

Hydaburg (Prince of Wales Island, southeastern coast): one Mourning Dove seen on September 1, 1916 (Willett, 1917. *Condor*, 19:22).

The files of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contain eight records of Mourning Doves in Alaska which apparently have not been published previously. Among these is one from the cold interior. They are (from north to south) as follows:

Clear (interior, southwest of Fairbanks, about two degrees south of the Arctic Circle): William J. Tirre reports (memorandum, October 17, 1947) that a dove, captured by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Waugh at their home in Clear during a severe snowstorm on September 30, 1947, and later transported to the Woodland Park Zoo at Seattle, Washington, has been identified as a Western Mourning Dove (*marginella*).

Juneau: Frank Dufresne records (field notes) one Mourning Dove on a highway nine miles from the city in August 1942.

Taku Lodge (southeastern coast): Frank Dufresne reports (field notes) one dove seen from July to September 1940.

Twin Glacier Camp on Taku River (southeastern coast): Frank Dufresne reports (letter, October 3, 1929) a single Mourning Dove—"Carolina Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*)"—on October 2, 1929.

Sitka: Ernest P. Walker states (letter, August 21, 1926) that E. M. Goddard, writing on July 20, reported a Mourning Dove that appeared near the city about the end of May 1926 and remained about a month; Frank Dufresne reports (field notes) a single dove seen at Sitka in July 1938.

Kake (Kupreanof Island, southeastern coast): Frank Dufresne reports (field notes) that two doves were seen during July and August 1942.

Goddard Hot Springs (Baranof Island, southeastern coast): Frank Dufresne writes (letter, October 3, 1929) that E. M. Goddard observed a Mourning Dove ("a bird of the same type") at the Springs.

It will be noted that only one of these doves was observed as early as May, whereas five were recorded during July and August. That the majority of the birds were fall wanderers may be seen from the fact that seven were observed in September, one in October, and one in November. All but two of the records were made in the humid southern coastal strip, where temperatures are rarely low.—CLARENCE COTTAM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D.C.

Breeding of Richmond's Swift in Venezuela.—In a recent paper (*Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool. Occ. Papers* No. 505, Jan. 14, 1948) William H. Phelps and I reported the occurrence of Richmond's Swift, *Chaetura vauxi richmondi*, in Venezuela. The "seasonal range" of the 26 specimens we discussed indicated that the species was non-migratory, and "the fact that all 10 specimens taken at Curupao in July had much enlarged gonads and virtually no tail spines" led us to suppose that it bred there. Mr. Phelps recently has obtained full confirmation of this supposition. In a letter dated February 21, 1948, he wrote that his grandson, who has a home at the Country Club in Caracas (1,000 meters), captured an adult male (Phelps Collection No. 40979) and a young of undetermined sex (No. 40980) in the living room of his house. They had come in through the fireplace and chimney, where they presumably had a nest.

The young bird was only partly grown. The blood-sheaths at the base of the rectrices were about 11 mm. long, and those at the base of the remiges about 14 mm. long. The wing of the adult measured 113 mm., the tail 33 (the spines were completely worn off). The wing of the young bird measured 81, the tail 29 (the spines, apparently unworn, were about 3 mm. long).

W. E. Clyde Todd informs me that within recent years he has handled and identified nine Venezuelan specimens of Richmond's Swift, of which eight are now at the Carnegie Museum and one at the U. S. National Museum. These nine

specimens were from the Sierra de Carabobo, Colonia Tovar, and Petare. They were collected on April 8, 1929 (two); April 30, 1929 (two); July 2, 1914 (one); July 22, 1929 (one); July 26, 1929 (two); and July 28, 1929 (one)—dates which certainly suggest breeding.

I wish to thank both Mr. Phelps and Mr. Todd for the information on which the above note is based.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor.*

Wheatear at Peekskill, New York.—On November 15, 1947, I had the good fortune to observe a Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) on a railroad embankment at Peekskill, New York, and carefully studied it at close range. Since I was familiar with Wheatears in life, this bird's diagnostic color and shape, perky, bobbing mannerisms, conspicuous white rump, and jerky black-bordered tail made me immediately certain of what I had found.

This species is only of accidental occurrence in the United States, and I know of but five other records for the New York City region: Griscom (1923. "Birds of the New York City Region") listed three specimens collected on Long Island, the last near Jamaica, in 1885; one Wheatear was seen with a flock of Snow Buntings at Montauk, Long Island, on December 27, 1936, by L. Breslau (*Proc. Linn. Soc. N.Y.* No. 50-51, 1940:48); another was carefully studied at Moriches Inlet, Long Island, on June 3, 1941, by LeRoy Wilcox.—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, *Rye, New York.*

Cardinals bathing.—Here in Bluefield, West Virginia, the Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) lives very close to us, and I was much interested by Mrs. Laskey's article (1944. *Wils. Bull.*, 56:27-44), especially by the statement that Cardinals are not bathers. Since then I have kept a record of our bathing Cardinals, which is continuous (April 1944-May 1948) except for six months in 1946.

The Cardinals bathe mostly from January through June. I also have single records of males for July through October, but none at all for November. Judging from my records, twice as many males bathe as females. In 1947-48, I recorded males bathing five times in February and May, six times in April; females bathing six times in February, three times in April.

The Cardinals bathe when there is deep snow on the ground, as well as during hot dry weather. The favorite time of day is between noon and three o'clock, though they also bathe around 8:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m., especially in May and June. They do not bathe together but in succession. Male usually follows female, and often each returns for a second splash. They bathe with English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), though perhaps from necessity rather than from choice.

The largest number of bathers was recorded on December 23, 1945, when five males and two females followed one after the other. Two more approached but were frightened away. There was five feet of snow on the ground, temperature 34° F. (time not noted). On February 1, 1948, four males and one female bathed with a host of sparrows in and out. This was at 12:30 p.m., with two feet of snow, temperature 32° F.

One episode of the bath is worth mentioning. On April 26, two male Cardinals attempted to join a female Cardinal in the bath. She rose protesting and called repeatedly. The males continued to splash until the female's mate arrived and drove at them, when they left hurriedly without protest. Then the attacking male took a bath, after which the female resumed her ablutions and he, having dried his feathers, flew to the rose bush and sang his full-throated *purty-purty*.—MIRIAM G. DICKINSON, 2006 Reid Avenue, Bluefield, West Virginia.