

*Sturnella magna* (Linnaeus). Eastern Meadowlark.—Locality B: right coracoid, right humerus. Hitherto unrecorded as a fossil.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville.*

**Two Albinistic Alder Flycatchers at Ann Arbor, Michigan.**—There are few published records of albinism in the family Tyrannidae. Ruthven Deane recorded two: a Kingbird ("*Tyrannus Carolinensis*" = *T. tyrannus*), the only example in the family he had "ever heard of" (1876), and later (1879) a "perfect albino" Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*) reported to him in a letter (Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club, 1: 22; 4: 29). Kenneth Gordon (Auk, 45: 101, 1928) collected an albino Kingbird whose body plumage was "snow white"; wing and tail feathers "pale lemon yellow, with white shafts"; eye "dark as in a normal bird." D. R. Hostetter (Auk, 51: 524, 1934) described a nestling Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) with wing and tail feathers "cream throughout"; contour feathers "gray beneath, but tipped with cream"; eye normal. The Phoebe's four nest mates were normal.

P. A. Taverner (Auk, 48: 603, 1931) described a partial albino Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) as follows: "The bird is all pale lemon yellow (Martius to Picric Yellow of Ridgway's 'Nomenclature'), whitening to throat, except for a saddle of normal dark olive across the shoulders extending from up the back of the neck to near rump."

During the years 1948 through June 1954, I recorded 308 young Alder Flycatchers (nestlings or young which had just left the nest) in the vicinity of Ann Arbor, Michigan. In none of these was there any indication of albinism. Similarly, Walter Nickell of Cranbrook Institute of Science (letter, August 23, 1954) has recorded "at least 600" young Alders during the last 15 years in the nearby Bloomfield Hills area. He has never seen an albino, either partial or complete.

On July 4, 1954, near Dixboro, Michigan, I found an Alder Flycatcher nest with four eggs. On July 13, the nest contained four young about 6 days old. Two of the nestlings were normal examples of the species with pale olive-brown natal down. In the other two, the skin was paler, the down a pale yellow, the furred juvenal feathers appearing through the sheaths a deeper yellow. On July 19, I took the larger of the two albinos (estimated to be 12 days old) to raise it in captivity. On the following day as I approached the nest, the larger of the two normal-plumaged birds flew off some 50 feet and alighted about 20 feet from the ground in a tree. I captured the bird, hoping to raise it with the albino, but it died on July 25.

The other albino and the smaller of the two normal birds left the nest on July 21, before 8:00 P.M. I saw the normal bird near the nest but could not follow it because of the poor light. At 7:00 A.M. on July 22, the two birds were perched side by side on a branch 6 feet from the ground and 25 feet from the nest. As I approached, both birds flew off, in different directions, the albino flying about 100 feet and alighting 25 feet from the ground in a large tree. It was not possible to catch either of them. On July 27, the two banded young and the adults were in a *Crataegus-Prunus* thicket about 50 feet from the nest. I saw the albino again in the general vicinity of the nest on August 5, but I did not find it on August 11 or August 17.

I raised the captive albino in a screened breezeway (except from August 19 to 27) from July 19 to September 22. On the latter date, a study skin (U.M.M.Z. No. 135,857) was made. The bird, a female, weighed 12.1 grams. The skull was *completely ossified*. There are no dark feathers. With the exception of yellow, there is an apparent failure of all color factors that are expressed in the normal bird. The yellow (in north light on a clear day) is somewhat paler than Ridgway's Martius Yellow cited in Taverner's description above and is perhaps better matched

by Naphthalene Yellow. In Ridgway's system, both these shades have the same color value; Naphthalene Yellow has, however, 32 per cent neutral gray, whereas Martius Yellow is "pure." In shadow the bird might be described as cream or ivory. The concealed bases of the feathers (slate-gray in normal birds) are pure white. The chin and throat (whitish to pure white in normals) are white, with an almost imperceptible trace of yellow at some of the tips. The back shows very faintly as a negative of the normal pattern, being more white where the normal is more black—crown, tail feathers, primaries, alula. The buff wing bands of the normal bird are very faintly traced in slightly deeper yellow. Feather shafts (blackish brown in normal) are white. In life, the eye-color (red-brown) of the albino was indistinguishable from that of its normal fellow-captive. Bill and feet, however, were pale pinkish in contrast with the normal bird's brownish black.

On August 1, 1954, I had taken a normal-plumaged bird (estimated to be 13 days old) from a nest near Ann Arbor. This bird was raised with the albino until September 22, on which date a study skin (U.M.M.Z. No. 135,858) was prepared. This bird, a male, weighed 14.5 grams; the skull was not completely ossified.

Both birds had become independent in obtaining food when about 26 to 27 days old (August 3 and August 13, respectively, for the albino and the normal-plumaged bird). They would, however, take food held in forceps when flying insects were not provided in adequate numbers. Until August 17, the two birds usually perched side by side during the day and invariably did so at night. During my absence from Ann Arbor, August 19 to 27, the two birds were caged at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, where Dr. J. Van Tyne made further observations. It was during this period that the normal bird began to exhibit dominant behavior over the albino. When the birds were released on the breezeway again (August 28), the normal bird had precedence in selecting perches, was first to fly to the re-filled food dish, frequently took food away from the albino (earlier, August 16 and 17, the albino attempted to take food from the normal bird and sometimes succeeded), and spent much time chasing her. On several occasions, the albino was observed to crouch and slightly spread her wings while perched below the normal bird. The birds no longer perched together at night.

It is impossible to say how much of the difference in behavior was to be attributed to sexual differences and how much to the albinism of the female.—ANDREW J. BERGER, *Department of Anatomy, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor.*

***Streptoprocne semicollaris* in the lowlands of Sinaloa and Nayarit.**—We saw this little-known swift on at least two occasions in flocks observed over the coastal lowlands of Sinaloa and Nayarit in early May.

The first time that we saw a flock of large swifts in Sinaloa, May 8, 1954, we were on the highway 20 miles north of Mazatlán. This widely scattered flock contained about 10 individuals, some of which were tentatively identified as *semicollaris*.

Several individuals were positively identified as this species in a flock of about 20 birds observed on May 11, 1954, as they moved erratically near the highway 44 miles south of Mazatlán. There was no indication that the flock included any other species.

On May 13, 1954, a loose flock of 20 to 30 swifts, apparently all *semicollaris*, flew generally southward over our camp near the highway six miles south of Acaponeta, Nayarit (and 103 miles south of Mazatlán). A few moments later Hilton secured one of the swifts as it flew over a field a half mile south of camp