

its snapping, and from the benign expression of its eyes when its head was rubbed, had learned not only to tolerate but to enjoy that attention from me. It was given freedom of the house at intervals when it usually flew to a perch on a door or a curtain rod where it sometimes preened, stretched, shook plumage, and occasionally dropped a pellet. At first it was force-fed with lean round steak, small pieces of which were placed in its mouth after forcibly opening the beak. Very soon, mice, House Sparrows, and other freshly killed birds, found on the highway, were added to its menu. The little owl showed a marked preference for mice, swallowing them as soon as they were placed (dead) in the cage. It showed fear of a live House Sparrow placed with it, fluttering to the opposite side of the cage. The dead birds were not eaten until the owl became very hungry. Usually only the head was consumed and most of the birds offered had to be removed.

The face of this owl (Plate 4) was predominantly gray in color without the white markings about the eyes shown in most plates and photographs of Saw-whet Owls. The back was grayish brown. The flattened wing measured 149 mm.

A hippoboscid fly was collected from its plumage and was identified by K. W. MacArthur of the Milwaukee Public Museum as *Lynchia fusca* (Macquart). He writes: "Up to the present time, to the writer's knowledge, this species has been taken from hawks and owls from the western States and from Florida."

The little owl was released in excellent condition on the night of April 2, 1940, when it immediately flew into the woods.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, *Graybar Lane, Nashville, Tennessee.*

Feeding and disposition of nestling feces by the Kingbird.—A nest of the Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*, was under daily observation at Lincoln Pond at the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York, during late June and early July 1939. Since the disposition of the nestling feces appears to be unique, the following note may be of interest. During the first ten days in July the young Kingbirds in the nest were fed largely on damselflies and dragonflies. The female easily captured these large Odonata on the wing as they hovered over the grassy border of the pond; many other insects which had fallen on the surface of the pond were picked up by the female. After feeding, the feces of the young were taken one by one to a boat dock 180 feet away where each was laid. In several days a long row of feces was present on the dock as well as on the back seat of a rowboat which was fastened to the dock. When the dock was occupied, the feces were carried to a point approximately 330 feet from the nest and deposited along the edge of a large flat stone topping a wall near Lincoln Pond dam. As far as could be observed no place other than the two localities mentioned was used. Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythrogaster*) nesting in a barn nearby would often fly out over the pond, a distance of up to 300 feet, and drop the nestling feces over the water.—EDWARD C. RANEY, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Quebec.—On October 30, 1938, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Muscivora forficata*, was found alive but in a highly weakened condition in a ditch in the town of Noranda, Quebec. An attempt was made to restore it but it died in the night. Fortunately the remains were preserved and mounted by Mr. J. A. Hedge and have lately been presented to this museum through the intermediary of Mrs. L. C. Bent. Noranda is a mining town near the Ontario provincial boundary and about thirty miles south and east of Lake Abitibi. There are in this museum two other Canadian specimens of the species, both

from York Factory, Manitoba, on Hudson Bay, taken forty-four years apart, November (?) 1880, and October 2, 1924. There are records of other Canadian specimens: Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, October 13, 1884 (Auk, 5: 218, 1888); Point des Monts, Quebec, August 14, 1894 (N. Comeau, 'Life and Sport on the North Shore,' p. 434, 1909); Clarendon Station, New Brunswick, May 21, 1906 (Auk, 23: 460, 1906); Alma, Albert County, New Brunswick, June 20 (year?) (Bull. Nat. Hist. Soc. New Brunswick, 6: 64, 1908); Whale Cove, Grand Manan, New Brunswick, October 26, 1924 (Canadian Field-nat., 39: 86, 1925). Besides these actually taken, are credible sight records of this unmistakable species for southern Manitoba in 1899, 1908, and 1930.—P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.*

Tree Swallows and highways.—Abbey Dawn Sanctuary near Kingston, Ontario, has great stretches of marsh land where it borders the St. Lawrence River. Among the vegetation, largely *Typha*, migrating Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) find suitable overnight roosts. On September 14, 1938, Wallace Havelock Robb, the founder of the Sanctuary, was called to the highway that crosses the marsh. He found speeding cars were killing many of the swallows and more than one hundred dead birds were counted along the half-mile strip of pavement. When one of them was hit the others nearby would swoop around the victim and in turn be caught by following cars. The trap was self-baiting and the killing continued all day. By the next morning the survivors had departed. While a few birds and animals are killed each year on this part of the road, Mr. Robb states that this is the first time he had ever noted Tree Swallows caught in numbers.—G. C. TONER, *Gananoque, Ontario.*

Mockingbirds in Panama.—In January 1938, with Dr. Herbert Clark, I saw two mockingbirds, apparently a pair, in the grounds of the Gorgas Memorial Institute, Panama City. About a month later I again saw two mockingbirds, also a pair, but presumably not the Memorial Institute pair, on the hillside between the Balboa railway station and the Zone Administration Building. In February 1939, Dr. Troy W. Earhart wrote me that mockingbirds were nesting near the Ancon tennis court, and in July of that year Mrs. Gladys C. Barnard reported their breeding at Pedro Miguel in 1938 and also in 1939. Adding to these definite records several rumored occurrences it seems evident that the mockingbird is becoming established in the Zone.

Apparently no form of mockingbird has been recorded from the Republic of Panama, nor is it contained in Mrs. Sturgis's 'Birds of the Panama Canal Zone' which is based on published papers as well as on her own observations. Since it is inconceivable that the author of this volume during her several-years' residence in the Zone could have overlooked so conspicuous a species as a mockingbird, we conclude that the bird has reached the Zone since the publication of her work in 1928.

It remained now to discover what manner of mockingbird had made the Zone its home. This could be done only by examination of specimens. These were subsequently supplied by Dr. Earhart with the assurance that their capture would in no way endanger the continued existence of the species in the Zone. These specimens show that the Zone bird is not referable to the North American *Mimus polyglottos* but to the Venezuelan *Mimus gilvus melanopterus*, the Black-winged Mockingbird. Only one form of this species is known from Venezuela, but in Colombia a larger race (*M. g. tolimensis*) occupies the upper Magdalena Valley