

213, 1949) recorded my observations near Robson, southeast of Shreveport, on May 14, 1949, as well as a singing bird near the same place on May 2, 1948 (incorrectly published as May 12).

On June 11, 1950, I heard two birds of this species singing in the trees on a batture on the Red River at the community of Dixie Gardens, just outside the southeastern city limits of Shreveport. This batture is covered with sand bar willow, *Salix interior*, with a scattering of cottonwood, *Populus deltoides*. Concentrating on one bird, I soon located its nest, which was situated about 4.5 feet above the ground in marsh elder, *Baccharis halimifolia*, and contained four eggs. On June 18, I attempted to locate the nest of the second singing bird. It was found about 25 yards from the first nest, also in marsh elder and at about the same distance above the ground. It contained four eggs. The first nest was subsequently visited by other observers, as well as myself, until after the young were on the wing. The abandoned nest was collected and is now in the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, along with color slides taken by Dale Hamilton.

Three other singing males of this species were observed regularly during June. One of these, located in willows along the bank of the river a short distance below the batture, was first noted by Ambrose Daigre on May 28. The other two, in willows on a batture about one mile west of Curtis, almost directly across the river, were observed by Daigre, Hamilton, and me on June 4 in an area where I first heard one individual on May 6.

The few individuals of this species which have been observed in this vicinity all show a proclivity for willows. It is interesting to note, however, that neither of the nests was situated in willow, despite its abundance in the area.

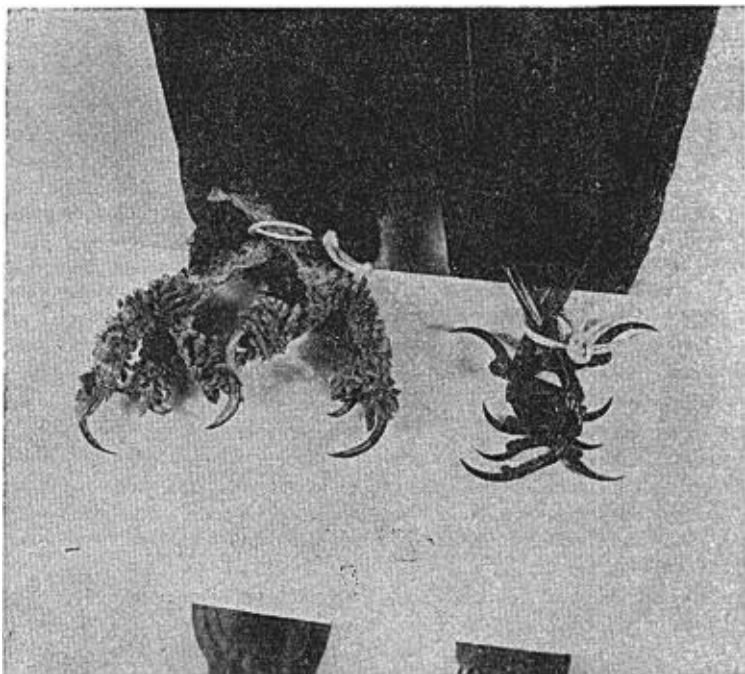
Bent (U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 197: 254, 1950) states that where the range of this species overlaps that of the White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo griseus*, "they are often found in similar haunts or in the same thickets." The White-eyed Vireo is a common summer resident in the vicinity of Shreveport. However, to the present time I have neither seen nor heard it in any of the areas where I have found the Bell's Vireo.

I wish to thank Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr., for his suggestions and for identification of the marsh elder.—HORACE H. JETER, 4534 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana.

**Number of Contour Feathers on a Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*.**—With the aid of several students, I counted the feathers on a male Cowbird taken February 21, 1948, at College Station, Texas. The feathers forward of the junction of the head and neck were counted separately from the body itself. There were 1246 feathers (mostly very small ones) on the head and 3051 on the body for a total of 4297.—LEONARD W. WING, Texas A. and M. College, College Station, Texas.

**"Scaly Leg" (Cnemidocoptiasis) in the Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*.**—A male Red-winged Blackbird trapped in Arkansas County, Arkansas, November 30, 1949, was observed to have a severe infection of the feet and legs. The infection was later diagnosed as "scaly leg," a condition that was caused by a small mite, *Cnemidocoptes* Fürstenberg, 1870, burrowing into the skin underneath the scales on the leg. The long, fringe-like projections on the infected area, as seen in the photograph are the result of an exudate from the inflammation. The exudate had become hardened and actually replaced the scales.

According to the junior author the bird's activity was normal. There was also evidence from the manner in which the foot pads were worn that the infection had



MALE RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD, November 30, 1949. Sec. 33, R5W, T3S, Arkansas Co., Arkansas. Trapped by the junior author while he was an employee of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Normal male on the right.

not interfered with the blackbird's perching.—JOHN R. OLIVE, *Department of Zoology, Colorado A. & M. College* and VINCENT SCHULTZ, *Tennessee Game and Fish Commission, Nashville, Tennessee.*