

Island where I live. I have not only seen these gulls flutter about the pendant fruit stalks of the cabbage palmetto, snatching the berries and flying away, but I have seen large numbers of the drupes on small docks along the river front where resting gulls gather in numbers. On one occasion I saw a Ring-billed Gull discharge one of these drupes, with a dark, watery excrement. Others have reported this practice of these gulls; it is not an uncommon habit in this area at least.—SAMUEL A. HARPER, *Two Rivers Grove, Cocoa, Florida*.

Ring-billed Gulls and Cabbage Palmettos.—During various trips to Florida I have observed Mockingbirds, *Mimus polyglottos*, Boat-tailed Grackles, *Cassidix mexicanus*, Florida Jays, *Aphelocoma coerulescens*, Blue Jays, *Cyanocitta cristata*, and Red-wings, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, eating the berries of the cabbage palmetto. On several occasions I had suspected the Ring-billed Gulls, *Larus delawarensis*, of eating these berries, but I could never be positive. In January, 1948, I had excellent opportunities to watch several flocks of Ring-billed Gulls gathering this fruit. The birds were gracefully gliding under the heads of the cabbage palms and snatching berries on the wing. I saw this spectacular performance on several occasions at three different localities; the cabbage palms apparently are a regular source of food supply for the Ring-billed Gulls.—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, *Rye, New York*.

Record of Zenaida Dove on Florida Mainland.—On November 13, 1948, with Charles M. Brookfield and John O'Reilly, I observed a Zenaida Dove, *Zenaida aurita zenaida*, in a dense hammock between Coot Bay and Flamingo on the mainland of South Florida. We were first attracted by the rather long white stripe in the wings. The bird settled on the lower limb of a gumbo limbo tree and was studied from a distance of 15 to 20 feet, exhibiting the tameness attributed to the species by Audubon (*Orn. Biog.*, 2: 354-359, 1834). The various identifying characters were readily noted: the shortish, almost square-tipped tail with its terminal band of pearl gray; the white stripe along the hind edge of the wings; the diagonal black mark or stripe on the side of the neck. The legs and feet appeared heavier than in other species of pigeons. We watched the bird for fully ten minutes. No certain occurrence in Florida has been recorded since 1832, and there is no previous report from the Florida mainland, Pangburn's record (1918) having been withdrawn.

In 1824, Titian R. Peale visited Florida and collected the Zenaida Dove, presumably from the Keys although his itinerary is not known. This constituted the first report of the species for this country (Howell, *Florida Bird Life*, 1932: 9). In the spring of 1832, Audubon found the Zenaida Dove nesting near Indian Key and also noted it on a small key between the Tortugas and Key West. He wrote that it arrived in the Keys about April 15, the male birds first and the females a week later. Eggs were laid about May 1 and both sexes, with their young of the year, returned to the West Indies by October. It is possible that the individual observed by our party in mid-November was a straggler brought in by one of the hurricanes of the previous September and October, which swept through the region where this bird was seen. However, it should be noted that another West Indian species, the White-crowned Pigeon, *Columba leucocephala*, which still nests in the Keys, usually has migrated towards Cuba and the West Indies by September or early October, but a small group winters on the mainland near Cape Sable, as mentioned by Howell. I have observed them there a number of times in the months of January and February.—ROBERT P. ALLEN, *Tavernier, Florida*.

Groove-billed Ani in Florida.—On December 19, 1948, a Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*, was seen at Cedar Key, Levy County, Florida, by the writer

as he was riding in an automobile with B. W. Cooper and J. D. Kilby. Identification was possible because of the slow speed of the car and because the bird was only about three or four yards from the road in a small oak tree. By the time the car stopped, the bird had disappeared into a thicket. The weather was cold and cloudy with strong winds from the northwest.

On December 22, 1948, Pierce Brodtkorb returned to Cedar Key with Cooper and S. K. Eshleman III and discovered the bird in exactly the same tree. It flew across the road into a nearby clump of bushes and was shot by Cooper.

The specimen was a female; it weighed 71.9 grams and was fat. The ovary measured five by 11 mm. The stomach contained two Orthoptera (*Macneillia obscura* and *Belocephalus davisi*, determined by I. J. Cantrall), an immature spider (Family Argiopidae, determined by H. K. Wallace), an ant (*Pheidole* sp., *flavens* group, determined by A. Van Pelt), the leg of a beetle, and fragments of miscellaneous Hemiptera. The skin is now in the collection of Pierce Brodtkorb.

Howell (Florida Bird Life, 1932: 290) gives only two records of this species in Florida.—THOMAS W. HICKS, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.*

Rehabilitation in the Wild.—That nature's progeny are often highly adaptable was demonstrated by an adult Screech Owl, *Otus asio naevius*, that had lived for some time with but one leg.

A Screech Owl struck on the head by motor traffic near McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania, on October 9, 1948, was in surprisingly good condition for the possessor of but a single leg. A careful inspection of the carcass revealed no vestige of a left leg. The socket (*acetabulum*) for the head of the thigh bone was normal on each side. The left leg had apparently been pulled from its socket a considerable time before, as the skin over a very small hole—about the diameter of a man's smallest finger—was wrinkled and completely healed.

Despite its obvious handicap, this Screech Owl had evidently managed to make a satisfactory living. The bird was in good flesh, and its stomach and gullet were well filled with a variety of foods. Examination showed that this crippled bird had recently fed upon the following items (listed in approximate volumetric percentages):

One white-footed mouse (<i>Peromyscus</i>).....	70 per cent
Four large grasshoppers (<i>Melanoplus differentialis</i>) and fragments of four others (probably of same species).....	12 per cent
Fragments of 16 camel-cricket (<i>Ceuthophilus</i> sp.).....	5 per cent
Two small grasshoppers (<i>Melanoplus femurrubrum</i>).....	4 per cent
Fragments of 12 grasshoppers (<i>Acrididae</i>).....	4 per cent
Fragments of three field crickets (<i>Gryllus assimilus</i>).....	4 per cent
Fragments of four large spiders (<i>Lycosidae</i>).....	1 per cent
Fragments of one walking-stick (<i>Phasmidae</i>).....	trace
Fragments of one wasp (<i>Hymenoptera</i>).....	trace
Fragments of one ground beetle (<i>Carabidae</i>).....	trace
Fragments of one large seed, undetermined.....	trace

—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

Two Calamities to Roosting Chimney Swifts, *Chaetura pelagica*.—Early in December, 1945, an explosion in the heating system of a Quincy, Illinois, store was caused by dead Chimney Swifts which prevented the normal draft. A heaping bushel basket of dead birds was removed from the flue. The following year a disagreeable odor in the Methodist church revealed a similar but greater tragedy. Nearly two baskets of dead birds were found in the base of the great chimney of that institution.