

swim or be caught. Rather reluctantly it took to the water, swimming well for twenty yards. Here it scrambled ashore and resorted to the more usual mode of protection by squatting motionless among the debris along the shore. Swimming, it seems, was an act prompted by self preservation and was accomplished although the species is not equipped with webbed or lobed feet.

It appears that as long as an act is physically possible it may be attempted. Instances of actions at wide variance to an animal's usual activities are of interest especially if the reason for the unusual act appears evident. It can only be conjectured whether such behavior is due to a re-occurrence of a primitive instinct or whether the individual has "experimental" tendencies. There is also a possibility that certain acts which appear unusual are merely infrequently observed.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto.*

A Death Trap to the American Barn Owl (*Tyto pratincola*).—

Within 200 yards of my house is a piece of land known as "Porcher's Island Field" on which I have taken a great many albinistic Sharp-tailed Sparrows as well as a Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) on November 24, 1893, a Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) on May 13, 1910, also all forms of eastern Sparrows that frequent the salt marshes, as well as Marsh Wrens. In October, 1919, I found in the field a dead American Barn Owl and wondered how it happened to be killed. The next year, in November, I found the remains of another Barn Owl on the top of a dead pine tree (snag) within 75 yards of the spot where I discovered the first one, and the following October (1921) I found the remains of another bird at high water mark that had been picked clean and done as if by the hand of man. Upon examining all the feathers carefully I identified a feather that belonged to a Great Horned Owl showing conclusively that all these Owls must have been killed by a Great Horned Owl. In December, 1923, Mr. Edward von S. Dingle (who now lives near me) found the remains of a Barn Owl in this field and in close proximity to the places where all the other Owls had been killed. Here is a case of an Owl preying upon another Owl of inferior size and less ferocity.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

The Type Locality of *Alcedo cristata* Linné.—In a recent number of the 'Bulletin' of the British Ornithologists' Club,¹ Col. Meinertzhagen has described *Corythornis cristata johannae* from Anjouan Island, Comoro Islands. Unfortunately Anjouan Island (or Johanna, as it used to be called) happens to be the type locality of *Corythornis cristata cristata* (Linné),² as selected by Oskar Neumann³ several years ago, and therefore Col. Meinertzhagen's name must fall as a direct synonym of *Alcedo cristata* Linn.

¹ 44, 24 Jan. 1924, p. 44.

² (*Alcedo*) *cristata* Linné Syst. Nat. 1, ed. 12, 1766, p. 178.

³ Orn. Monatsb. 23, 1915, p. 157.

The *terra typica* of Linné's bird is given by him as "India Orientali," based in part on *Alcedo amboinensis cristata* of Seba¹ and *Ispida philippinensis cristata* of Brisson,² from Amboina and the Philippines, the latter name based in part on Seba, and in part on Klein, as well as on specimens in the de Réaumur collection.

The diagnosis given by Seba is inadequate, but his poorly drawn figure is readily identifiable as a *Corythornis*; though his description reads that the bill is yellow, the figure shows it as dark. Brisson's figure is not certainly recognizable; it could just as well represent some form of *Alcedo atthis*, but his minute and careful description can apply only to a *Corythornis*, and to one of the black-billed forms, since the color of the bill is distinctly said to be black, in spite of his references to Klein and Seba, both of whom described a bird with a yellow bill.

Thus far Linné's bird is really a composite species, but following the "habitat" he ascribed to the species he inserts the words "Rostrum nigrum, Pedes rubri. Confer. Edw. av. t. 336" thereby making his description applicable only to a *Corythornis* with black bill and red feet. Thus the name *Alcedo cristata* Linné must be applied to a black-billed form of *Corythornis*, either the Madagascar or Comoro Islands bird, since the African forms have a red bill (yellow in skins). Turning to Edwards' Gleanings, 3, 1764, pl. 336, we find a colored plate answering just such specifications, inscribed "The Crested Kingfisher from the island of Johanna," which is immediately recognizable as the bird known today as *Corythornis cristata*.

While Neumann (l.c.) indicated Joanna Island as the type locality he did not formally so designate it, though his action would seem to be sufficiently binding even though Linné's reference to Edwards were not entirely enough to restrict automatically *Alcedo cristata* Linné to Joanna Island. This genus is not found anywhere in the East Indies, both Seba and Brisson being in error as to the origin of the specimens they both described and figured.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Museum Comp. Zoöl., Cambridge, Mass.*

The Giant Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata stictipennis*) in Grenada.—On July 12, 1922, while searching for birds in a small mangrove swamp near the city of St. George's, Grenada, one of these large Kingfishers alighted on a tree about 20 feet in front of me, but on seeing me he instantly took wing again. I have not been able to find any previous record of the occurrence of this species in Grenada.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *Mayagüez, Porto Rico.*

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker in New Jersey.—On November 29, 1923, Mr. S. V. LaDow and I were walking through the Phelps Estate near

¹ *Rerum Naturalium Thesauri* 1, 1734, pl. 63, fig. 4.

² *Ornithologie*, 1760, Tome IV, p. 483, pl. XXXVII, fig. 3.