

Riparia riparia. Bank Swallow.—These little swallows were easily identifiable among the Barn Swallows at Codrington Village.

Progne subis dominicensis. Caribbean Martin.—These birds were reported inhabiting and breeding in the cotton gin building at Codrington Village. They were said to appear yearly. Called "swallows" by the natives. Though this bird was not actually seen, the description given of it and the fact that it nested locally seems to justify its inclusion in this list.

A large hawk, said to visit Barbuda irregularly and reported as very destructive to poultry, is very likely a Duck Hawk. Mr. Danforth lists this bird hypothetically.—G. A. SEAMAN, Box 472, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, January 9, 1956.

Status of the Stolid Flycatcher in the American Virgin Islands.—Not until 1943 was the range of the Stolid Flycatcher (*Myiarchus stolidus antillarum*) known to include any of the American Virgin Islands. On June 10 of that year Harry A. Beatty collected a specimen in a ravine near the Bovoni Estate on St. Thomas. At this time he made a call-note count of about 15 birds in the Bovoni ravine area. It was his opinion (1944. *Auk*, 61: 146) that this *Myiarchus* was "faced with extermination through the increasing difficulty of finding holes in trees sufficiently large for their nests as these small islands become more widely denuded of their older forest growth."

In making a wildlife survey of these islands in 1949 the writer located this *Myiarchus* on St. Thomas in the identical area described by Beatty. Nowhere else on St. Thomas has the bird been found by me and until recently it has never been observed on any of the other islands making up the group.

On March 5, 1956, while on the way to Reef Bay, St. John Island, a male *Myiarchus* was collected in a small clearing along the trail which traversed a light, deciduous forest. The taking of this flycatcher on St. John extends its known range through this archipelago nine miles. The bird is now known from Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra, St. Thomas and St. John.

Non-migratory and of very sedentary habits, the Stolid Flycatcher remains a seldom seen and rather poorly known bird. Its habitat in the Bovoni ravine, St. Thomas, consists of dense thorn scrub and vines interspersed with a few small, scattered trees clinging precariously to thin soil and rocky hillsides. Since this type of environment is rather common in the Virgin Islands, the fact that this *Myiarchus* confines itself to this one spot on St. Thomas is highly interesting and probably warrants further study.

Some of the heaviest forest left in the Virgin Islands is to be found on St. John. The bird collected there was taken on the outer fringe of this forest where it begins to thin out into scrub. This *Myiarchus* nests in natural cavities in trees or in old woodpecker holes. There would be no woodpecker holes here (since there are no woodpeckers) but inside the nearby heavy forest there might be found suitable conditions for nesting. The habitats where the bird has been found in the Virgin Islands to date are in no way alike, and this fact poses an interesting question as to the exact requirements of this flycatcher.—G. A. SEAMAN, Box 472, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, April 5, 1956.

A peculiar type of flight in Cooper's Hawks.—On April 17, 1953, while trapping hawks at the Cedar Grove Ornithological Station in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, I noticed what seemed to be a very unusual bird which I could not readily identify. Except for its obvious excessive size its method of flight could easily have been mistaken for that of a Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) or more easily for that of a Short-eared Owl

(*Asio flammeus*). In shape and silhouette, however, it was very reminiscent of a Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus*). The bird was a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and in the three years following this event I have seen a repetition of this peculiar flight performance at least 17 times.

Since I spend two months during each of the spring and fall seasons at the Station I am in an excellent position to notice such phenomena during the course of our routine observation and banding of migrating hawks. Indeed, all but one of the above observations were of migrating birds at Cedar Grove, whereas the last hawk was seen in Portage County, Wisconsin, by Mr. Alan Hamerstrom, Mr. Lorenz Kramer and myself. This bird also was considered to be a migrant.

All 18 of these observations were made in a total of six days, with the most occurrences on a single day being nine. It is quite likely that in all cases different individuals were involved. Only one of these birds was seen "Nighthawk-flapping," as we have come to call it, in the fall, the other records being in the spring. Seven occurrences were noted in spring 1953, none in 1954, nine in spring 1955, one in fall 1955 and, one in spring 1956. Migrant Cooper's Hawks are normally seen from March 10 to about May 25, but nighthawk-flapping was seen only between April 17 and 21. The sky was clear on five of the six days on which nighthawk-flapping was observed.

Birds flying in this manner usually were seen at somewhat greater heights than those seen in normal migratory flight. In addition, their flight is more erratic, with sudden jogs to one side or the other being quite frequent. Often at this time the hawks fly in long arcs or in large circles, quite in contrast to their normal direct type of flight. Another departure from the normal is the long and narrow appearance of the wing, which acquires a very deep beat much like a butterfly. Ordinarily Cooper's Hawks have quite a rapid stroke but, while nighthawk-flapping, the duration of the wing beat cycle is at least twice as long. Since four of the displaying birds were trapped, resulting in only a minor deviation from our normal trapping percentage, it is doubtful that this behavior is deterrent to our trapping efficiency.

There seems to be no tendency for one sex to indulge in nighthawk-flapping more than the other but, of the nine birds that were aged, only two proved to be first-year birds. Migrant Cooper's Hawks in April, however, are trapped in a ratio of about three adults to one immature.

At least once an adult male and female were seen flying together in this manner, but more often only single birds were seen. All in all with the present evidence it seems doubtful that this is a courtship display but, I am reluctant to speculate on what other purpose it might serve.—DANIEL D. BERGER, *Cedar Grove Ornithological Station, Cedar Grove, Wisconsin, April 28, 1956.*

Effects of unusual spring weather on Scarlet Tanagers.—The unseasonably cold spring of 1956 in southern New York State pointed up a critical situation in the ecology of the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*). Consistently cool weather, except for a few days, persisted well into May and culminated with killing frosts on the nights of May 23 and 24 as far south as Yorktown and Thornwood, in Westchester County, where temperatures of 28° F. were recorded in the lowlands. Heavy losses were sustained by florists, nurserymen, orchardists and vegetable gardeners. Weather records reveal that the average dates of the last killing frost are April 20 in southern Westchester and April 30 in northern Westchester County. Similar conditions prevailed in New York City immediately to the south, and in adjacent New Jersey and Connecticut.

The first Scarlet Tanagers normally return to this area from their winter quarters