

dorsal color and short culmen, probably migrates to Asia, as suggested by MacLean and Holmes (1971; see also Norton 1971). Birds breeding in western Alaska, *pacifica*, are longer-billed and dark above, and winter in western North America. Another long-billed race, *hudsonia*, further characterized by its dark flank streaks and dark shaft streaks of the undertail coverts, breeds in northeastern Canada and migrates southward to eastern North America.

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## Record of an American Robin Killing a Shrew

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Penny, Cheryl and Richard W. Knapton. 1977. Record of an American Robin killing a shrew. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 91(4): 393.

On 24 October 1976, Penny observed an American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) taking a shrew, probably either *Sorex cinereus* or *Microsorex hoyi*, as determined from photographs, at the Taiga Biological Station, Wallace Lake, Manitoba. The robin was first noticed chasing the shrew on a grassy area in front of a cabin. It ran after and pecked the shrew 5 times, lifted it off the ground, and threw it into the air. Eventually the robin picked up the now apparently dead animal, flew to a small knoll, and there proceeded to peck and shake the shrew for a few minutes. Then the bird flew out of sight: it is not known whether the robin flew off with the shrew or whether the shrew was eaten.

There are apparently no records of an American Robin actively chasing and killing mammals. L. R. Powers (1973, *Condor* 75: 248) reports a pair of robins feeding two shrews to their nestlings, and A. C. Bent (1964, *United States National Museum Bulletin* 196: 50-51) relates an instance of a robin eating a field mouse, but in neither case is it known whether the animals were taken alive or found dead.

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