

saw a number of individuals in December. I did not meet the Cape May Warbler in Costa Rica before the spring of 1963, when on the Barba massif I saw fleetingly a warbler which was apparently this species. On the morning of 9 May 1964, while watching a nest of the Scarlet-thighed Dacnis (*Dacnis venusta*) in an open grove of slender, second-growth trees near Las Cruces, I saw the only Cape May Warbler that I have positively identified in this country, and apparently the only one that has been recorded by anyone in the spring. Las Cruces is a few miles south of San Vito de Java on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica near the Panamanian border, at an altitude of about 4,000 feet.

This Cape May Warbler, a male in full breeding plumage, clung to slender, moss-covered, upright branches, well up in the trees, from which he plucked larvae or other small creatures, which he carried to a perch to devour. He also gleaned much from the foliage in the treetops. When not foraging, he rested for considerable periods on horizontal twigs. He was present in the same small grove of trees every day (with one possible exception) for the next week. I last saw him there on the sunny morning of 15 May, when he sang a pretty little song over and over. By this date, nearly all the migrants from the north had already left.—ALEXANDER F. SKUTCH, *El Quizarrá, San Isidro del General, Costa Rica, 3 March 1966.*

Feeding reactions of Myrtle Warblers toward wax-moth larvae dyed various colors.—Experiments were conducted in which a simultaneous choice of artificially colored wax-moth larvae was offered to caged Myrtle Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) to establish whether the colors of larvae commonly found in nature (green, brown, and yellow) would be preferred over less common colors (red, orange, blue, and violet). No such preference was found. Instead, there was a great deal of variation in response, although the birds generally avoided red. Three of the ten birds did have a preference, each for a different color (brown, yellow, and red). The other birds chose the various colored larvae more or less randomly.

The three birds which usually chose a particular color showed a much stronger preference during the first half of each exposure period than during the second half, which probably reflected a decrease in the relative availability of larvae of the preferred colors.

The birds did not differ in the length of time required to select the colored larvae as compared with the time required to select the undyed larvae during a base line. There was no indication of imitation, social facilitation, dominance at the food dish, or increased aggressiveness as associated with starvation.

This research was supported by the National Science Foundation (GB-891 and GB-3226).—JANET S. CHAPPELL AND ROBERT W. FICKEN, *Department of Zoology, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 17 March 1966.*

Tongue deformity in immature Robin.—In late July, 1965, near Ithaca, New York, an immature Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) was picked up and brought to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, exhibiting a most unusual condition.

The tongue had penetrated the flesh and skin between the rami of the mandible, and was hanging freely about an inch below the "chin." As shown in the accompanying photographs, taken by W. R. Spofford, it was encrusted with hardened saliva, mucous, and dirt. The bird was very thin, and it might be assumed that so long as it had been fed by parents, there was little difficulty in eating, but once it was on its own, the lack of functional tongue was undoubtedly a handicap.



The hole through which the tongue had emerged was bordered with thickened tissue, and attempts to pull the tongue back into the oral cavity (after cleaning it off) were unsuccessful until the hole was lengthened and the tip cut off. The bird succumbed in 24 hours, probably having become too emaciated.

A somewhat similar tongue abnormality has been described and pictured by Maser (1966, *Auk*, 83:281), and described by Edeburn, (1967, *Wilson Bull.*, 79:120).

One could only speculate as to whether the defect was congenital or had been caused by a feeding mishap.—SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD, "Aviana," *Etna, New York*, 23 January 1966.

Abnormal Tongue in a Robin.—On 26 May 1965, a student brought a live young Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), with a curiously misplaced tongue, to my office. Instead of the tongue being in the mouth, it protruded through the chin feathers between the rami of the lower mandible. (See Spofford, 1967, *Wilson Bull.*, 79:119 for photograph of this rare phenomenon). My first thought was that when capturing the active young bird the tongue had punctured the floor of the mouth, but a careful examination of the mouth gave no evidence of injury as was stated in the case of the Reef Heron (Maser, 1966, *Auk*, 83:481). After anesthetizing the bird we attempted to return the tongue to its normal position, but were unable to do so. Each time the tongue was forced back into the mouth cavity, feathers were present in the mouth. My conclusion was that the tongue had developed in this abnormal position.

Judging by the plumage, the young bird must have recently left the nest and was being fed by the parents. It seemed to be as healthy and active as any young robin. How it would succeed after leaving parental care could well be a different story.

The specimen is preserved in the Marshall University Collection.—RALPH M. EDEBURN, *Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia 25701*, 12 November 1966.