

buildings of the automobile camp at Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park. Well aware that the bird was far out of its normal range, I was careful to make certain of the identification, which was easy, as the wanderer hopped about in grass and low shrubbery, most of the time in full view and within twenty feet or so, for as long as I cared to watch it, so that, using 10x prism binoculars and with the afternoon sun behind me, I could note the bird's form, bill, and coloration almost as though it were in my hand—rich yellow head and breast, olive-green back and rump, white belly, and externally blue-gray wings and tail (the latter was not spread so as to show the white). I saw even the slight olive-green veiling of the yellow crown, characteristic of the winter plumage.—CHARLES H. ROGERS, *Princeton Museum of Zoölogy, Princeton, New Jersey.*

**Habits of the Blackburnian Warbler in Pelham, Massachusetts.**—Since *Dendroica fusca* normally lives in deep woods, it was a surprise to discover from the roof of my mother's summer home on June 24, 1931, a pair carrying food to a nest 18 feet from the ground near the top of a cedar among comparatively open, young growth, 40 yards south of the house and 150 yards to the east of the great pines and hemlocks where the male habitually sang. On only three occasions did I hear him singing anywhere near his nest—on June 13, 24 and 25. From 8.00 to 8.45 A.M. the male brought three meals and the female eight. An expedition was then made to the vicinity of the nest, much to the distress of the female, who, on my daughter's climbing the tree next to the cedar, assumed a peculiar attitude, her tail outspread and dropped at right angles to her body, her wings flipping rapidly and occasionally held stiffly up or down. The excitement caused the young to jump out on the ground where they could not be found. The male did not appear until 9.07—42 minutes after his last visit; he went to the nest, but finding it empty ate the insects himself. At 9.30 and 9.42 I saw him peering down from the tops of the cedars in the nest region; at 9.45 I first heard the food call of the young *zee-zee zee-zee*; the male shortly arrived with food and after some searching located one of them, returning to feed again at 9.53.

A second visit to the vicinity of the young a half hour later elicited a repetition of the "broken-wing" ruse from the female, but her mate merely chipped and soon departed. The young called persistently at the rate of 73 to 81 double calls a minute. From a distance I watched the mother bring food to one of them. It squeaked as I took it in my hand; the female chipped rapidly but gave no other demonstration. I banded it and let it hop away. The mother's chipping kept the young silent for some time, but finally it called despite my proximity. The scolding of parents often seems to us foolish behavior for it betrays the fact of a nearby nest; however, at this stage it is of distinct value, since it warns the young to silence.

Young recently out of the nest have been found in this region, July 16, 1931 and August 1, 1925. On the latter occasion the female gave the same form of demonstration as did this female, while the male confined himself to chipping.

The Blackburnian Warbler is a most persistent singer. By far the most common of his songs in this vicinity (A) might be written *zee zee zee zee zip*, the accent being on the last syllable which is slightly lower than the rest. The length of this simple song is one second; it is given at the rate of 6 to 8 songs a minute, intervals between the beginnings of songs ranging from 7.3 to 9 seconds during uninterrupted singing.

The next most popular song, (B) is louder and more vehement and lasts 1.5 seconds. It might be written *tral tral tral tral zeeee*, the last note being higher than the others. It is given at the rate of 6 to 7 songs a minute, intervals ranging from 7 to 10.2 seconds. When singing this song the bird sometimes introduces chips between songs, as the Black-throated Green often does with one of his songs and the Magnolia Warbler rarely. A bird on July 5 introduced two chips before each song, but later gave a continuous performance, the record for one minute being as follows ("c" denoting a chip, "B" a song): ccBcccBccccccBccccBcccBcccB—7 songs and 24 chips. These chips are uttered less rapidly than in the case of the Black-throated Green Warbler, with which species I once counted 73 chips besides seven songs in one minute.

The third song is rather rare; it reaches the length of two seconds and is given at intervals of 10 to 14 seconds. My rendering of it is: *chee-chee-chee-chee-chee-chee-chee see see see*, the middle portion being at the lowest pitch, and the last the highest. Sometimes chips are introduced in series of this song.

In 1931 two of these warblers were singing July 22, although two others had stopped earlier in the month. On July 25 on a long walk through the western woods not a single song was heard from this species. My latest record for 1928 was July 24.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Pelham, Mass.*

**A Possible Case of Red-wing Polygamy.**—During the past season (1931) due to continued drought in this section, the Thick-billed Red-wings (*Agelaius phoeniceus fortis*) nested commonly in groves and bushes often several rods from the usual low lying grounds.

In studying one case of this change in habitat a possible case of Red-wing polygamy was noted. The two nests concerned were at a distance of 47 paces from each other, one in a lilac bush, the other in a plum thicket. On June 23 the female in one nest was brooding closely as the four eggs were hatching while the second held three young still blind. As I examined the nests in turn the same male dashed boldly against my hat and back doing his best to drive me off. I then went purposely from nest to nest several times with the same male following in a great rage. During two hours of close watching no other males appeared in the vicinity and in subsequent visits I also saw but one male in the territory.

Since it could not be definitely proven that the one male noted on the several occasions was the same individual, the explanation offered is merely a suggestion.—ARCHIBALD JOHNSON, *Route 2, Jamestown, N. Dak.*