colors. Linnaeus, however, was not the first person to so name it. Initially, in the tenth edition of "Systema Naturae," 1758, I: 108, he himself named it *Coracias Galbula*. Only in the twelfth edition, 1766, I: 162, did he rename it *Oriolus Baltimore*. Already 100 years before that, the colonists in America were calling it "the Baltimore bird." Nathaniel Shrigley's "A True Relation of Virginia and Maryland," London, 1669 (5), contains a reference (p. 4) to "the Baltenore bird, being black and yellow"—the name there marred by an "n" for an "m"; the Calverts themselves at that period sometimes spelled their title "Baltemore" (6). John Lawson (7), mentions "the Baltimore-Bird, so called from the Lord Baltimore, Proprietor of all Maryland" (p. 152 of reprint). Likewise, Catesby (8) called it the "Baltimore Bird" and explained: "It is said to have its name from the Lord Baltimore's coat of arms." The "Systema Naturae" indicates, and hence the American Ornithologists' Union (9) considers that it was not from skins but from Catesby's book that Linnaeus included the bird in his classification, and from Catesby that he adopted the species designation *Baltimore*.

As for the "oriole" part of the vernacular name, it was the ornithologists, and not the lay colonists, who made this mistake. To the colonists the bird was simply the "Baltimore bird." Catesby, however, giving the first naturalist's description of it in Latin, termed it an *icterus*, which was the Latin name for the birds that Europeans later came to call orioles. Linnaeus, relying on Catesby's description, in 1758 classified it along with the European birds in *Coracias*, and then in 1766 separated this whole group as *Oriolus*. And down to 1785 *Oriolus Baltimore* stayed strictly a technical name. Only in that year, it seems, was this translated into the English "Baltimore Oriole," by Thomas Pennant (10). And only after that name had become firmly attached were our birds discovered to be only superficially like the "true" orioles of Europe.

To sum up, what can be accurately said about the origin of the name "Baltimore Oriole" is that the designation "Baltimore" became attached, because the bird's colors were those of the Calverts, soon after these proprietors began colonizing Maryland (their first colonists landed in 1634; and Shrigley's "True Relation" shows that in 1669 the name was being used). This designation the ornithologists adopted from the colonists. The ornithologists also for a time regarded the bird as congeneric with the European orioles, and before they changed their view the term "oriole" had become fixed in vernacular usage.

For access to, and help in using, some of the ornithological works cited I am greatly indebted to Dr. John W. Aldrich and Allen J. Duvall.

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HERVEY BRACKBILL, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

BIRDS FEEDING ON EUROPEAN CORN BORER IN NEBRASKA

While surveying and collecting European corn borers in the vicinity of corn borer parasite release points in eastern Nebraska during October and November 1948, the writer noted that considerable numbers of infested corn stalks bore typical woodpecker punctures. The first

of these was noted October 13 at Fontanelle, Nebraska where two stalks were found that showed bird work. On October 22, 25, and 27 more than 30 stalks were examined just south and west of Fremont, Nebraska. Likewise on October 28 and November 4 a number of bird beak punctures were noted in corn stalks on the University of Nebraska Experiment Farm east of Lincoln. On October 23, while surveying counties where the corn borer had not previously been recorded in Nebraska, two similarly punctured corn stalks were found four miles east of Hebron in Thayer county.

No borers were found in any of the above stalks (more than 50 examined) that had been worked by the birds, indicating that they were successful in taking the borers. The punctures in the stalks were all of the same type. No woodpeckers were noted working on corn stalks, but on two different occasions Hairy Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos villosus*) were seen along the edge of borer-infested corn fields. This bird predation was noted in eastern Nebraska the second year after the establishment of the European corn borer in the state. The borer apparently was also preyed on the first year it was recorded as common in Thayer county in south-central Nebraska.—CLARENCE A. SOOTER, Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

THE STUDY OF HAWKS IN FLIGHT FROM A BLIMP

The Tide Water Associated Oil Co. granted the Urner Ornithological Club the use of their advertising blimp on Sept. 21, 1948 to assist in studying the migration of the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) over New Jersey. The day chosen was clear with a 10 mph northwest wind and a temperature of 65°F. A total of 2,150 Broadwings were observed from the ground during the day chiefly from a vantage point in Upper Montclair. It was more difficult to locate the birds from the air than from the ground. Although 1800 hawks were spotted from the ground while the blimp was in the immediate vicinity, only 290 were spotted from the blimp. Radio communication from the airship to ground observers is recommended.

Observations made on only 1 day may not represent average behavior, even though the ground observers in this case described the day as a normal, good day for a Broadwing flight. The height at which the blimp found kettles, that is, a flock of hawks spiraling upward, was, in 4 cases, 1500, 2000, 2700, and 2400–2900 feet above sea level. These hawks were above a valley of 190 feet elevation and rising to fly over a ridge of 590 feet elevation. It is not known that these were the highest kettles of the day, nor measured at their highest point except for the 2000 foot kettle. Although earlier ground estimates had placed the kettles at greater heights, the maximum height reached may well be only 3000 feet, and many times the birds abandon their upward spiraling and "peel off", or enter their straight, downward glide, at only 2000 feet.

The birds peeling off from the 2000 foot thermal, a rising column of air heated from a warmer ground area, were successfully followed until they roosted in trees 4 miles away at a ground elevation of about 450 feet. Thus the ratio of glide to fall was about 12 to 1. The air speed of the Broadwings in the glide was 32 mph in one measurement and 26 mph in another. Judged by the criterion that the hawks were not frightened if they continued their glide in an undeviating line, the birds did not seem to mind the airship provided it was more than 300 feet distant.

Earlier ground observations, in addition to overestimating the height reached in the thermals, were unable to judge accurately airspeeds and distances of glide. Complete details of the undertaking may be found in "The Urner Field Observer", **3** (5–6): 2–9 1948. Further observations from a blimp appear to be a profitable method of obtaining new information on behavior of hawks in flight.—E. I. STEARNS, 92 Farragut Road, Plainfield, New Jersey.