

on the lookout for any feathered wanderers, but the Swift was hardly looked for, and I have never before seen one so far from shore.

Many Wilson's Petrels were seen on the way south, and near the Diamond Shoals Lightship, a flock of Greater Shearwaters, numbering 62 individuals was counted. One Audubon's Shearwater was noted off the South Carolina coast.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston Museum*.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird Bathing in a Swift-flowing Mountain Stream.—June 7, 1925, I spent the day in Santa Fe Canyon at an altitude of 8,500 feet. On crossing the little stream I saw a male Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) flying over the stream. I trained my field glasses on the bird and saw it settle down in the water with its body nearly half submerged and with the wings in motion as in flight. With the water rushing rapidly about the body of the bird, it remained stationary. The bird stayed in the water for a few seconds, made a short flight and then repeated the performance possibly half a dozen times.

Sometimes it varied its tactics and, with wings at rest, would alight on a rock over which the water was flowing to a depth of one-half inch.

I watched the bird about ten minutes, then it grew tired of the performance and flew away.—J. K. JENSEN, *Santa Fe, N. Mex.*

The Dance of the Tangara (*Chiroxiphia caudata* (Shaw)).—A short time ago I was surprised to find in Dr. Knowlton's admirable 'Birds of the World' no mention of the extraordinary dancing habits of certain of the Manakins. This circumstance led to an examination of the other probable sources at my command for accounts of these habits, and I was further surprised to learn that very little regarding them has been put in print anywhere.

Charles C. Nutting has given us in his paper 'On a Collection of Birds from Nicaragua' (Proc. U. S. National Museum, Vol. VI, 1884, p. 385) an excellent account of the dance of *Chiroxiphia linearis* but there seems to be nothing published in English that can really be termed a description of the remarkable performance of *Chiroxiphia caudata*. J. F. Hamilton's remarks in his 'Notes on Birds from the Province of São Paulo, Brazil' (The Ibis, 1871, p. 305) are quite perfunctory, and are frankly derived from hearsay; while A. H. Evans' single sentence in 'The Cambridge Natural History' (Vol. IX, Birds, 1899, p. 479) is evidently drawn from Hamilton. And in the bird volume of 'The Standard Natural History' (Vol. IV, 1885, p. 473) we find but two sentences, taken, no doubt, from the Danish of Reinhardt. Beyond this I know of nothing in English.

Turning now to other languages, we find the first mention of the Tangara's dance in J. Reinhardt's 'Bidrag til Kundskab om Fuglefaunaen i Brasiliens Campos' (Videnskabelige Meddelelser fra den naturhistoriske Forening i Kjobenhavn, 1870, p. 129). This is followed by the German

account of Berlepsch and Jhering in their 'Die Vögel der Umgegend von Taquara do Mundo Novo, Prov. Rio Grande do Sul' (*Zeitschrift für die Gesamte Ornithologie*, 1885, pp. 138-139). Lastly, there is the Portuguese account—the best description with which I am acquainted—in Dr. Emilio A. Goeldi's 'As Aves do Brazil' (1894, pp. 333-335). Besides being more or less inaccessible, each of these accounts differs in some respects from my own observations, so the publication of my notes made in the splendid forest reservation surrounding the city water supply in Rio Janeiro may not be entirely unwarranted.

By whatever means this splendid forest has been spared, it is today a wonderful combination botanical garden and zoological park, and, by reason of the old stone aqueducts that reach up and back into its very heart, it is almost as easy of access as the more renowned artificial gardens below. One of these aqueducts meanders along nearly two thousand feet up on the flanks of the big ridge terminating in Corcovado, and on the soft earthen path that follows its windings I have often wandered in search of the forest creatures. And as often I have been rewarded; sometimes by a flock of astonishingly beautiful multicolored Tanagers, or maybe by a young armadillo surprised while nosing along a bank in quest of insects, and always by great blue morphos flapping lazily through the shadowy vault above the undergrowth. Occasionally, queer liquid calls were sure to arrest attention on an unbelievable bird of blue, with black head, wings, and tail, and with crown of brightest scarlet. It is true, the books describe such a bird—the Tangará of the Brazilians—but to see it alive in its dim retreats inclines one to believe it some woodland sprite rather than a mere matter of flesh and blood, bearing the diagnostic character, feathers, that would forever relegate it to a humdrum class along with Chickens and Ducks and English Sparrows.

