

her through my field glasses carefully gathering nesting material from the nest overhead and flying off in the same direction as before. I followed her course by traversing the carpet of ferns and golden brodiaea and located her moulding out her nest fifteen feet up in another old apple tree.

The nest from which she stole the material was that of a Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) from which the young had just recently departed. Blackbirds were still vociferously scolding passers-by because of young blackbirds in the vicinity.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California*.

Fairy Bluebird—long-tailed macaque association on Mindanao.—In part 2 of his 'Birds of the Belgian Congo' (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 75: 352, 1939) Dr. James P. Chapin states that the Long-tailed Hornbill (*Tropicranus albocristatus cassini*) is known by the natives to follow habitually bands of monkeys, an association from which the birds derive considerable benefit in that the monkeys, as they travel through the trees, drive insects from concealment into the open where they may be preyed upon by the waiting and perennially ravenous hornbills. Dr. Chapin, in his text, refers as well to other known examples of this habit, such as that of a Bornean drongo (*Dissemurus paradiseus*) which follows bands of macaques (reported by Ridley) and of another drongo (*Dicruropsis leucops*) which accompanies the Celebes Crested "Ape" (*Cynopithecus niger*) in the same manner (described by Raven).

In the mountain forests of the Zamboanga Peninsula, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, the author found that the Black-mantled Fairy Bluebird (*Irena cyanogastra melanochlamys*) accompanies troops of the long-tailed or crab-eating macaque (*Macaca irus*) with apparently the same end in view. During the months of August, September and October, 1945, this handsome bird was observed regularly and, although it was seldom to be seen associating with others of its kind, the species was almost invariably encountered singly and in the company of a band of macaques. This habit is so well known by the human inhabitants of the region that their name for the species means "sentinel of the monkeys," and they ascribe to it the duties of a guard. It is far more probable that it is the bird which benefits from the association rather than the monkeys, and in a fashion similar to that of the hornbill and the drongos.—KEN STOTT, JR., *San Diego Zoo, San Diego, California*.

Wild Turkey anting.—Sometime someone will compile a new bibliography of anting. Then reference to the following note by Dallas Lore Sharp ('Beyond the Pasture Bars,' p. 65, New York, 1914) should be welcome. "When her brood begins to lag and pine, the wild mother knows, and leading them to some old ant-hill, she gives them a sousing dust-bath. The vermin hate the odor of the ant-scented dust, and after a series of these baths disappear."—W. L. McATEE, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois*.

Notes on the occurrence of birds in the Gulf of Mexico.—In view of the present discussion of the validity of the trans-gulf migration route as a regular flyway of North American birds, the following general observations may be of interest. I spent the period from March 15 to August 20, 1943, as Armed Guard Commander on the U. S. S. Castana, which plied between Norfolk, Virginia, and ports on the coasts of Texas and Florida. Naval directives prohibited the keeping of diaries during wartime on sea-going vessels, so that it was not possible to keep exact notes on when and where birds were observed in the Gulf of Mexico. However, even generalized notes may be of value to the discussion.

On every voyage through the Gulf during the period, a number of birds flew about

the vessel or landed on it. Many of them were obviously migrants, appearing from the south over the water and proceeding northward to the mainland. The greatest number were always seen as we passed the mouth of the Mississippi River, often halfway between Yucatán and the delta. Although regularly seen, the total number of birds was small. Usually about a dozen land birds might be seen in one day, although Barn Swallows sometimes appeared in flocks of several hundred. One morning in May a considerable flight of various warblers passed the ship for about an hour, most of them too far away to be identified. Occasionally Laughing Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls and terns appeared, usually in unsettled weather, but their status as migrants is doubtful.

Compared with the tremendous surge of land and water birds up the coast of Texas in migration, when flocks numbering up to tens of thousands may be seen at one time following the shore line, the migration across the Gulf is not spectacular. It is certainly accurate to state that the bulk of the migration is coastal. However, the trans-gulf flyway appears to be used regularly by a limited number of birds, and is doubtless a valid route.

Among the species I recall seeing in the Gulf, ten miles or more from shore, the following can properly be considered migrants: Wood Ibis, Green Heron, Phalarope (probably Wilson's), Duck Hawk, buteos, Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, Catbird, thrush (sp.), Eastern Bluebird, Worm-eating Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Northern Water-thrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Wilson's Warbler and Red-eyed Vireo. The following species seen may not have been migrants: Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Man-o'-War Bird, Royal Tern, Caspian Tern, Clapper Rail, and Blue Jay. After a severe hurricane near Houston, in July (?), four Noddy Terns and one Bridled Tern were seen 90 miles west of Tampa, Florida, resting on a floating log.—FRED MALLERY PACKARD, *Lieutenant Commander, USNR, Corpus Christi, Texas.*

Black Vultures kill young pigs in Kentucky.—Although the propensity of the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) to attack and devour the young of domestic animals is well known and has been summarized by Bent in *Life Histories of the Birds of Prey*, part 1 (U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 167, 1937), the majority of such reports are from the deep south in Louisiana and Florida where this black robber is very plentiful. It therefore seems worth while to describe a case occurring near the northern part of its range, especially as there are no published data for Kentucky.

A sow gave birth to twelve young on April 26, 1946, at the farm of Marshall Darnell in Meade County near Rock Haven. Mr. Darnell threw the placentae over the fence and let them lie there fully exposed. When he returned to the farm at noon the next day, he was puzzled to find about twenty-five Black Vultures in the far corner of the pig yard about 100 yards from his house. As he approached, he noted that they were feeding on the day-old pigs, four of which were still alive and squealing, while the sow lay near by and made no attempt to go to their rescue. The other eight pigs were almost completely devoured except for their heads. He brought the survivors up to a small pen close to the house where they were not again molested.

I visited the farm on May 5 and examined the four surviving pigs. Their tails had been pulled out, their ears were badly chewed, and one had a large wound near the shoulder where the Black Vultures had torn away some of the flesh. The eyes of these pigs had not been injured, unlike those in several other reported attacks. It seems strange that the sow, which was ordinarily quite pugnacious, should have failed to protect her offspring.