FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Nesting of the Bell Vireo in Oklahoma.—During June and July of 1960 and 1961, I located 92 nests of the Bell Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) near Stillwater, Oklahoma. Most previous reports on Bell Vireos have been either detailed observations made of a limited number of birds (see, for example, Nice, Condor, 31, 1929:13–18; Pitelka and Koestner, Wilson Bull., 54, 1942:97–106; Hensley, Auk, 67, 1950:243–244) or investigations conducted near the limits of the range of the species (Mumford, Wilson Bull., 64, 1952:224–233; Nolan, Condor, 62, 1960:225–244). This report concerns a fairly large number of birds in an area that is well within the limits of the range.

Various measurements concerning the nests are given in the table. All nests were constructed of blades of grass, principally little bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*), reinforced with tree leaves and lined with fine grass stems, principally switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*). In addition, cocoons were used in 56 per cent of the nests, paper in 39 per cent and snakeskins in 11 per cent.

LOCATIONS AND DIMENSIONS OF BELL VIREO NESTS

	Mean	Range
Locations of 92 nests:		
Height of nest (in.)	36.9	20–144[1]
Height of host vegetation (ft.)	12.2	2.5–30
Clearance below nest (in.)	27.3	6–63
Clearance above nest (in.)	10.4	2–72
Distance from trunk (in.)	27.8	6–72
Distance from margin (in.)	19.6	3–78
Dimensions of 67 nests:		
Inside diameter (mm.)	43.6 x 47.7	40 x 40–51 x 52
Outside diameter (mm.)	57.7 x 63.3	54 x 54–65 x 73
Inside depth (mm.)	41.6	32–50
Outside depth (mm.)	63.0	50–86

[1] Only one nest was higher than 66 inches above the ground.

Of the 61 completed nests whose histories were known, 29 (48 per cent) hatched at least one egg, and 19 (31 per cent) fledged at least one young bird. From a total of 173 eggs, 78 (45 per cent) hatched and 47 (27 per cent) produced fledglings. Eighteen (30 per cent) of the nests were parasitized by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). Two of these nests fledged a total of three cowbirds.—THOMAS G. OVERMIRE, *Zoology Department, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, August 2, 1961.*

High-noon Songs.—The stimulating article by Leopold and Eynon on dawn and evening singing (Condor, 63, 1961:269–293) deals only with the half-light songs of those diurnal birds which are discussed and it correlates inception of various performances with the factor of light intensity, leaving out air temperature as a possible influence on the nature of a bird's performance. These random field notes are offered as of possible value in stimulating more accurate study of temperature relations. From boyhood days in southern California I have associated a certain type of song of the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) with the hot, still air of midday in summer. Quite in contrast with the monotonous rhythmic song of the spring period, this summer song is a more continuous warble of reduced intensity, although not so low as to class it with whisper songs. But the structure of the song is much the same as that of the whisper song. It strongly resembles certain subdued songs of the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). So much so that in my less discriminating boyhood I claimed that the shrike was a pretty good mocker. Some have considered this performance to be a song of immaturity. Perhaps it is. My own tendency is to recognize a "meditative" song, which may be primitive and juvenile as well, but to which the adult bird may revert at times of reduced ecstacy. At midday, well fed from the morning's activity and relaxed by a high temperature, the shrike sings from the midst of a tree what I have called a song of contentment.

The tyrannid flycatchers do this same thing. The Cassin Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) surprised me with such a song during one field trip into the Pajarito Mountains of southern Arizona.