

little evidence of fruit blossoms in the stomachs of House Finches and concluded: "It is probable that but little of the alleged mischief to fruit blossoms is done by this bird." This lack of evidence is of course due to the birds' practice of dropping the blossoms after crushing them. Beal suggested that this type of feeding was restricted to domestic fruit trees, which may not be entirely true.

On July 26, 1948, I observed at least three Cassin Finches, *Carpodacus cassinii*, feeding on the flowers of the delicious blueberry, *Vaccinium deliciosum*, in subalpine meadows on the northeast side of Mount Rainier, Washington.

In the area around Eugene, Oregon, the Evening Grosbeak, *Hesperiphona vespertina*, feeds regularly upon the flowers of the broad-leaved maple, *Acer macrophyllum*, during the early spring, much in the same manner as the Purple Finch feeds upon cherry blossoms.

These observations suggest that nectar feeding may be wide-spread among species of *Carpodacus* in North America, and perhaps in the finch subfamily Carduelinae.—GORDON W. GULLION, 5400 Huber Ave., Richmond, California.

Bird Cooperation in Time of Danger.—Emerging from a thicket of white pines into a small clearing one day in late June, 1947, in a mountain valley near Linville Falls, North Carolina, I heard a noisy commotion among several species of birds. A number of sparrows could be seen on the ground, flying up and jumping around. Through my binoculars I could see Chipping Sparrows, *Spizella passerina*, and Field Sparrows, *Spizella pusilla*. In the nearby shrubs the Cardinals, *Richmondia cardinalis*, Bluejays, *Cyanocitta cristata*, Mockingbirds, *Mimus polyglottos*, Catbirds, *Dumetella carolinensis*, and others were crying out, flitting from shrub to shrub and flying low over the spot. The cause of this was soon noticed, a six-foot black snake, *Coluber constrictor*, was after baby Chipping Sparrows on the ground. The adult Chipping Sparrow was tumbling within inches of the snake's mouth, and the snake was striking at the mother bird, but missing each time. Other Chipping, Field, and Song Sparrows, *Melospiza melodia*, were going through the same antics, and all the time the snake was being led away from the baby sparrows. The birds mentioned above were also cooperating in leading the snake away. I watched this for a half-hour and by this time the snake was about 15 feet from the young sparrows. I entered the scene and the snake left.—DAVID L. WRAY, 510 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, N. C.

The Seabirds of Soemoe Soemoe and Vicinity, Northern Moluccas.—From June 5 until September 13, 1945, Richard Bowen of Warren, Rhode Island, and I were stationed on Soemoe Soemoe, one of the reef islands fringing the coast of southwest Morotai. Soemoe Soemoe lies two miles west of the southwest coast of Morotai and ten miles east of the northern tip of Halmahera at approximately two degrees north latitude. From this base we patrolled the east and west coasts of northern Halmahera. The following is an account of the observations made over this entire area. Both land and seabirds were noted, but only the latter will be included in this paper since the landbirds of the region are well known. As references while we were in the area we used Mayr's 'Birds of the Southwest Pacific' (1945) and Alexander's 'Birds of the Ocean' (1928). I also wish to express our indebtedness to Dr. Mayr and Dr. J. T. Nichols of the American Museum of Natural History for their assistance.

The climate of the region is tropical with relatively mild and predominantly south-westerly winds, usually from five to seven knots. Most of the area covered here was on the lee side of the mountains of Halmahera, which tended to protect it from storms. Evening rains were the rule, but they were usually of short duration. On August 14, however, there was a severe storm with flooding rains and relatively high winds,

which is referred to later in this paper since the great amount of debris it washed from Halmahera into the Galela Bay area attracted many seabirds.

The Wedge-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus pacificus*, is the commonest shearwater, being most frequently seen in Galela Bay, Halmahera. On August 15, after a severe storm, there was a great deal of debris in the water, and these shearwaters were present in great abundance. A Bulwer's Petrel, *Bulweria bulwerii*, was seen perched on a floating log off Halmahera, first on August 19, and several times after that. The Dusky Shearwater, *Puffinus l'herminieri*, was not considered common, although we saw it fairly often, especially on August 15 off the coasts of Halmahera and Morotai. Wilson's Storm Petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus*, was seen just north of the Talaud Islands on September 13. Only adult Brown Boobies, *Sula leucogaster*, were seen in this region, but they were relatively common, especially in the region of Galela Bay. The Greater Frigate Bird, *Fregata minor*, was quite common around Morotai and the fringing reef islands. There was no indication that the birds were breeding here, although immature and adult male and female birds were seen. During July, they were seen daily, circling in large flocks over the barrier reef of Morotai. In August and September they disappeared completely, and Lesser Frigate Birds took their place. The flocks of both species were estimated to have well over 100 birds. A few Lesser Frigate Birds, *Fregata ariel*, were seen in early June, then not seen again until August and September when they were common. Immature individuals were seen, although again there was no evidence of breeding here. The Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii*, was the commonest white tern in the region of Halmahera and Morotai. Sooty Terns, *Sterna fuscata*, were often seen off Halmahera (Galela Bay and south). Brown-winged Terns, *Sterna anaetheta*, were relatively common in this region, particularly near Galela Bay. The superciliary streak was distinctly seen, though faint, extending well beyond the eye. The Spectacled Tern, *Sterna lunata*, was seen uncommonly off Halmahera; it was identified from a collected specimen. Some adult and many immature Crested Terns, *Thalasseus bergii*, were seen off Halmahera in the region of Galela Bay and also perched on the beach. The crest was partly raised when perched, down when in level flight, and raised when diving. The Common Noddy, *Anous stolidus*, was fairly common off Halmahera, during August and September, where it was perched on floating debris (logs, coconuts) and flying. The Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus variegatus*, was the only shorebird seen on Soemoe Soemoe or Halmahera.—JOHN J. CHRISTIAN, 12 Roseland Ave., Philadelphia 11, Pennsylvania.

Notes on the Birds of Guam.—In these notes emphasis is placed on habits, dates, and island distribution. An occasional field mark is offered for corroboration of identification or as an aid to future observers. Dates cited are a record of field trips more than of the occurrence of a species, since notes were not made with regularity.

Observations were made from December, 1945, to July, 1946, primarily in the Agat-Mount Tenjo-Piti-Orote Peninsula area and the Tumon Bay region. One trip was made across the center of the island to Talafofo Bay on the southeast coast, one to Northwest Field near Ritidan Point, and one down the west coast by boat to Cocos Island. Due to Navy regulations all trips were necessarily taken between the hours of 1 and 7 p. m.

CHINESE LEAST BITTERN, *Ixobrychus sinensis*.—Common in the region of Apra Harbor, seen in the mangroves, mudflats, marshes and swamps. The call is a harsh 'chalk.' Their flight is distinctive. The forward motion through the air appears slow compared to the rapidity of the wing beats. In flight, the secondaries appear