

hundred yards of the Anhingas. A few of the hawks were actually a part of the Anhinga flock, staying at the edge of the group, but mimicking their movements even to circling and spiralling downward with units of the main group. In the *Gulf Coast Migrant*, April 1941 issue, there is a report of 1,000 Anhingas and 100 Broad-winged Hawks observed at Dickinson, Galveston County, on the same date. Since Dickinson is about 135 miles northeast of Refuge headquarters and flock movements are slow, this was probably not the group of birds described above.

Another flock of several hundred Anhingas, accompanied by a large number of Broad-winged Hawks, was seen passing over the Refuge by Beaty on April 8, 1942. Earl W. Craven observed a migrant group of about 1,250 Anhingas over the Refuge April 2, 1945.

I watched a flock of 20 flying about 300 feet up, as it passed south over Tivoli, Refugio County, October 17, 1941. The flock did considerable circling, but the general movement of flight was southwest. The birds were moving parallel to a highway, and I kept pace with them in an auto. This flock covered one mile in about seven minutes.—JAMES O. STEVENSON, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois*.

Road-runner preys on Poor-will.—On March 9, 1943, around 1:30 p.m. as I was driving along the trail about a mile northwest of Tule Tank, on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, Yuma County, Arizona, I noticed some feathers of a Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttalli*) lying in the road. A short distance down the trail, I saw a Road-runner (*Geococcyx californianus*) running along, carrying something in its beak. When I gave chase, it dropped its burden, which proved to be the still warm carcass of a Poor-will, intact save that most of the viscera had been removed (and probably eaten), and a number of the larger wing feathers had been torn out. I find no previous reference in the literature to Road-runners preying on birds of this family.—GALE MONSON, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Parker, Arizona*.

Starling and Brown Thrasher stealing food from Robins.—The systematic theft of food from weaker or otherwise vulnerable species of birds has often been noted among aquatic birds and birds of prey, much less often among passerines. In two cases that I recently observed, the victim was an American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), a species exceptionally skilful in obtaining food from the sod but apparently not able or not inclined to resist robbery by more aggressive species.

While crossing the University of Michigan campus shortly after noon on April 22, 1946, I noticed a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) run at a Robin and drive it away from the worm it had begun to dig up. Apparently the Starling failed to get the food that time, but in the next five minutes the Starling made four more raids, all of them successful. The Robin did not attempt to fight or to defend the food; it simply moved off a foot or two and continued to forage. The Starling each time quickly devoured the stolen food and then resumed walking about rapidly and erratically in characteristic starling-fashion, but keeping within six or eight feet of the Robin. As soon as the Robin found a worm and started to pull it out, the Starling ran over quickly and crowded the Robin away from the food. The six- to eight-foot range was apparently just enough to enable the Starling to get to the spot before the Robin could swallow a newly-discovered worm. On one occasion the Starling finished the worm while about 15 inches from the Robin, then moved off to the six-foot range. After the fourth successful raid, the Starling flew 150 yards north to a big elm tree, where it apparently had a nest.

On April 28, at 9:25 a.m., I watched a female Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) on the lawn near my house make two similar successful raids on a Robin digging worms there. Again the Robin made no attempt to defend the food.—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.