

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on Anegada, British West Indies.**—On January 24, 1950, I collected a female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) from a coconut tree on Anegada Island. My guide informed me that this bird was not uncommon and that he saw "woodpeckers" every year. Sapsuckers are ordinarily rare migrants in this part of the world. The island of Anegada, covered with the most meager xerophilous scrub and only thirty feet above sea level, hardly appeared to be the place to find one. I believe this a new record for the island. The bird is No. 26 in my collection.—GEORGE A. SEAMAN, *Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands.*

**Injury-feigning by the Catbird.**—At the 1949 annual meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Club, Mr. Frederick V. Hebard gave a paper entitled "Survey of injury-feigning birds on the A.O.U. checklist." At that time there were no published records of injury-feigning by members of the family Mimidae, and, so far as I know, there have been none since. Mr. Hebard informed me later (letter dated January 10, 1950), however, that a Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) he had observed (during the first week of August, 1949) "feigned mildly for the first several days after the eggs had hatched." He added that "this was the first Catbird nest from which I had ever surprised the adult bird."

On May 30, 1949, I flushed a Catbird from a nest containing five eggs. The bird flew to a gravel road only a few feet away and gave a modified broken-wing display, *i.e.*, fluttered its wings moderately fast as it moved slowly along the road away from me and the nest. The same behavior was repeated the following day, when there were still five eggs. The nest was destroyed before my next visit.

That injury feigning is not a common behavior pattern of the Catbird is indicated by the lack of published records and by the fact that I have observed it only at one nest in a six-year period, during which I observed 118 nests of this species.

A more common type of behavior of the Catbird when surprised on its nest is an intimidation display. In this, the incubating bird moves only a short distance from the nest before advancing with outstretched wings toward the observer, giving the typical loud alarm note repeatedly. Catbirds have, on several occasions, approached to within two or three feet of me with their wings outstretched in this manner.—ANDREW J. BERGER, *Department of Anatomy, East Medical Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan, July 20, 1953.*

**Brewer's Blackbird nesting in Indiana.**—Although a number of sight records and one specimen (Mumford, 1951. *Wilson Bull.*, 63:47) of Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) have previously been reported from Indiana, it was not until the spring of 1952 that the first nesting record was established. Since 1949 sight records have been obtained from Lake, St. Joseph, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, Noble, and Wayne counties. I have failed to find any earlier reports and Butler (1898. *Indiana Dept. Geol. Nat. Resources Ann. Rep.* 22:1178) carried the species on the hypothetical list.

Hubert O. Davis, W. Marvin Davis, and Richard E. Phillips observed a number of Brewer's Blackbirds of both sexes on a small, isolated remnant of prairie near Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, April 8, 1949. They also recorded the birds there in 1950 and 1951, but no search for nests was made. On May 11, 1952, Phillips found at least ten pairs of Brewer's Blackbirds on the area and was successful in locating a nest. It was on the ground in a rather dense growth of switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*) remaining from the previous year. This had fallen over and formed a tangled mat over the ground. The nest was sunken into the ground so that the rim was level with



FIG. 1 Brewer's Blackbird nest and eggs, Lake County, Indiana, May 11, 1952. Photo by Frank E. Phillips.

the surface. The nest contained five eggs (Fig. 1). Phillip's measurements of the nest are as follows: inside depth,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches; inside diameter,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  by  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The nest was composed of grasses and lined with fine rootlets. It was on a dry site, although the lower depressions on this tract contained water, in which were growing *Scirpus*, *Iris*, and other aquatic or semi-aquatic plants. Two cottonwood trees (*Populus deltoides*) were within 70 yards of the nest and were utilized by the males as singing perches. Two dense thickets of quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) were situated within 100 yards of the nest, but the remainder of the approximately 12-acre tract surrounding the nest was relatively open, except for scattered aspen of small size.

Phillips, Mrs. Mumford, and I visited the nest on May 17, 1952. There was a light rain falling at the time and we flushed the female from the nest. It contained three small young and two eggs. Dr. C. M. Kirkpatrick, Phillips, the Davises, and I visited the nest again May 30 and found it empty; we caught two fledglings near the nest, however, and observed both adults carrying food to the young from a field one-half mile away.

During our visit on May 17, we investigated the area about the nest carefully without finding evidence of other nests. We did locate a nest with three eggs about 300 yards southeast of the first one, in a partially-barren field which has been under cultivation the

previous year. The female was flushed from the nest, which was on the ground in the center of a clump of weeds. Both adults flew about over our heads scolding us while we examined the nest.

Further investigation of a similar tract of land across the highway from these two nests resulted in our finding a third nest, which contained one egg. This nest was also in a clump of vegetation in a field cultivated the year before. It was on the ground and constructed of soybean stems from the previous year's crop and lined with fine rootlets. It contained no mud. The nest and egg were collected and have been deposited in the Joseph Moore Museum, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana. The following measurements of the nest were taken: outside diameter, 132 by 160 mm.; inside diameter, 90 by 92 mm.; inside depth, 52 mm.; and outside depth, 90 mm.

Two more nests were located in the vicinity of this one on May 30. Both were in the same type of situation as the second and third nests above and they contained young almost ready to fly. We noted that the nesting birds became very excited as we approached a nest site. By studying the intensity of their scoldings, we found one nest more easily. All five of the above nests were placed within an area roughly 300 yards wide and 880 yards long. It is quite likely that more nesting pairs were present, since we observed 18 adults on May 17, most of which were males.

Another nesting record was established on May 23, 1952, when Mr. and Mrs. Ray Crow, James B. Cope, and Robert Lewis discovered a nest containing five young and one egg in Pine Township, Porter County, Indiana. This nest was on the ground in an alfalfa field about 30 feet from the edge of a plowed field. Four males and two females were observed in the area at the time.

The nesting of this species has probably been overlooked for some years in Indiana. On areas where muck farming is practiced, it seems that the birds might be present. Brewer's Blackbirds were rather common in Newton County, Indiana, during late March, 1953. Many flocks were noted with Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), Red-wings (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and Rusty Blackbirds (*Euphagus carolinus*). I made a brief visit to the Schererville area on May 11, 1953, and collected a male and a female Brewer's Blackbird; I observed 13 on the area at this time, but had no opportunity to search for nests. The specimens have been deposited in the Joseph Moore Museum.

I wish to thank Richard E. Phillips for permission to publish the above data and Frank E. Phillips for the accompanying photograph. Thanks are also extended to James B. Cope for supplying the data on the Porter County nest.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, *Route 1, Cortland, Indiana, August 11, 1953.*

**Wintering Blue and Snow geese in northern Alabama.**—Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) and Lesser Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea hyperborea*) in the eastern United States normally winter in the coastal marshes of the Gulf of Mexico. There are scattered winter records in the interior, but the establishment of a small flock wintering regularly on the comparatively recent impoundments of the Tennessee River is new and interesting.

Impoundment of the Tennessee Valley Authority's reservoirs on the Tennessee River began with the completion of Wheeler Dam in 1936, followed quickly by the completion of the Gunter'sville, Pickwick, Kentucky, and other dams. Prior to these impoundments, Blue and Snow geese were virtually unknown to residents of the Tennessee Valley. Howell's "Birds of Alabama," last printed in 1928, lists both species as only rare and irregular migrants in the state. With Wheeler Reservoir impounded in 1936, Blue