During the first three days after hatching, cool rainy weather persisted, and the parent birds took turns feeding and brooding the young. While one brooded, the other foraged. When coming to the nest, the adult would alight and cling to the chimney wall at one side of and below the nest. The other would then fly out of the chimney, and the first bird would climb up to the edge of the nest and feed one or, more often, two of the young, then take its turn at brooding. A point of interest was that when the young begged for food they hung their heads over the edge of the nest and down, instead of holding them up as is the case with many tree- and ground-nesting birds.

Intervals between feedings varied from 6 to 20 minutes. On only one occasion was the food item observed. This was a medium-sized horsefly, which the young had difficulty in grasping and swallowing.—MAURICE F. BAKER, *Missouri Conservation Commission, Columbia, Missouri.*

Alternate care of two nests by a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.—An example of the alternate care of two nests by a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) was observed in Bloomfield Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, in July 1947.

Mrs. G. N. Sieger and her daughter, Betty, in whose garden the nests were found, made the initial discoveries, as well as a major part (110 hours) of the subsequent observations. My own observations were confined to five periods (June 20; July 13, 20, 27; August 2) totalling about 15 hours.

The first nest, discovered June 20, was saddled over an elm branch and fastened to an upright twig, 12 feet above the ground and 10 feet from the main trunk. This nest measured outside one inch in height by one and a quarter inches in diameter and three quarters of an inch in inside diameter; it contained no more than half the amount of material usually used in a completed nest and appeared to have been built hastily. There was one egg in the nest.

From June 20-22, the female was observed on the nest and about the nest site, but from June 23 through July 3, she was not seen on the nest during several periods of watching. From July 4 through 7, she was seen on and around the nest several times a day. No observations were made of the contents of the nest after June 20 until July 8, when Miss Sieger reported a nestling several days old.

On July 10, Mrs. Sieger discovered an apparently completed second nest three feet, nine inches down the same branch from the first. This was securely saddled on a live twig and well fastened to the larger branch with spider silk. This nest, measuring, outside, two inches in height by one and three-quarters inches in diameter and three quarters of an inch in inside diameter, contained at least double the amount of material used in the first and was heavily camouflaged with lichens.

During the afternoon of July 12, Mrs. Sieger several times observed the female alternately sitting on the lower nest and feeding the young in the upper nest. The interior of the second nest was not examined until the morning of July 13, when there were two eggs. During three and a half hours of observations on this date, the female was gathering food in the nearby flower garden, feeding the nearly full-sized young, sitting on the eggs in the lower nest, and chasing House Wrens, Robins, and Catbirds from the nest tree.

On July 14-15 a number of observations were made. The female spent her time gathering food, feeding the young, and incubating. About 7:30 p.m. on July 15, the young was exercising its wings on the edge of the nest in a manner which resembled flight. The next morning it apparently had left the nest and was not seen afterward.

The female continued incubating the eggs in the second nest. One egg hatched on the morning of July 25, the other during the late afternoon of July 26. Both

young left the nest on August 11; they were last seen on August 20, when they were feeding in the flower garden and perching in a tree near the nest site.

Only one adult hummingbird (the female) was seen in the vicinity during the entire period of observations.

Although I find no reference in the literature to the alternate care of two nests by one hummingbird of any North American species, Skutch in his article in Bent (1940. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 176:461) writes of similar behavior in a White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis l. leucotis*), which he found nesting in Guatemala.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.*

The Calandria Mockingbird flashing its wings.—In *The Wilson Bulletin* of June 1947 (pp. 71–73), Francis H. Allen carried forward a discussion begun by George Miksch Sutton (1946. *Wils. Bull.*, 58:206–209) on the North American mockingbird's (*Mimus polyglottos*) habit of lifting or flashing its wings when engaged in hunting insects on a lawn. He suggested, as a possible reason for the flashing, that the white patches thus displayed reflected light on the grass, thereby revealing sluggish insects and startling more active ones into betraying themselves by motion.

It has, until recently, seemed quite plausible to me that, whatever its function, the reason for the North American mockingbird's wing-flashing was connected with display of the white patches. My confidence in this theory was shaken in October 1947, however, during a visit to Argentina, when I observed the Calandria Mockingbird (*M. saturninus*), which has no white in its wings, doing the same thing in the same way.

I suggest that a good approach to many of these behavior puzzles in our North American species would be to inquire into possible similar behavior among related species abroad. In this particular case, a complete check on the many species of *Mimus* scattered throughout this hemisphere, some with white in their wings and some without, might provide a clue.—LOUIS J. HALLE, JR., *1423 Shepherd St., N.W., Washington 11, D.C.*

MacGillivray's Warbler in Cameron County, Texas.—MacGillivray's Warbler, *Oporornis tolmiei*, is characteristically a bird of the west, breeding from Arizona and New Mexico to the Pacific Coast. During migration it occurs somewhat farther east and occasionally has been recorded as far as San Antonio, in central Texas, and at Gainesville, Cooke County, in the extreme northern and slightly more eastern part of the State. Most of the Texas records are for the extreme western counties. MacGillivray's Warbler has not previously been recorded from the lower Rio Grande country. In my collection are five specimens, all males, of *tolmiei* collected by H. H. Kimball at Los Fresnos, Cameron County: four, May 4, 1933, and one, May 5, 1933. My identification of these warblers was confirmed by George M. Sutton and Allan Phillips. Sutton's measurements of the tails of the specimens are, in mm.: 50, 54, 54, 56, 58. All the specimens have the typical plumage of MacGillivray's Warbler, and have the characteristic white spots, one above and one below the eye.

Judging from a comparison of the tail measurements and the color (a somewhat paler yellow) of the under parts with those of birds in similar plumage from the coast region of California and Oregon, the Los Fresnos specimens belong to the race recently described by Phillips as the Southern MacGillivray's Warbler, *Oporornis tolmiei monticola*. The slightly darker and grayer upper parts said to characterize this subspecies are evident in three males, questionable in the fourth, and not present in the fifth.—MAX MINOR PEET, M. D., *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*