his attempt to escape from the greenhouse. The bird was sent to Stanley G. Jewett of Portland, Oregon, who verified my identification.

The Black-chinned Hummingbird is included on the Oregon bird list on the basis of only two female specimens—this being the first male taken in the state.—BERTON M. BAILEY, *Enterprise, Oregon.*

The Race of Kingfisher, *Alcedo a. pallasii*, Occurring in the Crimea and Ukraine, South Russia.—Peters (Check-list Birds of World, 5: 172, 1945) places *Alcedo atthis suschkini* Pusanov (Bull. Soc. Nat. Moscou, Sect. Biol., 42: 15, 1933), from Crimea and Ukrainia, as a synonym of *Alcedo atthis atthis* (Linné), ('Systema Naturae,' ed. 10, 1: 109, 1758) from Egypt.

I have recently examined in the collection of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) examples from the Crimea. I find that Crimean Kingfishers differ from Mediterranean *A. a. atthis* and western continental *A. a. ispida* Linné by their paler ventral surfaces and smaller proportions, and particularly in the shorter bill. On comparison with material from the Caspian Basin and Persia (*A. a. pallasii* Reichenbach), the Crimean specimens were found to correspond in all essential details, and I consider Pusanov's race *A. a. suschkini* to be a synonym of *Alcedo atthis pallasii* Reichenbach, (Handb. spec. Orn., 1851: 3) from Siberia, which must now be listed as ranging considerably farther to the west than hitherto recorded, that is to the Crimea and Ukraine.—P. A. CLANCEY, *9, Craig Road, Cathcart, Glasgow, S. 4, Scotland.*

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Muscivora forficata*, Feeding at Night.—In front of a hotel in Dublin, Erath County, Texas, during the evening of August 1, 1949, I noticed what I took to be a large bat fluttering around a streetlight. Further observation showed the creature to be an adult Scissor-tail. The bird perched on a nearby elm or on the electric wires, from which it made sallies to capture large insects. It appeared to be catching grasshoppers or katydids and often flew against the globe protecting the light in its pursuit of prey. I watched the performance from 9:15 to 10:00 p. m.

On August 2, I left Dublin but returned the following day. On the evenings of August 3 and 4, the Scissor-tail was busily catching insects until at least as late as 11:00 p. m.

The streetlight was of a large bulb-type, giving a blue-white light resembling that of a fluorescent tube.—PHILIP F. ALLAN, *Soil Conservation Service, Fort Worth, Texas.*

First Occurrence of Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*, in Canada.—On Saturday, October 29, 1949, the writer and his wife, Dorothy, observed a Vermilion Flycatcher at the north end of Grenadier Pond in the northwest corner of High Park, Toronto. Many local observers saw the bird on October 30 and 31, and on November 1 it was collected by C. E. Hope for the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology (No. 76565).

On dissection, it was found that the bird had a broken left femur which had completely healed. This defect did not seem to affect the bird's activity and it was flying well, associating with a mixed flock of migrating Bluebirds and Juncos. It showed no evidence of recent captivity and was fat and in good condition. Although its skull was completely granulated, it was an immature male, with vermilion feathers covering most of its underparts and a large part of its crown, and with a white throat.

This appears to be not only the first record of this species in Canada, but the first to be reported to the north of its usual northern limits in Utah, New Mexico, and Texas.

According to a report received at the museum from Dr. W. L. Godson, Training and Research Section, Meteorological Division, Dept. of Transport, Toronto, who searched the weather maps for a couple of weeks prior to October 29, there were only two situations which might be interpreted as having caused the displacement of this bird.

1. Starting on the evening of October 21 in the region around Utah, and brought about by a cold front from northwestern North America, there were strong west winds (20–25 m. p. h.) in the lower layers (1,000–2,000 feet) which changed to southwest winds before subsiding in southern Ontario 20 to 24 hours later. These bore warm air northeastward and the temperatures throughout the belt between Utah and Ontario, at the time, were uniformly "tropical."

2. A similar situation, during the evening of October 28, creating southwest winds from Utah, and subsiding during the afternoon of October 29 in southern Ontario.

Although it is possible that the first situation might have carried this bird to southern Ontario, or part way, and that it continued on to Toronto on its own volition, it seems unlikely that it was carried directly to Toronto and was present a full week before its detection October 29, as the area in which the bird was seen happens to be one of the most thoroughly inspected by field-observers in the immediate vicinity of Toronto.

It is the writer's opinion (concurred in by W. W. H. Gunn and J. L. Baillie) that the second situation (if either) was more likely to have been responsible for the presence of the bird so far north of its northern limits. The time of day when first observed (2:30 p. m. E. S. T., October 29) was approximately 20 hours subsequent to the development of the second disturbance in Utah the previous day, at almost exactly the time a small bird, if carried on those winds, would have reached southern Ontario.—THOMAS C. SWIFT, *206 Indian Grove, Toronto, Canada.*

Model Planes and Purple Martins, *Progne subis*.—On July 4, 1949, I was watching an exhibit of model airplanes in a small field near Edgewater, Prince Georges County, Maryland. The planes were small gas-driven machines some two feet in length and were flown in a circle and controlled by means of a guy wire from the hand of the contestant to the tip of the wing of the plane. In this manner the model plane described a circle and performed numerous antics, such as loops, back loops, etc. These machines attain a speed of from 40 to 50 miles an hour, and their engines produce a continuous piercing hum. Many of the planes were parti-colored, although some were of solid color.

As is typical of many fields in this area numerous Barn Swallows, *Hirundo erythrogaster* were evident. At times the course of the planes crossed that of the birds, but the swallows wheeled out of the path and resumed their aerial feeding. Then suddenly a pair of Purple Martins appeared and dive bombed the model planes. There were several machines in the air at the time, but the martin selected to attack a machine with a deep purple fuselage and a yellow diagonal streak across each wing. Many attacks were made upon the yellow and purple machine, but the remaining planes did not attract the large swallows.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *The National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

A Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*, Anting.—On August 16, 1949, my attention was drawn to a Blue Jay, perched upon the terminal branch of a white oak tree, *Quercus alba*. As I looked from my window, I observed the bird busily picking small objects from the leaves of the tree and inserting them beneath its feathers. After each insertion the bird uttered the typical Blue Jay scream. The bird engaged in