

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