

On returning several times at intervals of ten minutes we had opportunities of observing the female on the nest, her bright red eyes being the most prominent feature. On each occasion when leaving the eggs, she darted from the nest into the surrounding grass, never taking wing, and with such celerity that it was impossible to observe her movements, the action resembling more that of a mouse than a bird.

Eventually she was seen and caught in the hand while moving through some shorter grass. Mr. J. Fletcher Street secured some excellent photographs of the bird while thus held. On being released, the bird again disappeared into the grass by a similar dart as before, never at any time showing the slightest indication of wing power. The first bird, flushed some ten yards from the site of the nest, was doubtless the male, forced to fly because of insufficient cover when surprised.—GEORGE H. STUART, 3rd, Girard Trust Co., Philadelphia.

Maggots in the Ears of Nestling Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperi*).—On July 8, 1913, when examining three Cooper's Hawks seventeen days old, I found maggots in their ears and took a maggot from each ear of the three birds. In one ear of one of the birds there was another maggot which I could not get as it went far back into the ear. Possibly these maggots were the larvae of the Screw-worm Fly (*Campsomylia macellaria*). I visited these birds again July 20, when their ears appeared to be quite normal.—VERDI BURTCHE, Branchport, N. Y.

Age Attained by the Hyacinth Macaw.—A venerable specimen of the Hyacinth Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthus*) well known to the visitors to the Philadelphia Zoological Gardens, died on February 28, 1920. The records of the Zoological Society show that the bird was received on July 22, 1893, so that it had been on exhibition in the bird house for over twenty-six years. How long the bird had lived before it was captured it is of course impossible to say. At the time of its death it was still in perfect plumage.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Curious Habits of the Whip-poor-will.—Mr. Moritz Boehm, a neighbor of mine, has a very beautiful place surrounded on two sides by a deep ravine. Each year for the past six or seven seasons a pair of Whip-poor-wills have spent the summer on his grounds, and have become quite tame. The male has certain stands around the house, and comes up from the depths of the ravine at night and calls, first from one perch, then another, until he has gone around the house several times, usually answered by Mr. Boehm. On different occasions, while the male was calling, he saw the female going through some peculiar antics, but in the dusk could not make out just what she was doing. One evening, when he was sitting

on the lower step, the birds came up and performed within ten feet of him. He kept perfectly quiet. The male called from a low branch overhead, while the female strutted on the gravel path below, with wings and tail outspread and head lowered, and sidestepped back and forth, half way around to the right, then to the left, all the time uttering a curious guttural chuckle. This performance was kept up for ten or fifteen minutes.

One morning he saw them sleeping on a log. They were sitting close together facing each other, their heads about half way along side of one another, while each had one wing spread over the other's head. This male bird had a peculiar call which could be recognized from the other Whip-poor-wills which were heard in the woods nearby, and Mr. Boehm, who is a close observer of nature, is quite sure that the same pair come to visit him every summer.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

***Aeronautes melanoleucus* (Baird) versus *Aeronautes saxatalis* (Woodhouse).**—The White-throated Swift of western North America is commonly called *Aeronautes melanoleucus* (Baird) (*Cypselus melanoleucus* Baird, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., VII, June, 1854, p. 118; "Camp 123, west of San Francisco Mountains" [on Bill Williams River, west of Ives Peak, Lat. 34° 15' N., Arizona]). As is well known, there is an earlier name in *Acanthylis saxatalis* [sic] Woodhouse, in Sitgreaves' 'Report of an Expedition down the Zuni and Colorado Rivers,' 1853, p. 64, based on a bird seen at "Inscription Rock, New Mexico." This name has been rejected chiefly because no specimen was obtained and because the description given was not entirely accurate. This description is as follows:

"Head and rump white; back, tail, wings, and sides black, beneath white; upper tail coverts black; under coverts white; about the size of *A. pelagica*, and in its mode of flight the same."

The chief discrepancies in this account are the statements that the head and rump are white, and that the under tail-coverts are white. Any one who has seen this species in life, however, will readily recall that when the bird is flying the white flank patches spread out both above and below, so that the rump and even the under tail-coverts also, have all the appearance of being white, which circumstance readily explains these two discrepancies in Woodhouse's description of a bird seen in flight. The head is in some individuals very light colored, and in certain lights might readily at a distance appear superficially white. There can be no doubt at all that the White-throated Swift was the bird seen at Inscription Rock by Dr. Woodhouse and described as above; and this most writers on the subject readily admit. Furthermore, there is no rule of nomenclature that provides for the rejection of a name based on the printed description of an animal only seen in life, nor for the rejection of a name if certainly identifiable even though the description be partly inaccurate. We see, therefore, no reason for not hereafter calling our White-throated Swift