

from its breeding grounds, spending some time, and then returning. The best term for such an unorthodox migrant would seem to be "autumn visitant."

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Air speed of Belted Kingfisher.—In the spring of 1946 while travelling in central Colorado, a companion and I recorded the speed of a Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) as it flew for a distance along U. S. Route 50 in the Arkansas River Canyon between Canon City and Salida. For several miles the canyon walls are very precipitous, rising a thousand feet or more from the stream bed. Passing through this, the deepest part of the canyon, where the road is separated by only a few feet from the river, we noticed a Belted Kingfisher flying upstream in a course parallel to our car. We were travelling at 30 miles per hour when the bird, flying with apparent ease, came in range of our vision from behind. To keep pace with the bird we increased our speed to 35 and then to 40 miles per hour. At this speed we stayed abreast of the bird for 1.8 miles before it again drew ahead of the car. We increased our speed to 45 miles per hour and were thus able to follow it 0.4 mile farther, when we were forced to reduce speed because of a rock slide partially blocking the highway, and the Kingfisher was lost to view. I estimated that the Kingfisher had been flying with a wind velocity of one to three miles per hour to assist him.

In all, we had successfully followed this bird for a total distance of 2.2 miles from the point of first observation. At no time had the distance between us and the bird been greater than 10 or 12 yards. In order to maintain this distance it had been necessary for us to increase our speed from 30 to 40 and finally to 45 miles per hour. D. D. McLean (1930. *Gull*, 12, No. 3: [p. 2]) recorded "steady level flight" of 36 miles per hour for the Belted Kingfisher (in California). All during our observation the Kingfisher flew with apparent ease and remained between 10 and 15 feet above the water's surface, following each curve and bend of the river consistently. It showed no alarm or anxiety because of the nearness of the automobile. Observation and alertness, however, were evident in the continual turning of its head from side to side during the flight.—LEE J. BURLAND, *138½ River Street, Oneonta, New York.*

Purple Martins feeding on emerging may-flies.—On the evening of August 2, 1946, I observed at Shafer Lake, White County, Indiana, what I at first supposed was a large feeding school of white bass (*Lepibema chrysoψs*) about a third of a mile from my boat. (These bass travel about open water in schools and in the summer months feed at the surface, making splashes that can be seen from a considerable distance.) On closer approach, however, I found that the splashes I had observed were being made by Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) and a smaller species of swallow (either Bank or Rough-winged) which were feeding on may-flies (Ephemeroptera) that were coming to the surface to molt. This emergence was taking place along the east shore of the lake for about 1,000 yards and out into the lake for perhaps 400 yards. Often the birds picked the insects from the water, making hardly a splash. Almost as often, however, they made a large splash, sometimes almost disappearing beneath the water. The flies actually on