

Records of Butterflies being used as Food by Birds.—In a note to *Bird-Banding* 19 (1): 21-22, 1948, Mr. Oscar M. Root mentions seeing a Black-throated Green Warbler eating a Clouded Sulphur Butterfly. He goes on to cite a reference from *Wild Birds at Home*, Herrick (1935). Herrick mentions several species of birds seen taking butterflies, but regards these cases as exceptional. In view of the scarcity of records on this subject, it might be worthwhile to mention an additional observation. On June 26, 1948 a Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus* was seen perched on the limb of a tree eating a Tiger Swallowtail, *Papilio turnus*. This observation was made by Samuel A. Eliot, Jr., Davis Crompton and me at Dixville Notch, New Hampshire. The wings of the butterfly were rejected and spiralled down to the spot where we were watching. Frank Finn, *Bird Behavior* (pp. 75-76), writing on the subject of birds attacking butterflies, states that "no bird is known as the 'butterfly-catcher' anywhere, though we have 'bee-eaters' and 'fly-catchers,' and though moths are ravenously pursued . . . This is not to say that birds never eat butterflies, but that these do not form a common prey; in India I certainly did not see a bird attack or possess one oftener than once a year on the average, though particularly on the look-out for this, and the American investigations on the food of birds showed that in 40,000 stomachs of insectivorous birds four butterflies only were found."—John V. Dennis, Moose Hill Sanctuary, Sharon, Massachusetts.

Another Cause of Mortality in Land Birds.—In a limited search of literature on the causes of mortality in North American land birds I could find no mention of something that I have recently observed. In the rural areas throughout the United States an immense number of unpaved or hard surface roads are to be found. These usually consist of country roads or streets in urban areas. In order to preserve and increase the durability of these streets and to keep the dust down, road oil, a substance which is in a semi-liquid form, is applied. In the rural areas during mid summer, water is sometimes scarce and this is the time of the year that road oil is applied. The birds appear to be attracted by their reflection in the liquid and attempt to bathe, with disastrous results. A typical example is when on June 28, 1948 in Scott County, Iowa I found an immature Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, which had attempted to bathe in a puddle of this oil. The bird's feathers were matted so badly that it was unable to fly or even walk on the ground. Some portions of the body were minus the feathers. Undoubtedly a large number of our land birds in rural areas perish each year in this manner. Once more, under the rays of a June and July sun, a small depression in the road filled with road oil which was solid becomes liquid, thus making it dangerous for the birds during the breeding season.—James Hodges, 3132 Fair Avenue, Davenport, Iowa

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BANDING

(See also Numbers 6, 9, and 10.)

1. Bird-banding by the Museum of Natural History of Göteborg in 1946. (Göteborgs Naturhistoriska Museums Ringmärkningar av flyttfåglar under 1946.) Viking Fontaine, 1947. *Göteborgs Naturhistoriska Årstryck*, 1947: 82-106. During 1946 in Sweden, 128 cooperators banded 14,064 birds in 146 species. Since the beginning of bird-banding under this system, in 1911, 173,613 birds in 212 species have been banded; the total recoveries and returns since 1911,