

The same male that nested in shaft Q2 during 1957 and 1958 returned to the same shaft for nesting in 1959, but obtained a new mate to replace his earlier one, which failed to return. The nest was begun on 5 June, 38 feet from the top of the shaft. One egg was laid 10 June. On 20 June, after an absence of nine days, the writer found the nest missing from the wall, and the parent birds were roosting side by side high on the south wall. Nine days later a new nest was made at about the same place as the old one. This was completed on 4 July. The first egg was not laid until five days later. A second egg was laid, and both presumably hatched. Observations were discontinued after 24 July, but the nest was still on the wall on 17 September and remained there through the winter.—RALPH W. DEXTER, *Department of Biology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.*

**Heavy Nematode Infestation of White Pelican.**—On 10 October 1959 a dead White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) was recovered by the writer and Storrs Olson, Tallahassee, Florida, from the northeastern Gulf of Mexico, a mile offshore from Shell Point, Florida, on Apalachee Bay. There were no other pelicans in the vicinity, although 14 were seen the same day at St. Marks lighthouse, about five miles to the east. There were no signs of decomposition. Autopsy performed the next day showed that the skin of the pelican, an adult female, was intact, and that she had not been killed by gunshot. No fat accumulation was seen anywhere, under the skin or in the viscera, and the flight muscles appeared somewhat underdeveloped. The gut was totally empty, except for the presence in the stomach of well over 1,100 nematodes. As a result of this great infestation, the stomach was enlarged, distended, and markedly discolored; numerous small ulcers and damaged areas could be seen in the stomach wall, where some of the nematodes were still attached. The parasites were determined to be a species of *Contraecaecum*, probably *C. micropapillatus* Stossich, a common ascaroid found in both White and Brown pelicans (*P. occidentalis*) (York, W. W., and P. A. Maplestone, "The Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates," Blakeston, London, 536 pp., 1926).

The actual cause of death of the pelican was not determined, but it is entirely possible that the extremely heavy nematode infestation might have hastened death, in one or more ways: actual damage to the stomach, blockage of further passage of food, or by weakening the pelican enough so that feeding became difficult. Instances of helminth parasites actually causing the death of their hosts are sufficiently rare that it is felt that the present nematode infestation was only a contributing factor in the death of the pelican.—LARRY C. OGLESBY, *Department of Biological Sciences, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.*

**Ivory-billed Woodhewer Feeds on Mud Flat.**—On 27 December 1959, while observing shorebirds on a mud flat about three kilometers by road east of San Blas, Nayarit, México, I saw an Ivory-billed Woodhewer (*Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*) feeding on the same flat. The mangroves that cover much of the coastal plain in this area have been cut down and removed over several acres around the junction of the side road to Matanchen, so that stumps up to six inches high dot the flats. The nearest forest in which woodhewers might be expected to reside is on ridges over half a kilometer to the east.

The woodhewer was pecking at the mud, apparently feeding on the small insects that had attracted the many Audubon's Warblers (*Dendroica auduboni*) and Water Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta*) feeding near it. The nearest shorebirds were Semi-

palmed Plovers (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), which were feeding with other shorebirds around shallow pools and tidal channels 15 to 100 meters south of the woodhewer. The latter hopped along in the manner of a flicker (*Colaptes* sp.) feeding on a lawn, but held its body more level and its tail higher than a flicker normally does. When I approached the woodhewer, it moved to a stump and then flew to a telephone pole some 10 meters north, near the main road. Instead of flying to the nearest patch of low mangroves, about 20 meters west, the woodhewer then flew down to the grass and mud flats north of the road and resumed feeding among the stumps.

On the following day another woodhewer was seen in the forested hills about four kilometers northeast of these mud flats. This bird was feeding on the trunks of trees and in bromeliad epiphytes in the way that I have often seen the species feed in British Honduras. In the mangroves 1.1 miles south of these mud flats, W. J. Maher had collected an Ivory-billed Woodhewer (Mus. Vert. Zool. No. 134169) on 27 December 1955. Dickey and van Rossem (The Birds of El Salvador, Zool. Ser., Field Mus. Nat. Hist., 23: 323. 1938) found that *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* often fed on the ground, but they encountered the species only in forests. If ability to find food during the nonbreeding season in such diverse habitats as mud flats, mangrove swamps, and upland forests is characteristic of the species, it is not surprising that *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* has a wider distribution in the Mexican lowlands than any other species of woodhewer.—EDWIN WILLIS, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.*

**Occurrence of *Collyriclum faba* in Steller's Jay.**—A Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) was collected by Charles Fred on 1 December 1959 at the base of the Shoemaker Grade on the Grand Ronde River, Asotin County, Washington. The bird was infected with 26 adult *Collyriclum faba* which were in 13 cysts adjacent to the anus. Each cyst contained two flukes and the cluster of cysts presented a tumorlike mass.

The occurrence and distribution of *C. faba* was reviewed by Farner and Morgan (Auk, 61: 421-426, 1944). They reported that the distribution of the fluke in the United States was limited to the Eastern and North-central areas with no records west of the Great Plains. This appears to be the first record of *C. faba* in the Pacific Northwest and the first record of Steller's Jay serving as a host for this parasite. It is hoped that this report will stimulate collectors to examine the anal region of birds for this interesting fluke and throw more light upon its distribution and life cycle; the latter is still unknown.—C. W. McNEIL, *Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.*

**An Avian Air Battle.**—An ornithology class observed an unusual air combat between two Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) and three Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) about 10 A.M., 15 June 1955, over the Conodoguinet Creek in south-central Pennsylvania. Apparently the conflict had started only a short time before the birds were seen, for they were within a vertical range of two to three times the height of several large sycamore trees; the action ended so high the two species could hardly be distinguished by the naked eye.

The falcons were rather swifter in the diving, at times using even two or three wing strokes at the start of the downward glide to pick up velocity rapidly. In coming out of the dive, both species, using their momentum, shot rapidly upward, wings rigid as in the dive, until their speed was checked to the point that wing