

***Elanus leucurus* breeding in Surinam.**—The South American race of the White-tailed Kite (*E. l. leucurus*) according to Hellmayr and Conover ('Catalogue of Birds of the Americas'. Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser. 13, pt. 1, No. 4: 18, 1949) has been found definitely breeding only in Argentina and Chile. "The scattered records from the northern parts of its range (Colombia, Rio Branco, the Guianas, Venezuela, and Trinidad)," say these authors, "probably refer to winter visitors from the south." My records from Surinam also pointed in that direction, as I saw one in December, one in March, four in April, one in May, four in June and one in July. I considered this species as only a migrant in Surinam (Ardea 24: 328, 329, 1954; Haverschmidt, "List of the Birds of Surinam": 36, 1955) and I am still of opinion that probably most, if not all, the birds I observed in these months were migrants.

However, *Elanus leucurus* does breed in Surinam. A pair were observed on the sugar estate "Marienburg" (Commewijne District) by Mr. Renssen almost daily from the moment he came to live there in September 1958. The birds frequented a particular place wholly overgrown with thick shrubbery with a few scattered trees amidst open fields, which were at that time not under cultivation. In the last days of December the birds were present with three young on the wing, and a loosely built nest of sticks was found in one of the trees. On January 3, 1959 I accompanied Mr. Renssen to that place and on arrival we immediately spotted the three young birds sitting together on a branch in one of the trees. It was clear that the young were still dependent of their parents. Twice one of the two parents disappeared in the neighboring fields to return in a short time with prey (a small mammal) in its talons, and alit near the young, passing the prey to one of them, after much calling. A Gray Hawk, *Buteo nitidus*, which ventured to come near was dived at and chased away by one of the old birds. I collected one of the young *Elanus*, which now bears my field number 3694 in the Leiden Museum. Aside from this fledgling (weight, 265 gms.; wing, 278 mm.; tail, 135; not sufficiently grown for measurements to have taxonomic significance), my only Surinam specimen, a juv. ♂, Paramaribo, April 1, 1947 (now in Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan), weighed 272 gms., and measured, according to Dr. H. Tordoff: wing (chord) 289, (arc) 293; bill (from cere) 17.5, to base 22.5; tail 167; tarsus 38. These measurements indicate the smaller southern race, *E. l. leucurus*.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, P.O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam.

**Rufous Hummingbird feeding on Sap of English Walnut at Sapsucker Holes.**—On July 13, 1958, four Rufous Hummingbirds, *Selasphorus rufus*, were observed feeding on the sap of the English walnut, *Juglans regia* L. The sap was exuding from holes made by the feeding activity of the Yellow-bellied (Red-naped) Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*. This activity was observed in a clearing at the site of an abandoned sawmill, approximately two miles northeast of Golden and Silver Falls State Park, in the Coast Range mountains of western Oregon. A single English walnut was located at the edge of an old apple orchard, about 150 feet from a small mountain stream. When first observed, the sapsucker was feeding in the upper branches of the walnut. The trunk and main branches were practically girdled by the hundreds of holes which had been made by this species.

Two pairs of Rufous Hummingbirds were flying around the tree. Occasionally they darted down to within six inches of the sapsucker but made no attempt to molest the larger bird. As I approached the walnut the sapsucker became alarmed

and flew to a nearby apple tree. Immediately one of the hummingbirds flew to the spot vacated by the sapsucker and hovered over the limb, while inserting its long bill into one of the newly-made holes. Only once during the 20 minute period of observation did two birds feed in adjacent holes at the same time. Occasionally the birds would perch while feeding. They continued feeding even when I climbed the tree and approached to within two feet of them.

On visiting the same spot two hours later two of the hummingbirds were observed in the vicinity of the walnut but were not feeding. At this time a sapsucker was feeding in an adjacent apple tree. At no time were hummingbirds observed feeding on the sap of tree species other than the walnut.

The sap of trees is not commonly thought of as food for hummingbirds, and there is only occasional mention of this type of feeding activity in the literature. Barrows (Michigan Bird Life, p. 387. 1912. Mich. Agric. Coll.) mentions the occasional use of the sap flowing naturally from trees as food by the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*. Obviously hummingbirds can only utilize trees from which the sap is already flowing. Such food sources are rather rare. Bolles (cited in Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 176, p. 343. 1940) noted the Ruby-throated Hummingbird feeding at holes made by the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Grinnell and Storer (1924. Animal Life in the Yosemite, p. 354. Univ. Calif. Press) reported Anna's Hummingbird, *Calypte anna*, feeding on the sap of the 'golden oak' at the holes of the Yellow-bellied (Red-breasted) Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus v. ruber*. Woodbury (Condor 40 (3): 125. 1938) observed the Rufous Hummingbird feeding from workings on willow trees of the sapsucker, *S. v. nuchalis*. Woodbury did not mention whether other food sources were generally available in the vicinity. In the present instance there were very few flowers present in the small clearing where the birds were observed, and none in the surrounding virgin Douglas Fir forest.—R. WIEGERT, Dept. of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**Head-scratching and Wing-stretching of Woodpeckers.**—The Heinroths state that most passerines scratch their heads "indirectly", or "hinterherum", by lowering one wing and passing the foot over it and that woodpeckers in general do the same unless wishing to clean a corner of the bill momentarily (Heinroth and Heinroth, Die Vögel Mitteleuropas, vol. 1, p 315. Berlin. 1924-26). My observations made on six species of American woodpeckers, however, showed that they all scratched "directly"; i.e., without lowering the wing. I have watched this type of head-scratching, almost daily, among six hand-raised individuals in an aviary: male and female Yellow-shafted Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*), two female Red-bellied Woodpeckers (*Centurus carolinus*), a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) and a Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). The head-scratching may be done by itself or in association with preening. In the latter case a woodpecker passes its bill over the oil-gland at the base of the tail, rubs a foot with its bill, then lowers the head to one side and scratches it, as if passing on the oil by means of the foot. I have also observed direct head-scratching in the field. These observations included the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos borealis*) on one, and Downy Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos pubescens*) on repeated occasions. Thus species in five genera of woodpeckers scratch in a manner reported among relatively few other groups of birds (Simmons, Ibis, 99: 178-181, 1957; but cf. Nice and Schantz, Auk, 76: 339-342, 1959).

Among other supposed fixed behavior patterns of the class Aves is the leg-