

as grouse food have been garter snakes probably reflects the abundance and availability of that species rather than the grouse's preference for it over other snakes. There is also the strong probability that absence of spring and summer records of snake- and amphibian-consumption by grouse indicates not an autumnal preference or need for food of this sort but rather a lack of investigation of grouse specimens at any season aside from fall hunting seasons.—JAMES B. HALE AND ROBERT F. WENDT, *Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison*.

Barn Owl in Montana.—On June 9, 1950, I found a dead Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) under a bridge approximately one half mile south of 20-Mile Ranger Station, near Ashland, Powder River County, Montana. The carcass was about a foot and a half from the ground, hanging by one wing from a large splinter projecting from one of the principal vertical supports of the bridge. The splinter was between the bones and tendons of the second joint. The bird apparently had impaled itself while stooping to catch prey. The specimen was so badly decomposed that only the head and feet were saved. These are now in the collection of Montana State College.

On the ground beneath the bridge I found many rodent skulls. A later examination (June 28) of the cubbies formed by the beams at either end of the bridge disclosed a two- to three-inch layer of matted bones, droppings, pellets, and rodent skulls. Among this debris were the remains of a male Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*), but of course I had no way of knowing how that bird had met its death. Although I spent two months in the immediate vicinity of the bridge in the summer of 1950, and passed it several times a day, I never saw a living owl of any sort there. Two Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) lived in the vicinity, however, and these were seen by various persons from time to time.

The above-discussed record seems to be the first for the Barn Owl in Montana. Neither A. A. Saunders (1921. "A Distributional List of the Birds of Montana," *Cooper Orn. Club. Pac. Coast Avif.* 14) nor Harlow B. Mills (1945. "Some Montana Birds. Their Relationship to Insects and Rodents," *Montana State College Agric. Extension Service Bull.* 229) mention the species. I wish to thank Dr. Gustav A. Swanson for pointing out to me the value of this record.—ROBERT L. ENG, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, Montana State College, Bozeman*.

A nest of *Chaetura vauxi richmondi* in central Honduras.—On July 3, 1948, near the summit of Cerro Uyuca (at an altitude of 6200 feet) in the Department of Francisco Morazán, central Honduras, I noticed a small swift entering an opening twenty to thirty feet above ground in the bole of an immense avocado tree (*Persea* sp.). The upper 2000 feet of this mountain is clothed with the "hardwood cloud forest" described by Carr (1950. *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 94: 582). The opening into which the swift disappeared was about eighteen inches in diameter. All attempts to flush the bird from the cavity were unsuccessful. On climbing to the opening, I heard faint chirpings and flutterings inside and discovered that the cavity extended to the ground.

On July 5 I returned to the peak. The opening to the cavity was covered, and two local laborers cut a hole large enough to allow me to crawl into the tree near its base. Finding that I could stand up and move about, I located the swift nest about eighteen feet above ground-level. The adult swifts were flying about within the cavity. The nest contained three young birds about four days old. The nest was very similar to that of the Chimney Swift (*C. pelagica*) in shape and structure—a half-cup made of short lengths of small dead twigs glued together. It was fastened to the vertical wall of the tree and measured approximately 10 by 6 cm. by 4 cm. deep. Both adults escaped from the cavity, but I collected the male later as he flew about the tree.

Dr. George M. Sutton has identified this specimen (J. C. D. Jr. No. 456) as *C. v. richmondi*

though he informs me that it is "not as dark on the crown, hind neck and back as March examples of this race from Chiapas, México, or as April specimens from Guatemala, in the collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. The left wing measures 110 mm. without pressing the primaries flat, 113 with primaries flattened and straightened as much as possible. This wing-length seems definitely too great for *gaumeri*, but the bird may prove to be intermediate between these two races if it can be established, through further inquiry, that *richmondi* does not fade appreciably by July."



Nest of Richmond's Swift found near the summit of Cerro Uyuca, in central Honduras, in early July, 1948. The young are about five days old, according to Richard B. Fischer, who has made a careful study of the growth of young Chimney Swifts. Photo taken at the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Department of Francisco Morazán, Honduras, by Margaret Hogaboom.

The three young birds, preserved in alcohol, and the skin of the male parent have been deposited in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.—J. C. DICKINSON, JR., *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville.*

A Yellow-shafted Flicker's odd accident.—A dead Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*), whose emaciated condition indicated starvation, was picked up near Bolar, Bath County, Virginia, on November 23, 1950, by John Williams of Lexington,