

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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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

winter, usually during or following storms. Two others were seen within Nelson Lagoon, approximately 1 km from the open coast, 2 weeks after this incident (Anthony DeGange pers. comm.). Robert D. Jones (pers. comm.) reported seeing several hundred fork-tails each year (1963–1975) over Izembek Lagoon (55°20'N, 161°00'W) in October and November.

The fact that *O. furcata*, and storm petrels in general, occasionally feed on the oil and other remains of dead marine mammals and other offal while at sea has been reported by several authors (e.g. Palmer 1962, Handbook of North American birds, New Haven, Yale Univ. Press, and Dement'v'e et al. 1952, Birds of the Soviet Union, vol. 2), but I found no references in the literature to direct evidence of terrestrial foraging by *O. furcata* or other hydrobatids. Palmer (op. cit. 234, 250.) reports small stones or cinders in stomachs of adult and young petrels taken while on the nesting grounds, while Bianchi (in Dement'v'e op. cit., 334) found pieces of sorrel (*Rumex* spp.) in stomachs of *O. l. leucorrohoa* also taken on the nesting grounds. More recently, our laboratory has found *Carex* and *Eleocharis* seeds in *O. furcata* stomachs collected from the Gulf of Alaska. Both of these seeds are buoyant and were probably picked up at sea.

This investigation was part of the Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program funded by the Bureau of Land Management through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. I thank Gerry Sanger, Jim Bartonek, and Pat Gould for suggestions on improving this note.—ROBERT GILL JR., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Biological Services, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Accepted 15 Dec. 76. (This paper was subsidized by the author.)

Additional records of Brown-headed Cowbird nest parasitism in Louisiana.—Friedmann (1963, 1966, 1971) interpreted results and maintained accounts on nest parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) in North America. These accounts contain only a minimal amount of information from Louisiana, to which this note adds considerable data.

During 13 consecutive nesting season surveys (1963 to 1975), 7360 active (with eggs or young) nests of 111 species of birds were examined one or more times. The region surveyed for nests included many different localities in Louisiana, largely north of Alexandria.

No parasitism was observed among 1824 active nests of 61 nonpasserine species representing 27 families and 14 orders. Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism was noted 71 times (including 1 instance of presumptive parasitism) among 5536 active passeriform nests, an incidence of 1.3%.

No parasitism was seen among 30 (of 50) passeriform species for which one or more active nests were found and recorded, including:

43 <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	51 <i>Parus bicolor</i>	6 <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
8 <i>Muscivora forficata</i>	64 <i>Sitta pusilla</i>	229 <i>Passer domesticus</i>
8 <i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	15 <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	2 <i>Icterus galbula</i>
3 <i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	607 <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	26 <i>Cassidix major</i>
4 <i>Contopus virens</i>	20 <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	371 <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
94 <i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	200 <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	2 <i>Piranga rubra</i>
322 <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	218 <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	6 <i>Guiraca caerulea</i>
218 <i>Progne subis</i>	1 <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	1 <i>Passerina ciris</i>
293 <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	3 <i>Parula americana</i>	10 <i>Chondestes grammacus</i>
7 <i>Corvus brachyrhynchus</i>	1 <i>Dendroica dominica</i>	26 <i>Spizella passerina</i>

Four of the species listed above (*S. ruficollis*, *S. pusilla*, *L. ludovicianus* and *C. major*) have never been reported as cowbird hosts (Friedmann, pers. comm.). Of the 26 other species listed Friedmann (1963) considered 17 rare or uncommon hosts (less than 25 known records). The remaining nine species fall into one of three categories Friedmann (1963) defined as chief fosterers (100 or more records), frequency group 2 (50 to 100 instances), and frequency group 3 (25 to 50 instances). *S. phoebe*, *V. olivaceus*, *G. trichas* and *S. passerina* are chief fosterers, yet none of the 36 combined nests of these species were known to have been parasitized. This is also true for those in group 2 (*C. virens*, *H. mustelina* and *P. ciris*) and those in group 3 (*G. caerulea* and *C. grammacus*). In some instances, a small number of records may have sampled a particular population inadequately and one would expect some of the 26 Chipping Sparrow nests, a chief fosterer, to have been parasitized. Friedmann (1963), Wiens (1963), and Young (1963) point out that some species are heavily parasitized in one region but not in another. This may be due to a number of factors including cowbird density, number of different host species available, and which host species are most favored in a particular region (Friedmann 1963, McGeen and McGeen 1968, McGeen 1972).

Parasitism was noted among 20 passeriform species in 9 families (Table 1). The three instances of Brown Thrasher parasitism were reported earlier (Taylor and Goertz 1965) at one location (18 April to 3