

deserted nest foundation. On 23 July, they were once more separated, one on the north wall and one on the east wall. Nesting was never completed by these two birds. A similar case of incompatibility was reported earlier by me (1951. *Amer. Midl. Nat.*, 46: 227-229).—RALPH W. DEXTER, *Department of Biology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, 10 March 1960.*

Downy Woodpeckers scaling bark on diseased elms.—Woodpecker activities may, at certain times, have interesting associations with diseases of trees. West and Spiers (1959. *Wilson Bull.*, 71: 348-363) mentioned that some of the three-toed woodpeckers which invaded southward in 1956-1957 were observed chipping off the outer bark of elms, thus revealing the fawn-colored inner bark. One observer suggested that the invaders were seeking the *Scolytus* beetle, which is a vector of the Dutch elm disease. This disease is important in the ecology of woodpeckers in the vicinity of Seneca, Maryland, for I have found the nest holes of Pileated (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Red-bellied (*Centurus carolinus*), and Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopus pubescens* and *D. villosus*) in trees killed by its effects. Diseased elms are recognizable by the engraving of multibranching tunnels which the beetle provides for its eggs and larvae. Of the above species, only those of the genus *Dendrocopus* consistently feed on the various stages of *Scolytus*, which occur in great concentration in the bark of some elms. This food supply attracts Downy Woodpeckers in particular. In observations made from 1956 to 1959, I have noticed that these woodpeckers may begin scaling the bark on dying elms as early as 15 September, and continue to do so until late in April. I have seen as many as four of them busy on one elm. Flakes of bark litter the ground below such trees, and trunks and limbs become fawn-colored as the openings of hundreds of minute tunnels are revealed. Such elms are of no further interest to the woodpeckers in a succeeding year. The remaining bark begins to fall off in large pieces at this time. Hairy Woodpeckers work on diseased elms in much the same manner, but I have only a few records of their doing so. The report of West and Spiers that *Picoides articus* and *P. tridactylus* both fed on elms during their invasion is of interest, among other reasons, because the bark-scaling activity appears to be especially characteristic of the genus *Dendrocopus* and systematists regard *Picoides* and *Dendrocopus* as belonging to closely related genera.—LAWRENCE KILHAM, 7815 *Aberdeen Road, Bethesda 14, Maryland, 21 January 1960.*

A winter record of the Forster's Tern for Rhode Island.—On 6 January 1960, an immature Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) was seen along the shores of the Sakonnet River in Middletown, Newport County, Rhode Island. When first seen the bird was perched on a buoy about 400 feet from shore; it later flew along the shoreline and passed within 50 feet of my car. While on the buoy, it was studied for several minutes through a 20× telescope and it was especially noted that the dark patch behind the eye was restricted and did not extend around the nape. Later, when the bird was seen in flight, the paleness of the upper parts was particularly conspicuous. A half-hour after the original sighting I returned to collect the bird but it had disappeared. It should be noted, therefore, that (1) the bird was observed for 10 or more minutes under the best of conditions (at noon on a bright clear day), (2) it is a species well-known to me, and (3) I was fully aware at the time of the unique aspect of the record. A check of the literature indicates that this is the first winter record of this species for Rhode Island, and the latest winter record north of Cape May, New Jersey.—JAMES BAIRD, *Norman Bird Sanctuary, Third Beach Road, Middletown, Rhode Island, 29 January 1960.*