

The Black Tern in New Brunswick.—A juvenile Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*) was shot on September 5, 1933, on a small marshy lake in Memamcook, New Brunswick. The specimen is now in the National Museum of Canada and my identification has been confirmed by Mr. P. A. Taverner. The bird was accompanied by three others apparently of the same species. The four birds from time to time snapped up flying insects.—REID McMANUS, JR., *Memamcook, New Brunswick, Canada.*

Roadrunner Nesting in Kansas.—On April 19, 1934, I visited the farm of Mr. E. G. Haindel four and a half miles east of Arkansas City, Kansas, where I was told that a "Pheasant" was nesting in a hedge-row a quarter of a mile from the house. I visited the nest at once and found it to be that of a Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*). It was situated three feet up in a clump of hedge trees and contained the shells of two broken eggs. Mr. Haindel told me that several pairs were seen on his place this year and about the same number last year.

Next day I flushed a female bird from another nest seven feet up in a short hedge-row, which contained five very heavily incubated eggs. The bird alighted on the ground and quickly disappeared among the rocks. On May 3 this nest contained two eggs and one chick several days old.

On May 29 I found a third nest on the same farm, situated on a horizontal limb of an osage tree about ten feet from the ground, containing six eggs moderately incubated. The nest was a rather bulky affair composed of pods and stems of last year's Jimson weeds, sticks of various kinds, sheep wool, etc., lined with rootlets, strippings of plants, etc. While the nest was being collected the parent bird remained in the tree resenting the intrusion with noisy snapping of the mandibles.

Another nest, previously overlooked, was found on July 8, after the young had left.

Harry Lewis informed me that he had seen the birds on his farm and on that of a neighbor, both situated northeast of the Haindel farm.

This region with its rock-ribbed hills and ravines well covered with trees and hedge-rows is ideal country for the Roadrunner, and from conversation with the farmers I judge that the birds have been summer residents of these hills for the past five or six years.

I found these birds in April, 1920, in the Wichita Mountains, southeastern Oklahoma and in June, 1929, found a pair nesting in a hole in the rocks above Flag Springs, Cimarron, Okla.—WALTER COLVIN, *Arkansas City, Kansas.*

Nesting Habits of Ruby-Throated Hummingbird.—It was the writer's good fortune to have had three Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) nests under observation in Rowan County, Kentucky, during the summer of 1934. The first of these was discovered on May 17. At that time the female was incubating and she alone appeared at the nest during the following five weeks.

On June 15 another female was discovered beginning the construction of a nest less than 75 yards from the first one. Most of the material used in its construction consisted of the soft downy substance from the under surface of sycamore leaves, supplemented with bits of lichen from the same tree. After working for two days, the bird apparently deserted the task for a week, but returned to complete the nest and laid her first egg on July 25 and her second the following day. Ten days later the eggs mysteriously disappeared.

These nests excited the writer's curiosity, for it is not often that one finds two pairs of this species nesting in such close proximity. One wonders if these two females may not have been the harem of a single male.

On June 29, still a third Hummingbird was discovered beginning the construction of a nest. The location was approximately a mile from the other station. The material used consisted primarily of down from sycamore leaves, and the entire nest, with the exception of bits of lichens that were added later, was built in one day. It is interesting to note that both birds, male and female, worked on this nest that first day. The male evidently was doing his share of the work. This seems to be an unusual circumstance, as ordinarily the male is supposed to scorn such menial duties. On July 2, the first and only egg was deposited in the nest and incubation was begun. Three days later the nest was broken up and the egg disappeared.

It would seem that the time consumed in nest building diminishes as the season progresses. Perhaps haste is necessary in order that the potential young may be completely developed by the time of fall migration. This need for haste may also have been the stimulant which caused the male in the last case to assist in nidification.—W. A. WELTER, *State Teachers College, Morehead, Kentucky.*

Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) Attacks Airplane.—Several times daily during a part of the summer of 1919 a flier at Iowa City, Iowa, took passengers one at a time for short flights in his small biplane. His regular course circled over a hay field on the crest of a hill at Sunnycrest, the farm of my grandfather, John Williams. Since there were no obstructions the airman flew very low (60–100 ft.) over this hill. A Kingbird, which sat regularly on a wire fence on the lookout for insects and enemies, would fly up at the approach of the slow plane and make one or two savage dashes at it before it was out of his reach, uttering all the while his harsh, chattering battlecry. This was observed a number of times by my father and grandfather. It is common knowledge that a Kingbird will attack most boldly Crows, large Hawks, etc., but the courage and audacity of this bird in attacking a noisy and relatively huge airplane was certainly extraordinary. A case of this sort could scarcely have occurred except where a slow, low-flying plane was involved.—JOHN R. WILLIAMS, *801 W. Nevada St., Urbana, Ill.*

Egg of Gray Kingbird Contains Two Embryos.—Examining a nest of Gray Kingbirds (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) I was surprised to note that one of the three eggs was nearly twice as large as the others. Accidentally breaking the large egg, I discovered that it contained two embryos, both alive, and equally developed, near hatching point.

The nest was found in a low mangrove, near New Smyrna, Volusia County, Florida, on May 24, 1931. Mr. O. E. Baynard was with me.—J. C. HOWELL, *Rollins College Museum, Winter Park, Florida.*

Feeding Habits of the Raven in Winter.—In the afternoon of March 7, 1933, a Northern Raven (*Corvus corax principalis*) was found feeding on refuse near a hen house in Memramcook, New Brunswick. When disturbed it flew to an adjacent field and about 3 P. M. returned, entered the hen house, and killed a sickly hen. A farm hand surprised it as it began to devour the bird, but it escaped. An hour later it again entered the house after standing outside for about ten minutes, and again began to feed. This time it was captured and killed. Its stomach contained only a piece of skin from the hen and a few feathers. The bird was a male and weighed 2 lbs. 14 oz. Roberts (*Birds of Minnesota*) quotes 2 lbs. 5 oz. to 2 lbs. 11 oz. as the weight of a Raven. This bird while not fat was not in an emaciated condition.

It may have been unnaturally bold or may have been forced by hunger to approach the vicinity of human dwellings; a heavy snow fall during the preceding week may have made food scarce.—REID McMANUS, *Memramcook, New Brunswick, Canada.*