

The Blackpoll must be irregular or very uncommon in Rio. Otherwise I would surely have found the birds previously at Santa Teresa, which is particularly favorable for observations and where I had lived for the past 14 years.

Since writing the above I have learned that a male Blackpoll Warbler was collected at the Ilha Comprida, São Paulo, on 16 March 1969 by H. Misch.

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The humerus of the Early Miocene cracid, *Boreortalis laesslei* Brodkorb.—

While examining the fossil bird collections in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, I found a distal end of a left humerus (MCZ 7068) from lower Miocene deposits, Thomas Farm locality, Gilchrist Co., Florida. This humerus was subsequently identified as that of a cracid. Brodkorb (*Wilson Bull.*, 66:180-183, 1954) has described a new genus and species of cracid, *Boreortalis laesslei*, from the same deposits in which the Harvard humerus was found. The type of *B. laesslei* is a distal right tibiotarsus and cannot be compared directly with the humerus, but both elements are from a cracid of about the same size, and the morphology of both suggests a relationship to the Recent genus *Ortalis*. Hence, it is possible to assign the humerus to *B. laesslei* with some confidence.

The Pierce Brodkorb Collection at the University of Florida contains another humerus from Thomas Farm that also can be assigned to *B. laesslei*. This specimen, a distal end of a right humerus (PB 2061), is very fragmentary and lacks the external condyle. A direct comparison of PB 2061 with MCZ 7068 shows that the humeri are nearly identical.

The humerus of *Boreortalis* is very similar to those of *Ortalis* but differs in the following characters: (1) the external condyle is relatively heavier and slightly more robust, (2) the olecranal fossa is deeper, (3) the entepicondyle projects less distally, and (4) the shaft (just proximal to the condyles) appears slightly broader. The morphology of the distal end of the humerus is relatively uniform within cracid genera, and thus the intergeneric affinities of *Boreortalis* are not easily discernible solely on the basis of this element.

Measurements of MCZ 7068 are as follows: lateromedial breadth across distal end, 12.5 mm; depth of external condyle, 6.3 mm; depth of internal condyle, 4.2 mm. The only measurement possible on PB 2061 is depth of internal condyle, 4.3 mm.

I want to thank Drs. Pierce Brodkorb and Raymond A. Paynter, Jr. for loaning the fossil material. This work was supported by a Frank M. Chapman Fellowship, 1969–1970, from the American Museum of Natural History.—JOEL CRACRAFT, *Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York City, New York 10024. (Present Address: Department of Anatomy, University of Illinois at the Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois 60680), 20 July 1970.*

Birds feeding on an ant mating swarm in Maine.—On 23 June 1970 my attention was called to an ant mating swarm by the flycatching activities of several Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*). During the next 6½ hours (09:00 to 15:30 DST) I watched steadily and observed five species of birds feeding on the ants. These observations were from a porch and lawn on a wooded slope of a hill during a calm hazy day in South Brooksville, Hancock County, Maine. The ant species involved in the flight was not determined.

SPECIES OBSERVATIONS

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*).—Two males and one female (or subadult male) were first observed capturing flying ants at 09:00 by flying from the upper and lower branches of evergreens into the air in flycatcher fashion. These three birds were observed feeding throughout the observation period. They would fly to within a few feet of the ant and hovered as they maneuvered themselves within striking range. They were generally successful and performed in this manner throughout the day. The finches also fed on grounded ants and would fly from branch to branch, or branch to ground, wherever an ant had landed. The finches were so intent in their pursuit of ants that they often landed on some stone steps within several feet of where I was sitting.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*).—Two were observed flycatching from 11:10 to 11:45 and 13:00 to 14:05 in this same area. However, they came back to the same tree most of the time. The waxwings did not feed as actively as the finches (nor were they observed pursuing grounded ants).

Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*).—A male that sang most of the morning and the latter part of the afternoon was seen to feed on ants on five separate occasions. He took both flying ants which he captured by “flycatching” and by pursuing grounded ants which had alighted on a branch or the trunk of a tree.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*).—One male was seen feeding on flying ants. His manner of feeding was to fly up to the prey and hover in front of the ant while he snapped at it. He was successful twice while I observed.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*).—A nesting pair of Blackburnians made only sparse use of this abundant food supply. While it was not possible to watch the male closely for any length of time he was not observed to flycatch and was seen taking an ant off a pine branch only once. The female was busily engaged in nest building, but was seen chasing and feeding on ants several times.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*).—Several were seen flying through this area during the day, and by their actions were presumably feeding. The longest time they were observed in the area was for several minutes moving back and forth over the hill slope, but positive sightings of ant captures were not made.