

found to be scattered quite profusely throughout the entire area. Approximately 90% of the pellets found contained duck feathers.

Therefore, it is this writer's opinion that if proper roosting habitat is not available near their feeding grounds, the birds will commute great distances to seek it. In studies of the Bald Eagle of the Midwest (Southern, 1963. *Wilson Bull.*, 75:50) roosting areas were found to be available near the feeding areas along with hunting perches. Here on the Bear River marshes this is not the case and the high mountain passes provide the only suitable roosting places for eagles.—JOHN F. SWISHER, JR., 117 North 10 East, Brigham City, Utah, 28 June 1963.

**Unseasonable record of Gannet in North Carolina.**—On 23 July 1963, an adult Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) of undetermined sex was found on the ocean side of Shackleford Banks, located 3 miles southeast of Beaufort, Carteret County, North Carolina. This island is one of a series forming the outer banks of the coastline. High and steady winds had prevailed from the ocean for a 3-day period from 18 July through 20 July. The state of decay indicated that the bird had been dead less than a week. Extreme dates for the Gannet in North Carolina are 26 May and 20 August with none recorded during the summer interval according to Wray and Davis (1959, "Birds of North Carolina"). There have been no subsequent published records of the Gannet in North Carolina during this summer interval. The specimen was not banded.—WILLIAM H. ADAMS, *Department of Biology, Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, Tennessee, 24 October 1963.*

**Observations on sun-bathing in the Yellow-billed Cuckoo.**—Published accounts of the behavior of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) and of sun-bathing in birds are few. It therefore seems noteworthy to record the following observations.

At 0800 hours on 3 August 1963, I was searching for birds near headquarters at Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Jet, Oklahoma. I saw a Yellow-billed Cuckoo alight on a branch, spread and droop its wings, and spread and bend its tail laterally at an 80° angle to the bird's body. The posture was held approximately 3½ minutes. A Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) startled the cuckoo and it moved to a nearby branch and preened for 10 minutes. The bird again assumed the above-described posture, but faced the opposite direction; the tail was bent in the same direction as in the first observation. One side of the bird and the tail, which was lowered slightly to expose it fully to the sun, were in direct sunlight. This second posture was held for 5½ minutes. A slight turning of the head was the only movement during the sun-bathing postures. The air temperature at the time of the observations was approximately 80 F.

Gibb (1947. *Brit. Birds*, 40:174) states that the sun-bathing posture "is typically the fluffing out of the body feathers, opening of the wings and fanning the tail. The odd postures at times described may usually be attributed to the bird's inclining its body towards the oblique rays of the sun." Hauser's observations (1957. *Wilson Bull.*, 69:80) indicate that the bill is usually open while sun-bathing. The postures of the cuckoo differed from most sun-bathing postures in the sharp bending of the tail, the closing of the bill, and the absence of fluffed feathers.

I wish to thank Drs. Andrew J. Berger and George Miksch Sutton for their many helpful suggestions and critical reading of the manuscript. This study was financed by a grant (G21630) between the Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, and the National Science Foundation.—JOEL LESTER CRACRAFT, *Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma. (Present address: Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, Louisiana) 4 November 1963.*