

is probable that these specimens from the Pliocene of Texas and Nevada would prove to be different from the existing species if more material were available for study.

The age of this avifauna is probably late middle Pleistocene or early upper Pleistocene. Hibbard (1952, *op. cit.*:11) regarded the stream deposit from which the Kentuck assemblage was collected to be younger than beds containing the Borchers faunule of Meade County, Kansas. Some of the mammals in the assemblage suggest an age roughly near that of the Cragin Quarry faunule and other fossils from the Kingsdown, or lower Sanborn, formation. The bird bones listed here provide no evidence of having been associated with the fossils of pre-Borchers age that Hibbard thinks were redeposited with the younger post-Borchers fossils to make the Kentuck assemblage. In any event, without better faunules for correlation it is enough to say that the deposits containing this avifauna are probably late Yarmouthian or Illinoian in age.

This collection is of interest because there is nothing in it to show that there have been any great and profound changes in the avifauna of the High Plains since the end of the middle Pleistocene. The five species have been inhabitants or migrants in the High Plains within historic times. The similarity of all seven of the fragments to the corresponding parts of Recent species increases the probability, in my opinion, that the species had attained, or were near, their present form by mid-Pleistocene time. With a collection as small as this one such a view would not exclude the presence of now extinct species or the possibility that slight morphological differences existed.—EDWIN C. GALBREATH, *Department of Anatomy, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, August 6, 1954.*

**An early seasonal record of the Swallow-tailed Kite in Florida.**— A Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) was seen by the writer on February 6, 1954, flying over Payne's Prairie four miles south of Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida. The bird was sighted about 8:00 a.m. and was watched through 7 × 50 glasses for about 40 minutes as it circled overhead. The bird then flew southeast. According to the weather station at the University of Florida, at Gainesville, the temperature was 47° F. at 8:30 a.m. The weather was clear following a heavy frost and there was a slight wind from the northwest.

The species is a rare summer resident in this area, and as far as can be ascertained, this is the earliest record of its occurrence in Florida. Howell (1932, "Florida Bird Life," p. 164) gives the earliest record as February 28, 1920, at St. Marks, or the "last week in February, 1876" at Panasoffkee Lake.—THOMAS W. HICKS, *University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, August 10, 1954.*

**Red Phalarope in Ohio.**— On May 1, 1953, while flying through a rapidly moving storm system near Columbus, Ohio, our crew noticed clouds of dust blowing along at 8,000 feet above sea level. Later we learned that the system had caused dust storms in the Great Plains and tornadoes in Macon, Georgia, and other places as it moved eastward.

An hour before sunset on the next day, I found a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) swimming on a small pond in the Game Preserve in Area C, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. The bird was busily snapping up black "flies" which were numerous within three inches of the surface of the water. The bird must have been starving, for it paid little attention to my family and nearby fishermen as it darted after the insects. It came within 25 feet of me as I watched with 8 × 30 binoculars. The yellow, dark-tipped

bill was diagnostic. The bird was apparently a female midway between winter and spring plumage. It had a gray back, almost black crown and nape, and cinnamon-red mottling on the breast.

The bird was rediscovered in a different part of the pond the next day by Lt. George DeCoursey, and it was seen by Dr. Richard Reinhardt, Mr. Carl Horst, and Mr. Bert Smith, now president of the Dayton Audubon Society. The phalarope stayed on the pond for five days. On the afternoon of May 6 the bird was photographed in fair light with still and movie cameras. Two hundred feet of black and white 35 mm. movie film and several good stills in color were taken with telephoto lenses. At this time the plumage seemed richer and the bird less tame. Occasionally, as it was swimming and spinning after black "flies," it would leap after them and flutter several feet across the water. This was our last observation.

Correspondence with Dr. Donald J. Borror of Ohio State University reveals that there is apparently no previous spring record for the state of Ohio and that none of the fall records for central Ohio has been from the Dayton area.—GERALD T. ROGERS, *Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, August 26, 1954.*

**Blue Jay anting with hot chocolate and soap suds.**—A hand-raised Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) obtained June 17, 1950, at the estimated age of two weeks and kept until March 23, 1951, anted upon her first encounter with ants. (We assumed her sex because of the very small wing measurement—82.5 mm.) On September 17 she picked up a small ant and at once wiped it on her primaries, at the same time twisting her tail to one side. Later there was a suggestion of anting with some other small insects. On October 22 I gave her four small ants. She immediately anted with each one, rubbing them on both primaries and rectrices, in the mean time nearly falling from her perch. This was the last of her experiences with ants while with us.

On January 6 she helped herself to my daughter's hot chocolate. After each sip she spread out her wings and wiped her primaries from one to three times, doing this 14 times in succession. During the next two days I tried her on tea and coffee (both unsweetened), and again on hot chocolate. She took a few sips of each, but failed to ant.

On January 26 she was in the sink after the dishes had been washed, pecking around and sipping up drops of water. Twice she held out her wings and wiped under them.

A month later she watched my daughter making herself a cup of hot chocolate; she approached and helped herself, anting after each of 27 sips, wiping her bill on her primaries two or three times after each sip, usually on each wing alternately. She twisted her tail to one side, but did not ant on it. Finally she took two good drinks, anting after the second.

On March 13 she was perched on the edge of the dishpan that was half full of soapy, warm water. She took a sip and at once anted, doing this five times in succession. She then hopped into the water, but came out immediately, as it was rather too deep for a bath.

Many substitute objects have been reported as stimulating anting, but to my knowledge hot chocolate and dish water are new to the list. It seems evident that there is something in the taste of ants and various other substances that releases this curious behavior.—MARGARET M. NICE, 5725 Harper Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois, September 2, 1954.