

windless evening in mid-September we were traveling to Jones Beach to count white herons on their roost. Just south of the Sunrise Highway on the Wantagh Causeway we saw roughly 100 Starlings over an open grassy area actively engaged in catching insects. They evidently were successful while zig-zagging and circling around like swallows, and were continuously performing five minutes later as we left.

Proceeding down the causeway, and just south of the Jones Beach toll booth, we were surprised to see both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, as described by Lesperance, flying in tight circles, darting here and there with necks and legs extended, and these two were under observation through binoculars and appeared very successful in their insect hunt. Their object of search was, as described by Lesperance, winged ants which were so abundant that they alighted all over our car, even entering the interior. Their rather soft bodies were sufficiently delectable to attract these large birds as well as the Starlings. Although the insects were very abundant at the fishing station on the bay side of Jones Beach, there was little action among the gulls there, and a half-dozen Common Terns present were not observed to engage in these feeding practices.

A couple of weeks earlier, on Aug. 31, at about 6:15 p. m. on Long Island's north shore at Port Washington, Mrs. Wm. Dove's daughter called her to look at 40 to 50 Laughing Gulls and five or six Nighthawks flying over their back yard hawking insects. They watched the gulls open their bills and snap at something repeatedly. These stayed over their yard for about 15 minutes and then slowly moved westward "wheeling and circling, still pursuing the insects and still in the company of the Nighthawks whose feeding habits they seemed to be emulating." — John J. Elliott, 3994 Park Ave., Seaford, Long Island.

Albinism in a Catbird (continued): This note is a sequel to that written by Mrs. Margaret Cornwell of Scarsdale concerning her discovery of a partial albino Catbird here at the Audubon Center of Connecticut. Mrs. Cornwell's note appeared in the last issue of the **Kingbird**.

After Mrs. Cornwell had told us that she had seen an albino Catbird last May 31, we on the staff watched carefully for it, and it wasn't too long before I discovered the bird nesting directly behind my house. The nest was in a tangle of barberry and forsythia, and as the month of June progressed and our Audubon Camp of Connecticut got under way the bird instructors at the camp watched very closely. In late June the brood was raised, and we found that all four of the young were normal gray birds. The partially albino Catbird stayed around for perhaps another month, after which we no longer saw it.

The Catbird's mate was a normally colored bird with an extremely short tail which, incidentally, grew back as the summer progressed. — Duryea Morton, Director, Audubon Center of Connecticut, Riversville Rd. & John St., Greenwich, Conn.

More on Hybrid Flickers: In the July, 1961, issue of the **Kingbird** Dr. E. M. Reilly, Jr. of the N. Y. State Museum mentions three recent records of hybrid Flickers (*Colaptes auratus* x *C. cafer*) in New York State. The following additional records may be of interest.

I have been operating a banding station on the outer beach at Tiana Beach, Shinnecock Bay (seven miles west of Southampton) under "Operation Recovery" — a program of mist-netting birds in the fall migration. My assistant has been Mr. Walter Terry of Blue Point.

In the past four years we have banded 12,867 birds during the months of September and October, and of this number 340 were Yellow-shafted Flickers. In 1958 we banded 31 Flickers out of 1507 birds with a peak of 13 on Sept. 20. In 1959 we banded 92 Flickers out of a total of 3170 birds with a peak of eight on Oct. 20. In 1960 we banded 62 Flickers out of 4152 birds with a peak of seven on Sept. 24 and again on Oct. 1. In 1961 we banded 155 Flickers out of 4038 birds with a peak of 16 on Sept. 30.

Among these 340 Flickers there were two hybrids. The first was a female on Oct. 6, 1959, band 643-24323, in which the fourth and fifth primaries in each wing were red and the tail was all red. On Sept. 27, 1961, a second hybrid was caught, another female, band 693-23118. Again the tail was all red and the first four primaries in each wing were all red. The balance of wing and plumage of each female was typical Yellow-shafted. — Leroy Wilcox, Oceanic Duck Farm, Speonk, Long Island.