

uniformly gray above and cream below without the saddle-shaped marking and bands of mainland *Natrix sipedon*. Camin and Ehrlich (Evolution, 12:504-511, 1958) compared the pattern of 11 different females from the Bass Island complex to the distribution of patterns within their litters and found that in all but one litter the female was more uniformly patterned than the majority of her offspring. They argued that only differential elimination could explain these observations and suggested that Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), common birds in the Bass Island region, may be the selecting agent.

During the summer of 1967 I observed a mature Herring Gull which had captured a three-foot water snake along the east shore of Gibraltar Island, Ottawa Co., Ohio. This part of the island has dense vegetation on a dolomite substrate. The gull, which appeared to have swallowed about six inches of the anterior end of the live snake, flew off with most of the snake's body dangling from its mouth. The snake resembled mainland water snakes in coloration and patterning. Thus, this instance of predation supports Camin and Ehrlich's model of selection.—PETER GOLDMAN, *Department of Zoology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210, 20 July 1970.*

***Turdus grayi* feeding on snake.**—Recent records of the North American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) killing and/or feeding on snakes (Davis, Wilson Bull., 81:470-471, 1969; and Netting, Wilson Bull., 81:471, 1969) prompt me to place on record the following observation of the common Central American robin (*Turdus grayi*). On 19 May 1968, on a gravel road between Turrialba and Siquirres, Costa Rica (1 mile east of bridge over Río Reventazón), I observed an individual of *Turdus grayi* pecking at a small snake (*Tantilla armillata*) about the size of the North American DeKay's snake (*Storeria dekayi*). The robin killed the snake, but I collected the reptile before the robin had a chance to demonstrate whether or not it was an intended food item. Skutch (Pacific Coast Avifauna, 34:68, 1960) reported that *Turdus grayi* may include an occasional small lizard in its diet. The snake was identified by Douglass Robinson of the Department of Biology, University of Costa Rica.—J. ALAN FEDUCCIA, *Department of Biology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas 75222, 16 June 1970. (Present address: Department of Biology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina)*

Predatory behavior in Montezuma Oropendola.—The diet of some of the larger icterids, especially grackles (*Cassidix* spp.) includes vertebrates, even other birds (Skutch, Life histories of Central American Birds, Pacific Coast Avifauna, 31, 1954; McIlhenny, Auk, 54:274-295, 1937). However, according to Skutch, the diet of oropendolas consists of fruits, and perhaps nectar.

During early June, 1970, a large fruiting tree at Finca La Selva, Heredia Province, Costa Rica, attracted numerous individuals and species of fruit-eating birds (as well as a concentration of frugivorous fish in the stream just below the tree). Black-faced Grosbeaks (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*) and Montezuma Oropendolas (*Gymnostinops montezuma*) were regular foragers in the tree. Flocks of each species tended to come and go from the tree, never using the total available food supply. On the morning of 8 June 1970, a noisy flock of *Caryothraustes* was foraging in the tree when several oropendolas flew in. After a short period there was a commotion in the area of the tree occupied by individuals of the two species and the grosbeaks set up a loud screeching note and converged on a single point. Coincidentally a male oropendola flew out of the area to a nearby tree followed closely by one then several other individuals. The grosbeaks stopped the loud calling and left the tree shortly after the oropendolas. The