sand bar. We landed on the bar, observed them with 8 x 30 field glasses, and took moving-pictures of them, using a 6 inch telephoto lens. As Chapman's "Distribution of Bird-life in Colombia" failed to list this species we were unable to identify it at the time, nor did we collect it, but after having later checked the specimens of the Charadriidae in the American Museum, New York, the unique posterior crown pattern of a white circle, bordered with black, and containing an inner grayish patch (features distinguishable in our movies), together with its black chest band, were sufficient characteristics to place it as the Cayenne plover. Peter's "Birds of the World" gives its distribution as "Southern Venezuela (Orinoco Valley) and the Guianas south through eastern Ecuador, eastern Peru and eastern Bolivia to Paraguay and southern Brazil," but does not include Colombia. I find no other reference to it in the literature of the last twenty years.—LAWRENCE I. GRINNELL, *Ithaca, New York.*

A preening phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*).—On October 5, 1947, along the coast of the Yselmeer, the former Zuiderzee, near Schellinkhout, some five kilometres west of Hoorn, Holland, I noticed a northern phalarope swimming in the quiet water close to the base of the dike.

As is the case in all phalaropes, the bird was exceptionally tame and allowed me to approach up to a distance of less than one meter. I studied it for more than an hour.

It was swimming with rapid alternations of its legs, which were clearly seen in the limpid water, and pecking away in the copper-colored coating of algae that covered the basal boulders of the dike. Sometimes it pecked at some organism in the water. Most pecks seemed to be successful, as only very seldom did I see the phalarope peck again on the same spot.

After some minutes' pecking, it started stretching its wings. To do this stretching it always stood on a stone in the shallow water. The wings were stretched alternately at first—the left wing two or three times and after that the right wing.

When stretching, the upper-arm of one wing was put nearly in a 90-degree angle to the longitudinal axis of the body, and the hand-part of that wing was laid in a horizontal plane across the back, rump, or tail. The wing remained in this stretched position for one or two minutes.

A black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*) chanced to come that way and soared over it in search of food. The phalarope at once flashed into a crouched and immobile attitude on the water—retracted, thick-set neck, head very closely pressed to the water's surface, and bill partly dipped into the water. It kept this "frozen" attitude for some minutes, or until the gull had disappeared.

I approached to less than two feet. When I moved, it looked at me and swam away, its "flight-distance" from me being about one meter. It then started washing and preening. During its washing it remained floating on the water. The bill was continually and rapidly dipped into the water, and after each dip it was pressed against and between the breast- and throat-feathers. First, the left side of the neck, breast, and body were attended. Especially when it was preening its tail feathers, I could see how each feather was "combed" separately by shoving it between the mandibles from base to tip with a vigorous effort, ending in a real jerk. The rectrices on the left side of its body were combed to the middle of the tail. In this way also the remiges, coverts, and flank-feathers were dealt with, and after that the right side of the body underwent a similar treatment.

Now the phalarope stopped washing and cleaned its bill by lowering it to the right and by stretching its right leg over the folded wing. It then wiped its bill with its

foot at least 10 times in succession. This washing, "combing," and bill-wiping was done while floating on the water, so it happened that the fluffy-feathered bird was spinning round like a wind-blown, circling cork when bill-wiping.

In order to oil its feathers the bird evidently needed a solid stand, so it swam to a basalt boulder and stood there oiling its plumage. Its bill was tucked into the uropygial region and was rubbed strongly along the feathers there. I did not see a stiff pressing of the oil gland, however, as in common terns. When oiling, its feathers were puffed out and spread out, which gave an "untidy" impression. Especially the stiff quills were oiled, but the feathers of the underparts and the flanks were not forgotten either. This oiling lasted for many minutes.

After having oiled its plumage, there followed a vibrating ruffle of the feathers and then the bird started to swim again. When meeting the rope of an eel-trap, it first looked at it and then flew up, only to alight again on the water very soon, meanwhile uttering a rather sharp *"tsit, tsit."*

Now the above observations certainly may have little value in themselves; it is the comparison with the same kind of movements in other species that perhaps makes them worthwhile. I tried to find comparable facts in Mrs. Nice's behavior-study of the song sparrow (1943).

The description of the *stretching movements* (Nice, 1943: 44) does not exactly fit into the phalarope's case. The *scratching of the head,* described on pages 44 and 45 seems partly to correspond to "my" wiping of the bill. This wiping was also done with a leg brought up over the wing, but the wing was not dropped down and the head was not scratched. Moreover, the bill-wiping seen by me was not at all awkward.

The "vibrating ruffle" after the oiling of the plumage seems identical with the shaking mentioned (Nice, 1943: 45). No doubt the shaking was performed in this phalarope's case to get his feathers in order.

Of the bathing reactions that I saw, only Motion 2 (the dipping of the head; Nice, page 47) seems to be of the same type. In this connection I may cite Nice (1943: 48), ". . . we need accurate observations on the bathing technique of even our commonest birds."

The crouching and immobility of the phalarope when seeing the black-headed gull partly corresponds with the second stage of "fear" in the song sparrow, mentioned by Nice on page 253. This immobility, together with the silence of the bird, certainly has biological significance—non-moving objects are mostly ignored by many animals.

Just as "enlargement" may be an element of all "impressive behavior," it may as well be that "diminution" is an important element of most cryptic and concealing behavior, at least insofar as this behavior results from the appearance of a superior predator (Nice, 1943: 154).—A. L. J. VAN IJZENDOORN, *Korenmarkt 1, Hoorn, Holland.*

The white-throated pigeon nesting on the ground on New Caledonia.—Among the scattered notes on the nesting habits of the white-throated pigeon (*Columba vitiensis*) I have found only a single, vague reference to a possible terrestrial nest. According to Mayr (Birds of the Southwest Pacific, p. 65, 1945) this species builds a nest of sticks ten to 20 feet above the ground in fairly heavy timber. T. L. Macmillan (field notes, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.) made the same observation regarding the nest of the race *hypoenochroa* Gould on the Loyalty Islands of Uvea, Lifu and Mare. The only account suggesting that the New Caledonia population of this race nests on the ground was published by E. L. and E. L. C. Layard (Notes on the Avifauna of New Caledonia. Ibis, 1882: 528) who were informed by a local inhabitant that this was the case.