

When they come in the yard, I notice a habit which I have not seen mentioned in any of the literature. Almost every night that they are present the birds from time to time alight on the bare spots near the foundations of the house, where they creep about over the red clay, and apparently pick up grit. (Upon investigation I found no ants or other insects on the ground.) Sometimes a bird will chuckle softly while doing this. Furthermore, on these occasions I have never seen them take dust baths.

This action of the birds is so common here that I thought it worthy of record.—GORDON W. JONES, *Wilderness, Virginia*.

**A Male Kingfisher Incubating at Night.**—Along the Rio Morja, a tributary of the Motagua in Guatemala, I found, in 1932, nests of three species of Kingfishers. The females of both the Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) and the Green Kingfisher (*C. americana isthmica*) incubated during the night, but the males relieved them early in the morning and occupied the nest for the greater part of the day. The routine of the Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle t. torquata*) was very different. The two sexes alternated in the burrow on a twenty-four hour basis, and nest relief occurred only once a day, at about 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning. Each of the mates incubated for a complete twenty-four hour period, with the exception of a brief recess during the afternoon, when the eggs were left unattended.—ALEXANDER F. SKUTCH, *Tecpam, Guatemala*.

**Male Woodpeckers Incubating at Night.**—In 1932, while studying the bird-life in the lower Motagua Valley in Guatemala, I watched two nests of the White-billed Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophloeus lineatus similis*) and found that the males of both incubated during the night. Later I studied three nests of the Truxillo Woodpecker (*Centurus santacruxi pauper*) and learned that the males regularly incubate the eggs during the night, and also brood the nestlings until the latter are about three weeks old. The following year in the high mountains of Guatemala, I found a male Guatemalan Flicker (*Colaptes m. mexicanoides*) incubating during the night. A male Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus sanctorum*) spent the night in an inaccessible nesting hole which evidently sheltered young nestlings. In the cases of the first three species, at least, the sexes alternate on the eggs during the day, the females generally arriving early in the morning to relieve their mates. I have watched only the last three excavate their nesting holes and found that both mates share the labor rather equally. In the limited amount of literature I have been able to examine, I have found no reference to male woodpeckers incubating at night. It would be interesting to have observations on species in other regions.—ALEXANDER F. SKUTCH, *Tecpam, Guatemala*.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Breeding in the Virginia Blue Ridge.**—Three male Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius varius*) were seen in Amherst County, Virginia, on July 6, 1933, at altitudes ranging approximately from 3550 to 3700 feet. Most of the birds were in or near a

beautiful stand of sweet birch (*Betula lenta*) and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) on the west-facing slope of Cold Mt. The presence of the birds was first noted on hearing their tattoo, ending with the characteristic retardation. In thirty or more trips taken by the writers into the Blue Ridge and Alleghanies of the central-western part of the state, no summer occurrence of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker had been noted. It is known to breed, of course, on White Top Mt. in Grayson County, about 150 miles southwest of here, at an altitude around 5000 feet.—RUSKIN S. FREER, *Lynchburg, Va.*

**Prairie Horned Lark Summering in Lancaster County, Pa.**—On June 8, 1933, I saw a pair of Prairie Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) about four miles from Lititz, Lancaster Co., Pa. I was able to walk to within six feet of them and study them with 10 power Zeiss glasses before they flew. The pair seemed to be mated and I believe they must have nested although I was unable to find a nest.

On June 11, I visited the spot again and found no less than fifty of the birds. They were very tame and we approached to within ten feet of them. The line over the eye was pure white and the throat very white; they also seemed to carry their "horns" more erect than in the winter months.

This is, so far as I know, the first occurrence of Horned Larks in Lancaster County in summer.—BARTON L. SHARP, *Lititz, Pa.*

**Prairie Horned Lark Breeding at Mt. Holly, N. J.**—Last winter we had quite a number of Prairie Horned Larks on our golf links just outside of Mt. Holly, N. J., and they remained plentiful through the early spring. On May 14 there were some still present and on June 23 I saw six in the same neighborhood. On July 1, I saw two birds and on July 4, four. These were all of about the same size but one of them was feeding another, evidently a young bird, as it stood still and allowed the first individual to seek food for it. The birds seem to like the fairways and sand traps of the links and are very tame so that one may approach to within a few feet of them before they take wing. With the characteristic habit of the species they will soar high up in the air and come down again within a few feet of the spot where they had been. Their occurrence in June and July is unprecedented.—NELSON D. W. PUMYEA, *Mt. Holly, N. J.*

**Nesting of the Prairie Horned Lark in Central Virginia.**—For three or four years previous to 1931 the presence of the Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) during the summer in the vicinity of Lynchburg had led me to believe that it was nesting here. It is a fairly common winter visitor. March 27, 1931, I saw a bird make two trips with nesting materials in the bill, and located the site that had apparently been selected for a nest. I did not return to the spot until April 10, when there were three eggs in the nest. On April 13, two of the eggs had hatched and the young appeared to be about two days old. The third egg never hatched.