

as if they had been used in the spring of 1948. All the nests, or parts of nests, were at the ends of downward-hanging branches directly over water. Dr. W. Frank Blair, of the University of Texas, and two of his students, Wilmot A. Thornton and William L. Gustafson, found some of these nests or nest-remains independently of Hurd and me. Thornton, on examining the females which I had collected, assured me that he had seen just such a bird a day or so previously.

Dr. Blair tells me that "the entire area in which we camped . . . has been cleared, and they are clearing 200 acres to the south of the road . . ." (personal letter, April 22, 1949), so I suppose the becard habitat near McAllen is doomed. According to my experience, *Platyptaris aglaiae* prefers to place its nest over water, or very nearly over water, and in a large tree. If a strip of woods along the lake-shore could be preserved, these beautiful birds might continue to breed there.—GEORGE MIKSCSI SUTTON, *Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

**A white catbird nesting in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.**—During the first week in June, 1947, I received a report from my daughter, Mrs. Phyllis Lumb, 86 Grafton Street, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, that a white catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*, had been seen several times in her back yard and that it seemed to be building a nest in a shrub.

On June 10, I found the white bird, which was evidently a female constantly followed by its normally colored mate, collecting twigs from a small grove of low-growing locust and carrying them in the opposite direction from the first nesting site. The following week I found the white bird on her nest which was in a small lilac bush at the edge of the mass of low-growing locusts at a height of about five feet and within six feet of a sun porch. She was nearly white but had a small dot of black on top of her head and several very small dark spots on her breast. Some of the inner tail feathers were dark. The bird presented a startling and unique appearance. My daughter says the pair raised a normally-colored brood of young.—OLIVE P. WETHERBEE, *11 Dallas Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.*

**Some central New York records of the black-backed robin.**—Three specimens in the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Memorial Collection of Birds at Cornell University serve to add somewhat to our knowledge of the migration of the black-backed robin, *Turdus m. nigrideus* Aldrich and Nutt.

Evidence that this subspecies winters, at least in small numbers, in central New York is afforded by a male taken January 20, 1933, at Trumbull's Corners, about 17 miles southwest of Ithaca, Tompkins County. This specimen (C. U. no. 8883) weighed 100 grams and had a wing length of 134 millimeters.

It might be assumed that robins which are on their way to Newfoundland or the adjacent mainland to breed would be among the earlier migrants through central New York. However, the migration of this subspecies through this area may be quite protracted. Our two specimens, males from Ithaca, were taken on March 31, 1931, and May 13, 1941. The former specimen (C. U. no. 8843) had a wing length of 132 millimeters. The latter specimen (C. U. no. 10876) was found dead near the Cornell campus. It weighed 78.2 grams, and its wing measured 133.5 millimeters. These specimens were identified by Dr. John W. Aldrich.

It might be added, parenthetically, that males of this subspecies, at least in spring, are quite readily identified in the field at the close range robins often permit. I have seen two this spring; one in Central Park, New York City, on March 31, 1948, and one in Ithaca, New York, on April 16. In both cases, large numbers of male *T.*