

its mouth. It spent the night in some cotton and a handkerchief arranged as a nest in a candy box lid.

Early the next morning they were awakened by the buzzing of wings and found that the mother bird had found her young one and was investigating its condition and surroundings, coming into their sleeping quarters to do so.

On this day she fed it at intervals, perching on the edge of the box lid while doing so. On the next day they were holding it in their hands and feeding it honey when the mother arrived. She was quite puzzled as to what to do, but after some few seconds' hesitation alighted on the tip of the fingers of the hand which held the youngster, and fed it. Afterward she buzzed close to it and pushed it, apparently trying to coax it to fly and being quite vexed because it would not try.

The slightest movement was enough to startle the old bird, but she would return in a moment and alight on the hand which held the young one. The young people held it thus for a couple of hours during which time the scene described was repeated several times.

While the mother bird was away gathering food, the youngster would buzz its wings trying to fly but would not make the endeavor when its mother was present. All three of the people took turns holding it and the mother alighted on their hands without hesitation after her first experience.

They kept the bird for four days in the house. Its plumage, which had been very scant at first, rapidly spread. When found, there were only pinfeathers in the tail and on the neck, back and breast. At the end of four days the bare portions were pretty well covered and the bird could fly a few feet. They then put it out doors and for two days kept close track of it as it flew from one twig to another near by. The feathers seemed very nearly all developed by this time. It could fly well and was seen for several days in the vicinity with its mother. One of the astonishing features was the rapidity with which the feathers burst out.

A weak squeak was its only note, uttered at short intervals, except when its mother arrived when it chipped quite energetically.

Unfortunately, there was no camera present to record these interesting events, which at best can be poorly reported in words.—F. C. WILLARD, *Tombstone, Arizona.*

The Derby Flycatcher (*Pitangus derbianus*) a permanent Resident Within our Boundaries.—Written of as "rather a rare summer visitor in the lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas" in Bailey's Handbook of Birds of the Western United States, we must now alter this statement, and call it a permanent resident, in moderate numbers.

On January 5, 1909, while hunting some four miles up the river from Brownsville, and having entered a dense growth composed largely of the so-called Ebony (*Siderocarpus flexicaulis*) my attention was directed to a water hole, of some forty feet diameter, by the calls of Green Jays (*Xanthoura luxuosa glaucescens*). Upon approaching, a great clatter commenced, which I attributed to the Jays. Perceiving a motion in the brush at the edge of the hole, and without any clear view of a bird, I fired. The victim was a Derby Flycatcher, and it had been co-participant with the Jays in the great uproar. Later I discerned the more usual notes of another Derby, in the same brush, but owing to the density of the particular portion of the scrub in which this individual held forth, pursuit was impracticable. The water hole, about which these flycatchers and various other birds gathered, was garnished with many insects, both dead and alive, which suggest its avian attractions.

Two more of this species were secured on February 10, in the same locality, and likewise in dense scrub, where I was attracted to them by their harsh and persistent notes. However, the Derby Flycatcher keeps so well within growth of this character, both here and in Mexico, that many examples of it might occur in a single locality, and yet comparatively few be noted.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *Brownsville, Texas.*

Flicker Feathers.—Among the curios of the Pacific Coast Indians in the museum in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, is an ornament in the shape of a thin flat belt, six or eight feet long—probably worn over the head—composed entirely, or nearly so, of the tail feathers (rectrices) of flickers (*Colaptes*). The feathers are so placed that the quills are toward the center, the butts overlapping each other, the ends of the feathers being evenly arranged toward the outside, all same side uppermost, and fastened together with fine twine. This ornament must represent a large number of birds and is unique under any circumstances. But one of the most interesting things about it is the fact that every once in a while—say from one to two feet apart—the rectrices of a cross-bred flicker (*cafer* + *auratus*) appear. It seems as if the tails of the birds must have been added as they were killed, for the more or less golden quills of the cross-bred birds appear in bunches of ten or twelve, making distinct breaks in the color scheme, while if the feathers had been indiscriminately mixed before being fastened in the belt these golden shafts would hardly be noticeable. This ornament is locked in a glass case, lying topside uppermost, as it were, and I had no opportunity to examine the underside where the gilding of the feathers would have been much more distinct.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California.*