

female from Carapas checks practically feather for feather with the pair in the plate. The length of wing, 7 inches given in the description, is 6 mm. over the 172 mm. wing of the male from Carapas.

The bird of the second edition is probably the species now called *festatus*, the plate shows a bird with well developed loral plumes although the upper tail coverts are not produced as far as in Santa Marta birds; the wing length of 7.25 inches corresponds to 184 mm. If the bird of the second edition is not typical *festatus* it is an intermediate that more nearly approaches that form than it does the one of northeastern Venezuela.

Under the circumstances I believe it is perfectly justifiable to resurrect Gould's name for the bird of northeastern Venezuela and to reduce *festatus* to subspecific rank. The two forms will therefore stand:

Pharomachrus fulgidus fulgidus (Gould)

Pharomachrus fulgidus festatus Bangs.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.*

Twig Gathering of the Chimney Swift.—In the October number of 'The Auk,' 1928, a review is given on page 530 of a paper on the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) by G. M. Sutton in 'The Cardinal.' Notation is made, as though the fact were not thoroughly substantiated, as to how this bird gathers twigs for nesting, whether by the feet or beak. For more than thirteen years I have continuously had occasion to closely watch this operation at close range. Near the house towers an immense dead elm where the Swifts of the village congregate to gather their nesting material—and do so *with their feet*. This conclusion is based on diligent observation and conclusive evidence. . . . A bird nears the tree, slacks its speed and when close enough lunges slightly and grasps at a twig, not always being successful in dislodging it the first try. I have seen twigs three-sixteenths inch through broken loose. I have seen a whole branch shake and quiver from the impelling force with which the bird attacks. On the average about every third try the bird is successful in getting its twig, and I notice that they invariably choose the tougher ones, from actual observations on nests constructed in our big old-fashioned chimney. I never yet observed a Swift grasp or carry a twig in its beak.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

Speed of Flying Hummingbird.—In early August I was motoring out to Chicago when, passing a long clear field beside the road, near Erie, Pa., I saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird dart out and fly along beside me for about two hundred yards. I glanced at the speedometer, for the Hummingbird kept right along beside me, and discovered that I was going forty-five miles an hour. Of course there is no telling how fast the Hummingbird could have flown, and it may conceivably have been conscious of the automobile, but I think this gives a pretty fair idea of the average rate of flight of this species.—SAMUEL P. HAYES, JR., *South Hadley, Mass.*