

Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus (Say). Common Rock Wren. An individual of this species flew into a window of the museum on October 25, 1946, and is now number 23993 in the collection of the Division of Birds. Goodrich stated in "Birds in Kansas" (Rept. Kans. State Bd. Agric., 64 (267): 255, 1945) that the rock wren is common in certain parts of western Kansas and is "rarely but occasionally found in the east"; no definite localities are cited. Specimen number 23993 is the first record of the bird for Douglas County, and seems to be the easternmost locality in Kansas from which this bird has been taken.—M. DALE ARVEY, *Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas.*

Atypical copulatory behavior of a robin.—Observations of six instances of copulatory behavior in the eastern robin (*Turdus m. migratorius*) by various people during the spring of 1948 indicated that both birds were always silent during copulation, and the act was accomplished without strife or excited behavior of any type other than occasional wing fanning by the male. One case, however, varied radically from the others. In this instance, the male advanced on the female with his wings slightly open, bill gaping, and body feathers extended, and tried to mount. She drove him away with a vicious peck. The male then mounted an earth clump, fanned his wings vigorously as he tried to copulate with it, then ran and tried to mount the female again. She dodged and ran a few steps; the male then tried to copulate with a piece of crumpled newspaper, again fanning his wings vigorously, then went to the female and attempted to mount from the front, but was again driven off. He returned once more; this time the female squatted and he mounted, apparently successfully. The female then violently attacked him and chased him away, the two flying out of sight in a long, twisting flight.—HOWARD YOUNG, *Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.*

A robin rears a cowbird.—On May 15, 1948, in Scott County, Iowa, I found a nest of the robin (*Turdus migratorius*) which contained one addled egg and a nestling cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) which was about ready to leave the nest. Both the male and female robin showed a great deal of concern while I banded the bird. Of the many robins' nests that I have examined this is the first one that ever contained a cowbird. Friedmann (*The Cowbirds*, p. 193, 1929) recorded that the robin was one of the few species that refused to accept the eggs of the parasitic cowbird and usually punctured the eggs and ejected them from the nest.—JAMES HODGES, *3132 Fair Avenue, Davenport, Iowa.*

More veeries breeding in Washington, D. C.—In *Auk* (60: 103, 1943) I reported the first record of veeries (*Hylocichla fuscescens*) breeding in Washington, D. C. At least one of three fledglings had apparently been raised successfully by a pair that nested in "lower Rock Creek Park" in 1942.

On June 9, 1948, my wife and I heard a veery singing at the south entrance of The National Zoological Park, less than a mile upstream from the nesting site of 1942. On June 21, we discovered two veeries in the territory, both singing, and we found the two together on other occasions thereafter. It was not until July 11 that I discovered the nest, with three fledglings, about a foot above the ground in a tangle of Japanese honeysuckle. By July 17, the young were out of the nest and being fed by their parents, but I was unable to count them.

On June 13 and subsequent occasions I discovered that veeries were to be found continuously along a mile of Rock Creek, beginning about three miles upstream from the territory of the veeries in the Zoological Park. On June 20, I found a nest with

four eggs in that area. It was in the woods up the slope from the left bank, again about a foot above the ground in a tangle of honeysuckle. It held four nestlings on June 26. On July 3, it held one large and well-fledged nestling that seemed ready to leave. The next time I visited it, a week later, the nest was empty.

On June 26, Miss Rachel Carson found another nest, with three eggs, in the territory of a pair of veeries immediately adjacent to that of the pair referred to in the preceding paragraph. Again, it was about a foot from the ground in a tangle of honeysuckle close to a bridle path. It contained three fledglings on July 3, and was empty on July 10. There were almost always at least four fully-grown veeries in the immediate vicinity of this nest, and though one sometimes chased another briefly they appeared to tolerate one another's presence. Perhaps the additional birds were the young of a first brood produced by the pair responsible for this nest.

On June 26, upstream almost a mile from the nest referred to in the preceding paragraph, I came upon an adult veery feeding two or more young that could hardly have been out of the nest more than a day or two.

Thus, there were at least four pairs of veeries that produced at least 12 young in Washington, D. C. in 1948. Dr. Irston Barnes, Miss Rachel Carson, Miss Shirley Briggs, Mr. and Mrs. William Vogt, and my wife participated in some of these observations. Dr. Barnes tells me that he had observed veeries late in May, 1947, at the site of one of the upper nests described above, and had wondered whether, in view of the late date, they were not remaining to breed.

It must be that veeries have been nesting unobserved in Rock Creek Park since 1942, when the first nesting was reported, and that the small colony observed in 1948 has developed as a result.—LOUIS J. HALLE, JR., 1423 Shepherd St., Washington 11, D. C.

Magnolia warbler at Lexington, Virginia, in winter.—On December 27, 1947, I collected a magnolia warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) in Lexington, Virginia. It was a male in bright winter plumage and was in good flesh with a fair amount of fat on the skin. Except for a January and a February record given by Howell for Florida (Florida Bird Life), this is the only winter record I have been able to find for the United States. I also have a specimen which was picked up alive at Lexington on November 10, 1936, and which died on November 11 or 12.—J. J. MURRAY, Lexington, Virginia.

Hooded warbler in Calhoun County, Michigan.—On May 27, 1945, Mr. and Mrs. N. Theodore Peterson located a male hooded warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) singing along the highway in section one, Emmett Township, Calhoun County, Michigan. The area was a beech-maple woodlot which had not been pastured for many years and had grown up to a rather dense stand of underbrush. On May 30, 1945, at 1:30 p. m. I visited the area and heard the male warbler singing before I had left the car. It required only a short time to observe him about five feet from the ground. During the period of ten minutes which I watched him, he sang from perches three to five feet above ground but at times even sang from low stumps or from the ground. He was quite tame and flew at times to within 15 feet of me. There was no doubt as to the identity of the bird; I had heard and observed them in northern Tennessee.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, Battle Creek, Michigan.

Harris's sparrows in Massachusetts.—Since April 11, 1929, when a young female Harris's sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) was reported from Hingham, there had been no substantiated reports of this species in Massachusetts until March 29, 1946.