

Caspian Tern feeding upon carrion.—On 8 June 1964 I observed a Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) standing on a road apparently feeding upon a dead animal. The location was on the main park road at Nine Mile Pond, Everglades National Park, Florida. Closer inspection revealed that the bird was eating a road-killed eastern cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon p. piscivorus*), about 36 inches in length. An automobile had run over the snake near the head and several inches of flesh had been exposed. The tern was observed to pull at and eat the flesh. A second Caspian Tern stood about 20 feet away from the feeding bird but made no attempt to participate. Though several authors have remarked upon the gull-like habit in this tern of occasionally feeding upon the eggs and young of other birds, I am not aware of any previously published remarks concerning the Caspian Tern engaged in the very gull-like habit of feeding upon carrion.—RICHARD L. CUNNINGHAM, *Everglades National Park, Homestead, Florida, 5 August 1965.*

The migration and wintering of the Upland Plover in Surinam.—The Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*) is a regular migrant in Surinam but it cannot be called a numerous bird. It has a restricted habitat which is not particularly attractive to the ornithologist as it is found on open ground, e.g., plowed fields including recently harvested and burnt-over canefields, sandy areas, and open grassland where the vegetation is very short. It is mostly present in small groups of from 6 to 25 birds although solitary birds are also often seen.

Autumn migration starts in late August: the earliest dates being 24 August 1965, when Mr. Th. Renssen shot a specimen on the sugar estate Marienburg (Commewijne Dist.); 25 August 1957 when I flushed a small group of half a dozen birds on an open sandy savanna near Zanderij, about 50 km south of Paramaribo; and 29 August 1957 when six birds were present on a football field at the outskirts of Paramaribo. On this field the birds stayed until 7 November when only a single bird remained. From 11 October onward they were in company with five American Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*) which were seen for the last time on 8 November. From August and September onward Upland Plovers are regularly present in their favorite habitat. On 16 September 1962 a bird was found killed by a car on the road near Zanderij and on 15 September 1963 I collected a specimen on the strip of short grass bordering the runway of the airfield at Zanderij. Mr. Renssen, who lived for some time at Peperpot Plantation a few miles south of Paramaribo, collected 3 specimens out of a small flock on an open field in the plantation on 27 September 1964 and saw a flock of about 40 birds on a pasture near Moengo on the Cottica River on 25 October 1964.

The Upland Plover is known to winter on the pampas of southern South America from northern Argentina, Uruguay, and extreme southern Brazil south to central Argentina ("Check-List of North American Birds." 5th edition, 1957:185) and Cooke (1910. "Distribution and migration of North American Shorebirds." Washington) remarked that probably no Upland Plover occur in winter north of the pampas of South America. Therefore, it came as a surprise to learn that the Upland Plover spends the whole winter in Surinam where it is regularly present in small flocks from the time of its arrival at the end of August till its departure in the latter half of April.

Mr. Renssen watched daily small flocks of birds on recently harvested and burnt-over canefields at the sugar estate Marienburg on the south bank of the Commewijne River near the place where it joins the Surinam River (at about 5°55' N 55° W).

Apart from the birds already mentioned on 24 August 1965 at my request he collected from time to time some specimens as a proof of their presence: 25 October 1965, 12 December 1965, 9 January 1965, 30 January 1965, 12 February 1965, 1 March 1965, 24

March 1965, and 4 April 1965. I saw solitary birds on 29 December 1949 and 1 January 1950 and a flock of four birds on an open field near Paramaribo on 26 March 1947 from which I collected a specimen. The latest date during spring migration in Surinam is 29 April 1913 when a specimen was shot near Paramaribo which is preserved in the Thomas E. Penard collection in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The birds that winter in Surinam are in perfect condition and grow very fat as time goes on. The weight of my 16 specimens is: 24 August 1965, ♂—97 g; 15 September 1963, ♀—98 g; 27 September 1964, ♂—134 g, ♂—144 g, ♀—140 g; 25 October 1965, ♀—137 g; 12 December 1965, ♂—118 g; 9 January 1965, ♀—137 g, ♀—140 g, ♀—149 g; 30 January 1965, ♀—132 g; 12 February 1965, ♀—172 g; 1 March 1965, ♀—166 g; 24 March 1965, ♀—149 g; 26 March 1965, ♂—166 g; 4 April 1965, ♀—144 g. The birds feed on insects and the gizzard contents of my specimens were identified by Dr. D. C. Geyskes, Government Biologist at Paramaribo, as: Hemiptera Homoptera; Hemiptera Heteroptera; Coleoptera (Chrysomelidae); Orthoptera (Mantidae); Hymenoptera (Formicidae; Myrmicinae: *Paracryptocerus* sp.); and Lepidoptera (larvae).—F. HAVER-SCHMIDT, P. O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam, 12 July 1965.

Ancient Murrelet in Michigan.—On 7 July 1965 an Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquum*) was collected on the Lake Michigan shore by W. R. Arendshorst and E. D. Greij. The bird was found on the beach about 4 miles north of the Lake Macatawa channel near Holland, Ottawa County, Michigan (Section 9, T5N, R16W). This is the first record of the species in Michigan.

The bird, which was in adult breeding plumage, had been dead for an estimated 3 to 6 weeks and was badly decomposed. The specimen was injected with formalin and allowed to dry. It (HCMZ No. 520) has been deposited in the Hope College Museum. Identification was confirmed by comparison with a series at the UMMZ, Ann Arbor, Michigan.—ELDON D. GREIJ, *Department of Biology, Hope College, Holland, Michigan, 5 August 1965.*

The nestling period of the Great Crested Flycatcher.—A. C. Bent (1942. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 179:113) cited various observers who had reported the nestling period of the Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) to vary from 12 days to 3 weeks. Although the nestling period for any given passerine species may vary somewhat from nest to nest, it seems doubtful that young Crested Flycatchers normally leave the nest at 12 days of age, or that they remain in the nest as long as 18 or 21 days.

During 1957 and 1958 I made observations at two nests built in birdhouses in Barton Hills, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Five young fledged from each nest. In both instances all of the young left the nest box on the same day. Three of the young left the nest when 15 days old, whereas their two nest mates left when 14 days old. The young were banded when the oldest birds were 7 days old; they were not handled after that date. The young in the 1957 nest were fed by both the male and female. At the 1958 nest, the male disappeared during the incubation period so that only the female fed the nestlings.

On 26 July 1958 the nest box was under constant observation from 4:50 AM EST (still dark) until 7:05 PM, so that either my wife or I saw each of the five young flycatchers leave the nest box. The young left the nest at 12:10, 12:42, 6:00, 6:30, and 7:05 PM. The first three birds to leave the nest box flew distances of 20 to 44 feet, each bird gaining elevation in flight. The last two birds flew over 40 feet but each bird lost elevation during its first flight.—ANDREW J. BERGER, *Department of Zoology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, 9 September 1965.*