

this operation. On October 18, 1947, in the same area, I saw a pair going through this performance, but I was unable to determine what kind of prey they were securing. On November 2, 1947, in Scott County, a group of 20 migrants was seen at 1:00 p. m. "riding the wind" in the manner of the larger hawks. The majority of the birds were only 30 feet from the ground, but several were over 75 feet in the air. All were going through the flycatching maneuver.—JAMES HODGES, 3132 Fair Avenue, Davenport, Iowa.

Starling Catching Insects on the Wing.—With reference to the note by Raymond Cayouette (Auk, 64: 458, 1947) it seems worth pointing out that the habit of hawking insects on the wing with a somewhat swallow-like flight is a quite frequent and regular one of the starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*, in Europe, especially when flying ants are in the air. It is mentioned briefly by the present writer in "The Handbook of British Birds" ". . . when hawking for high-flying insects adopts distinct wheeling and gliding action recalling swallow," and indeed must be familiar to most observers of birds on the British Isles. It would be interesting to know whether it is really as unusual in America as your correspondent's note suggests.—B. W. TUCKER, University Museum, Oxford, England.

Notes on the Breeding Behavior of the Bell's Vireo.—A pair of Bell's Vireos, *Vireo bellii bellii*, was discovered June 10, 1947, constructing a nest on the Robert Allerton Park of the University of Illinois, Piatt County, Illinois. Due to the excellent location and the early stage of nesting, a study of the birds was made, involving 12 hours of detailed observations at the nest.

The nesting territory of this pair of birds comprised 3.1 acres of grassland containing scattered trees and shrubs. The nest itself was situated in a blackberry patch, adjacent to a small intermittent stream, and bordered on the east by a small grove of 40-foot willow trees. The briar patch, some 50 feet in diameter, was located in a relatively undisturbed area of forest-edge. When discovered, the shape of the nest was barely discernible, poorly formed and somewhat lop-sided. The structure was suspended between the stalk and a leaf stem of a leaning briar plant 30 inches from the ground.

Both sexes engaged in nest-building. The female, however, worked faster and more energetically, with only occasional pauses for food. The male followed the female on many of her trips and often paused to sing. However, he brought a considerable share of the material and for short periods the birds alternated regularly in bringing materials and working them into the nest. The male appeared just as adept at handling nest material as the female, even to shaping the bowl by settling low in the structure and turning around and around. During one hour and ten minutes, the female made nine trips to the nest with material and the male six. Three times the male accompanied the female to the nest without material. The nest was completely built in four or possibly five days. Pitelka and Koestner (Wilson Bull., 54: 97-106, 1942) stated, "the females apparently built the nests unaided," and Nice (Condor, 31: 13-20, 1929) said that the male may or may not assist in the nest-building. These observations substantiate the fact that the male helps to a considerable degree in nest construction.

The first egg was laid on the day following the completion of the nest. Egg number two was deposited during the morning of the second day, and steady incubation commenced with the laying of that egg. The clutch of four eggs was completed two days later.

Both sexes participated in incubation. The male appeared more "nervous" at