

**The Morning Twilight Song of the Crested Flycatcher.**—From early June through July, the Wood Pewee sings a long and beautiful composition described by Dr. Wallace Craig as its "twilight song".<sup>1</sup> It does not seem to be generally known that the Crested Flycatcher also has a twilight song, which, though much simpler and far less musical than that of the Wood Pewee, nevertheless is a very creditable accomplishment for *Myiarchus crinitus*. My first impression of it was that it resembled somewhat a song of a hoarse Robin, although it is timed about half as fast. It consists simply of a low *wheeyer*, a pause, then a high *wheeyer*, the whole repeated over and over again.

I heard it in Oklahoma on May 25 and June 13, 1920, June 11, 1926, May 27 and June 4, 1927, and in Arkansas on June 11, 1927; on each occasion just before dawn.

On May 19, 1927, the Crested Flycatcher in the sloo woods south of Norman had not begun his song; he called from 5 A. M. on with his curious loud shouts. At my next early morning visit, May 27, the bird sang from about 5:03 to 5:07 o'clock. On June 4 the song was given from 4:55 until about 5:12 A. M. Usually high and low notes alternated, but occasionally there were two high or two low notes in succession. In one minute there were twenty-eight notes; in the next twenty-four, but during this minute there were two short rests. In the first of these minutes there were two high notes together in three cases, while in the second minute, the same was true of the low notes.

The song near Little Rock, Arkansas, on June 11, began at 4:24 A. M. and proceeded with great regularity, high and low notes alternating, until 4:32 A. M. After a few seconds' pause it began again, but now it was irregular, consisting mostly of low notes. At 4:40 A. M. the bird was still singing somewhat, almost entirely with the low notes with long intervals in between. (This was different from the Oklahoma individual, who after finishing his song gave only *wheeps* and grunts.) During one minute of the song itself there were twenty-four notes, during the last fifty seconds, twenty-one. With this bird I did not observe any exception to the regular alternation of low and high notes.

The Kingbird has a twilight song: Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller<sup>2</sup> tells how it was given at half past four each morning while the mate was incubating; the notes were weak and uncertain at first, but "as the days went by they grew strong and assured." "It began with a low Kingbird 'Kr-r-r' . . . and it ended with a very sweet call of two notes, five tones apart, the lower first, . . . 'Kr-r-r-r-ree-be'."

The Arkansas Kingbird may have something of the sort, for from May 28 to June 7 in the Oklahoma Panhandle, western Kansas and northeastern New Mexico, I heard an astonishing amount of clamor from this bird before dawn, but unfortunately paid little attention to it. It may be that others of the flycatchers besides these four sing "twilight songs."

I hope that some one gifted with absolute pitch will study this song of the Crested Flycatcher and give us its musical notation.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio*.

<sup>1</sup>*Auk*, XLIII, pp. 150-152. (April, 1926).

<sup>2</sup>Little Brothers of the Air, pp. 14-15. Houghton. (1897).