

**Wing-flashing in the Black-and-white Fantail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*).**—During observations in Kenya in 1961, I reported (Monroe, Auk, 81:91–92, 1964) wing-flashing in the turdine *Erythropygia zambesiana*; this behavior appeared in all respects identical or closely similar to that of the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). I know of no other report of mimid-type wing-flashing in a non-mimid.

While in Australia recently, I observed wing-flashing in the Black-and-white Fantail, or “Willie Wagtail” (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), an Old World flycatcher (Muscicapinae of the Muscicapidae). On 1 August 1972 in a park on the outskirts of Adelaide, South Australia, I watched three individual fantails wing-flashing for about ten minutes. This species feeds primarily on the ground, with foraging accompanied by the exaggerated tail-wagging associated with the species. The wing-flashing in all cases noted (some 35 individual observations among the three birds) appeared identical to that of the Mockingbird. Upon alighting, the individual fantail would immediately execute the wing-flashing behavior; in each instance it was accomplished with a single “hitch,” a momentary pause close to the body as the wings were extended. Following the pause, the wings were then rapidly and fully extended in the usual slanting plane of about 45° to 60° with reference to the horizontal. The entire pattern involved about one second and was accomplished with the tail cocked about 30° to 45° to the horizontal; there was no noticeable lateral movement of the tail during flashing, but the individual would often tail-wag vigorously immediately following the flash. The behavior appeared entirely homologous to that of the mimids as well as that I observed in the African *Erythropygia*. Although there is no white in the wings of *R. leucophrys*, the inner webs of the primaries are pale gray, resulting in full sunlight in a noticeable flash as the wings are extended.

On 13 August 1972 I noted another individual fantail wing-flashing in a park in Brisbane, Queensland. This individual, also performing in open sunlight, flashed three times in about one minute of observation, but in this instance no hitch or pause was noted; in other respects, the procedure was closely similar to that of the birds in Adelaide.

During my three weeks in Australia spanning the period of the above observations, I noted more than 250 individuals of this species. The wing-flashing behavior was not otherwise observed, although I watched specifically for it. The behavior does, however, appear to be widespread among the passerine groups of this complex (muscicapid-mimid), geographically as well as taxonomically.—BURT L. MONROE, JR., *Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40208, 30 October 1972.*

**The occurrence of unusually small eggs in three species of songbirds.**—Unusually small or runt eggs, variously called dwarf, cock, wind, or witch eggs, are extremely rare, occurring in the chicken (*G. gallus*), for example, at a frequency of only 0.05 to 0.09 percent (Romanoff and Romanoff, *The avian egg*, John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1949:258). Reports on the occurrence of such eggs in nature are very few. I here report the occurrence of unusually small eggs in three species of passerines, along with some data on the frequency of such eggs.

On 1 May 1971, I found a dwarf egg in a Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) nest in a colony in Prince Georges Co., Maryland. The nest also contained three nestlings, four to five days old. The egg (Fig. 1) measured 18.75 × 13.70 mm as compared with 28.53 × 20.89 and 25.65 × 20.57 mm given by Bent (*Life histories of North American blackbirds, orioles, tanagers and allies*, Dover Publications, New York, 1965:378) as the average and smallest measurements, respectively, for this type of grackle. The egg contents were