crowned and ruby-crowned kinglets; yellow-throated, solitary, red-eyed and warbling vireo; black-and-white, blue-winged, Parula, yellow, black-throated blue, myrtle, black-throated green, chestnut-sided, Canada, and prairie warblers; yellowthroat; redstart; eastern meadowlark; Baltimore oriole; rusty blackbird; scarlet and summer tanagers; cardinal; rose-breasted and pine grosbeaks; indigo bunting; purple finch; goldfinch; rufous-sided towhee; vesper, field, white-throated, fox, Lincoln's and song sparrows.

GIRLS DON'T FLY SO WELL

Large pelagic birds epitomize soaring, seemingly effortless flight over long distances. The great wing areas of albatrosses and frigatebirds, for example, catch even the most subtle thermal updrafts, permitting these birds to range far.

In the Gulf of Mexico at Tarpon Key, male frigatebirds (Fregata magnificens) outnumber females 9 to 1, whereas 225 miles to the south at Dry Tortugas, the opposite ratio prevails. This curious sexual imbalance prompted the three-year study by B. A. Harrington, R. W. Schreiber, and G. E. Woolfenden of the University of South Florida that is described in American Birds, Vol. 26, No. 6.

They note that few frigatebirds fly on windless days and that the proportion of females aloft increases with windspeed. Since females carry an average of 1/100 ounce more weight per square inch of wing area than do males, females need more lift from the wind to permit easy soaring.

The reason for the island imbalance is that the average windspeed at Dry Tortugas is somewhat greater than at Tarpon Key, providing a preferential habitat for the relatively heavy girls. Perhaps subtle differences in windspeed are sufficient to determine the world distribution of frigatebirds.

L.J.R.

THE CAHOW

The fortunes of the rare Cahow or Bermuda Petrel seem to be looking up. These birds were thought to be extinct after 1621, when men and their rats and hogs invaded the Cahow's nesting grounds decimating the population. A specimen of a Cahow was found in 1906, but it wasn't until 1951 that it was confirmed that they were breeding on small islets off Bermuda. Since that time the government of Bermuda has given the Cahows strict protection, including the attentions of a warden. The Bermudians have even constructed special nesting burrows designed to reduce nest site competition from the larger and aggressive Tropic-birds. However, the Cahow population continued to decline concurrent with an increase in the amounts of D.D.T. found in dead chicks and unhatched eggs. In 1968, the 26 known nesting pairs fledged only eight young. In 1972, however, there were 37 pairs with 17 fledged young. Significantly, the level of D.D.T. residue found in Cahow eggs has decreased in recent years. This summary was prepared from information in Audubon, Vol. 70, No. 6; and Audubon, Vol. 75, No. 2.

P.M.