

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