

to be a more or less typical Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), with the characteristic red iris, with possibly less distinct head markings than usual in the adult vireo, and with one white feather protruding from the rump. Subsequent comparison of the specimen with skins in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology at Ann Arbor, failed to verify the previous impression that the head markings were a little obscure. The bird was apparently a normally plumaged male with well-developed, 8×5 mm. testes, and the conspicuous white feather, rather than indicating albinism, seemed to be a normally colored under tail covert that had slipped through the recitres to occupy a dorsal position. The specimen is in the Rose Lake Wildlife Experiment Station's modest collection of birds.

Thus on three consecutive days in mid-June, this bird was noted singing its peculiar, abrupt and husky, flycatcher-like song (at times the notes were suspiciously suggestive of the familiar *chebec* of the Least Flycatcher). Once the identity of the bird was definitely established by collecting, however, it was realized that the sequence of phrases was not unlike that of a Red-eyed Vireo, but that the quality and pitch were so far off that the song had not been recognized. At times the bird could be seen trying to sing, with its throat vibrating, but with only faint, barely audible, wheezy sounds coming forth. Then, with further efforts, louder notes would be produced, occasionally becoming suggestive of a vireo but quickly relapsing into a hoarse whisper, as of a bird with a very sore throat. The bird had not previously been noted during occasional trips in that vicinity in May and early June, so whether it had merely escaped notice earlier, was a newcomer, or had suddenly developed a throat defect affecting its song, was not known. Though it was apparently not the only Red-eyed Vireo in the woods, it was not determined whether or not this bird had a mate.—GEORGE J. WALLACE, *Department of Zoology, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.*

Autumnal duelling among Mockingbirds.—For ten minutes shortly after sunset on the evening of October 1, 1944, near a small lake on the AAF Tactical Center's 'New Area,' at Orlando, Orange County, Florida, Major Henry I. Baldwin and I watched two Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) in what appeared to be a sort of border-dispute. When we first saw the birds they were facing each other, about a foot apart, on close-clipped lawn not far from the foot of a large tree. There was no shrubbery close by, hence the dispute could hardly have arisen over food-supply, roosting place, or the preceding summer's nest-territories. Their heads and tails were lifted high, their wings dropped. They looked at each other as if bent on fierce combat, but when one started to lunge, the other side-stepped, or side-hopped, shifting the bout several inches to right or left. Thus moving back and forth along a 'battle-front' about four feet long, they continued to feint without once (a) actually lunging full-tilt at each other; (b) scratching or pecking each other or striking out with their wings; (c) uttering any sort of cry of threat or warning. Both birds appeared to be in excellent feather and general condition. Three times during the ten-minute period one bird or the other lost interest momentarily, hopping *back* from the 'battle-front'; but the other gave quick pursuit with wide-spread wings and tail, and instantly both returned to their original positions and the feinting began again.

A third Mockingbird scolded occasionally from a live oak tree about 30 feet away but did not interest itself in the duel so far as I could see. In the distance several Mockingbirds sang intermittently. The passing of an automobile broke up the encounter.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Major, Air Corps, AAF Tactical Center, Orlando, Florida.*