertinent to mention that Snow (1962 p. 195) found that many female Golden-headed Manakins *Pipra erythrocephala*, had traces of adult male plumage.

#### LITERATURE CITED

As before, and

Snow, D. W.      A Field Study of the Golden-headed Manakin in Trinidad.  
Zoologica      1962.

TABLE OF MEASUREMENTS ETC. 1 - 3 AUGUST

Species	Date	Time	Net	Age/Sex	Wt.	Wing	Tail	Moult
Rufous-winged Ground_Dove	3 Aug.	1030	9	ad m.	52.5	89	68	Head, body scapulars
Blue-Partridge Dove	2 Aug.	1730	8	ad f.	77	107	74	None, brood patch
" "	3 Aug.	0630	9	imm m.	52.5	109	77	central tail wing coverts blue
White-fronted Dove	2 Aug.	0645	2	ad	140	126	96	Wing, tail.
" "	"	1015	2	ad	163	138	106	Outer tail, body
Hairy Hermit	2 Aug.	0800	2	ad	8	66	40	slight body
" "	"	0800	3	ad	6.5	60	39	None
" "	"	0945	3	ad	6.5	58	39.5	Head
" "	"	1530	6	ad	7	59	37	body, brood patch
Common Emerald Hummingbird	2 Aug.	0800	6	ad f	4.5	51	27	None
" "	3 Aug.	0645	2	ad	4	51	25	Head, body
" "	"	1300	10	ad f.	3.5	58	29	None
Ruby Topaz	3 Aug.	0815	8	imm m.	4	54	33	Head, changing to male plumage
White-throated Spinetail	3 Aug.	0630	9	ad	15.5	54	72	Wing, tail, body
Black-crested Ant-shrike	1 Aug.	1745	5	ad m.	25.5	78	58	Tail, body
" "	3 Aug.	0845	6	ad f.	24.5	68	59	None, brood patch

Species	Date	Time	Net	Age/Sex	Wt.	Wing	Tail	Moult
Black-and-white Manakin	2 Aug.	1100	6	ad f.	16.5	55	33	None, brood patch
Streaked Flycatcher	3 Aug.	0845	6	ad f.	45	103	77.5	Body, brood patch
" "	"	0845	6	ad	43	108	82	Body
" "	"	0845	6	ad f.	43	110	83	1 tail feather, brood patch
Kiskadee	3 Aug.	0815	9	ad	49	101	—	Wing, tail, body
" "	"	1030	9	ad	62	112	81	Body
Rusty-tailed Tetchary	2 Aug.	1030	8	ad	30.5	95	86	Wing, body
" "	3 Aug.	1130	8	ad f.	31	96	87	Head, tail, body brood patch
Motaud's Dusky Flycatcher	2 Aug.	0800	2	ad	12.5	68	67	None
" "	3 Aug.	0815	8	imm.	14	66	65	Body still growing
Stripe-breasted Tetchary	2 Aug.	1030	8	ad	9	56	48	None
" "	"	1845	9	ad	9	55	50	None
" "	3 Aug.	1100	10	ad f.	10	55	48	None, brood patch
" "	"	1100	10	imm	10	54	47	None
House Wren	3 Aug.	0645	2	imm	16.5	54	38	tail partly missing
Bare-eyed Thrush	2 Aug.	0645	5	ad	65.5	110	86	None
" "	"	1300	8	ad	67	106	78	None
" "	3 Aug.	0815	8	ad	64.5	107	96	None
" "	"	1030	8	ad f.	63.5	108	90	Wing, body, brood patch

Bare-eyed Thrush	2 Aug.	1200	8	ad f.	62	119	95	None, brood patch
" "	"	1200	9	ad	67	117	98	None
" "	"	1200	9	ad f.	64	117	90	None, brood patch
Caribbean Vireo	2 Aug.	0800	5	ad	15.5	79	55	None
" "	"	1100	5		16			Recaptured
" "	"	0945	3	ad	16.5	77	57	Wing, body
" "	"	1100	5	imm	16	69	45	body, wing coverts growing
" "	"	1100	6	ad	16	70	50	None
" "	"	1530	6	ad f.	16	69	48	Body, brood patch
" "	3 Aug.	0845	5	ad f.	17	70	52	Wing, tail, body, brood patch
" "	"	0845	5	ad f.	16	71	51	None, brood patch
" "	"	0845	3	ad	15	69	51	Tail, body
Bananaquit	1 Aug.	1630	1	ad	11	55	—	Wing, tail, body
" "	3 Aug.	1200	1		11			Recaptured
" "	2 Aug.	0645	1	ad	9.5	55	34.5	Nape
" "	"	0800	1	ad	10	57	33	Wing, tail, body
" "	"	0800	3	ad	10	58	35	Wing, body
" "	"	0930	1	imm	10.5	54	32	Body growing
" "	"	0930	1	ad f.	8.5	51	32	None, brood patch
" "	"	1030	1	ad	—	58	—	Wing, tail, body
" "	"	1115	1	ad	8	54	30	None
" "	"	1300	1	imm	12	56	30	Body
" "	3 Aug.	0815	8	ad f.	9	54	34	Head, brood patch
" "	"	0815	1	ad	10.5	61	38	Wing, body
" "	"	0930	1	imm	9	53	30	None

