

widely from adults in coloration. The Berlin specimen of "*goosensi*" belongs to the same species, *poensis*, and is equally young, for all its wing and tail quills were still growing. Any peculiarities in the bills of these two specimens are attributable to the shrinking of the soft mandibles of fledglings.

In like manner, *Pseudospermestes microrhyncha* is based upon a type which is obviously in juvenal plumage, with wings and tail still showing sheaths at the bases of their quills. Its nondescript plumage is that which the young of *Vidua macroura* (= *serena*) wear when they have just emerged from the nest of their foster parents—for the species is known to be parasitic. To make sure, I compared it with another young Pintailed Whydah in the Berlin Museum. The bill of the type seemed unusually small and blackish, but the characteristic swellings on the skin of the gape were still noticeable.

I hold, therefore, that the genus *Pseudospermestes* has been erroneously established to include young stages of two species of Estrildinae already well known, and that it has no real existence in nature.—JAMES P. CHAPIN, *American Museum of Natural History*.

The Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) Affected by Sudden Cold.

—Many instances have been reported of our insectivorous birds being seriously affected by severe and sudden falling of temperature, and thousands being benumbed beyond recovery in a very short period. In the 'Forest and Stream' of Dec. 6, 1888, I recorded an instance where the temperature, as late as May 11, dropped to 35° and 645 specimens of 22 species, mostly Warblers, were picked up dead. This was largely in the vicinity of Racine, Wis. This was, of course, a very small portion of the actual fatalities. I have seen hundreds of Tree Swallows that had collected on the bare limbs of dead trees bordering the Kankakee River at English Lake, Ind., so benumbed by an exceedingly cold night in early spring, that they were unable to take flight when I struck the limbs sharply with my paddle.

In looking over some correspondence from my late friend Edward Read of Cambridge, Mass., I find an interesting example of this Swallow being affected by sudden cold. In this letter he writes that while on a fishing trip at their camp on Grand Lake, Washington Co., Maine, the latter part of May 1906, they had an unusual cold spell and the temperature dropped as low as 30°. The next day they picked up a number of dead Tree Swallows on the beach and in the paths about camp.

One of the buildings was used for the cook house and the second story window was screened with wire. The heat of the building passing out through this open window was detected by the Swallows and late in the afternoon they noticed the screen covered solid with them, huddled together like a swarming of bees. One of the guides took a dip net and scooping it full took them into the house where they were kept warm until the following morning and then liberated.

It would be a difficult matter to estimate the thousands of birds that every year meet their death through many natural causes.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*) near Santa Fe, N. Mex.—December 18, 1922, I had a very interesting meeting with a Northern Shrike, which, by the way, is the first of this species I have seen in New Mexico.

For some time I have been trapping and banding birds, and have been using for that purpose a regulation government sparrow trap. At three o'clock in the afternoon of the date above mentioned, I visited a trap I had set out, and saw that it contained two birds—one an Intermediate Junco; the other a House Finch. I could see this from a distance of a hundred feet; also I observed that a Shrike was fluttering around the trap trying to attack the imprisoned birds. I watched it for several minutes. Finally it flew away, seemingly disgusted with its fruitless quest. The smaller birds I left in the trap in the hope that they might again attract the Shrike.

One hour later I again visited the trap and found the Shrike had returned and was working as hard as ever to find a way of entering the trap. It finally succeeded. I ran immediately to the trap to make sure of capturing him; also of saving the other birds. Upon my arrival I found both of the smaller birds dead, even though the Shrike had not been in the trap more than thirty seconds. The Junco was crowded into a corner of the trap and bleeding freely around the head. The Finch was lying on its back near the center of the trap with no visible sign of violence.

It took some time to entice the Shrike into the gathering cage, as the bird was very wild. After banding it I took the following measurements: Length, 10.50; wing, 4.65; tail, 4.70; bill, .55;

I believe this to be a bird raised last season, notwithstanding the fact that it was somewhat oversize. The Shrike is now No. 108285.—J. K. JENSEN, *Santa Fe, N. Mex.*

***Phyllanthus czarnikowi* O.-Grant** **Synonymous with *P. bohn-dorffi* (Sharpe).**—In the *Revue Zoologique Africaine*, IX, 1922, pp. 381–383, Mr. D. A. Bannerman expressed some doubt as to the distinctness of the two African Babblers named above. The genus *Phyllanthus* is so strikingly sylvan in habits that I, too, had wondered whether one form could occur just along the northern border of the Congo forest, at Sassa, and another in the same forest, from the Uelle River to Mawambi and Beni in the Upper Ituri district.

The type specimen of *bohn-dorffi*¹ was stated by Ogilvie-Grant to be a young bird; so in 1921 I took an immature specimen of *Phyllanthus*, collected at Banalia on the Aruwimi River, to the British Museum for

¹ Sharpe, *Journ. Linn. Soc. London, Zoology*, XVII, 1884, p. 422. (Sassa, Niam-Niam).