Some Observations of birds eating salt.—A note in The Auk of May, 1945 (vol. 62: 455), by John B. Calhoun, describes an incident of English Sparrows eating salt from a block in a barnyard in Indiana. In the course of wildlife studies in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, in 1939 and 1940, I observed a number of species of wild birds pecking salt blocks that had been placed on the range for the benefit of bighorn sheep. Blocks of pure NaCl and other blocks made up of a combination of other salts, such as calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, and the like, were used. While birds were seen pecking at both types of block, their preference appeared to be for the sodium salt. Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba f. fasciata*) and American Magpies (*Pica pica hudsonia*) visited the blocks quite frequently. Other species observed obtaining salt included Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*), Lewis's Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewis*), Batchelder's Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens leucurus*), Long-crested Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri diademata*), Rocky Mountain Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis nelsoni*) and Rock Wren (*Salpinctes o. obsoletus*). These and some other birds were quite often seen obtaining gravel near salt blocks, and one spot where blocks had been placed for several years so that the soil had become impregnated with salt, appeared to be especially favored for this purpose.—LT. FRED MALLERY PACKARD, U.S.N.R., *34 Randolph Street, Passaic, New Jersey.*

English Sparrow eating salt.—On page 455 of The Auk for July, 1945, Mr. John B. Calhoun has drawn attention to the above curious habit of the English Sparrow. If Mr. Calhoun will refer to an article of mine in The Auk for October, 1921, p. 606, he will find that I not only gave an account of some Purple Finches at Hatley, P. Q., that were addicted to this same habit, but also drew attention to a reference in 'Bird-lore' (22: 286, 1920) to House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) that were similarly addicted. It has also been recorded in the March-April number of this same magazine for 1921, pp. 90–91, how English Sparrows, Mourning Doves, Crows, and some other common birds have been seen around a trough in a pasture apparently picking up grains of salt. Chickens are also said to eat is greedily. Like Mr. Calhoun, I am unable to offer an explanation for the physiological need of such large quantities of salt.—H. MOUSLEY, *4073 Tupper St., Montreal, P. Q.*

Mortality notes on the Trumpeter Swan.—On March 16, 1945, while on an army maneuver in British Columbia, Canada, I found remains of a Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), on the Bella Coola River, one-half mile west of Stuie. Feathers were strewn over a thirty-yard-square area on a sandbar at the edge of the river. Positive identification was made by the presence of the trachea and the enlarged tracheal bulla in the skeletal remains. Coyote tracks were observed on the sandbar and the bird could have been taken by this predator as it fed along the banks of the narrow river. However, local residents claim that eagles will occasionally knock a swan down in mid-air and wound it, but never recover the bird. The coyote may have made the kill under these conditions.

Exact date of the killing is unknown, but it is assumed to have occurred in midwinter. A census of Trumpeter Swans in February, 1945, at Tweedsmuir Park, adjacent to Stuie, showed 134 birds wintering in that area. The birds are in this country from November to March or April, and many are concentrated on Lonesome Lake near the southern tip of the park. During winter, when the lake is frozen, they often rest on the ice and feed at the lake inlet and along near-by open streams.

This is the third British Columbia record of a dead Trumpeter Swan in 1945. The first was that of a bird which had died of lead poisoning; a pathological examination of the second showed that death was due to intestinal parasites. Records of the British Columbia Game Commission indicate that the coyote is the greatest predator of the Trumpeter Swan. Horned Owls preying on juvenile birds cause the next largest number of mortalities, while the Golden Eagle ranks third. Local residents say the eagle is the worst predator. However, in this area the slower-flying Bald Eagle is more numerous than the Golden Eagle and its kills are probably fewer than those made by the coyote.—CARL R. EKLUND, *Captain, Arctic Desert Tropic Branch, Air Forces Center, Orlando, Florida.*

Occurrence of the Hudsonian Curlew on National Wildlife Refuges along the Atlantic Coast.—The distribution along the Atlantic Coast of National Wildlife Refuges, the majority of which have been established in the past ten years, gives their personnel an unusually good opportunity for observing the flight of the Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*). The species has been reported from seven coastal refuges in six states from Massachusetts to Georgia. A résumé of data submitted by the refuge managers is here presented; the Brigantine and Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuges would appear to be important concentration points for the species.

Parker River Refuge, Plum Island Unit, Essex County, Massachusetts.

The first record of this curlew on the refuge following its establishment in December, 1942, was obtained in the summer of 1943. By July 21 the birds frequently were heard calling over the refuge marshes, J. S. Gashwiler reported, and three flocks were seen by him passing high overhead on August 5. The same observer estimated that 200 of these birds visited the refuge in their southern migration in 1943. Not more than 100 were seen by Mr. Gashwiler during the fall of 1944, with the first migrant observed July 20, and the last stragglers noted September 16. According to Charles Safford, of the Anna H. Brown Sanctuary, Plum Island, peak migration dates for curlews in this vicinity are August 3, 4, and 5, regardless of the weather.

Brigantine Refuge, Atlantic County, New Jersey.

This refuge was established in October, 1939. The first migrating curlews seen were 50 birds reported by W. P. Schaefer on May 13, 1940. Fall migrants were first noted by this observer on July 31, 1940; the peak was reached when 107 birds were observed on August 8; no curlews were seen after August 20. Albert Stadlmeir stated that the first migrants to reach the refuge in the spring of 1942 were 25 birds on April 18. Peak numbers occurred on May 10 when about a thousand curlews were seen, and the last observation that season was of five hundred birds, May 16. Numbers were less in 1943; the earliest observation was made on April 9 when 20 birds were counted; and 150 birds noted on April 30 proved to be the last of the season. Fall migrants numbering about 400 appeared on July 15, 1943, and the maximum number seen in a single day was 1,500, on August 15. Last noted were 200 birds, August 31. An estimated total of 5,000 curlews used the refuge in their 1943 fall flight, according to Mr. Stadlmeir. His first observation of this species the next spring was of 50 birds on April 5; the largest number seen was 500 birds, April 25, with 100 being the last seen April 29. The manager estimated that 600 birds used the area during this flight. In the fall of 1944, approximately 5,500 birds stopped on the area. First seen were 75