

plication of the name "*bairdi*" even more doubtful. The type should be re-identified.

The winter range of *vigensis* is indicated by a male (wing 72.2, tail 61.6 mm.) from San Mateo, northern Guatemala, February 10, 1927. This bird is too small and green for *pulverius* and does not resemble either spring or fall plumage of that race. Furthermore, the female from seven miles west of Momostenango now appears nearest *vigensis*. While undoubtedly very gray, it seems too pale on both crown and chest for *trepidus*. It is quite small (wing 64.5, tail 57 mm.).—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, 113 Olive Road, Tucson, Arizona.

A polydactylous jay.—June 16, 1948, Dr. Tadeuz Leser of Emory and Henry College, Emory, Virginia, presented to The National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C., four juvenile blue jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*). These birds appeared to be about a month old. They were the product of a clutch of five eggs; one egg did not hatch. One young appeared to have much difficulty in maintaining a standing position. At times it would fall over, and "hopping" was labored. An examination of its feet revealed that the specimen was polydactylous. Its many toes prevented it from maintaining a comfortable standing position. Each foot had two halluces, and four forward toes, a total of six toes on each foot. These toes were normal with the exception that the middle or third toe of each foot was partially joined to the inner or second toe. The outer or fourth toe was normal. The joint between the tibia and the tarsus displayed abrasions, for the bird rested frequently upon its tarsus in quite the same position as is commonly seen in the Gruiformes. This polydactyl bird appeared normal otherwise, except that it possessed an abnormal, voracious appetite.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *The National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

January song in black-capped chickadee.—Apropos Mr. Francis Allen's communication (Auk, 64: 616–617, 1947) relative to the *phe-be-be* song of the black-capped chickadee (*Parus atricapillus atricapillus*), in something like twelve years of observation, I have never failed to hear the bird sing in January, on three to seven different days in the month. Certain conclusions, however, seemed inevitable: 1) there was no *phe-be-be* song on days of severe weather or bitter temperatures; 2) the song was almost invariably on days of warming weather, particularly of thawing weather, however slight; this was so common that there is in this region of south central Wisconsin a very definite association of the *phe-be-be* song with thawing weather to such an extent that local superstitions, that the call foretells a period of thaw, have grown up around it. It should be noted that at Sauk City, which lies along the Wisconsin River, the bird is common in its occurrence throughout the year.—AUGUST DERLETH, *Sauk City, Wisconsin*.

Bewick wren and common rock wren in Douglas County, Kansas.—In the Museum of Natural History of the University of Kansas, the author found two wrens previously unreported from Douglas County, Kansas.

Thryomanes bewickii bewickii (Audubon). Bewick Wren. This bird was stated by Long (Trans. Kans. Acad. Sci., 43: 448, 1940) to be present in Kansas only as an "accidental," on the basis of one specimen obtained but not preserved from "two miles south of Lawrence on April 10, 1920." Four specimens obtained by Dr. Claude W. Hibbard, on March 31, 1945, and March 28 and 29, 1946, from one mile west of the university campus, were identified as *bewickii* by Dr. Alexander Wetmore. Thus, it would appear that eastern Kansas is included in the regular migration route of this bird.

Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus (Say). Common Rock Wren. An individual of this species flew into a window of the museum on October 25, 1946, and is now number 23993 in the collection of the Division of Birds. Goodrich stated in "Birds in Kansas" (Rept. Kans. State Bd. Agric., 64 (267): 255, 1945) that the rock wren is common in certain parts of western Kansas and is "rarely but occasionally found in the east"; no definite localities are cited. Specimen number 23993 is the first record of the bird for Douglas County, and seems to be the easternmost locality in Kansas from which this bird has been taken.—M. DALE ARVEY, *Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas*.

Atypical copulatory behavior of a robin.—Observations of six instances of copulatory behavior in the eastern robin (*Turdus m. migratorius*) by various people during the spring of 1948 indicated that both birds were always silent during copulation, and the act was accomplished without strife or excited behavior of any type other than occasional wing fanning by the male. One case, however, varied radically from the others. In this instance, the male advanced on the female with his wings slightly open, bill gaping, and body feathers extended, and tried to mount. She drove him away with a vicious peck. The male then mounted an earth clump, fanned his wings vigorously as he tried to copulate with it, then ran and tried to mount the female again. She dodged and ran a few steps; the male then tried to copulate with a piece of crumpled newspaper, again fanning his wings vigorously, then went to the female and attempted to mount from the front, but was again driven off. He returned once more; this time the female squatted and he mounted, apparently successfully. The female then violently attacked him and chased him away, the two flying out of sight in a long, twisting flight.—HOWARD YOUNG, *Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin*.

A robin rears a cowbird.—On May 15, 1948, in Scott County, Iowa, I found a nest of the robin (*Turdus migratorius*) which contained one addled egg and a nestling cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) which was about ready to leave the nest. Both the male and female robin showed a great deal of concern while I banded the bird. Of the many robins' nests that I have examined this is the first one that ever contained a cowbird. Friedmann (The Cowbirds, p. 193, 1929) recorded that the robin was one of the few species that refused to accept the eggs of the parasitic cowbird and usually punctured the eggs and ejected them from the nest.—JAMES HODGES, *3132 Fair Avenue, Davenport, Iowa*.

More veeries breeding in Washington, D. C.—In Auk (60: 103, 1943) I reported the first record of veeries (*Hylocichla fuscescens*) breeding in Washington, D. C. At least one of three fledglings had apparently been raised successfully by a pair that nested in "lower Rock Creek Park" in 1942.

On June 9, 1948, my wife and I heard a veery singing at the south entrance of The National Zoological Park, less than a mile upstream from the nesting site of 1942. On June 21, we discovered two veeries in the territory, both singing, and we found the two together on other occasions thereafter. It was not until July 11 that I discovered the nest, with three fledglings, about a foot above the ground in a tangle of Japanese honeysuckle. By July 17, the young were out of the nest and being fed by their parents, but I was unable to count them.

On June 13 and subsequent occasions I discovered that veeries were to be found continuously along a mile of Rock Creek, beginning about three miles upstream from the territory of the veeries in the Zoological Park. On June 20, I found a nest with