

nestlings, the smallest not over three days old, were present April 23, but only four on May 8, the fifth having fallen to the ground. Although the pellets revealed nothing but meadow mice (*Microtus*) remains, a half-eaten small rabbit lay on the nest at the time of the last visit.

A second nest of similar construction and location, but in a small pin oak, was found May 9, near the base of Little Cedar Point, Lucas County, in a wood that did not exceed ten acres, lying between an extensive Lake Erie marsh and level open farm land. There were six nestlings. Comparison with the young in the other nest led to the conclusion that these had hatched about April 18. On May 16, they were able to crawl out on limbs when approached. When the nest was visited May 23, the adults were near, but the young were not found. We believe that they left voluntarily. On the rim of the nest lay a partly plucked Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*).—LAUREL VAN CAMP, Genoa, Ohio, and HAROLD MAYFIELD, 3311 Parkwood Avenue, Toledo, Ohio.

Evidence for the Former Occurrence of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Ohio.—The Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) was found years ago in Franklin County, Indiana, adjacent to the southwestern corner of Ohio, and on this basis it has been carried in the hypothetical list of birds for the latter state, on the logical assumption that formerly it must have occurred there. There have been no positive records for it, however.

Recently Robert Goslin has sent to me for identification a set of birds' bones excavated in 1940 and 1941 by H. R. McPherson of Columbus, Ohio, from the Feurt Village Site in Clay Township, Scioto County, Ohio, east of the Scioto River, and not far from the Ohio River, which marks the southern boundary of the State. The material is presumed to date back to the fifteenth or sixteenth century, since it was found at one of the sites of the Fort Ancient Culture.

Among the 24 species of birds included in this collection I was interested to find a metatarsus of the Ivory-bill (now preserved in the osteological collections of the U. S. National Museum). It appears to me that this constitutes a definite record for the former occurrence of this bird in Ohio. It is true that the Ivory-bill was considered of some value by the Indians, who without question carried the heads and bills about, using them in medicine bundles and in other ways. It seems hardly probable, however, that the foot (which was of no particular interest) would have been taken to a locality distant from where the bird was killed.

Other interesting species whose bones are found in this deposit are the Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus americanus*), the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) and the Raven (*Corvus corax*). The deposit also contained remains of two other woodpeckers, the Pileated Woodpecker and the Flicker.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Roosting Habits of the Verdin.—For several summers I have observed the Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*) at Hot Springs, Brewster County, Texas. In this rough, dry country it is a common resident along chaparral-lined arroyos of the lowlands, and its compact nests are easy to find. Noting, almost invariably, an accumulation of excreta at the nest-entrance, I found myself wondering about the species' roosting habits.

Frequently during the last hour of daylight I came upon a nest with a protruding tail visible at the outer edge of the tunnel-like doorway. By cupping my hand over the nest-hole, I succeeded in capturing a bird now and then. Of five finally captured thus, all were adult. Every attempt to capture roosting birds not in such a "tail out" position failed.

At dusk on July 2, 1942, I found a nest with two tails showing in the entrance, and succeeded in capturing both birds, which proved to be young of the year. (At the same nest I had caught an adult on August 17, 1941.) The two immature birds

and the branch of granjeno (*Celtis pallida*) supporting the nest were brought indoors and placed in a cage.

During the first night the captives roosted on the twigs just under the nest. On the following night and every night thereafter they slept in the nest, tails pointed out the doorway. During the morning of July 8 they tore a small hole in the nest dome. At 10:30 that evening I flashed a light through this opening and discerned the birds sleeping side by side, each with head under scapulars and tail extending through the doorway. This was their sleeping position each night until they were released on July 12—to the excited *tschep-tscheps* of an adult pair, presumably the parent birds, that had been keeping daily vigil at a window near the cage.—LOVIE M. WHITAKER, 210 Plaza, Las Vegas, New Mexico.

An Unusual Nest of the Bronzed Grackle.—On April 16, 1941, as I was walking through an old apple orchard, a Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) flushed from a hole in one of the trees. On investigating the hole I found the Grackle's nest and four eggs. It was apparently an old Flicker hole, enlarged by decay and further excavating. The orchard was partly surrounded by large pine trees, planted many years ago as a windbreak. Several pairs of Grackles were nesting in the pine branches. I was surprised to find this one pair nesting in a hole, with so many of the pine trees they usually favor close at hand.—CLARK K. LLOYD, 2712 Hoover Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.

Snakes Destroying Birds' Eggs and Young.—Although during a period of a few years the average bird student may find many bird nests whose contents are destroyed, he rarely happens to visit a nest at the time of the destruction. I have had a number of such experiences involving snakes as the predators and list them in the order in which they occurred.

On July 27, 1930, when passing a friend's house in Battle Creek, he called me into the yard, explaining that a snake had eaten four well-grown Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina passerina*) from a nest four feet from the ground in a grapevine in their yard. The snake, a Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*), lay dead beside the grapevines, and when dissected proved to contain the remains of one of the Chipping Sparrows, the others having probably jumped out of the nest the minute the snake captured the one.

On June 5, 1941, while studying birds along the bank of the Battle Creek river, in Convis Township, Calhoun County, Michigan, I found a nest and five eggs of a Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) in the hollowed end of a branch of a fallen maple tree. On June 19 at 2 P.M. I found both birds scolding a Pilot Snake (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*) which was wrapped around the end of the branch with its head inside the opening that contained the nest. When killed, he was found to contain all five young of the Prothonotary Warbler, which were about two days old. The nest was only two feet from the ground, 159 feet from the river, in the bottomland area. The snake was identified by Morris Aiken of the Battle Creek Public School Museum.

While visiting the Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary in Convis Township, Calhoun County, on August 17, 1941, I heard the continued scolding notes of a Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis tristis*) on a side-hill south of the marsh, where I found the bird, a male, so interested in something that he did not note my approach until I was within three feet. The Goldfinch nest was located in a small hawthorn tree about four feet from the ground. Underneath the nest was a young bird, still unable to fly. On the opposite side of the tree was a five-foot Blue Racer (*Coluber constrictor flaviventris*), which I soon captured. With slight pressure, another young Goldfinch, the size of the one found on the ground, was forced from the mouth of the snake.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, Battle Creek, Michigan.