

been caught by the feet only. One individual was accidentally killed by the felling of a tree. Thirteen individuals had been shot, probably by hunters who customarily fire at any bird or animal they see in the woods.

The remaining eighty-two individuals had evidently been killed by flying into automobiles. These birds were found on or near the roads, and broken bones, battered plumage, internal hemorrhage or blood-shot eyes indicated that death had been caused by a terrific blow. While a few of these birds may have been starved or ill when hit, most of them were in excellent condition physically, for they were fat and in good feather, and in many cases their stomachs were full. During the past three years, the writer has personally observed along the roads the remains of sixteen additional Screech Owls thus killed by automobiles, and has once witnessed the death of an individual which flew into the wind-shield. We have knowledge also of at least four Screech Owls which were killed by locomotives.

The fact that these nocturnal birds often hunt their prey along the roads doubtless accounts for much of this destruction. It may be that in many cases the Owls form the habit of eating small mammals, birds or insects which are destroyed along the highways. The glaring lights no doubt often confuse the flying Owls which have not learned to accurately estimate the distance or speed of the approaching cars. Occasionally, perhaps, flying insects upon which the Owls are feeding, may fly toward the lighted highway and actually lure their pursuers to destruction.

It is interesting to note that by far the greater number of the birds thus found dead were in the gray phase of plumage; the sixteen birds killed by automobiles which were examined personally by the writer in the field, were all in the gray phase. This statement is not made with the intention of suggesting that any difference in food-habits or mentality exists between the two color phases of this species, but the fact is interesting nevertheless.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

Snowy Owl Killed by Automobile.—Since the publication of my notes on last winter's invasion of Goshawks and Snowy Owls in Pennsylvania (*Cardinal*, Vol. II, No. 2, July, 1927, 35-41), several additional records have come to hand. One of the most interesting of these concerns a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) which was badly wounded by flying into the windshield of a rapidly moving automobile which was driven by a Mr. Finch of Athens on the night of December 1, 1926, near Athens, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. The injured bird was kept for over a week before it died. I am indebted to Mr. William Wallin, taxidermist of Athens, for this note.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.*

Nesting of Costa's Hummingbird in 1927.—The season of 1927 has been marked, locally, by an unusual number of Costa's Hummingbirds, thirteen nests having been found on the writer's property before June

first, about one month from the beginning of the nesting. This is in strong contrast to the very noticeable scarcity in the year 1926, although the last two winters have been approximately equal in amount of rainfall. In the case of the Hummingbirds it is evident that fluctuations of such magnitude must be a matter of distribution, and not the result of varying success in the previous year's nesting, as it might be with species which lay eight or a dozen eggs each season.

A change, or perhaps standardization, in the Hummingbirds' choice of nesting sites has become increasingly apparent. In 1923 two-thirds of the nests, and in 1925 nearly half, were in feijoa bushes; but in 1927 not a single nest could be found in the feijoas, nearly all of them being located near the tips of long branches of spreading avocado trees, at heights of from two to five feet. Had regular cultivation been carried on during the nesting period of 1927, many of these nests would have been destroyed. As it is, all but five of the birds (with two sets of eggs and four half-grown young remaining) have abandoned their nests or met with loss, so that the number of young raised does not promise to be much larger than in former years.—ROBERT S. WOOD, *Azusa, Los Angeles Co., Calif.*

White-throated Swift in Michigan.—There seems to be no authentic record of the occurrence of the White-throated Swift in Michigan so far as the writer can ascertain. One of this species was taken alive in the Biology laboratory of Hillsdale College in August 1926, by Miss Mildred A. Hawkes, assistant in biology. If these birds customarily migrate across Michigan, it seems strange that no other records occur. Otherwise this must have been a lone wanderer, which accidentally found its way into the building.—BERTRAM A. BARBER, *Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Mich.*

White-throated Swift in Denver, Colo.—A disabled individual of this species was picked up by one of my pupils on May 11, 1927, on the grounds of the Clayton School, Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colorado. The bird lived two days after being found. Its skin is now in the collection of birds at the Manual Training High School, Denver. This is, so far as I can learn, the first published record of this Swift's occurrence in Denver.—PRUDENCE BOSTWICK, *Denver, Colo.*

The Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) again on the Coast of South Carolina.—On May 17, 1927, while in the company of Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., *en route* to a large breeding colony of American Egrets, I saw a Gray Flycatcher fly by the automobile in which we were riding and alight on a plow handle on this plantation and very near my house. The identification was easy and absolute and confirmed by us. As no doubt existed in my mind that this rare bird was settled for the summer, and about to build a nest near the waters edge, I did not molest it.

When we returned in the afternoon we searched for the bird in a pecan grove that borders a large tidal creek, but we could not find it. The next