

Field Naturalist, 36: 59-60, 1922). From these descriptions I would judge that the behavior I observed was an almost exact duplicate.

On an unrecorded fall date of 1941 I observed a somewhat similar occurrence when a group of Snowy Egrets, comprising fifty to sixty individuals, was seen flying in a large circle over the same lake mentioned above. These birds were flying close to the water and it was apparent that they were dipping into the water occasionally. A 20 X spotting telescope was set up on a tripod to observe them. In this instance the herons were not alighting in the water but rather were catching small fish while in flight. The minnows were plainly visible in their bills as each bird left the circling flock to swallow its catch. This feeding circle was maintained for about fifteen minutes, gradually shifting its position over the lake. The birds were apparently circling about schools of small fish.

During the months of July and early August of 1946, I observed flocks composed of Snowy Egrets and the Little Blue Herons practicing this same behavior. All observations were made in the early morning, 5:30 o'clock. Frequently the birds alighted on the submerged mats of *Ceratophyllum* which sank with their weight. The *Ceratophyllum* is well populated with a fresh water shrimp, *Palaeomonetes palludosa* and it is possible that they were feeding on these animals although it is equally possible that they were catching Eastern top minnows, *Gambusia affinis holbrooki*, which abound on the surface in areas where the *Ceratophyllum* offers them protection. The birds apparently preferred to catch their prey while flying into the wind, circling back higher over the water when flying downwind. On mornings when no wind was blowing the feeding seemed to be governed by the sun, the birds feeding on the flight toward the rising sun.

Bivin's Arm is a bird sanctuary, jointly established by the University of Florida and the Florida Audubon Society for the protection of a large White Ibis and heron rookery, which made it impossible to collect specimens to check the stomach contents.—J. C. DICKINSON, JR., *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.*

**Unusual behavior of a Cooper's Hawk.**—In April, 1946, at Edison, Bucks Co., Pennsylvania, on hearing the characteristic 'alarm' call of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) I looked about and through a fringe of trees saw a fairly large bird drop to a near-by slope. As I moved to get a clearer view it arose, struggling, with a Starling, and dropped again to a road paralleling a stream. It was an adult male Cooper's Hawk. As I approached slowly for a photograph, the hawk arose with the Starling (which began to struggle and squeal), barely reached the creek and pitched to a low bank about eight feet from the stream. When I walked to a point opposite, the Starling had quieted and I thought the hawk would commence feeding, but it did not. As I turned to bring some companions to the scene I heard the Starling squeal, and on looking back, I saw the hawk drop into the shallow water. The water touched the hawk's belly at that depth and approximately a third of its tail was immersed. After a minute or two the hawk arose, shook itself as it flew to the bank, and commenced feeding.

The only other instance I know of an accipiter 'drowning' its prey is that which John A. Gillespie, operator of a banding station at Glen Olden, Pennsylvania, witnessed during a fall migration; a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*) caught an English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and dropped into a small artificial pool near Gillespie's traps. The pool was rather deep but was partially filled with the fallen autumnal foliage so the hawk sank slowly but kept its wings spread, "perhaps to retain its equilibrium" (Gillespie). It did not sink beneath the surface and shortly

arose, flew to a near-by tree and proceeded to devour its prey.—FREDERICK C. SCHMID, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

**Surf Bird in Yukon Territory.**—On August 14, 1945, while I was stationed at Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada, with the Army Air Forces, my attention was directed to some "snipe" that were wandering around one of the hangars. On examination I found three of these "snipe" inside the partly closed hangar doors and five on the outside. They were Surf Birds (*Aphriza virgata*), and quite reluctant to take wing. They would occasionally pick some minutiae from the crevices in the concrete. One picked up and swallowed a beetle about three-quarters of an inch long. Later in the afternoon they were observed walking along a retaining wall at head height and allowed one to approach as closely as two feet.

I know of no other records of this bird in the interior. However, I think this is due to lack of continuous observation by interested persons in those parts. It is quite likely that this species nests above timberline in the vicinity of the numerous lakes to the north of Whitehorse.—FREDERICK C. SCHMID, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

**Unusual Cowbird victims.**—This year (1946) we have observed two rather rare cases of Cowbird parasitism. The first was called to our attention on May 26. A nest in a brush pile on the mink farm of J. H. Mahoney near Anoka, Minnesota, contained a Brown Thrasher's egg and one of the parasite, while an egg of the owner was about 2 inches outside the nest in the brush. This egg outside the nest recalls Dr. Friedmann's remarks on owners' eggs out of the nest (in the case of Meadowlarks) in his book on the Cowbirds. This nest was presided over by a tailless male Brown Thrasher and a normal female. The owners' egg was substituted for that of the Cowbird, but the Mahoneys reported on June 13 that the nest had been destroyed.

The second case was that of a Horned Lark feeding a young Cowbird well able to fly. This was observed June 20 at the Chicago Municipal Airport where the birds conducted their operations on and near the passenger walk. I was able to get within six feet of them several times, and thus to observe both with ease. I had them in view at least fifteen or twenty minutes.—TILFORD MOORE, 768 Charles Avenue, Saint Paul 4, Minnesota.

**Chimney Swifts bathing.**—In the exhaustive and excellent article on the Chimney Swift in Arthur Cleveland Bent's 'Life Histories,' although mention is made of the swifts dipping down over the surface of a pond to feed, no observation of their actually engaging in bathing seems to have been recorded.

In the late afternoon of a hot, sultry day on July 7, 1946, I saw 25 or 30 Chimney Swifts taking repeated baths on the broad, placid surface of Maiden Creek above the Lenhartsville Dam in Berks County, Pennsylvania. A swift would approach the surface in a long, shallow angle, seemingly gliding down on stationary wings, and then resolutely smack the water with the breast and whole under surface of the body.

There can be no doubt that the birds were really bathing and not picking up floating food, for after each dip the bird 'bounced up' and by a vigorous shake freed its plumage, each time sending down several drops of water. Often the same bird, very much in the manner of a ricocheting stone, would take a second dip and occasionally a third, producing ripples by each dip. Some birds would coast down but at the last moment hesitate and sweep up without touching; others apparently struck rather deeply, as they seemed to struggle to get up in the air. While the Chimney Swifts were engaged in their splashing, a good contrast was afforded by a few Barn Swallows that swept and skimmed the surface of the water in the usual manner.