

Ibid., 69:86, Fig. 1). Thus it remained for nearly two minutes, food in bill, before departing. The metal was quite warm.

The role of strong light relative to warm surface is by no means clear in these cases, yet it seemed to me that kingbird, thrasher, and jay all were reacting mainly to the unusually warm surfaces. One wonders whether the behavior of immature Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) that congregated by the thousands on pavement of a "6,000-car parking lot" in Michigan, during late hours of a July morning, may have been triggered by a high surface temperature, possible under the conditions stated (Crockett and Nickell, 1955. *Jack-Pine Warbler*, 33:86). These birds "appeared to be displaying incipient mating, nest building, and brooding behavior." Similarly suggestive is an account of immature "barn swallows" on Fire Island, N.Y., "at play" in early fall (Booth, 1932. *Nature Magazine*, 20:21-22). For about 30 minutes some 40 birds jostled to launch themselves down the face of a sand dune on their "stomachs," not flying but using wings "as if they were oars." Ascent was made by "flapping and pushing their wings in the sand in the funniest manner." Their odd tracks extended the height of the slope. Chill of weather and warmth of sand were seen as factors in this activity, in which "parent birds" took no part.—LOVIE M. WHITAKER, 1204 West Brooks Street, Norman, Oklahoma, January 18, 1960.

Bell's Vireo in New Jersey.—On September 15, 1959, during the Operation Recovery bird-banding program at Island Beach, New Jersey, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schnitzer of Mountainside, N.J., trapped in a mist net a small, brown-eyed vireo unfamiliar to them. They brought the bird to banding headquarters where it was identified as a Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*). Recognizing that the presence of this species in New Jersey had never been verified, I collected the bird with their approval. It was a female with skull not ossified; it weighed 10.2 grams; it was in little-fat condition; and the largest ovum was less than 1 mm. I have compared the specimen with reference material in the American Museum of Natural History collection and identified it as a representative of the Midwestern race *V. b. bellii*. Subspecific determination was confirmed by Eugene Eisenmann.

Although this species has been reported previously from New Jersey (Fables, 1955. *Ann. List of New Jersey Birds*, p. 75) and from the New York City region (Cruikshank, 1942. *Birds Around New York City*, *Amer. Mus. of Nat. Hist. Handbook Series* No. 13:364), both of these writers have rightly considered the species as "hypothetical," pointing out the possibility of confusion with immatures of *V. griseus*. I am unable to find any undoubted recent records for the east coast. Apparently the only other specimen from east of the Appalachians was taken by Ned Dearborn in Durham, New Hampshire, on the extraordinary date of November 11, 1897 (Brewster, 1901. *Auk*, 18:274).

I am indebted to the late Dr. F. C. Lincoln for making data on previous records available to me.—JOSEPH R. JEHL, JR., 385 Grove Street, Clifton, New Jersey, October 23, 1959.

American Coot successfully escapes from a Bald Eagle.—On March 20, 1955, I was overlooking a portion of the Mannington marshes northeast of the city of Salem, New Jersey. Almost 6 inches of snow had fallen during the night but the morning was clear. A mixed flock of ducks including Pintail, Baldpate, Black, Green-winged Teal and a few Mallard were feeding along the edge of open water extending from the road about 30 yards to the north where marshy vegetation began and continuing for another 50 yards to higher ground with a border of shrubbery and small trees. In the open water was a flock of about 50 Coots (*Fulica americana*). I had finished scanning the

flock of ducks when I noticed that they suddenly became alert; a moment later they took flight almost as one bird. Simultaneously, the Coots scurried together and began "running" and swimming toward a culvert under the road connecting two sections of the marsh. Just then, I noticed an adult Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) coming across the road, not very high and moving very fast. It made a quick pass at a lone Coot which had become separated from the flock and was at the moment of the strike behind a loose screen of low vegetation. By dodging behind an old mallow plant in which the Eagle was momentarily entangled, the Coot escaped this strike. Without attempting to gain altitude the Eagle made a second strike at the Coot, now in the open but in shallow water. This time the Coot waited until the last second, submerged and almost instantly popped to the surface like a cork. The Eagle of course had been carried by its momentum some distance past the Coot swimming toward the safety of the culvert but not in any apparent hurry. The Eagle now circled until it reached an altitude of perhaps 20 feet whence, after several false starts, it made a third pass at its intended prey. After two more futile strikes, the Eagle gave up and flew away, although the Coot was still some distance from the safety of the culvert. The technique of a well-timed submersion and an immediate resurfacing, which did not seem to require great physical exertion, appeared to be one which could have been continued for a long time.

This is the second time that I have seen Coots use under-road culverts as a refuge from an attacking eagle. As an incidental note, the flock scurrying for the culvert kicked up some spray while "running." I saw nothing resembling the splashing defense described in the literature.—R. O. BENDER, *Cobb's Mill Road, R.D. No. 1, Bridgeton, New Jersey, October 1, 1959.*

The Fish Crow in easternmost Oklahoma.—Since the 4th edition of the A.O.U. Check-List (1931) the known breeding range of the Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) has been extended north and west in Arkansas, and west into east-central Oklahoma. Bent (1946. *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* no. 191:282) only mentions this species as occurring in central Arkansas near Little Rock. Baerg states in his "Birds of Arkansas" (1951. *Univ. of Ark. Col. of As. Bull.* no. 258:107) that the Fish Crow is found in the vicinity of Van Buren, Crawford County, throughout the year, and in other areas farther south. The species has also been reported from Fort Smith, and this fact is mentioned in the 5th edition of the A.O.U. Check-List (1957).

In January, 1954, I saw six Fish Crows feeding on dead fish along the south embankment of the Arkansas River, about 8 miles west of Moffett, Oklahoma. Later in the month I discovered a small roost of about 800 crows on an island in the Arkansas River about 18 miles west of Moffett, this number including 33 Fish Crows. Tall willows (35–40 feet) were utilized in roosting, but the *ossifragus* remained apart from the Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), occupying the extreme end of the roost. On April 20, 1954, I found a Fish Crow's nest 8 miles west of Moffett, Oklahoma. The nest was situated about 30 feet above the ground in a red oak. Examination revealed four eggs. The last visit I made to the nest site (May 1) showed no change.

The partiality of the Fish Crow to major water bodies is exemplified by these observations, all of which were made near the Arkansas River. It would not be surprising to discover the Fish Crow farther up this river, where it may have been overlooked.—EUGENE J. WILHELM, JR., *Dept. of Geography & Anthropology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, September 24, 1959.*