

the purpose was to evict the flycatchers to enable the invaders to possess this gourd for their own nesting activities. This is the only instance of this character which has come to my attention and I never would have suspected such a peaceful species of such conduct.

I might state here that I have seen numerous instances of the martins dipping into our city lakes as they flew low over the water, but whether to drink or to wet their under parts, or both, I am unable to say. I have seen the Fish Crow repeatedly fly down in the center of a lake and dip its bill in the water (one bird would do this several times), but they did not otherwise touch the water with their bodies. About ten years ago at Tallahassee, Florida, in company with the late Charles E. Doe, I saw a number of Chimney Swifts repeatedly fly over the surface of a large lake, dipping their bodies a number of times and trailing along several yards before arising. Whether merely wetting their bodies or drinking and bathing I cannot be certain.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida.*

**Baltimore Oriole in Florida.**—Although I have lived in Florida for 54 years, it was not until April 27, 1947, that I saw and heard my first Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) which was noted on the east shore of Lake Washington, Brevard County, Florida. Howell records one bird seen at Eau Gallie, just seven miles away, on April 13, 1910. The bird was a male in full breeding plumage and singing at the time of discovery. Apparently the Baltimore Oriole follows the coast lines during migration, else I certainly would have noted it at some time during all these years.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida.*

**Berry-feeding of the Ring-billed Gull.**—In Orlando, Florida, which is about 45 miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean, thousands of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) now winter in the city, frequenting the many fresh-water lakes and school grounds, plowed fields, etc. They usually appear the last week in November, but rarely an individual is found by November 15 or 17. They remain until about May 15, but a few birds linger late into June or July.

This gull made its appearance in Orlando after the great storm of 1930 when the hordes of Dovekies were driven as far south as Miami. That year about 50 birds remained all winter, but each year since then they have gradually increased until now several thousand birds regularly return each season. They have become extremely tame as they are fed by the residents, sometimes taking bread from the hands of the feeder. Rarely a few immature Herring Gulls mingle with the Ring-bills, but thus far no mature Herring gulls have been seen. From one to six of the larger gulls are sometimes present, but never more.

On numerous occasions I have noted many gulls hovering over the cabbage palms, plucking ripe fruits, but I have also seen them alight in the palms, with waving wings, trying to balance themselves while they picked the fruits. They have been seen also feeding on the ripe berries of the cherry laurels in the parks. How several thousand sea birds can find sufficient food inland is puzzling, and I suspect that many have rather empty stomachs at times. There is not enough available food in our lakes for large numbers of these birds. The ratio of immature birds to full-plumaged white adults is perhaps around 75%.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida.*

**Loose-feathered birds.**—The note in the April, 1948, issue of *The Auk*, Vol. 65, No. 2, page 300, entitled 'A Loose-feathered Nighthawk,' by G. Hapgood, has prompted me to relate my experience with the Caprimulgidae and other families. In the Washington zoo we have several examples of *Chordeiles virginianus* and the frogmouth (*Podargus cuvieri*). At best they make passive exhibits, but they lend