

Then, taking the sparrow in its beak, it would walk to the part of the cage farthest from the observer, lower its head and raise and spread its wings so as to completely hide its head and body from the observer. It would then pull out some remiges and proceed to eat the sparrow. If the observer moved so as to obtain a front view of the hawk, it would turn quickly, always keeping its back toward the observer and keeping the prey well hidden. When the bird was liberated on February 6, 1949, it weighed 892 grams.

An opportunity to observe the feeding behavior of a wild nestling Red-tailed Hawk was provided in the spring of 1956. One young was hatched in a nest within range of my window. At 1:10 p.m., June 20, the two-months-old young pounced upon the prey brought to the nest by its parent, but did not start eating immediately. The adult flew from the nest and for a few seconds the young one merely pecked at the food. Then, following violent back and forth movements of the head, it regurgitated two pellets within a few seconds. It then fell to eating ravenously. Suddenly it raised and spread its wings just as the captive hawk had done. In a few seconds, it folded its wings. After 10 minutes, it stopped eating and jumped to a small branch beside the nest (not for the first time). On June 21, it left the nest tree (for the first time), but on June 23, at 5:05 p.m., it returned to the nest and began to feed on prey brought there by one of the adult hawks. A Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) flew over the nest tree, calling. Instantly, the young hawk raised and spread its wings, while continuing to eat, as it had done on June 20. After the Flicker had gone, the hawk folded its wings again. Perhaps this behavior serves to hide the prey from possible competitors.—ALICE D. MILLER, 1150 Brewer Road, Leonard, Michigan, August 21, 1956.

Specimens of three birds uncommon in New Jersey.—A collection of birds recently made by me in New Jersey contains specimens which supplement the recent list of the birds of that state (David Fables, Jr., 1955. "Annotated list of New Jersey birds." Urner Ornithological Club, xi + 95 pp.). This collection of 108 skins and 94 skeletons is deposited in the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, with which I was connected at the time.

Podiceps caspicus californicus. Eared Grebe.—I secured a male (K.U. 32994) with testes that measured 4 x 4 mm., weighing 256 gm., on February 16, 1955, at Wreck Pond, Spring Lake, Monmouth County. Fables (*op. cit.*:15) lists "two, or possibly three, sight records" through September 1, 1954. Several Eared Grebes have been observed in winter since this date by members of the Urner Ornithological Club (personal communication), but I believe my specimen is the first to be taken in the state. Comparison with the series at the American Museum of Natural History indicates the specimen is *P. c. californicus*.

Branta canadensis leucopareia. Canada Goose.—On December 21, 1954, I discovered a small, white-cheeked goose accompanying a flock of some 30 Coots (*Fulica americana*) and semi-feral Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) on a fresh-water pond in Point Pleasant, Ocean County. The specimen was obtained the next day. The bird (K.U. 33003), which I identified as *B. c. leucopareia* on the basis of size and dark coloration, was a female (ovary 25 x 6 mm.) weighing eight pounds and was very fat. The brown rectrices indicate the specimen is a bird-of-the-year. The measurements are as follows: wing (chord), 407 mm.; tail, 133 mm.; exposed culmen, 45 mm.; tarsus, 77 mm.; middle toe without claw, 65 mm. There seems little possibility that this goose had escaped from captivity. Fables (*op. cit.*:20) lists several records of birds believed to be of this subspecies, but apparently no specimen had been critically examined.

Sterna fuscata fuscata. Sooty Tern. On August 13, 1955, shortly after hurricane

"Connie" had passed New Jersey to the west, I saw eight adult-plumaged Sooty Terns and one Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*) flying over Barnegat Bay near Lavallette, Ocean County. The birds were making little headway against the strong southerly winds and some of them rested several times on an island approximately 60 yards from me; thus I had time to study and compare the two species. With the aid of H. Lyman Sindle, I reached this island and secured a female Sooty Tern (K.U. 33036), which had an ovary that measured 11 x 5 mm. The bird weighed 150.1 gm. and had two small grasshoppers in its throat, and the remains of others in its stomach. Fables (*op. cit.*:40) lists four records of the Sooty Tern from New Jersey: one sight record, two decomposed birds, and a specimen which was in a private collection (Huber, 1917. *Auk*, 34:206). Therefore it seems my specimen may be one of the few that has been preserved for future examination. The Bridled Tern has been recorded once from New Jersey (Fables, *loc. cit.*). This record is of a dead bird found at Island Beach, Ocean County, on February 24, 1951, by E. and Q. Kramer. Concerning this specimen, which is number 167592 in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, James Bond (letter, Oct. 15, 1956) wrote, "It is in immature plumage, and in such bad condition that I have no doubt it had been lying on the beach for many days. Indeed, it may have drifted in from far out to sea!" My sight record is the first time the species has been recorded alive in the state.—GLEN E. WOOLFENDEN, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, September 22, 1956.*

Ring-billed Gull steals food from Coot.—During March, 1956, at the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge in Cambria, Williamson County, Illinois, I saw Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) stealing food from Coots (*Fulica americana*) on four different days. The pattern of their actions was essentially the same on each day.

On March 5, as I was watching Redwings (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) settle into their roosting area, I caught a glimpse of two gulls hovering over a Coot on the shore close to the edge of the water. The Coot made jabs at the gulls with its bill, but the gulls managed to keep out of reach. Then the Coot apparently was lured away from a morsel of food it had been guarding, for suddenly one of the gulls swooped in, picked up something, and made off with it. The second gull flew off in a wide circle. About 15 minutes later I saw another Coot eating something as it rested on the water about two feet from shore. A gull swooped toward this Coot which dropped its food and darted aside, thus leaving an easily obtained bit of food for the gull. The latter picked it up while on the wing, carried it about 150 yards, and settled on the water to eat it.

In neither instance could I determine the nature of the food with certainty. However, on one occasion it appeared as a stringy, dark-colored material, something like a pondweed might look. On another occasion the food looked white, compact, resembling a small dead fish.

On another day, just as a Coot surfaced after its dive, a gull dived at the Coot. The Coot immediately submerged again, apparently to escape attack. In this instance no food was involved in the attack.

I wrote to Mr. Gordon Gullion to find out whether this relationship between gull and Coot was a common one. He replied that, "To my knowledge there are no other records of gulls taking food away from Coots, however, the robbing of Coots by Baldpate, scaup and Canvasbacks has been recorded and I believe is of fairly common occurrence." He also pointed out to me that Bent (1926. *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* no. 135:366) records Coots taking food from Canvasbacks and Redheads.—L. M. BARTLETT, *Department of Zoology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, November 27, 1956.*