birds, probably from a garbage dump on the lake shore, or possibly from nearby lakes in the mountains, as no fish live in the highly saline waters of the lake. In the laboratory the gulls evince little fondness for fly pupae after having been fed on fish and horse meat.

Both young and old gulls are extensively parasitized by a tapewarm (*Hymenolepis californicus*) which I have recently described (Jour. Paras., 36, 1950:9-12) and which is obtained from the brine shrimp as proven by feeding the latter to newly hatched birds. Every gull that was a few days old which I examined contained these worms. Even before leaving the nest the birds are occasionally infested.

In the laboratory the young gulls eagerly accept water, drinking and splashing in a basin which is quickly fouled by their excreta. Do the young gulls drink Mono Lake water? In the laboratory they refuse it, although they drink fresh water readily and sea water reluctantly. There is no fresh water available on their breeding grounds, so it is possible that they will drink lake water before they have become accustomed to fresh water. It is also possible that they obtain sufficient water from their food without drinking any.

This study was made in the course of parasitological research at the laboratory of the San Diego Zoological Society, to whom I am indebted for many courtesies.—R. T. YOUNG, *San Diego, California, January 2, 1952.*

Egg Laid by Killdeer Frightened from Nest.—The Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) is an abundant breeding bird along the streams of the eastern slope of Mount Hamilton, Santa Clara County, California. On April 23, 1950, a pair of Killdeers on Arroyo Bayo, seven miles east of Mount Hamilton, gave alarm calls and ran slowly ahead as I approached. I watched the nearer bird with a 9 × 35 binocular from a distance of approximately 50 feet as it moved slowly away and stopped. The anal region was noticeably distended and the circumanal feathers were spread. As I watched, an egg emerged from the bird's cloaca and dropped to the ground. The bird paused for a few seconds, then ran on without even looking at the egg. I watched the bird for a minute longer, then picked up the egg which was still wet. The egg was dropped at 9:25 a.m. Apparently the female Killdeer had been sitting on the nest site and was nearly ready to lay when I frightened her. A careful search for the nest site was made but it was not located.—CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *San Jose State College, San Jose, California, January 15, 1952.*

Notes on the Sexual Behavior of Two Falcons.—On March 12, 1949, at the west end of the University of California campus, Berkeley, California, at approximately 11 a.m., five Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) were seen in the air around the American Trust Building, the tallest building in the city of Berkeley. A quarter of a mile away two other Sparrow Hawks were active. The first group milled about and occasionally members of it landed on a sign on top of the building. Copulation was seen to take place suddenly between two members of the first group. A third bird flew in, causing the male to depart, and then copulated with the same female. This activity was repeated twice so that there was no doubt that two males were attending one female. Observation of this group was not continued.

At the same time the other pair of birds was active in sexual display. The male performed a vigorous diving flight, calling loudly almost continuously. Shortly afterwards this pair was seen copulating on top of a high flag pole. The nest of the pair was found nearby in a broken cornice of a three-story apartment house. Many times during the following week these birds were seen in copulation on various high structures in the vicinity of the nest. Throughout the next few weeks the female was seen in the nest hole. Once when the nest was approached, the female flew out calling and landed on a telephone wire across the street. The male responded by flying to her, and copulation took place. Shortly after sunrise at 6:10 on March 20 this pair was seen in copulation. In view of this activity it was surprising that eggs were not found in the nest until six weeks after the first copulation was recorded.

Although the incubation period and fledging time were not determined, the young were observed to be dependent on the adults and remained in the adults' territory until early September. After fledging the young moved to a tall eucalyptus tree on the University grounds where they could be heard calling almost continuously from dawn to dusk.

In the spring of 1948 the senior author was a member of a field party in the Mexican highlands. On February 23, 1948, near El Mante, San Luis Potosí, two Bat Falcons (*Falco albigularis*) were

discovered. One bird was circling the rim of a broad canyon calling loudly. After two trips around the rim it flew directly to a dead tree and copulated with a second bird which to this moment had been silent and consequently overlooked. During the copulatory act the female also called loudly. The male then commenced circling and calling again.—HENRY E. CHILDS, JR., *and* ARCHIE S. MOSSMAN, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, February 20, 1952.*

Scrub Jay in Bexar County, Texas.—On April 12, 1951, I took a Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) from a small flock on a juniper-covered hillside about one mile southwest of Leon Springs in northwestern Bexar County, Texas. The specimen, a first-year female (ovary 10 × 5 mm., largest ovum 1 mm.), is now no. 123268 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Two other individuals were seen at the same time and a fourth was heard calling. In this area, at an elevation of approximately 1200 feet, the junipers were closely spaced, with a few live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) and Texas oaks (*Q. texana*) scattered through them. This woodland, typical of the Edwards Plateau and the characteristic habitat of this jay (Pitelka, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 50, 1951:300), extends for several miles to the southeastward, being replaced gradually by mesquite and low shrub growth as one approaches San Antonio.

The easternmost locality for *A. c. texana* cited by Pitelka (*op. cit.*:403) is Kerrville, Kerr County. Leon Springs lies about 40 miles southeast of that point. Beckham (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 10, 1888: 633-696) does not list this supposedly resident jay from the San Antonio region, although he spent more than a week collecting birds at Leon Springs in March, 1887. Attwater (Auk, 9, 1892:337-345) does not report this species from the vicinity of San Antonio, nor do Kirn and Quillen in their list of the "Birds of Bexar County, Texas" (Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio, 1927). Scrub Jays were not noted in the vicinity of Boerne, Kendall County (about 12 miles northwest of Leon Springs) in the course of two winter's residence there by Brown (Auk, 1, 1884:120-124).

Whether this occurrence represents an instance of wandering of non-breeding individuals or an extension of breeding range in recent years must be determind by future study.—KEITH L. DIXON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 20, 1951.*

Homing Instinct in Cowbird.—On May 9, 1950, at Benicia, Solano County, California, I banded two male Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), and two days later, on May 11, a female of the same species. These three birds remained through June and departed early in July. They occupied a territory equal to some six square blocks, in which area my home is located.

From the middle of April to the middle of July, 1951, these same three cowbirds again frequented my banding traps, repeating so frequently that they became a nuisance. The bait used was ordinary canary bird seed which I was using to catch linnets and other seed-eating birds.

The female appeared to be mated with the two males, as the three were seldom far separated, and no other cowbirds were in evidence except three one-time visitors to my traps.

As an experiment, I took one of the two male cowbirds with me in my car from Benicia to Sacramento, sixty miles distant, on May 20, 1951. After exhibiting him at a meeting of the Western Bird-banding Association, I released him. Two days later this same bird was repeating again in my traps in Benicia, direct evidence of attraction either to its customary haunts or to its mate, or to both. —EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, February 29, 1952.*

Roseate Spoonbill in Imperial County, California.—On September 30, 1951, at 8:30 a.m., E. W. Elder and myself were observing waterfowl on the Alamo River where it empties into the Salton Sea in Imperial County, California. A group of five pinkish-colored birds flew to and landed in a small bay about 200 yards from us and began feeding in the shallow water. Closer inspection provided definite identification as Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaia*). Through the field glasses we were able to observe their large spoon-like bill and the characteristic sidewise motion of it while feeding. The birds had a faint pinkish appearance while on the ground but when in flight the underparts were very prominently pinkish. They fed for 20 minutes and when startled took flight and alighted among a number of other birds at the edge of the Salton Sea. Records of Roseate Spoonbills are rare for California but there are reports for Imperial County in 1909, 1913 and 1927.—WILLIAM A. WOOTEN, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Los Angeles, March 12, 1952.*