Visualize now this winding pathway on May 14, 1922; the indescribable luxuriance of the subtropical jungle, its normal shadows turned to dusk by a great cloud drifting in slowly from the South Atlantic; the giant trees festooned with long ropes of lianas, and burdened with myriads of epiphytes from which the condensing vapors fall like rain upon the already dripping foliage far below; the cool rill murmuring over ancient, moss-grown masonry. In such a weird atmosphere one is liable to relax his scientific vigilance a trifle perhaps, and glance expectantly about for an elf or a hobgoblin.

I had been moving quietly along the trail when, about noon, I was brought up short by a commotion the like of which I had never seen. A dancing contest! Could I believe my eyes? But there were the dancers right before me, so engrossed in their performance that they were unaware of my approach.

On a nearly horizontal branch, over the old aqueduct, sat a green-cloaked figure that might well have been the piper, but which I discovered to be really the judge—the dancers were their own pipers then—and about this quiet figure whirled a circle of flaming torches. As I watched trans-

fixed, the system of the dance gradually became apparent, and the gyrating torches were resolved into caps of scarlet. Then I knew that the dancers were Tangarás. There were only three, yet so rapidly did they move that the circle seemed almost unbroken. Bowing low, with beak outstretched, a Tangará would sidestep swiftly until it seemed that he must surely knock the judge (just a demure female) into the aqueduct, leap over her, hover on fast-beating wings facing her a moment, and then begin again the quick sidewise run up the branch. Each was closely followed by the other two, while all three kept up a perfect din of chatter sounding something like *trā, trā, trā*, rapidly repeated. At intervals a sharp signal note was given, upon which all would stop for a moment's rest, only to begin all over again before they could conceivably have caught a breath. How long this game would have continued one can not conjecture, for there had been no lag, no loss of enthusiasm, when some movement apprised them of my presence, and judge and contestants shot away into the jungle.—ERNEST G. HOLT, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.*

White-crowned Sparrow at Charleston, S. C.—On May 5, 1925, a White-crowned Sparrow was observed repeatedly in my garden in the city of Charleston, S. C. I had the bird under observation for at least an hour, and several times I viewed it at a distance of not more than eight feet as it fed on Chicken feed scattered on the ground just outside my study window.

Audubon says of this species in 'Birds of America': "In the winter of 1833, I procured at Charleston in South Carolina, one in its brown livery."

Arthur T. Wayne in 'Birds of South Carolina' says: "Audubon must have been mistaken in his identification and have failed to recognize the White-throated Sparrow in its immature plumage, since the White-crowned Sparrow is a very rare bird in the South Atlantic States and does not winter. On October 26, 1897, I secured a young male of this beautiful species near Mount Pleasant. . . . This is the only specimen I have ever seen or taken, and as yet remains the only valid record for the State."

Since there is no doubt whatsoever about the identification of the White-crowned Sparrow observed by me on May 5 last, another valid record has now been added.—HERBERT RAVENEL SASS, *Charleston, S. C.*

Henslow's Sparrow in Helderbergs, N. Y.—Henslow's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowi*) is recorded by Eaton in 'Birds of New York' as "breeding in Albany County, 1908," while in the Albany County list of the same work he lists it only as "T. V., rare."

It really is a common breeding species at Thacher Park twenty miles south of Albany. Here, at an elevation of 1000 feet, it is found in three old fields, rather damp soil, and in mid-July, hip-high with white and yellow Bush clover and carpeted with hop clover. Pine seedlings and Goldenrod are also features of these fields. The colony consists of at least twenty pairs and is on the Crevice road.