

and went directly to a nearby tree without feigning lameness like they usually do. Turning my attention to the nest I was surprised to see that it contained three eggs. The nest was composed of fine grass and Spanish moss. This made the second set of three eggs of the Ground Dove that I had found, the other being in a similar situation. Both were located inside the city limits of Orlando, Florida. WRAY H. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida*.

The Black Swift (*Nephoecetes niger niger*) in St. Croix.—During a few hours spent ashore at Frederiksted, St. Croix, on July 23, 1933 the writer observed at close range a Black Swift (*Nephoecetes niger niger*) hawking for insects in the company of about twenty Caribbean Martins (*Progne dominicensis*). There is no previous record of the occurrence of this or any other Swift in St. Croix, or, in fact, in any of the Virgin Islands.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico*.

Speed of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird's Flight.—On September 2, 1933, I was making a fast trip by auto from Washington to the Allegheny Mountains in Virginia beyond Harrisonburg. Not far out of Warrenton we had settled down to a speed of fifty miles per hour on highway 211, when a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) suddenly paralleled our course along the side of the roadway as if deliberately racing with us. It actually passed us for a short distance keeping straight with our course, then swerved away. Its speed appeared to be somewhere between 55–60 miles per hour. Since the bird did not seem to be frightened, for we were not chasing it, this probably represented a normal flight sally.—H. A. ALLARD, *U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

Food of the Gila Woodpecker (*Centurus uropygialis uropygialis*).—In the Tucson, Arizona, area a gall-insect (*Pachyphylla venusta*) frequently attacks the leaves of the hackberry tree (*Celtis reticulata*). The galls form on the leaf petiole, becoming from a quarter to half an inch in diameter. During the winter the outer shell hardens like a nut.

I have often seen the Gila Woodpeckers tear the galls loose from the twigs and, flying to a fence post, proceed to chisel out the contents. The hard gall is wedged into a crack on the post and then opened by repeated hammering. Around the base of one fence post I counted nearly 300 empty shells. Sometimes cracks in nearby trees are used. At one time five of these Woodpeckers were seen in a single tree, all of them feeding on the galls.

According to Dayton (Important Western Browse Plants, U. S. Dept. Agr. Misc. Publ., no. 101, 1931, p. 25) a related species of hackberry (*C. douglasii*) is also heavily galled by a *Pachyphylla*. This plant, which is found in the northwestern United States, is outside the range of the Gila