

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

in color distribution. Brooks [Audubon Magazine, 48 (2): 82-91, March-April, 1946] groups partial albinos into three types: (1) those birds having only a few abnormally white feathers; (2) others with a symmetrical design in white on either side of their bodies; (3) still others which present a mottled white and dark appearance.

I observed a Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata*) which belonged to type 1 in a redwood forest near Crescent City, California, on July 12, 1946. The bird had one white feather in its tail and otherwise normal brown coloration. A female Bicolored Red-wing (*Agelaius phoeniceus californicus*) of type 2 was observed by eight of us from the Stockton Audubon Society along a ditch nine miles out of Stockton on April 7, 1946. The bird had a brilliant white stripe down the fore edge of each wing in perfect symmetry and was otherwise normally colored. She was fitting through the reeds with other females and males of normal coloration and was chased by two males at separate times while we watched.—VERNA R. JOHNSTON, *Dept. of Zoology, Stockton Jr. College, Stockton, California.*

An albino English Sparrow (*Plate 11, upper fig.*).—On May 23, 1946, I was called to the home of Mr. Pearl Rice, 234 Pine Ave., Findlay, Ohio, to see and photograph two "white" sparrows. They proved to be two fledgling English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*). By the time I arrived, one of them had made its escape from the wire canary cage that housed them, but I secured several good photographs of the one remaining. For the two years preceding 1946, Mr. Rice had seen, on many occasions, a pure white sparrow around his barn. On May 23 of this year, 1946, his grandson, playing in the barn, found a nest containing two normally colored young of the English Sparrow and two that very nearly approached pure albinism. The two albinos were placed in a wire cage and the cage set out in the back yard. Both of the parents came to the cage several times to feed them before the one escaped. The male parent was of normal coloration and the hen was pure white. The eyes of the fledgling shown in the photograph were a dark blue. The only other spot of pigment on the bird was a buffy, circular blotch an eighth of an inch in diameter just below the bend of the left wing.—RICHARD STUART PHILLIPS, *834 Liberty St., Findlay, Ohio.*

Unusual nest of Wood Thrush.—A nest of the Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) with two eggs was discovered June 27, 1946, in Reese's Bog on the north shore of Burt Lake, Cheboygan County, Michigan. This nest was constructed almost entirely of at least four species of mosses. The basic construction material was *Calliergon stramineum*. *Calliergon schreberi* and *Hylocomium triquetrum* were added in smaller quantities. The interior of the nest was composed of dried, pressed *Sphagnum* sp., resembling mud.

The nest was placed eight feet up in a twenty-foot white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), one foot from the trunk on a horizontal branch. The site was near the center of a dense coniferous forest in which the dominant trees were white cedar and balsam fir (*Abies balsamia*).

Two other pairs were found within 500 yards in different directions from the nest. This record supplements the information of Root (Auk, 59: 113, Jan., 1942), and helps to confirm the supposition that the Wood Thrush is not always confined to deciduous woodlands.—AUSTEN FOX RIGGS, II, *23 Coolidge Hill Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Robin fighting its reflection in a hub cap (*Plate 11, lower fig.*).—The accompanying picture was made in Sullivan, Indiana, during the early part of May, 1939.