

the dead top of a small pine tree about ten feet high. It had held only two young, in August—a late brood.

Certain warblers that at times use a hair lining for their nests obviously substitute it for hair-like black 'moss-stems' (Auk, 36: 226-227, 1919), but this nest gives no clue as to how the Chipping Sparrow acquired its hair-lining habit, which was so universal when horsehair was readily available.—J. T. NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

**Death of a Trumpeter Swan from multiple parasitism.**—The current interest in the Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator* Richardson) and its management has served to increase the awareness of waterfowl biologists to the almost complete lack of information concerning the causes of natural mortality in this species. In view of this lack it seems worth while putting on record the results of the examinations of two of these swans that were forwarded to our laboratory during the early spring of 1945.

On February 28, 1945, a sick swan was found wandering along the railroad track near Vanderhoof, B. C. The game warden of the district captured the bird and forwarded it to Vancouver. Despite the best of care it died two days after capture and was sent to me by the B. C. Game Commission.

This bird, an adult female, measuring 58 inches in total length, was extremely emaciated and weighed just eleven pounds. This is less than half the weight of a bird in good health.

Examination for parasites revealed that the small intestine contained 952 tapeworms (452 mature and 500 immature). Dr. A. McIntosh of the Zoological Division, United States Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Industry, who identified the parasites from this swan, finds the tapeworms to represent an apparently undescribed species of *Hymenolepis*.

In the caecum were 12 trematodes representing three genera. Six were *Zygodontyle lunatum* (Diesing, 1835), a widely distributed species occurring in ruminant mammals as well as in birds (Caballero, 1940); five were *Echinostomum revolutum* (Froelich), a fluke we have found to be widely distributed in British Columbia in birds feeding upon marsh vegetation, pond snails and lesser vertebrates; one was *Orchipedum tracheicola* (Braun, 1901). The latter, described from specimens removed from the trachea of the White-winged Scoter, *Oidemia fusca*, of Europe, was not again found until Cheatum (1938) reported specimens from the respiratory tract of a White-winged Scoter from eastern North America. This is apparently the first recorded occurrence in a Trumpeter Swan.

The pericardial cavity contained about 30 cc. of brownish fluid. The heart muscle was pale and flabby and had imbedded in it 25 filarial worms of the species *Sarconema eurycerca* Wehr, 1939. Blood smears revealed no haematozoa but large numbers of microfilaria were present. These were presumed to be the larvae of *Eurycerca*. This parasite was described by Wehr (1939) from specimens taken from the heart muscle of Whistling Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) in Washington, D. C., Wisconsin and Utah. The present record seems to be the first for the Trumpeter Swan.

This swan had succumbed to gross multiple parasitism. Both the cestode *Hymenolepis* and the filarial nematode *Eurycerca* were present in numbers apparently sufficient to induce pathological changes in the host and it is not possible to determine in this case which of the two was most harmful.

On March 13, 1945, an adult female Trumpeter Swan, one of a group of four wintering at Qualicum, V. I., B. C., was found dead. Another of the four gave evidence of illness. The dead bird weighed 16 lbs. and was moderately emaciated.

The white swan-louse, *Ornithobius cygni*, was abundant upon its plumage. There were no parasites in the digestive tract and but three specimens of *Eurycerca* in the heart muscle. Some thirty pellets of lead shot in the gizzard, many of them eroded almost away, pointed to lead poisoning as the cause of death.

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**A white Fish Crow.**—This past October (1945) the zoological park was informed by telephone that a white crow had been seen in the vicinity of Ardmore, Maryland. Ardmore is a small village about ten miles northeast of the District of Columbia. I immediately went to the locality of the reported bird and talked with the owner of the property upon which the bird had been seen. I walked around the area and found the bird perched upon the terminal branch of a Virginia pine. It flew to a near-by tree and through my binoculars appeared to be a total albino specimen. By its manner of flight and call (the voice had a nasal pitch, a hoarse *car*, as if it talked through its nose) I identified the bird as a Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*). Albinism is not infrequent among birds and may occur in any species. However, it is rarely complete but more frequently affects only a part of the plumage, when it is usually symmetrical; that is, if a feather in one wing be white the corresponding feather in the other wing will also be white.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *The National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

**Albino Robin at Crawfordsville, Indiana.**—On October 1, 1945, a partially albino Robin was observed on the campus of Wabash College. When first seen, the bird was on the ground, a member of a flock of feeding birds. When it flew to a near-by low tree, its peculiar pigmentation was striking to the eye.

The feathers of the entire back and wings were predominantly white, but mixed with a few normally pigmented feathers. The upper surface of the tail appeared white, yet when the tail was spread in flight, it was seen that two or three of the rectrices were dark. The entire head was pigmented normally for a robin. The eyes were not pink. The flanks were pure white. The breast was a peculiar mixture of white with splotches of light orange coloration. The legs and feet seemed to be normally pigmented.

This partial albino was observed for several minutes both on the ground and in near-by trees. It stood out in marked contrast to the other birds, although its peculiar color did not seem to affect in any way its social behavior as a member of the flock. At one time the Robin flew into a tree and was observed within a few feet of a Black-throated Green Warbler. It seemed to the observer that all the hues of the spectrum were reflected in the feathers of these two highly colorful birds.

It is of interest to note that during August one of my students reported an albino Robin on our campus. Undoubtedly, this is the same bird which, therefore, had been