

out on the water. As the little birds could not fly and rats were numerous about the pond I took them home with me and finished raising them by hand.—FRANK F. GANDER, P. O. Box 395, East San Diego, Calif.

Birds Slaughtered by Automobiles.—The observations of Mr. F. B. White in his article "Birds and Motor Cars" (Auk, XLIV, 1927, pp. 265) are so very different from my own that I have decided to submit my observations for record. On August 7 I took a twenty mile hike over paved highways adjacent to San Diego and in that short distance saw the crushed or mangled bodies of four birds. The first of these was an immature *Zenaidura macroura marginella* which was freshly killed and with the skin badly torn across the breast; next was the badly flattened-out remains of an *Astragalinus* sp. which had been dead for some time; then a freshly killed male *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* in full adult plumage; and last an immature *Lanius ludovicianus gambeli* which was recognizable only by its feathers.

A young friend of mine, Leroy Arnold, has picked up the bodies of an immature *Petrochelidon lunifrons* and an immature *Sturnella neglecta* in the streets during the last thirty days—both apparently killed by cars. On May 18, Mr. L. M. Huey picked up on one of the city boulevards a dead *Toxostoma redivivum* which had just been killed by a car. This was an adult male and I had banded him just 8 days previous to the accident. On July 10 I saw a *Chondestes grammacus strigatus* killed on the highway near Ramona, Calif. I was not prepared to collect it at the time and when I again passed that way, in about half an hour, it was smashed and flattened until scarcely recognizable as a bird.—FRANK F. GANDER, P. O. Box 395, East San Diego, Calif.

Robin Killed by Eating Twine.—It is a trite saying that animals know what is good for them, which is anything but the truth, as is substantiated by stock eating loco weed, etc. I recently picked up in the park bordering my home a Robin which had not been long dead. It was an adult bird. Autopsy showed that it had died from obstruction of the bowels caused by a mass of manila twine. The lower end of the intestinal tract was plugged by a lump of twine, the piece being twenty inches long and about a sixteenth of an inch in diameter. It hardly seems probable that the bird mistook this twine for a worm. However if the twine had been smeared with blood or fat, as when used to tie up a package of meat, the taste might have misled the bird. This is not putting too great a stretch on possibilities, as Stefansson lost a valuable dog while on his long ice sojourn, through the dog swallowing a fat soaked rag.—W. H. BERGTOLD, Denver.