

palmed Plovers (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), which were feeding with other shorebirds around shallow pools and tidal channels 15 to 100 meters south of the woodhewer. The latter hopped along in the manner of a flicker (*Colaptes* sp.) feeding on a lawn, but held its body more level and its tail higher than a flicker normally does. When I approached the woodhewer, it moved to a stump and then flew to a telephone pole some 10 meters north, near the main road. Instead of flying to the nearest patch of low mangroves, about 20 meters west, the woodhewer then flew down to the grass and mud flats north of the road and resumed feeding among the stumps.

On the following day another woodhewer was seen in the forested hills about four kilometers northeast of these mud flats. This bird was feeding on the trunks of trees and in bromeliad epiphytes in the way that I have often seen the species feed in British Honduras. In the mangroves 1.1 miles south of these mud flats, W. J. Maher had collected an Ivory-billed Woodhewer (Mus. Vert. Zool. No. 134169) on 27 December 1955. Dickey and van Rossem (The Birds of El Salvador, Zool. Ser., Field Mus. Nat. Hist., 23: 323. 1938) found that *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* often fed on the ground, but they encountered the species only in forests. If ability to find food during the nonbreeding season in such diverse habitats as mud flats, mangrove swamps, and upland forests is characteristic of the species, it is not surprising that *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* has a wider distribution in the Mexican lowlands than any other species of woodhewer.—EDWIN WILLIS, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.*

**Occurrence of *Collyriclum faba* in Steller's Jay.**—A Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) was collected by Charles Fred on 1 December 1959 at the base of the Shoemaker Grade on the Grand Ronde River, Asotin County, Washington. The bird was infected with 26 adult *Collyriclum faba* which were in 13 cysts adjacent to the anus. Each cyst contained two flukes and the cluster of cysts presented a tumorlike mass.

The occurrence and distribution of *C. faba* was reviewed by Farner and Morgan (Auk, 61: 421-426, 1944). They reported that the distribution of the fluke in the United States was limited to the Eastern and North-central areas with no records west of the Great Plains. This appears to be the first record of *C. faba* in the Pacific Northwest and the first record of Steller's Jay serving as a host for this parasite. It is hoped that this report will stimulate collectors to examine the anal region of birds for this interesting fluke and throw more light upon its distribution and life cycle; the latter is still unknown.—C. W. McNEIL, *Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.*

**An Avian Air Battle.**—An ornithology class observed an unusual air combat between two Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) and three Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) about 10 A.M., 15 June 1955, over the Conodoguinet Creek in south-central Pennsylvania. Apparently the conflict had started only a short time before the birds were seen, for they were within a vertical range of two to three times the height of several large sycamore trees; the action ended so high the two species could hardly be distinguished by the naked eye.

The falcons were rather swifter in the diving, at times using even two or three wing strokes at the start of the downward glide to pick up velocity rapidly. In coming out of the dive, both species, using their momentum, shot rapidly upward, wings rigid as in the dive, until their speed was checked to the point that wing