

I have the following sight records for Ohio. Wood County: June 21, 1930, one singing bird in northern Liberty Township (this bird and another were later observed carrying food to nestlings); March 15, 1931, one individual singing, three miles west of Bowling Green; and September 6, 1936, a single bird in northern Henry Township. Lucas County: May 17, 1930, one singing bird observed near Swanton by Robert McCormick and the writer. Henry County: June 22, 1930, one singing bird and a silent companion in northeastern Washington Township; and July 28, 1937, a singing bird two miles north of Napoleon. Defiance County: June 28, 1930, a singing bird without a mate in northeastern Adams Township. Fulton County: June 24, 1930, two singing birds near Wauseon; June 26, 1930, one individual (singing) along Ten Mile Creek southwest of Metamora; July 30, 1930, one along Swan Creek northeast of Swanton; and June 21, 1937, one singing bird on territory near Delta. Logan County: June 18, 1937, two miles north of Indian Lake. This bird was without territory, singing within two hours from various stations along two miles of roadside. Muskingum County: on August 8, 1935, north of Roseville, Woodrow Goodpaster and the writer observed a single bird for more than two hours. This individual contrasted strikingly with a dozen Eastern Meadowlarks of the same flock. It seemed to be highly excited, shuttling between the tops of various clumps of willows, while emitting a great variety of call notes and weak attempts at song. Some of the call notes could not be distinguished from those of its companions. This bird remained in the vicinity for at least ten days.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Meadowlark has now been recorded from eight counties of Ohio. Two specimens have been taken. At least twenty-six records (representing about eighteen different individuals) have been made by nine observers. Some were obviously of stragglers or migrants. Most of the records, however, were of summer residents in sandy areas of five northwestern Ohio counties. The majority were non-breeding individuals, but evidence that some bred has been obtained. It is probably accurate to consider this bird as a recent invader from the West. Even in northwestern Ohio, the Western Meadowlark is still so rare that a good observer will average less than one record in a thousand miles of field work by automobile travel.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.*

**Second record of Brewer's Blackbird in Alabama.**—Since Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) was first recorded in Alabama, near Foley, on March 23, 1936 (*Auk*, 53: 452, 1936), apparently no one has again noted it in the State. It is therefore of interest to record a flock of approximately a hundred of these birds feeding about cows in a pasture ten miles south of Montgomery, on November 30, 1937. In an adjoining cornfield there was a large concentration of other blackbirds but, as characteristic of the Brewer's Blackbird in the Southeast, the birds showed no inclination to associate with their near relatives, and during the brief time they were watched, they remained consistently apart. Both sexes were present in practically equal numbers, and the birds were feeding in small scattered groups rather than in a compact flock. Two, a male and a female, were collected to verify their occurrence in Alabama on this date, and are now in the Biological Survey collection in Washington.—THOMAS D. BURLEIGH, *U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, Gulfport, Mississippi.*

**Red-wing parasitized by the Cowbird.**—On July 1, 1937, I came across an abandoned nest of the Red-wing (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) of usual type in cat-tails some ten feet from the shore of a small lake (Nancy Lake) about thirty miles north of Toronto; the nest contained two eggs of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) and none of the Red-wing. The shore at this spot was covered by a swampy growth of alders.

This is the only case I have knowledge of in some seventeen years of study locally, there appear to be no other records for Ontario.—R. D. USSHER, *Nancy Lake Farm; King, Ontario.*

**Hosts of the Cowbird, *Molothrus ater obscurus*.**—The recent article by Friedmann (Auk, 55: 41–50, 1938) on the hosts of the parasitic cowbirds prompts me to contribute the following data on this highly interesting phenomenon. During the spring and early summer of 1930, I made an intensive survey of the nesting birds in the vicinity of Oroville, Butte County, California. I was afield practically every day from the beginning of the nesting season in January until its wane in mid-June. During this time I located only five nests parasitized by cowbirds, as follows: Western Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea amoenissima*), three; Western Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*), one; and Western Trail's Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli brewsteri*), one.

The interesting part of my findings, to me at least, is the difference in the incidence of parasitism observed in the Western Gnatcatcher and the Western Lark Sparrow, both of which were common breeding birds in the area. Of six nests of the former three (50 per cent) contained eggs of the cowbird. One set, collected May 8, consisted of five eggs of the host and one of the parasite; the second, collected May 23, held one of the parasite and three of the host, as did the third set, collected May 26. On the other hand, only one of the ten nests of the Western Lark Sparrow was parasitized. The set consisted of four eggs of the host and one of the parasite. One is led to wonder if the Western Gnatcatcher is not handicapped by its small size in this struggle. Certainly, its nest is less conspicuous than that of the Western Lark Sparrow, at least to man. The nest of the flycatcher, located May 27, contained two eggs of the host and one of the parasite. On the ground below the nest were two broken eggs of the host, a circumstance suggesting that the cowbird removed them from the nest in order to make room for her own.

I should like to point out here that the cowbird in the vicinity of Oroville appears to be *obscurus* (see Condor, 39: 227–228, 1937) rather than *artemesiae* as Friedmann (*loc. cit.*, p. 48) states. This circumstance necessitates transferring *Agelaius p. californicus* from the host-list of *artemesiae* to that of *obscurus*.—WILLIAM B. DAVIS, *Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station, Texas.*

**Nelson's Sparrow in eastern New York.**—It was my fortunate experience to view on October 14, 1937, two Nelson's Sparrows (*Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni*) along the banks of the Mohawk River, a few miles east of the city of Schenectady, New York. As I wandered along the river bank during the course of one of my daily excursions, my attention was attracted to a small cinnamon-buff sparrow, feeding along a marshy section of the shore line. After observing the bird during the course of its quick movements, I flushed it into a small cluster of cat-tails nearby. During its flight the opportunity for a further view of its identifying marks became available. It was approximately eight feet from me when it landed; then it became rather inquisitive, returning to view each time that I emitted an occasional squeak. I knelt down, making a few notes relative to the sparrow and as I did so, the bird went to the top of the cat-tails, apparently in order to secure a better view. The cinnamon buff of breast and sides, along with the stripes above the eyes, and the slightly obscure stripes on the breast and sides were easily visible. The back was mostly gray with some white stripes. The abdomen was grayish and the under tail-coverts were buff; the upper mandible was a dark reddish and the lower one yellowish.

Upon the completion of my observation I left the bird, and moved slowly along the