

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.

Mr. John T. Nichols tells me that he once watched a similar performance and that he also believes that the swifts were engaged in bathing. No doubt many observers have witnessed such behavior, but as it is not mentioned in Bent's volume, I thought it would be of interest to put it on record.—CHARLES VAURIE, *American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, N. Y.*

Speed of a Great Blue Heron.—On September 14, 1946, while I was driving along Seven Lakes Drive, in Harriman State Park, Bear Mountain, New York, a Great Blue Heron dropped down below the treetops and flew along in front of the car. The bird had difficulty in regaining altitude, and it is possible that full flying speed was not attained in the mile or more covered before the heron cleared the tree tops. The speedometer showed a speed of 19 to 21 miles per hour. A pair of the herons nest in Lake Nawahunta, and there is usually another pair in white plumage around the same lake.—C. H. CURRAN. *New York, N. Y.*

Albino Robins and Red-wing at Stockton, California.—During January and February, 1946, there was an unusually large influx of Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) in Stockton and vicinity. The birds' numbers ran into hundreds and, at times, to thousands in city parks and orchards, and they were everywhere common on lawns and in yards about town.

On January 25, I discovered a partial-albino Robin feeding on the moist ground of Victory Park in Stockton amidst a group of 40 normally colored Robins. The bird's plumage was noticeably different when on the ground and strikingly so in flight. It had a complete white collar around the neck, extending in mottled pattern up the gray nape and cheeks to the top of the head. The crown was coal black. The deep red breast and flanks were spotted with patches of buffy-white and there was one small white spot on the right side of the upper back. The remainder of the back and the tail were the usual gray-black shade. As it fed on the ground, some white coloration was evident in the bird's wings, and when it flew to a near-by tree, the flash of a white stripe in each wing was unmistakable. The pattern of the stripe reminded me of a Sanderling, though this Robin's stripe was slightly wider. The eyes, legs and feet all seemed normally pigmented. Mrs. E. G. Parrott, a fellow observer, and I both agreed that during the 20 minutes in which we watched the bird, its unusual coloration did not seem to affect its acceptance as a member of the feeding group.

Two days later, January 27, Ernest Meyers and I observed another and different partial-albino Robin along the lower Sacramento Road, eight miles north of Stockton. This individual was feeding at the roadside and was so conspicuous that it was noticed easily from the moving car. It had white shoulder patches and white over much of the back. The breast was red with white spots scattered through it; there were white specks on the black head feathers as well. The outer primaries of the right wing were white, but the left wing feathers were normally colored. All other coloration was normal. The bird was by itself.

It seemed unusual to find two partial-albino Robins within three days, when no others were observed all winter. These two were strikingly distinct in pattern from each other. The Victory Park bird came closer to a symmetrical distribution of white, with an identical stripe in each wing and almost uniform coloration elsewhere. The wing pattern of the roadside bird was decidedly unsymmetrical, although its shoulder patches were balanced. Both birds were predominantly different in pigmentation from the albino Robin at Crawfordsville, Indiana, described by Vogel (*Auk*, 63: 249-250, April, 1946).

Most recent literature indicates that partial albinism involves countless variations