Lack (1966, Population studies of birds, Oxford, Clarendon Press) suggested birds might derive a selective advantage from breeding in places familiar to them. Such an advantage probably accounts for the large number of anatid species in which adult females return to their natal grounds to breed accompanied by males encountered on the wintering grounds that may or may not have been reared near the female's home. Similarly, subadult females of those species that do not breed in the first year after hatching might return to their natal grounds to be more familiar with the vicinity when they return to breed in later years. Recaptures of breeding female Oldsquaws marked previously as subadults show that these birds nest and rear broods in habitats they frequented as subadults. Conversely such familarity would be of no obvious advantage to subadult males, which are not known to return to their natal area as subadults or as breeding adults.—R. M. ALISON, *Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Wildlife Branch, Whitney Block, Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3.* Accepted 4 Feb. 76.

Brown-capped Rosy Finch nesting in New Mexico.—On 21 August 1976 I located what appears to be the first reported nest of the Brown-capped Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte australis*) in New Mexico. The nest was found in the Sangré de Cristo Mountains, Santa Fe County, just inside the southern boundary of the Pecos Wilderness Area; the site was a southwest-facing cliff at ca. 3500 m elevation in the northwest basin containing Nambe Lake below Lake Peak. Photographs of the site and of the female near the nest are on file with the New Mexico Ornithological Society (1976-1A-E), Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico.

In the most recent compendium on the birds of New Mexico (Hubbard 1970) this hardy finch is considered as a probable breeder in the state based on two summer occurrences in Taos County: collection of birds on Wheeler Peak on 29–30 July 1904 (Bailey 1928), and the sighting of several birds in the Gold Hill area (ca. 3800 m) on 4 July 1955 (Ligon 1961). Additional summer reports cited in the New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOSFN) Field Notes include four or more seen on Wheeler Peak by W. Hank on 27 June 1971 (1971, NMOSFN 10: 44); two males seen on Truchas Peak, Rio Arriba County, by S. R. Bryan in July 1972 (1972, NMOSFN 11: 49); two pairs seen on Truchas Peak by K. Gietzentanner on 3 July 1976 (1976, NMOSFN 15). In total, summer records of this species have been made in New Mexico 5 different years since 1904, all in the north-central part of the state in the high Sangré de Cristo Mountains in Taos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe counties.

The topography in the vicinity of the nest I found fits the general description provided by Johnson (1975) for new breeding localities of *L. atrata* and *L. tephrocotis,* i.e. a cirque or basin below the steep face of a peak that is timbered to its summit, but where the proper combination of cliffs, shade, and snow accumulation produces an alpine climate at a subalpine elevation. The nest was positioned in a shaded crack 15 cm wide to one side of a large, prominent chimney in the cliff face. Marshall Conway and John Hubbard retrieved the nest 5 October 1976.

When I found the nest it contained three two-thirds grown young. They were fully feathered, with stubby tail and wing feathers, and with tufts of down protruding above the eyes. Both parents attended the young, but I saw the male at the nest only once during 4 hours of watching late in the evening of 21 August and the morning of 22 August. The parent birds were absent from the nest for as long as 20 min. After an absence they never approached the nest directly; instead they flew to several positions on either side of the chimney before flying to the nest to feed the young. When feeding the nestlings the attending adult usually stayed no longer than 15 sec.

Noticeable is the lengthy time gap between the discovery of breeding birds and the first known nesting. Scarcity of observers visiting the alpine parts of the state may be a factor in the tardy discovery of a nest. In addition, the alpine breeding habitat of the Brown-capped Rosy Finch is limited to a few small "islands" within the state, in which the total breeding population is probably never large (perhaps only a pair or two for most suitable "islands") and may be absent in some years. Near Lake Peak I neither saw nor heard any rosy finches other than those at the nest, and I suspect they were the only pair inhabiting the Lake Peak "island" at that time.

