

Rearing Young Nighthawks.—It may be of interest to ornithologists to report the rearing of three Nighthawks (*Chordeiles virginianus virginianus*) in captivity. These birds were presented to the park while still young and have flourished. The exact history as regards their capture is incomplete, but I believe they were obtained by a boy from the roof of an apartment house, where the adults nested as they frequently do.

Being aerial feeders it is necessary to hand feed them as they will not make any effort to pick food from a pan. Meal worms were fed in abundance during the early part of their life, and now, being in adult plumage, Mockingbird food, and boiled egg are consumed. The birds are approximately seven months old, and seem satisfied on their modified diet. During the day they remain quiet, fluttering around at night.

This is probably the first, or one of the few, instances of the species in captivity.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *Nat. Zool. Park, Washington, D. C.*

Arkansas Kingbird in Massachusetts.—On Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1930, I had the extreme good fortune to identify at close range an adult male Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) at Ware, Mass. According to Mr. Forbush, in 'The Birds of Massachusetts etc.,' the bird has heretofore been found near the coast and then only occasionally—he quotes sixteen Massachusetts records from coastal cities and towns.

Ware, Mass. is about 75 miles from the sea and lies just outside the valley of the Connecticut River.—JOHN H. CONKEY, *Boston, Mass.*

Arkansas Kingbird in Florida.—There are in the collection of Field Museum of Natural History two specimens of *Tyrannus verticalis* taken at Miami Beach, Florida, December 2, 1922, by W. W. Worthington. Both are young males.

Dr. Harry C. Oberholser informs me that there are two published records of the occurrence of this bird in Florida (Williams, Auk, XX XVII, 1920, p. 142; Longstreet, Halifax River Bird Club, Bull. no. 2, Feb., 1924, p. 9).—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Evanston, Illinois.*

A Crow Impaled in Flight.—While on a bird walk in a dense woods near Clarence, N. Y. in March 1926, a dead Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*) was discovered hanging in a soft maple tree, about twelve feet from the ground. It was first thought that the bird had been shot and had lodged in the tree, but upon a nearer approach it was seen that the bird was hanging by the wing on a small stub which projected from a dead limb. The limb and Crow were procured and taken to the laboratory for measurements and study. The dead limb was an inch and one-eighth in diameter, eight feet long and had grown to be nearly parallel with the trunk of the tree, so that it was directed nearly straight up. From this limb extended several stubs of dead branches. One of these stubs, one half inch in diameter and about six inches long had been broken off in such a manner that it had a very sharply pointed tip.

An examination of the Crow and the limb revealed, that in flying through the woods, the bird had on a downward stroke of its left wing, struck this sharp point, so that it penetrated the wing membrane or patagium, on the anterior side of the radius about three fourths of an inch from its base. The shape and position of the limb was such that the wing, when impaled, allowed the body to fall through an arc of ninety degrees from the plane of flight and then twist so that the bird hung with its back toward the limb, a position in which it was entirely helpless. It was so securely impaled that, because of its weight, the length of the stub, and the absence of anything upon which it could stand, it was unable to free the wing and consequently hung there until it died, probably from strain and starvation. The weight of the bird and its struggles had slit the membrane distally until only a mere shred of the long patagial ligament was left to suspend it at the distal end of the radius.

That the bird was suspended there for some time was evidenced by the fact that it had used both its bill and claws with considerable effect on the limb. Several deep scratches were made in the dead wood by the bill and in one place the whole surface of the wood had been torn away. The condition of the tail feathers also showed that considerable excrement had been discharged while the bird was suspended in this position. At the base of the stub there was also a marked groove which had been worn by the tissue which held the bird.

That the victim was a mature bird, was shown by measurements, plumage, and condition of the bones. It would not be as surprising had the bird been a young one just learning to fly. The accident had occurred probably in the late fall for the body had dried up more or less instead of rotting, and going to pieces, as would have been the case in the warmer weather, when fly larvae were active. The condition of the feathers at the time it was found was remarkably good for the long time that the bird had been dead.

Such an accident as this is so unusual that a record of its occurrence seemed worth publishing.—ALBERT R. SHADLE, *Biology Dept., Univ. of Buffalo, Buffalo, N. Y.*

The Relationships of the American Magpies.—It seems to be generally accepted that the Black-billed Magpie of America is a subspecies of the Old World *Pica pica* also that the Yellow-billed Magpie is a full species.

Obviously the yellow bill of the last named is regarded as a very distinct and qualitative character, this yellow pigmentation invades the whole head skin of *nuttalli* although it is only readily apparent on the bill and the triangular space behind the eye. In a freak specimen collected by the writer the yellow also appears on the claws of both feet, this rather indicates that the yellow of the head and bill may not be of very ancient origin. A member of the Old World group has the head skin pigmented a brilliant blue yet it is only regarded as a subspecies.

In other characters the Yellow-billed Magpie hardly differs from the