

13, 1955, four Louisiana Herons were observed flying over a similar site about one-half mile to the north, so I decided to search for a possible nest. During the morning of May 14, I flushed an adult Louisiana Heron from a nest containing one egg, bluish-green in color. The nest, composed of birch and bayberry twigs, was placed in a poplar birch (*Betula populifolia*) about 10 feet from the ground. The nest site was located one and one-quarter miles south of the North Channel Bridge. On the following morning, a Louisiana Heron was flushed from the same nest, which now contained two eggs. A third egg was discovered in the nest on the afternoon of May 17. I returned to the nest on the afternoon of May 18, and I found the remains of the three eggs in and below the nest. A pair of Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*) nested within 100 yards of the Louisiana Herons, and possibly the crows had destroyed the eggs. Although the actual destruction of the Louisiana Heron eggs was not witnessed, I later saw Fish Crows remove eggs from the nests of Black-crowned Night Herons and Green Herons which nested nearby. Other heron and egret species which nested in the same area were the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), and the American and Snowy Egrets. Louisiana Herons were observed in and around this area throughout the remainder of the breeding season (May, June, and July, 1955), but following the destruction of the Louisiana Herons' eggs mentioned above, I could find no evidence of any further nesting attempts on their part.

Louisiana Herons have been breeding in southern New Jersey since 1948 (Wright, 1948. *Audubon Field Notes*, 2:200), but this is the first breeding record for New York, a northward range extension of over 100 miles. I had expected Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*), which have been breeding in southern New Jersey since 1935 (Stone, 1937. "Bird Studies at Old Cape May," 1:131), to be recorded as breeding birds in New York long before Louisiana Herons; hence, the above breeding record is somewhat surprising. It is impossible, of course, to state whether or not the Louisiana Herons which bred on Rulers Bar Hassock were derived from the Stone Harbor, New Jersey, colony or from one further south.—ANDREW J. MEYERRIECKS, *Biological Laboratories, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts, October 2, 1956.*

**Observations on three albino American Robins.**—Albinism in the American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) has been noted by many field observers. Cases of both complete and partial albinism have been reported for nearly a century in scientific journals. (For some early records see the *Amer. Nat.*, 2, 1868: 161, 490, 492; 3, 1869: 279; 6, 1872: 173; 12, 1878: 474.) Scattered records will be found in all of the ornithological journals. However, very few details have been published on continuous observations of such birds. Recent observations of the writer in Portage County, Ohio, are reported here.

In the spring of 1953 a nearly all-white female nested at Edinburg at the residence of Floyd Hickman. It was first noticed by the Hickmans at the end of April. The only plumage coloration was a normally colored orange breast; all other feathers were white. She was mated to a normally colored male and they built a nest in the crotch of a large tree seven feet from the ground. Two eggs were laid after May 10. This nest was soon abandoned, probably because it was flooded during a heavy rain. A new nest was begun on May 16 in the crown of another tree nearby and completed two days later. Three nestlings were raised here, all of which were normally colored. The female performed the incubation and brooding while the male remained on guard. The last date on which the albino was observed was July 27. She did not return in subsequent years.

In the summer of 1954 a white robin was reported on South Walnut Street in Ravenna where it was feeding on sweet cherries over a period of a week (July 9-15). This was not seen by the writer. The following September an albino robin, possibly the same one,

was observed by residents on North Prospect Street only a few blocks away from the previous location. It remained for about two weeks. In April of 1955 a female albino robin was again found at the same place and was possibly a return of the same individual. This bird was all white except for several small brown patches on the wings and back. The eyes were normally colored. She was mated to a normal male and the juveniles were likewise fully pigmented. The female, as before, did all of the incubating and brooding. She was last seen in late July, and has not returned to date.

On September 19, 1955, a robin that was all-white except for a brown feather on the left wing and a brownish streak in the middle of the tail was found on Chestnut Street in Kent by Randy Hill, a small school boy living in the neighborhood. This albino was observed until October 2.

Attempts to capture (for banding) the three albino robins reported here were not successful. None was found in 1956 in those places mentioned above. Albino birds probably have a short life span. An exception was a partial albino observed in Cleveland from 1863-65 inclusive (Garlick, 1868. *Amer. Nat.*, 2:492).

The only completely albino robin seen by the writer was a juvenile bird which he banded on July 13, 1948, in Akron, Ohio, and reported in detail (1949. *Bird-Banding*, 20:187). It was never located again, although two white robins were reported from the same neighborhood in the summer of 1949. Two of the three cases mentioned in this note were symmetrical in their coloration pattern. Very often albinistic patterns of robins are asymmetrical (Dexter, 1947. *Auk*, 64:460-461).—RALPH W. DEXTER, *Department of Biology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, December 3, 1956.*

**Sanderlings eat fishermen's bait minnows.**—The Sanderling's (*Crocethia alba*) habit of picking up and eating tiny fish from the edge of the beach, where they have been washed up, is well known, as is the fearlessness of man shown by single birds or small parties of this species. A third condition, man making small fish available, would complete a set of circumstances suitable for a social feeding relationship between bird and man. This third condition exists on a concrete pier at the south end of Lake Michigan, in Michigan City, Indiana. There many people fish for perch, and the favorite bait is a tiny minnow brought alive in buckets. Frequently there are numbers of dead bait minnows lying on the pier, thrown, dropped or spilled there by the fishermen.

For some years I have been aware that during the autumn migration small numbers of Sanderlings often were to be found on this pier, and often in close proximity to the humans. However, only in October, 1956, did I realize that sometimes Sanderlings sought out the fishermen, waited near them, and ate bait-minnows when available.

On one occasion I saw a Sanderling within four feet of an isolated pair of fishermen, pick up and eat a minnow from the pier. I stopped to watch and one of the fishermen, noting my interest, reached into his bait bucket for a live minnow which he tossed three feet toward the watching bird. The Sanderling at once ran, picked up the fish, and, after mouthing it for a moment, swallowed it.

On another occasion three Sanderlings were standing a few yards on one side of a solitary fisherman, while two dozen or so tiny minnows were lying dead on the pier on his other side, apparently thrown there by a fisherman who had left. With some hesitation one Sanderling, within reach of the man, edged between him and the water, though it could easily have circled him at a greater distance, found the minnows and ate five in quick succession. The other birds then joined the first but, perhaps replete, only pecked at the minnows. However, one bird finally picked up a minnow and ran with it. A second bird at once gave chase, the first one dropped the minnow and the second