Predation on eggs and nestlings may also reduce the probability of locating nests inasmuch as it may make the parent birds more secretive than usual around the nest and/or may at times reduce the meagre breeding population further. French (1955, and Bent 1968) considered Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) to be the major predator on the eggs and young of the Black Rosy Finch (*L. atrata*), and in the basin where I discovered the nest nutcrackers were common. I noticed no hostile behavior directed at the nutcrackers by the rosy finches, even when the nutcrackers flew by the cliff face near the nest. On one occasion the female finch joined a nutcracker in attacking a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) drifting

over the ridge above the nest. This would appear to be paradoxical behavior, for the nutcracker is the greater threat to the welfare of the nest.

I thank John P. Hubbard for his advice and help in the preparation of this note and for retrieving the nest, which is deposited in the collection of the Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico.

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DAVID PAUL HENDRICKS, *900 S. Robberson Ave., Springfield, Missouri 65806.* Accepted 10 Jan. 77. (This paper was subsidized by the author.)

Pellet egestion by a captive Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*).—The oral egestion of pellets of the indigestible portions of food has been reported for many avian species including several species of Apodidae (1964, pr. 608–609 *in* A new dictionary of birds (A. L. Thompson, Ed.), New York, McGraw-Hill; Hanson 1969, List of species known to eject pellets, The International Bird Pellet Study Group Bull. No. 10, with additions 1974, Aberlour, Banffshire AB3 9LJ, Scotland, Aberlour House.). This process apparently has not been reported to occur in *Chaetura pelagica*.

On 9 September 1975, an injured Chimney Swift was submitted for treatment to the Raptor Rehabilitation Center associated with my laboratory. The bird appeared to have suffered a concussion after colliding with a plate glass window. It was force-fed 4–6 times per day with a diet consisting of about 75% earthworms, 20% house flies, and 5% other small insects. On the 3rd day of our care an oval-shaped pellet (1 cm long, 0.6 cm in diameter) was found in its cage. It had not cast another pellet by the end of the 5th day when it was released.—GARY E. DUKE, *Department of Veterinary Biology, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108.* Accepted 17 Dec. 76. (This paper was subsidized by the author.)

Unusual foraging by a Fork-tailed Storm Petrel.—While conducting an offshore bird census from the sea beach at Nelson Lagoon, Alaska Peninsula (56°00′N, 161°10′W) at 1700 on 17 September 1976 I saw a Fork-tailed Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma f. furcata*) feeding on the beached remains of an adult gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) that had been trapped by ice and died the previous April. I watched it for about 15 min. The sky was overcast with a 25-knot offshore wind, gusting to 35 knots. Seas were running from 3 to 4 m, and the tide was high. This observation is of note because it provides direct evidence of a terrestrial (i.e. nonpelagic) foraging capability by *O. furcata*. It also furthers the scant knowledge on the use of beached marine mammals for food by pelagic and inshore avifauna, especially during adverse weather when normal foraging habits might be inhibited.

This particular bird, which was subsequently collected (USFWS-OBS-056, imm. female), was feeding in association with approximately 40 adult and hatching-year Glaucous-winged Gulls (*Larus glaucescens*) and three adult Sabine's Gulls (*Xema sabini*). The petrel actively fed among the gulls by hovering over the beach and then picking up small pieces of whale tissue being torn loose by wave action and washed up on the beach. Three times the bird landed on the beach and picked up what appeared to be food items cast high on the tide line. Subsequent examination of the stomach contents revealed approximately eight small pieces of whale fat, feathers, the lens of a fish or squid eye, and five pieces of smoothly worn pumice. The latter could have been picked up floating at sea or on the beach. Twice after successfully obtaining items the petrel alighted on the back of the whale within 1 m of several gulls also sitting on the carcass. No interspecific reactions were observed among the birds.

Fork-tailed Petrels are frequently seen in intertidal waters along the Alaska Peninsula in fall and early