

called for, the parent would depart.—THOMAS SMYTH, *Dept. of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.*

Female Cowbird dead at Prothonotary Warbler's nest.—On May 22, 1941, in a little swampy woods on the south shore of the Grand Reservoir (Lake St. Marys) in Mercer County, Ohio, I noticed a dead female Cowbird lodged in a cavity entrance in a small willow stub, standing in water. As Prothonotary Warblers have nested in cavities of trees in this locality for years, I assumed that this female had intended to deposit an egg in the Prothonotary's nest but had become lodged in the entrance and had died trying to extricate herself. After removing the body, I found that the nest held one typical egg of the Prothonotary. Upon opening the abdomen of the Cowbird, I found an egg that appeared to be perfect. The Cowbird was badly decomposed. I was surprised at the force required to dislodge it from the cavity entrance. The primary feathers seemed to act like the barbs of fish hooks. I recall finding Cowbird eggs in two or three Prothonotary Warbler nests in this little colony in previous years.—HOMER F. PRICE, *Payne, Ohio.*

Ring-necked Duck broods in New York State.—The Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) is uncommon as a summer resident in New York and its breeding here is rare, if ever reported up to the present writing. It has been observed as a summer resident in the Finger Lakes section, in the Lake Champlain area, and in the southwestern Adirondacks. Records from Ithaca showed the average migration dates on Cayuga Lake, prior to 1936, were between February 18 and April 7, and from September 16 to October 29. Observations made in the Ithaca region by Benson during 1936 and 1937 showed this species as late as June 10 on Dryden Lake, June 15 on Labrador Pond, and late May on Spencer Marsh and Danby Pond. Each spring from 1939 through 1943 a flock varying from 15 to 40 birds, with drakes predominating, two to one, were observed on one pond at Visher's Ferry Flats, Saratoga County, regularly until the first of June, and in 1942 until June 20. On June 15, 1940, a pair of Ring-necked Ducks was observed by Benson near Rouse's Point on Lake Champlain, but there was no sign of nesting. In May, 1941, six pairs were found by Severinghaus on Lake Lila (Webb, Herkimer Co.).

Our first record of the breeding of Ring-necks in New York State was made in 1946 by Severinghaus who observed four pairs and two broods at Jones Pond (Brighton Township, Franklin Co.). Jones Pond, in the north-central Adirondacks east of Paul Smiths, lies at an elevation of 1652 feet. It consists of two shallow bays, west and north, connected with a deeper south bay by a body of open water. The west and north bays are from five to fifteen feet deep. The west bay is nearly filled with emergent vegetation, mainly cattails (*Typha*), growing on a bog mat of Ericaceous plants that have pushed out from the shore. In the remaining open water, buoyant aquatics, yellow pond lilies (*Nymphozanthus*) and sweet water lilies (*Nymphaea*), as well as a dense growth of submergent aquatics, nearly fill the bay with vegetation. The north bay is largely open water with a sparse growth of emergent and buoyant aquatics but a dense growth of submergent aquatics, while the south bay, about forty feet in depth, is almost entirely open water. The shore line of the pond is covered with a dense growth of alders and woody shrubs (except on the east side of the south bay where there are several summer camps), and behind these are tall, mature conifers. The road from Paul Smiths to Rainbow Lake passes close to the north and west bays.

On May 29, 1946, three pairs of Ring-necks were found on the north bay by Severinghaus, and identification was confirmed by two fellow workers. The birds

were all within 30 yards of the shore and were readily observed for fifteen minutes. Closer to the shore and at first out of sight were an additional male and female Ring-neck and seven young which were 10 days to two weeks old. The male was about 30 yards from the brood and the other three pairs were from 40 to 60 yards from the brood. When at last the entire group of birds was frightened, the three pairs without observed broods flew to the west shore of north bay, flying about 200 yards, and settled in the water close to the shore. The male which was apparently with the brood female flew about 200 yards up the east shore and the female and brood scurried off across the water, closed into a small group, and settled down about 20 yards off shore after covering about 100 yards of open water. All the birds remained in view, apparently not frightened sufficiently to seek cover.

On July 11, 1946, Severinghaus and a companion visited the pond again in hopes of locating the brood. The north bay was thoroughly searched but no ducks were seen. In the west bay, in a small area of open water about 20 by 40 feet in dimensions, a female Ring-neck with a brood of nine or possibly ten young was found. The young were very small—a week old or possibly younger. At first the observers were not seen and the brood, scattered over an area about six or eight yards square, was swimming among the lily pads. When we were seen, they clustered around the female and scurried across the water into the cattails. Then the female emerged and headed for us. She came within eight or ten yards of the canoc; then half flying, half swimming, she scuttled out of the small area, going away from the brood and into the main open-water area. We remained in place for about ten minutes, watching her antics and listening to the young call. When we left, the female led us down the channel to the main open-water area before returning to her brood. After this, two adult male Ring-necks and several adult Black Ducks were flushed along south bay but no additional broods were found.

It was apparent from the size of the ducklings that at least two broods of Ring-necks, one of seven and the second of nine or ten, were hatched on Jones Pond in 1946. Whether either brood grew to maturity is not known as the area was not visited again.—C. W. SEVERINGHAUS AND DIRCK BENSON, *Wildlife Research Center, Delmar, New York.*

Food of the Lark Bunting in central Utah.—Lark Buntings (*Calamospiza melanocorys* Stejneger) were moderately abundant along sagebrush and rabbitbrush fence rows west of Nephi, Utah, on May 19, 1941. The stomach of one specimen, collected by F. C. Harmston and the writer, contained the following insects: 1 fly, 1 beetle, and 1 harvester ant, besides insect fragments. Also present was a spider, 65 seeds mostly of weeds, and two Russian thistle plant fragments. One of five Lark Bunting specimens observed about four miles north of Fountain Green, Utah, on May 21, 1941, was collected by the writer. Recognizable insects present in the stomach of this specimen were: 2 beetles (1 a weevil), 3 Hymenoptera, 2 of which were ants. In addition the stomach held 5 kernels of wheat, 1 sunflower seed, 7 other weed seeds and a few plant fragments. The bird specimens were identified by Drs. J. S. Stanford and C. L. Hayward.—GEORGE F. KNOWLTON, *Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.*

Fall migration of the Purple Martin.—In the January, 1947, issue of *The Auk*, Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., had a speculative note on the date of first autumn movement of the Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*). Perhaps the following observations on the post-nesting activity of the species in my neighbourhood may add something to the apparently scanty data on the subject. These observations were