

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Badger Digs for Bank Swallows.**—The Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) from its habit of nesting in holes in the faces of steep banks would appear to be able to raise its brood in comparative safety. As I was walking today (July 20) along the edge of a cut bank overlooking the Frenchman River, under which is a colony of these birds, I noticed several fresh badger holes, and at the mouth of each one feathers of various kinds. Then I came upon a dead half-fledged swallow and realized that the badger had been digging down from above and making a meal of young swallows. There were about six holes and a few scratches besides, about six inches deep, where the badger had started to dig and then desisted; which shows, I imagine, that the badger was guided to strike the nest below by his sense of smell or possibly of hearing.—LAURENCE B. POTTER, *Gower Ranch, Eastend, Saskatchewan, July 20, 1924.*

**The Black Phoebe as a Fisherman.**—Upon May 18, 1924, having occasion to visit my former residence in Pasadena, I noted a Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) making sallies onto the surface of a pool in which goldfish are kept, and investigation disclosed an interesting state of affairs. This, presumably, was the same individual that has used this place as a hunting ground for the greater portion of the last two years. From a station on a nearby post, or plaster frog upon the margin, it was in the habit of making frequent sallies over the surface of the water in quest of the numerous insects to be found in such situations. My attention was particularly attracted on the above date by the fact that the bird was actually diving into the water, its head entirely disappearing in pursuit of prey at least two inches below the surface. After watching this action repeated with variations several times, I quietly investigated and discovered that there were numbers of young goldfish, about half an inch in length, swimming in the pond, but that there were no aquatic insects which I could discern similarly engaged. I am entirely satisfied in my own mind that this bird was capturing, or trying to capture, the young fish. The evidence, however, is purely circumstantial, for the actions of the fisherman were too swift for me to learn whether or no he was successful. As they were no longer my fish, and my sympathies lay entirely with the bird, I pursued the enquiry no farther.—A. B. HOWELL, *Pasadena, California, June 7, 1924.*

**Do Birds or Other Animals Interpolate the Third Dimension?**—I have often heard it said that a dog does not recognize its own image in a mirror because it lacks the ability to interpolate the third dimension. In connection with this theory, an experience which came to my notice just a few weeks ago may prove of interest.

A Robin was seen to hop on the running-board of an automobile while the car was standing at the curb. The car was a brand new one and well polished, and the Robin suddenly discovered his image reflected in the polished surface of the car. He ran up and down the running-board and at intervals attacked the image beside him. Discouraged with his success, he would turn away from the car and sit on the edge of the running-board for a moment and then, glancing backward, he would still see the phantom Robin sitting beside him, whereupon he would return again to the attack. Occasionally, he would glance upward and there in the overhanging part of the car, he would see another Robin, which he would promptly proceed to attack by flying upward along the side of the car, following the image to the windows of the car, where it would, of course, disappear.

This procedure would sometimes continue over a period of five or ten minutes, and it must have happened a good many times in the course of several days, because I saw it repeated every noon for two or three days. Evidently the Robin had no difficulty in recognizing his image.—CARL LEOPOLD, *Burlington, Iowa, May 6, 1924.*

**Breeding of the Ancient Murrelet in Washington.**—On May 9, 1924, I took a female Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) and two eggs from a burrow on Carroll Island, Washington. I gave the eggs to Mr. J. Hooper Bowles, of Tacoma, who informs me that they were on the point of hatching. The bird is now in the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and Comparative Oology. As far as I can learn this is the first record for the breeding of this bird south of British Columbia.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, July 18, 1924.*