

the vessel or landed on it. Many of them were obviously migrants, appearing from the south over the water and proceeding northward to the mainland. The greatest number were always seen as we passed the mouth of the Mississippi River, often halfway between Yucatán and the delta. Although regularly seen, the total number of birds was small. Usually about a dozen land birds might be seen in one day, although Barn Swallows sometimes appeared in flocks of several hundred. One morning in May a considerable flight of various warblers passed the ship for about an hour, most of them too far away to be identified. Occasionally Laughing Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls and terns appeared, usually in unsettled weather, but their status as migrants is doubtful.

Compared with the tremendous surge of land and water birds up the coast of Texas in migration, when flocks numbering up to tens of thousands may be seen at one time following the shore line, the migration across the Gulf is not spectacular. It is certainly accurate to state that the bulk of the migration is coastal. However, the trans-gulf flyway appears to be used regularly by a limited number of birds, and is doubtless a valid route.

Among the species I recall seeing in the Gulf, ten miles or more from shore, the following can properly be considered migrants: Wood Ibis, Green Heron, Phalarope (probably Wilson's), Duck Hawk, buteos, Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, Catbird, thrush (sp.), Eastern Bluebird, Worm-eating Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Northern Water-thrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Wilson's Warbler and Red-eyed Vireo. The following species seen may not have been migrants: Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Man-o'-War Bird, Royal Tern, Caspian Tern, Clapper Rail, and Blue Jay. After a severe hurricane near Houston, in July (?), four Noddy Terns and one Bridled Tern were seen 90 miles west of Tampa, Florida, resting on a floating log.—FRED MALLERY PACKARD, *Lieutenant Commander, USNR, Corpus Christi, Texas.*

Black Vultures kill young pigs in Kentucky.—Although the propensity of the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) to attack and devour the young of domestic animals is well known and has been summarized by Bent in *Life Histories of the Birds of Prey*, part 1 (U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 167, 1937), the majority of such reports are from the deep south in Louisiana and Florida where this black robber is very plentiful. It therefore seems worth while to describe a case occurring near the northern part of its range, especially as there are no published data for Kentucky.

A sow gave birth to twelve young on April 26, 1946, at the farm of Marshall Darnell in Meade County near Rock Haven. Mr. Darnell threw the placentae over the fence and let them lie there fully exposed. When he returned to the farm at noon the next day, he was puzzled to find about twenty-five Black Vultures in the far corner of the pig yard about 100 yards from his house. As he approached, he noted that they were feeding on the day-old pigs, four of which were still alive and squealing, while the sow lay near by and made no attempt to go to their rescue. The other eight pigs were almost completely devoured except for their heads. He brought the survivors up to a small pen close to the house where they were not again molested.

I visited the farm on May 5 and examined the four surviving pigs. Their tails had been pulled out, their ears were badly chewed, and one had a large wound near the shoulder where the Black Vultures had torn away some of the flesh. The eyes of these pigs had not been injured, unlike those in several other reported attacks. It seems strange that the sow, which was ordinarily quite pugnacious, should have failed to protect her offspring.

I have attempted to learn whether such attacks are common in this part of the country. Darnell, a young veteran, had never heard of them before, but an elderly neighbor said that he had witnessed similar attacks many years ago on lambs as well as on pigs. There was also a case reported by another farmer of young pigs being killed in the same county a year ago.

It should be emphasized that all the reports agree that the culprits were Black Vultures (Carrion Crows, as the farmers usually call them).

In the present instance the presence of the placentae near by appears to have been the original attraction for the birds and it was agreed that in the future such material should be destroyed immediately.

Two other similar attacks have recently been reported in adjacent states. Roads (Wilson Bull., 48: 218, 1936) writes that near Hillsboro, Ohio, Black Vultures killed and ate every new-born lamb in one flock of sheep, and also destroyed young pigs. Sprunt (Auk, 63: 260, 1946) reports that Black Vultures attacked a lamb and "literally tore it to pieces while still alive" near Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Further evidence of the predatory tendencies of this species is furnished by McIlhenny (Auk, 56: 472, 1939) who actually observed them attack and kill a live skunk and two opossums. The statement of Hamilton (Auk, 58: 254, 1941), based on reports of a local resident that "Turkey Buzzards" kill young pigs near Fort Myers, Florida, seems almost certainly to be a case of misidentification, since many country people lump both vultures together under the term buzzard.—HARVEY B. LOVELL, *Biology Department, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.*

Black Vultures and live prey.—In General Notes, in the April, 1946, issue of 'The Auk,' Alexander Sprunt, Jr., mentioned that it is very rarely that one hears of a first-hand account of predation on living prey by the Black Vulture. I consider myself fortunate in having witnessed such a predation. While driving on a road near Deland, Florida, on March 27, 1946, I saw a gathering of about one hundred Black Vultures in a small pine grove. Upon closer observation, I saw a sow with a newly born litter. The sow seemed sick and weak, not moving at my approach. Out of the litter of ten live piglets, two showed evidences of having been attacked, presumably by the Black Vultures. One showed lacerations on its hind quarters; the other had had the flesh torn off from the middle of its back to its tail. Both piglets were quite alive. They cried loudly and continuously, but otherwise they joined the rest of the litter in running around the sow and suckling. The vultures remained near by in the trees and on the ground while three or four individuals would lunge at the piglets.—RALPH V. HAGOPIAN, *114 East 90th St., New York, N. Y.*

A Robin with one lung destroyed.—On the afternoon of April 27, 1946, while walking along Alum Creek, Columbus, Ohio, I noticed a female Robin ahead of me in the path. The actions of the bird attracted my attention, as it would not fly until I approached very closely. It finally flew and alighted on the ground about a hundred feet to one side of the path and tried to hide in the weeds. It made no attempt to fly again when I caught it. The bird died in my hand as I examined it. No evidence of injury was discovered. It seemed thin, and the bill was covered with mud. One feather in the middle of the tail was not fully developed. On dissection, the bird was found to have only one lung. The left lung was entirely gone and in its place were two large round cysts, one in the position of the lung and attached to the dorsal wall, and a smaller one attached to the side of the body cavity. The right lung appeared normal as did all of the other organs except the liver, which was enlarged and of a blue-black color.—ROBERT GOSLIN, *Department of Physiology, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.*