

it bred three times a year. He answered that it always ran, and that he had seen young birds in April, June, and August. I told him that it undoubtedly was the Horned Lark, which was getting to be quite common in this vicinity, and also added, "Have you ever found its nest?" He did not know with certainty, but thought he knew where there was one, and took me to it. The nest was built in the side of a manure heap in the field, and contained four fresh eggs. I secured the male bird only, not having time to secure the female. But I was content to get what I did; and I know that I am safe in saying it is the first nest and eggs of *E. alpestris* secured in Niagara County, and think I might also include Orleans County. A week later the young man sent me a young bird alive, just from a nest, which I killed and sent to Dr. A. K. Fisher, who pronounced it 'a jewel.' I secured a number of young birds in July, but did not succeed in finding any August broods; and but for the assertion of my young friend that he had seen them in that month, I should not have expected to find them; but I am quite certain that I saw birds after the 5th of July that were breeding.—J. L. DAVISON, *Lockport, N. Y.*

The Swallow-tailed Flycatcher in Manitoba and at York Factory.—The Swallow-tailed Flycatcher (*Milvulus forficatus*) is such a characteristically southern bird, that its accidental occurrence in Manitoba is worthy of note. Last January I was shown a splendid specimen taken at Portage la Prairie by Mr. Nash. He found it lying dead on the prairie in the October of 1884. In addition to this record I quote the following rather startling statement from the 'Report' on the Hudson's Bay by Professor Bell of the Canadian Geological Survey, 1882. "But the most singular discovery in regard to geographical distribution is the finding of the Scissors-tail or Swallow-tailed Flycatcher (*Milvulus forficatus* Sw.) at York Factory . . . The specimen in the Government Museum was shot at York Factory in the summer of 1880 and I have learned since that these remarkable birds were occasionally seen at the posts of the Hudson's Bay Company, all the way west to the Valley of the Mackenzie River."

The once surprising New Jersey record is now somewhat eclipsed.—ERNEST E. T. SETON, *Toronto, Canada.*

Food of the Hummingbird (*Trochilus colubris*).—Somewhere it has been stated, that the Hummingbird derives the most of its nourishment from the minute insects which adhere to the nectar of flowers, and which are taken with the honey. Undoubtedly many insects are thus secured, and furnish their share of nutriment to the species, but in the following account of a Hummer in confinement, kindly furnished to me by Miss Hattie Brubaker, it will be seen that insects are not wholly essential to the maintenance of life, in *Trochiluscolubris* at least.

The bird, she writes, was taken September 1, near De Pere, Wis., and thrived nicely until October 28, when it met an untimely death. After