

Occasionally traps were found disturbed but empty. Sometimes animals of other species were caught, including two Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*), one Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), one Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), one Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), two Steller's Jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), one Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), and two [!] bobcats (*Lynx rufus*).—PHILLIP D. DOERR AND JAMES H. ENDERSON, *Department of Zoology, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado*.

Roosting behavior of the Blue Jay.—Between 13 and 22 January 1963 I had the opportunity to observe the roosting behavior of several Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*). My front yard at Silver Spring, Maryland, has numerous small oak trees and seedlings which keep their withered leaves until spring. Sheltered among these leaves two to five Blue Jays spent each of the above afternoons and nights.

The birds arrived at their roosts daily between 1250 and 1259, more than four hours before official sunset. Unless frightened away they remained in place until a few minutes before the official sunrise time the following morning. (In these 10 days, according to the Washington, D. C. Weather Bureau, the sunrise time advanced from 0726 to 0722, and the sunset time from 1708 to 1718.)

The branches used as perches ranged 4 to 20 feet from the ground. During the daylight hours the birds sat in place with their eyes open but their heads sunk down onto their shoulders. I was able to walk to within 6 feet of them before they flew into the woods not to return the same day. Automobiles using the driveway 4 feet from two of the roosting birds and directly underneath another failed to alarm them; so also did three dogs playing within 10 feet of a bird just 4 feet off the ground.

For the first 20 minutes or less that the birds were at their roosts there was some competition for preferred positions. Once, three minutes after arrival one jay aroused when it saw something on the ground, flew down, ate it, and then resumed the perch and resting position immediately. Bread thrown near at 1600, however, did not attract them.

There was no snow on the ground during this period, and the daytime temperatures were in the 30's (degrees F). Only once did the weather vary. On that day the temperature climbed to 55° F in the afternoon and the birds did not arrive at their roosts until 1313. This long roosting period allowed these birds less than six hours daily to find adequate food during a winter month.—CYNTHIA GALE TURNER, 12524 *Two Farm Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland*.

Frog captures a fledgling Eastern Phoebe.—On 12 May 1963 I discovered the nest of an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) under a bridge at the south end of Lone Star Lake, Douglas County, Kansas. Upon my approach, the sole occupant, a young phoebe, flew from the nest. It was incapable of sustained flight, however, and it dropped into the water under the bridge. It then attempted to reach the bank, propelling itself quite successfully with flight-like movements of the wings. It probably would have succeeded in this attempt except that a bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) attracted no doubt by the disturbance caused by the efforts of the phoebe, pursued and captured the bird in its mouth. A struggle ensued during which the phoebe was evidently drowned. The frog then swam to the ground on which I was standing and, when I made a quick movement toward it, jumped back into the water and disappeared. It retained the limp body of the phoebe in its jaws in both of these maneuvers.

I was unable to find any account of frogs preying on any species of the genus *Sayornis* in the literature. A. C. Bent (*U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* 179: 151–152, 163,

1942) does not list the frog as a predator upon phoebes. Instances of frogs capturing other small birds have been recorded, however. A frog of unidentified species was seen to capture an adult Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) (M. Monroe, *Condor*, 59: 69, 1957). A bullfrog was observed to capture and eat an adult Brown Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus*) (W. Howard, *Copeia*, 1950: 152). C. R. S. Pitman (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 77: 125, 1957), writing about the aquatic predators of birds, stated: "Large species of *Rana*, such as *R. adspersa* and *R. occipitalis*, are voracious and will take any suitable living thing which comes their way."

Horizontal surfaces of bridges over water are common nesting sites for phoebes. It is possible that the above-described fate is a not infrequent one for young phoebes leaving the nest. Although the incident indicates that young phoebes are instinctively able to swim, and would consequently usually not drown, yet they may often fall prey to frogs if their first flight ends in water.—TED R. ANDERSON, 7803 Summit, Kansas City, Missouri.

The Band-tailed Barbthroat, *Threnetes ruckeri* (Trochilidae), in Guatemala.

—In a letter published in *The Ibis* in 1873 (p. 428) Osbert Salvin reported seeing a specimen of *Threnetes ruckeri* in a collection of birds kept by the Sociedad Economica de Guatemala. On the strength of this statement the country was included in the range of the species in several subsequent works, notably: Salvin, *Catalogue of the Picariae in the collection of the British Museum, Upupa and Trochili*, 1892 (vol. 16, *Cat. of the birds in the British Museum*), p. 265; Salvin and Godman, *Biologia Centrali-Americana, Aves*, vol. 2, 1888–97, p. 316 (1900); Sharpe, *A hand-list of the genera and species of birds*, vol. 2, 1900, p. 98; and Ridgway, *U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* 50, pt. 5, 1911, p. 336.

Because of the lack of additional records and the chance that the specimen may have been transported into Guatemala as a trade skin, a common procedure in those days, subsequent workers tended to dismiss the record. Cory in 1918 (*Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser.*, 13 [2]: 151, 1918) included Guatemala with a question mark in the range of this species. In 1924 Bangs and Penard (*Occas. Papers Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 5: 77, 1924) described *Threnetes ruckeri ventosus* as the northernmost form of the species (type locality Pozo Azul, Costa Rica), occurring in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Griscom (*Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 64, 1932) and Peters (*Check-list of birds of the world*, vol. 5, 1945; see p. 6) make no reference to Guatemala in the range of the species.

In the summer of 1961 Lloyd Kiff collected three specimens (now in our possession) of *Threnetes ruckeri* (two males: original catalogue numbers, LFK 9 and HCL 1409; one female: HCL 1408). The birds were all taken on 17 June in heavy rain forest three miles west of Matias Galvez (Santo Tomás), Departamento de Izabal, Guatemala. This locality is in the Caribbean lowlands at 100 feet elevation. Upon comparing these specimens with birds from Costa Rica, and a series from Honduras recently collected by Burt L. Monroe, Jr., we find them to be inseparable from *T. r. ventosus* Bangs and Penard. This represents the northernmost known occurrence of the species and adds to the likelihood that the specimen seen by Salvin actually did come from Guatemala.—HUGH C. LAND, Department of Biological Sciences, Northwestern State College, Natchitoches, Louisiana, and LLOYD F. KIFF, Department of Zoology, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.