

**Long drinks by a hummingbird.**—It is perhaps well known that the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) can drink continuously for several seconds if the supply of fluid is large relative to the bird's capacity. Normally this occurs only when man-made feeders are provided. When estimating the duration of some of these long drinks by counting seconds I also noticed the causes of interruption of drinking. Drinks of six seconds or less were very numerous and were not recorded (Table 1).

TABLE 1  
SUMMARY OF 25 LONG DRINKS

Seconds	Number	Seconds	Number
7	7	13	1
8	3	14	1
9	2	16	1
10	1	17	1
11	4	23	1
12	2	24	1

The detectable causes of interruption were: actions of man or of other hummingbirds, approach of bees or wasps, and interruption of the supply of fluid. In many cases no cause was evident. There may well be individual differences. It frequently happens that a bird will take a series of drinks separated by quick withdrawals and reinsertions of the bill, each drink a little shorter than the preceding. If conditions are favorable, five or six pulsations of the gular area per second can be seen. These observations were made at Hillsboro, N.C. So far, no differences can be ascribed to sex.—CHARLES H. BLAKE, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 14 August 1961.*

**Notes on Least Flycatcher behavior.**—While studying the Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) from 1955 to 1958 in southeastern Michigan, I gathered fragmentary data on the breeding biology of the Least Flycatcher (*E. minimus*). My observations on the latter were of unmarked birds, but the following notes seem significant. This work was done on the University of Michigan's Edwin S. George Reserve, near Pinckney, Livingston County. I wish to thank Dr. Irving J. Cantrall for helping me obtain financial assistance through a Reserve grant.

Only de Kiriline (1948. *Aububon Mag.*, 50:149–153) seems to have published observations on the selection of the nest site by Least Flycatchers; she noted that the female alone selected the site, and described how the female “flitted from crotch to crotch, pressing her breast down into each one to test it for comfort,” returned to a particular site again and again, and finally constructed the nest there.

On 2 May 1956, I saw two Least Flycatchers perched 2 feet apart and 30 feet up in an aspen (*Populus*) tree. Both were singing *chebec*. One bird went to an upright crotch and sat in it; the other sang *chebec*, then the bird in the crotch sang *chebec*. At another location, 15 May 1956, a Least Flycatcher came to a particular fork on a limb three times within an hour, perched in the fork, and sat there uttering a long, soft, chattering call. The tail was held straight down and the body quivered as the bird called. Three days later I saw a Least Flycatcher again go to this fork. It sat there giving the chatter call, sang *chebec* twice, then called *wit* several times. After two minutes, a second Least

Flycatcher perched 8 inches from the first and seemed to threaten it, causing the first bird to fly. Thereupon the second bird flew to the fork, sat there 10 seconds, and flew. A nest was begun at this site on 22 May. The sexes of these birds are unknown, but surely the birds represented pairs. If so, both males and females showed interest in potential nest sites.

On 12 May 1957, I saw a Least Flycatcher go to an old nest (which I could not identify) of a previous season, sit on it, give the chattering call, then fly and sing *chebec*. I am not certain of the sex of this bird. Its behavior causes one to speculate whether the old nest was that of a Least Flycatcher, although a bird observed by de Kiriline examined an old nest of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*).

My observations seem to indicate that both the male and the female take an active part in selecting (or inspecting) the nesting site. One alternative may be that the male is only attracted to the spot by the presence of the female there. Someone will have to clarify this point by the study of banded birds.

Secondly, my notes suggest that both sexes sing *chebec*. MacQueen (1950. *Wilson Bull.*, 62:194-205) stated, "The female does little, if any, true singing." Davis (1959. *Wilson Bull.*, 71:73-85) thought only the male gave the *chebec* song. It may well be that female Least Flycatchers sing *chebec* only during the period of nest-site selection, but evidently no one has intensively studied this species during this phase of its reproductive cycle. Acadian Flycatcher females sing at least through the incubation and brooding periods, thus it would not be surprising to learn that female Least Flycatchers also sing.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, *Department of Forestry and Conservation, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, 11 October 1961.*

**Total albinism in a Nebraska Bobwhite.**—There have been several reports of total albinism in Bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*) (Sprunt, A., 1928. *Auk*, 45:210-211; Stoddard, H. L., 1931. "The Bobwhite Quail: Its Habits, Preservation, and Increase." Pp. 85-86). Stoddard (op. cit.) states: "While very rare in nature, albinistic examples of bobwhite are by no means rare in museum or in natural history collections. Pure albinistic bobwhites usually show a creamy tint or suffusion." Sprunt (op. cit.) mentioned it was remarkable that a bird of this extraordinary plumage could survive long in the wild.

There seems to be no record of the age of quail which are fully albinistic. On 23 October 1960, a total albino Bobwhite was shot three miles north and three miles east of Arapahoe, Nebraska. It was taken from a covey, all other birds of which appeared of normal coloration. The bird, a male, had pure-white plumage; its bill and feet were magenta; its eyes clear. The ninth and tenth primaries were characteristic of an adult bird and the shape of primary coverts also indicated it to be an adult. From this we may assume that the bird had survived at least 16 months in the wild.—KARL E. MENZEL, *Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission, Lincoln 9, Nebraska, 19 July 1961.*

**A record of a puffin in Vermont.**—The AOU Checklist (1957) lists only two inland records for the Common Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). A recent occurrence from Vermont is therefore worthy of note.

On 10 December 1960, the *Rutland Daily Herald* carried a large picture of a "strange bird" which had been picked up by Marshall Fish on Cold River Road, Rutland. The story accompanying the picture gave no indication of the size of the bird, and the