Bananaquit	"	1030	1	ad	11.5	58	—	Wing, tail, body
"	"	1100	1	ad	10.5	53	31	Wing, tail, body
"	"	1200	10	imm	10	53	30	None
"	"	1300	10	imm	10.5	55	32	None
"	"	1300	10	imm	10.5	55	32	Back growing
"	"	1300	10	imm	8.5	56	29	None
"	"	1300	10	ad f.	9	52	29	Body, brood patch
"	"	1300	1	imm	10.5	54	32	None
Yellow Oriole	2 Aug.	1300	2	imm	41.5	102	88	None
"	3 Aug.	1200	9	imm	—	—	—	released wet
Blue Tanager	2 Aug.	1030	1	ad f.	33	98	65	Body, 1 tail brood patch
"	"	1030	1	imm	27.5	—	—	still growing
"	"	1030	1	imm	26.5	—	—	still growing
Parson	1 Aug.	1745	2	ad f.	33.5	85	77	None
"	"	1745	1	imm m.	31	83	77	Wing, tail, Body changing
"	2 Aug.	0645	1	imm f. pl.	33	76	70	Tail growing
"	"	0800	1	ad f.	32	84	75	Brood patch, Black on nape
"	"	0800	6	imm f. pl.	31	79	74	None
"	"	0800	6	ad f.	33.5	85	78	Wing, tail, body brood patch
"	"	0925	2	imm f. pl.	29.5	84	73	Down on crown
"	"	0925	2	imm f. pl.	30.5	80	—	Down on crown Tail growing
"	"	0925	2	imm f. pl.	33	83	76	Down on crown



Parson	..	0927	2	imm m.	34.5	83	75	Down on crown, 1st 2 primaries black, forewing black
..	..	1300	8	ad f.	40.5	85	79	Wing, body, brood patch
..	..	1415	2	imm f. pl.	35	82	75	A little down
..	..	1415	2	ad m.	37	86	—	Wing, tail, body
..	..	1415	2	imm f. pl.	33	78	71	None
..	..	1415	2	ad f.	36	84	74	Black on forewing brood patch
..	..	1445	2	ad f.	—	80	71	—
..	..	1730	1	imm f. pl.	31.5	78	—	Tail growing
..	..	1730	2	imm f. pl.	35	86	76	1 tail feather mainly black
..	..	1730	2	ad f.	37.5	84	74	Wing, tail, body brood patch
..	3 Aug.	0815	2	imm f. pl.	32.5	80	75	Black on inner secondaries
..	..	0845	6	ad m.	37.5	89	79	Wing, body
..	..	0930	8	ad f.	34.5	79	70	Wing, body, brood patch
Parson	3 Aug.	0930	8	imm m.	32	80	74	forewing black, rest brown
..	..	0930	1	ad m.	33	88	79	body
..	..	0930	1	imm m.	33	84	80	wing, body changing
..	..	1115	5	ad m.	37	87	79	Wing, head, body
..	..	1115	5	imm f. pl.	33	79	71	1 tail feather
Grey-breasted Saltator	2 Aug.	1300	2	ad	54	100	89	Tail, body

Grey-breasted Saltator	3 Aug.	0815	8	ad f.	51.5	94	—	Tail, brood patch
Stripe-breasted Saltator	2 Aug.	1445	8	ad	39	87	75	Wing, tail, body
Bullfinch	** 3 Aug.	1030	2	ad m.	12.5	60	55	None

(Note. Abbreviations and symbols as in the May table.

\* indicates a bird caught twice in August.

\*\* indicates a bird caught in both May and August.)

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