

over the ridge above the nest. This would appear to be paradoxical behavior, for the nutcracker is the greater threat to the welfare of the nest.

I thank John P. Hubbard for his advice and help in the preparation of this note and for retrieving the nest, which is deposited in the collection of the Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico.

LITERATURE CITED

- BAILEY, F. M. 1928. The birds of New Mexico. New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish.
 BENT, A. C. 1968. Life histories of North American cardinals, grosbeaks, buntings, towhees, finches, sparrows, and allies, part 1. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 237.
 FRENCH, N. R. 1955. Foraging behavior and predation by Clark Nutcracker. *Condor* 57: 61–62.
 HUBBARD, J. P. 1970. Check-list of the birds of New Mexico. New Mexico Ornithol. Soc. Publ. No. 3.
 JOHNSON, R. E. 1975. New breeding localities for *Leucosticte* in the contiguous western United States. *Auk* 92: 586–589.
 LIGON, J. S. 1961. New Mexico birds and where to find them. Albuquerque, Univ. New Mexico Press.

DAVID PAUL HENDRICKS, 900 S. Robberson Ave., Springfield, Missouri 65806. Accepted 10 Jan. 77. (This paper was subsidized by the author.)

Pellet egestion by a captive Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*).—The oral egestion of pellets of the indigestible portions of food has been reported for many avian species including several species of Apodidae (1964, pr. 608–609 in *A new dictionary of birds* (A. L. Thompson, Ed.), New York, McGraw-Hill; Hanson 1969, List of species known to eject pellets, The International Bird Pellet Study Group Bull. No. 10, with additions 1974, Aberlour, Banffshire AB3 9LJ, Scotland, Aberlour House.). This process apparently has not been reported to occur in *Chaetura pelagica*.

On 9 September 1975, an injured Chimney Swift was submitted for treatment to the Raptor Rehabilitation Center associated with my laboratory. The bird appeared to have suffered a concussion after colliding with a plate glass window. It was force-fed 4–6 times per day with a diet consisting of about 75% earthworms, 20% house flies, and 5% other small insects. On the 3rd day of our care an oval-shaped pellet (1 cm long, 0.6 cm in diameter) was found in its cage. It had not cast another pellet by the end of the 5th day when it was released.—GARY E. DUKE, Department of Veterinary Biology, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108. Accepted 17 Dec. 76. (This paper was subsidized by the author.)

Unusual foraging by a Fork-tailed Storm Petrel.—While conducting an offshore bird census from the sea beach at Nelson Lagoon, Alaska Peninsula (56°00'N, 161°10'W) at 1700 on 17 September 1976 I saw a Fork-tailed Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma f. furcata*) feeding on the beached remains of an adult gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) that had been trapped by ice and died the previous April. I watched it for about 15 min. The sky was overcast with a 25-knot offshore wind, gusting to 35 knots. Seas were running from 3 to 4 m, and the tide was high. This observation is of note because it provides direct evidence of a terrestrial (i.e. nonpelagic) foraging capability by *O. furcata*. It also furthers the scant knowledge on the use of beached marine mammals for food by pelagic and inshore avifauna, especially during adverse weather when normal foraging habits might be inhibited.

This particular bird, which was subsequently collected (USFWS-OBS-056, imm. female), was feeding in association with approximately 40 adult and hatching-year Glaucous-winged Gulls (*Larus glaucescens*) and three adult Sabine's Gulls (*Xema sabini*). The petrel actively fed among the gulls by hovering over the beach and then picking up small pieces of whale tissue being torn loose by wave action and washed up on the beach. Three times the bird landed on the beach and picked up what appeared to be food items cast high on the tide line. Subsequent examination of the stomach contents revealed approximately eight small pieces of whale fat, feathers, the lens of a fish or squid eye, and five pieces of smoothly worn pumice. The latter could have been picked up floating at sea or on the beach. Twice after successfully obtaining items the petrel alighted on the back of the whale within 1 m of several gulls also sitting on the carcass. No interspecific reactions were observed among the birds.

Fork-tailed Petrels are frequently seen in intertidal waters along the Alaska Peninsula in fall and early