

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.