

County, March 23, 1939; 1 with two Brewer's Blackbirds and red-wings near Port Clinton, April 4, 1941; 9 near Greencamp, Marion County, March 11, 1942; 12 with red-wings at Reno Beach, Lucas County, March 24, 1944.

On May 11, 1934, Emory Sawyer observed a singing male between Bay Bridge and Sandusky ('The Auk,' 51: 527, 1934). A singing male which appeared to be breeding (perhaps the same individual as above) was observed by the writer in a marsh east of Bay Bridge on May 20, 1934. A pair, presumably breeding, was observed east of the McGee Marsh, Ottawa County, May 21, 1936.

In 1938, George Metzger, owner, and Emery Tank, keeper of the Metzger Marsh, Lucas County, reported that a pair that arrived in April was seen repeatedly throughout the summer. The writer failed to find the nest after two days of searching, although later (in August) Mr. Tank saw the pair with three juveniles. In 1939, a pair was present on a territory several hundred yards to the eastward but again all attempts to find the nest were unsuccessful.

In 1940, Mr. and Mrs. F. Stearns found a male defending territory two and a half miles west of the Metzger Marsh from May 30 to June 10 (Campbell, 'Birds of Lucas County': 156, 1940). On May 18, 1940, the writer discovered a nest with four eggs in cat-tails in the Metzger Marsh near the Lake Erie shore. On a return on June 16, the young were found to have already left the nest but they could not be detected among large numbers of juvenile red-wings. On the third visit, July 21, a juvenile male, from this or another nest, was collected. The bird, weighing 92.4 grams, was in the late pin-feather stage of acquiring the deep yellow throat and breast and dark crown. The specimen is now in the Ohio State Museum collection.

Another pair was present in the same general area in 1941. None was located during the casual checks made from 1942 to 1944. Thus the Yellow-headed Blackbird has shown a definite increase since 1930 as a migrant in Ohio, and breeds in the marshes of Lucas County and probably in Ottawa and Erie counties as well.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.*

Hooded Merganser breeding in Ohio.—Before 1930 there were very few records of the Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) summering in Ohio. Since then, at least two to a dozen individuals have been present through each breeding season, mostly at the larger reservoirs or in scattered northern Ohio counties. Most of these have been in immature plumage and by their behavior were obviously non-breeding birds.

During 1936 the writer several times observed one or both members of a pair on the marsh of the Winnous Point duck club on Sandusky Bay, Ottawa County. The nest was not found, but on June 21 several hours were spent pursuing the female with five one-third-grown young. In adjacent Lucas County, Campbell lists seven adults seen during the summers of 1930 to 1933, and nine more in near-by Erie Marsh in Michigan during 1935, 1936 and 1939, but no evidence of breeding ('Birds of Lucas County, Ohio,' Toledo Museum of Science: 51, 1940). At Buckeye Lake a few highly plumaged males have remained throughout the summer, but with no evidence of breeding (Trautman, 1940).

During the 1937 breeding season, a pair was present on my waterfowl-study tract on Pymatuning Reservoir, Ashtabula County, Ohio. The female was seen to enter the cavity of a very rotten stub which leaned far out over the water of a little inlet near Hemlock Island. Since it was impossible to reach the nest without destroying it, we waited until the family of young had left to pull down the stub and break open the nest, which then contained a single eggshell. On May 30, the hen had eight ducklings (about six days old). When last seen on June 30, only three remained.

During the 1938 season, Bert Oudette, the writer and several others observed another female using a cavity on the Pennsylvania portion of the reservoir.

During the spring of 1942, many ducks and shorebirds used a series of small ponds created by the Columbus sewage disposal plant just southwest of the city and west of the Scioto River, Franklin County. Several pairs of Wood Ducks, Mallards, Black Ducks, and Blue-winged Teals remained to breed; two broods of each species were observed. On May 14, 1942, Nelson Thompson reported a female Hooded Merganser with ten small young. Each day thereafter we attempted to find and collect a duckling to substantiate the record, but the brood appeared to be particularly elusive. Eventually the female and all but one duckling escaped to the safety of the Scioto River. After three hours of hectic pursuit from one tiny island and peninsula to the next, swimming and wading through sewage waters and debris, the writer collected the remaining duckling on May 18, 1942, thanks to the corralling assistance of Nelson Page and John Anderson. This duckling, a male weighing 56.4 grams, proved to be about nine days of age. It is now in the Ohio State Museum collection. Breeding of this species in Central Ohio, far south of its normal range and in such a unique habitat, is indeed remarkable.

During the summer of 1943, the writer discovered another female with six three-weeks-old young on a marsh in eastern Lucas County near the Ottawa County line and the Lake Erie shore. Thus the Hooded Merganser is now known to breed in four counties of Ohio: Ashtabula, Franklin, Ottawa and Lucas.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.*

Rose-throated Becard nesting in Cameron County, Texas.—A pair of Rose-throated Becards (*Platypsaris aglaiae*) was observed working on a nest the last week in April, 1943. The locality was about thirteen miles southwest of Harlingen, Texas, in the tract used as a nesting-census area by the writer in May and June, 1938 (*Bird-Lore*, 40: 356, Sept.—Oct., 1938). Both the male and female were carrying material to the nest which was in a hammock or swing stage of construction. The next time the place was visited the nest was found to have been abandoned without any further additions. This beginning of a nest was of interest from the point of view of construction as the two ends of the swing were attached to separate small twigs of a black willow so that they pulled slightly apart as the larger branch above swayed in the breeze. The bottom of the nest was about twenty feet from the ground.

Later (the first week in May) another beginning of a nest was found about 200 yards south of the first. It appeared to have been abandoned at a still earlier date. It also was in a black willow and was about 22 feet above ground. About fifty feet north of this location the birds were again observed. This time they were working on an almost completed nest. The third attempt was again in a black willow and the bottom of the nest was about 21 feet from the ground. Material was still being added, however, and there was still an opening at the extreme top of the bag as well as the one at the side of the ball-like bottom. It was noted that the female made about twice as many trips to the nest per unit of time as the male and that she alone did the work on the interior. By May 7 the nest seemed to be completed. The writer was out of the region the first half of June; hence it is impossible to report on the results of the nesting. The birds could not be found when the place was visited on June 18, but the nest was in good condition and the opening was clean and firm. By the first week in July the nest was showing signs of disuse and the opening was half closed.

The male bird was somewhat 'dirty white' below. A reddish tint, which showed in the tail feathers when the tail was spread, might indicate that he was only one year old. The willow trees in which the nests were placed are about fifty feet out from a