

again; the bird was seen leaving the nest on May 23. In 1949 the nest was once more enlarged and inhabited; I saw a swift flying out of it on June 9. This nest was the largest of all I have seen.

2. On March 23, 1947, I found a second nest on this plantation. It was built alongside the trunk of a shade tree (*Erythrina glauca*) at a height of about 20 meters. The nest appeared old and not in use at that time.

3. On April 4, 1948, I found a nest suspended from the underside of a horizontal branch of a huge cotton tree (*Ceiba pentandra*), about midway out from the trunk, at a height of about 30 meters on the plantation "La Liberté" along the Surinam River. The bird was not seen but the nest looked new. This nest seemed remarkable to me as it was attached to the branch only at the top, while the sleeve hung free in the air.

4. On April 3, 1951, I found a nest with a long sleeve under the eave of the roof of a building on the grounds of the waterworks at Republiek. The nest was occupied at that time as the bird was seen repeatedly leaving the nest. On August 13, 1952, the nest was still there and apparently it had been used again though the bird was not seen. In this same locality on April 6, 1951, I found a different nest on the ground which had apparently been removed from its site. This nest was of the kinked type with only a short sleeve.

5. On April 9, 1953, I found a nest with a long sleeve hanging from the ceiling of a porch of a building along the Surinam River in the middle of the town of Paramaribo. It was of the same type as nest 3, as its upperside was attached to the roof and the sleeve hung freely in the air (fig. 2). Although I did not see the bird, the nest was inhabited, since on the floor under it lay some fresh excrement.

From these notes it seems clear that in Surinam the nests are occupied from March to the end of June, which is corroborated by the observations of Belcher and Smooker (1936) in Trinidad who found nests occupied usually in April. Because of the inaccessibility of the nests, I never was able to examine their contents. The nest of a near relative, *Panyptila sancti-hieronymi*, which occurs in western Guatemala and which is considered by Peters (1940. "Check-List of Birds of the World," Cambridge. Vol. 4:253-254) as a separate species but by Stresemann (1927-34, "Aves. Handbuch der Zoologie." Berlin. p. 348) as only a geographic race of *cayennensis*, is described as similar but is said to contain a "false entrance" half way up its side (Sclater 1863, quoted by Stresemann, *op. cit.*). Whether this is the rule or only an exception further observations must show.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, P. O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam, Dutch Guiana, May 18, 1953.

Two Mallard ducks caring for the same brood.—On July 5, 1953, a Mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) hatched a late brood of four young on Wintergreen Lake at the W. K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary. The following day one duckling disappeared and on July 8 only two remained. However, on this date two Mallard ducks were noted for the first time to be with the young and from that time on the two ducks were seen always with the two young. Both females seemed equally concerned over the care of the young and all four birds kept in close proximity to one another. On July 10, a particularly aggressive male Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) was observed swimming rapidly towards the young ducklings. The two ducks were unsuccessful in their attempts to herd the ducklings away from the onrushing swan. As the swan reached out to seize one of the ducklings both of the Mallard females flew at the head of the swan. For several minutes both ducks continued their attack on the swan, beating him about the head and neck with their wings. The swan soon retreated and the Mallards returned

to the two ducklings. At the present time (July 17) only one duckling is left and both ducks are caring for it.

The Mallards at the Sanctuary are wild birds that have become tame; they are full winged and free to come and go as they please. Every year a score or more Mallards nest along the shores of the Sanctuary lake and it is with one of these late broods that the above observations were made. I was unable to ascertain which Mallard was the actual parent.—ARTHUR E. STAEBLER, *W. K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary of Michigan State College, Hickory Corners, Michigan, July 17, 1953.*

Robins eating minnows.—Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) are seldom thought of as fish eaters, although observations of Robins eating trout fry have been reported by Phillips (1927. *Bird-Lore*, 29:342-343) in Massachusetts and by Michael (1934. *Condor*, 36:33-34) in California.

I witnessed another type of this unusual feeding habit by a pair of Robins in the city of Sturgeon Bay, Door County, Wisconsin, on May 31, 1953. Scattered about a dock on the shore of Sturgeon Bay were many dead emerald shiners (*Notropis atherinoides*) discarded by fishermen. This abundant species is commonly called "lake shiner" by anglers and is much favored as a bait minnow in Lake Michigan and Green Bay waters.

Two Robins, possibly a mated pair, were seen foraging around the dock for a period of about ten minutes before being frightened off by the arrival of several fishermen. In this interval one of the birds twice picked up two dead minnows about 1½ inches long and flew off holding the fish crosswise in its bill, shortly to reappear without them. I was not able to see the destination of this bird's flight. It is possible that the minnows were being fed to nestlings.

The second Robin was observed to pick up and swallow four dead minnows, also about 1½ inches in length. Each fish was picked up crosswise and juggled in the bird's bill until it could be swallowed head first. All four fish were handled with some dexterity, as if the Robin had fed in this manner before.

The minnows eaten by these Robins had been dead long enough to be dry on the surface, but the flesh was still soft.—JAMES B. HALE, *405 Washburn Place, Madison 3, Wisconsin, July 6, 1953.*

Reddish Egret and White Pelicans in northwestern Pennsylvania.—In the afternoon of May 9, 1953, a Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*) in the dark phase was seen on Presque Isle, located near Erie, Pennsylvania. The bird was identified by Stanley Belfore, Mary Templin, Margaret Band, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shontz, and John Mehner, all of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Robert Sundell of Frewsburg, New York, and Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Pees of Meadville, Pennsylvania.

The egret was seen in excellent light, through a 26 power telescope. It was observed feeding for a half hour near a sand spit at the eastern tip of the peninsula, and its characteristic behavior was noted. As it fed, the egret lurched about and ran in circles. Later it flew over the spit to a stump in the water where it was once again observed with the scope. This constitutes the first record of this bird in northwestern Pennsylvania.

A few minutes after the egret was found, two White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) were observed in flight over the sand spit. Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), and Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*), which were perched on the spit, immediately flew into the air, giving call notes. The