

1934). The adult male did not appear until 8:00 p. m. on April 3, when the adult female called from the nest ledge and was answered by the adult male from a nearby elm tree.

The table shows that most of the food items brought to the nest ledge were decapitated, especially the larger forms. The adult owl would take the food from the reserve supply to the nest where it would be eaten at intervals during the day and night. For example, at 5:00 p. m. on March 24 there were three Bronzed Grackles on the nest ledge with one pigeon in the nest; all four birds were decapitated. By 3:45 p. m. the next day only one Bronzed Grackle remained outside the center window; but outside the west window was the wing, rump, tail and leg of a Coot. Then at 8:45 a. m. on March 29, a rabbit and one Pied-billed Grebe, both headless, were outside the center window. One wing of the grebe was in the nest. That night it rained and the next morning all the food had been eaten.—ROGER O. OLMSTED, 818 Alabama Street, Lawrence, Kansas.

First Breeding Record of Black Swift, *Nephoecetes n. borealis*, in Colorado.

—The Northern Black Swift, has been seen in Colorado on various occasions during the last 70 years. J. M. Drew collected ten individuals in 1881–1882 in San Juan County (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1881: 140, and 1882: 182). Widmann (Auk, 28: 313, 1911) saw five in July over Glacier Meadow. Other reports have placed them variously at the towns of Trinidad, Montrose, and in Huerfano County. Bailey and Niedrach of the Denver Museum of Natural History told us of seeing them in San Juan County some years ago, and with the approval and assistance of these two gentlemen, we undertook to discover the nesting place of these birds.

On July 21, 1949, we found a colony of approximately eight pairs nesting in a gorge in the San Juan mountains, adjacent to a 150-foot waterfall. This colony proved to be inaccessible without the use of elaborate mountaineering equipment. Three days later we found a more accessible colony 15 miles away. This colony was also in a gorge, adjacent to a series of waterfalls, and apparently consisted of six or seven pairs.

Both sites were located in the upper Canadian Zone, close to 10,000 feet, the terrain being typical of the rugged precipitous San Juan mountains. At the latter site, the falls had cut through the ancient igneous rock to a depth of 40 feet at several places. The nest we were able to reach was located 25 feet above a deep pool at the base of the largest falls in a cavity 10 inches high, 12 inches wide and 8 inches deep. The sun never shone on the nest.

We noticed that the swifts chose nesting sites close to falling water, most of them being subjected to a continuous spray. However, one nest was observed at least 20 feet from the nearest water and was quite dry. The nests are constructed of mud and moss, the moss continuing to grow on the nest. The males spend most of the day foraging far from the nesting area, returning at infrequent intervals, while the females incubate. The females occasionally leave their nests for short periods of time for the purpose of feeding.

On July 27, 1949, we photographed and collected a nest and its single egg, the first to be taken in Colorado and the female (DMNH 25551). The nest weighed 1.5 lbs. and the egg, 5.5 grams. All are now in the museum collection.—OWEN A. KNORR, Department Zoology, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and A. LANG BAILY, Denver Museum Natural History, Denver, Colorado.

Third Record of Black-chinned Hummingbird, *Archilochus alexandri*, in Oregon.—On May 15, 1949, while working in the greenhouse I found a dead male Black-chinned Hummingbird. The bird apparently died from hitting the glass in

his attempt to escape from the greenhouse. The bird was sent to Stanley G. Jewett of Portland, Oregon, who verified my identification.

The Black-chinned Hummingbird is included on the Oregon bird list on the basis of only two female specimens—this being the first male taken in the state.—BERTON M. BAILEY, *Enterprise, Oregon*.

The Race of Kingfisher, *Alcedo a. pallasii*, Occurring in the Crimea and Ukraine, South Russia.—Peters (Check-list Birds of World, 5: 172, 1945) places *Alcedo atthis suschkini* Pusanov (Bull. Soc. Nat. Moscou, Sect. Biol., 42: 15, 1933), from Crimea and Ukrainia, as a synonym of *Alcedo atthis atthis* (Linné), ('Systema Naturae,' ed. 10, 1: 109, 1758) from Egypt.

I have recently examined in the collection of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) examples from the Crimea. I find that Crimean Kingfishers differ from Mediterranean *A. a. atthis* and western continental *A. a. ispida* Linné by their paler ventral surfaces and smaller proportions, and particularly in the shorter bill. On comparison with material from the Caspian Basin and Persia (*A. a. pallasii* Reichenbach), the Crimean specimens were found to correspond in all essential details, and I consider Pusanov's race *A. a. suschkini* to be a synonym of *Alcedo atthis pallasii* Reichenbach, (Handb. spec. Orn., 1851: 3) from Siberia, which must now be listed as ranging considerably farther to the west than hitherto recorded, that is to the Crimea and Ukraine.—P. A. CLANCEY, 9, *Craig Road, Cathcart, Glasgow, S. 4, Scotland*.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Muscivora forficata*, Feeding at Night.—In front of a hotel in Dublin, Erath County, Texas, during the evening of August 1, 1949, I noticed what I took to be a large bat fluttering around a streetlight. Further observation showed the creature to be an adult Scissor-tail. The bird perched on a nearby elm or on the electric wires, from which it made sallies to capture large insects. It appeared to be catching grasshoppers or katydids and often flew against the globe protecting the light in its pursuit of prey. I watched the performance from 9:15 to 10:00 p. m.

On August 2, I left Dublin but returned the following day. On the evenings of August 3 and 4, the Scissor-tail was busily catching insects until at least as late as 11:00 p. m.

The streetlight was of a large bulb-type, giving a blue-white light resembling that of a fluorescent tube.—PHILIP F. ALLAN, *Soil Conservation Service, Fort Worth, Texas*.

First Occurrence of Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*, in Canada.—On Saturday, October 29, 1949, the writer and his wife, Dorothy, observed a Vermilion Flycatcher at the north end of Grenadier Pond in the northwest corner of High Park, Toronto. Many local observers saw the bird on October 30 and 31, and on November 1 it was collected by C. E. Hope for the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology (No. 76565).

On dissection, it was found that the bird had a broken left femur which had completely healed. This defect did not seem to affect the bird's activity and it was flying well, associating with a mixed flock of migrating Bluebirds and Juncos. It showed no evidence of recent captivity and was fat and in good condition. Although its skull was completely granulated, it was an immature male, with vermilion feathers covering most of its underparts and a large part of its crown, and with a white throat.

This appears to be not only the first record of this species in Canada, but the first to be reported to the north of its usual northern limits in Utah, New Mexico, and Texas.