

Tragedies among Yellow-billed Cuckoos.—The Yellow-billed Cuckoo seems especially prone to run its head against windows if I may judge by five instances that have come to my attention. The first one to do so, whose skin is still in my collection, killed itself on June 13, 1876, by flying against a window in Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts, as did also another at the same window on June 9, 1878. A third committed suicide on June 10, 1904, against a window of Mr. William Brewster's museum in Cambridge. All of these were females. On May 30, 1931, one was found dead close to my house at Ipswich, and another came to its end about the same time at West Newton, Mass., and was reported to me by Mr. Sidney L. Beals at whose house it occurred. He writes that at 4:30 P. M. the bird "flew against the lower half of a second story window with force enough in the impact to be heard all over the house," and dropped onto the tin roof of the porch where it soon died. There was no light in the room and no window opposite, although a book case with glass doors faced the window about a dozen feet away.

Each of the last two birds had the lower mandible broken across near the middle, and, in the Ipswich example, there was blood at the commisure, the upper mandible was broken at the base and there were small hemorrhages under the skull. My older specimens, however, show intact bills.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos are rare at Ipswich, although a pair probably nested on my place this summer—this in addition to the bird that was killed—and were seen and heard through June. This is the first time I have found them anywhere in the neighborhood. Black-billed Cuckoos are common, but I have never met with similar tragedies in that species. The restriction of the accident to the Yellow-billed Cuckoo is probably merely a coincidence, but certainly a strange one.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Ipswich, Mass.*

How the Nighthawk Moves its Eggs.—One day last July I was afforded the unusual pleasure of seeing a Florida Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor chapmani*) move its eggs. This feat was accomplished with an awkward shuffling movement of the bird's feet and body against the eggs. The beak and capacious mouth had no instrumental part whatever in the performance.

The nest site in this instance was the gravel roof of a building in downtown Jacksonville. The eggs were laid about two feet from a brick wall on the west side of the roof, and were not moved during the first week I had them under observation. Shortly after noon on July 18 I noticed the bird standing over her eggs, panting, with mouth agape, and shifting about restlessly instead of sitting motionless on them as she always had before. Presently she took wing and sallied out over the adjoining buildings, alighting a minute or so later near the "nest."

The wall nearby had just begun to cast a shadow on the roof as the scorching midday sun eased across the zenith, and the eggs lay some six

or eight inches away from the narrow strip of shade. Waddling up to the eggs, the bird then shoved them along, in the manner related above, a foot or more over into the cool of the shaded area and peacefully resumed her task of incubating.—S. A. GRIMES, *Jacksonville, Fla.*

Arkansas Kingbird at Roxbury, Wisconsin.—On May 31, 1931, while driving on a road near Roxbury (Dane County), I noticed a bird, suspiciously like an Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), alight on a stake in a recently planted corn field. As soon as I could secure my glasses the identification was confirmed. After pursuing the bird across the field, during which process it alighted on the ground several times, it was collected. It proved to be a male, weighed 40.2 grams, and was in excellent plumage except for worn tail feathers. Both mandibles were caked with clay as though it had been unearthing insects. This is the third occurrence for the state, all the records being from Dane County.—A. W. SCHORGER, *168 North Prospect Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.*

Northern Crested Flycatcher in Western Panama.—A Correction. Examination of the proofs of the new A. O. U. 'Check-List' shows me what I should have known before, that in separating the Crested Flycatcher of Florida, Mr. Bangs described the northern and not the southern bird on which the name *crinitus* Linnæus was based. My record of this species from western Panama¹ therefore refers to *Myiarchus crinitus boreus* Bangs not to *Myiarchus crinitus crinitus* Linnæus.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York.*

An Albino Empidonax.—I have lately had the pleasure of examining an interesting partial albino Traill's Flycatcher, *Empidonax trailli* (probably *alnorum*) from the collection of Dr. D. A. Dery of Quebec City who courteously submitted it for examination. It was taken by a local taxidermist near St. Bridgit de Laval, Montmorency County, Quebec, about 12 miles north of Montmorency Falls, the last week in August, 1930.

The bird is all pale lemon yellow (Martius to Picric Yellow of Ridgway's 'Nomenclature'), whitening to throat, except for a saddle of normal dark olive across the shoulders extending from up the back of the neck to near rump. It is identical in general effect with many pied yellow and green domestic canaries and such for more than a moment it was taken to be. So close is this resemblance that even when the distinctly Flycatcher bill was observed the suggestion of a cleverly constructed hoax was almost unavoidable and it was not until the wing and tail formulae, the rectal bristles and the feet characters were closely examined that the suspicion could be completely dismissed.

The explanation of this peculiar coloration seems to be that the specimen is an albino in only one color factor. The normal coloration of the

¹ 'The Auk,' Jan., 1931, p. 120.