

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.