phellos), the crown of which covers about 1/20 of an acre. Fifty-two nutlets were counted in the square foot.

Fox Sparrows (*Passerella iliaca*) are observed in fair numbers along woodland margins bordering the fields, but on March 17, 1956, there was a noticeable increase of them. Two days later, they were widespread on the farm and particularly noticeable in the rose hedges. From 5 to 10 of these large sparrows fed daily under the above-mentioned willow oak, suggesting they might be taking advantage of the seeds dispersed by the waxwings. Seven Fox Sparrows and one Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) were collected from this area and their gizzards were examined by A. C. Martin. Six of the Fox Sparrows contained from 60 to 100 per cent multiflora rose seeds and the other about 5 per cent. About 5 per cent of the contents of the Song Sparrow included rose seeds.—FREDERICK C. SCHMID, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Laurel, Maryland, February 15, 1957.*

Nesting of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in Michigan.—On May 31, 1957, I found a nest of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) in north-central Michigan. During the next few weeks, the nest was visited by a number of people, and I have drawn bits of information from several of them to prepare as complete an account as possible on this little-known species. This was the first nest reported for the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and the third for the state. Two nests were found in the Upper Peninsula in 1941 (Blain, 1941. *Jack-pine Warbler*, 21:72–74) and in 1949 (Bourdo and Hesterburg, *ibid.*, 29:78–81).

The nest was located in Oscoda County less than a mile west of Mack Lake (Sec. 5, T26N, R3E). It was situated in a clearing caused by a fire that had swept through the jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) forest here on April 2, 1946. This fire had burned about 6000 acres but had left many "islands" of living pines and a few standing dead pines. The ground cover was sparse and the openings were unevenly covered by a new growth of jack pines, the largest of which were a little more than head high. On the same day in 1946, five fires had swept this county, destroying a total of nearly 20,000 acres of forest.

On the day of this discovery, Lawrence H. Walkinshaw and I were in the area looking for Kirtland's Warblers, (*Dendroica kirtlandii*), and it may be more than a coincidence that Norman Wood collected a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in this same region on the trip when he found the first nest of the Kirtland's Warbler in 1903. It may be that the fires which produce Kirtland's Warbler habitat also produce conditions favorable to this woodpecker.

The nest cavity was situated 3½ feet from the ground in a dead jack pine. The tree was 6½ inches in diameter at nest height and was broken off 14 feet above the ground. The entrance was almost circular, 1¾ inches in diameter. Walter Nickell probed the cavity with a twig and found it to extend downward 13 inches below the entrance. For at least a quarter of a mile in all directions the trunks of trees were conspicuously marked where slabs of bark had been removed by the feeding activities of this pair. Most of the feeding took place on dead trees, some standing and some lying on the ground.

The woodpeckers were not wary; they approached the nest readily with people standing 10 feet away. The female gave a low-pitched "chuck" occasionally and the male gave calls somewhat like those of the Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). But the birds usually remained at middle or low heights in the forest and were not conspicuous.

At the time the nest was found, and again the following morning, June 1, the female was flushed from the cavity and the male was not seen. We believed the female to be incubating but were unable to see the nest contents with flashlight and mirror. On June 2,

the male was flushed from the cavity; he quickly returned, however, and remained as though incubating. On June 4, Verne Dockham watched the nest from 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For the first four hours of this period, only the female entered the cavity, remaining in it for periods of 25, 12, 10, 20, 15, 21, 8, 18, 5, 15, and 4 minutes (average, 14 minutes); and away for periods of 5, 3, 20, 3, 32, 6, 7, 5, 7, 9 minutes (average 9½ minutes). Then the male came to the cavity and remained 50 minutes. The birds were believed to be incubating at this time.

On June 11, Walkinshaw and W. A. Dyer visited the nest and found the adults feeding young whose calls could be heard in the cavity. During a three-hour period on the morning of June 12, the female visited the nest for periods of 22, 1, 2, 38, and 17 minutes; the male visited for periods of 2, 1, 4, 31, and 13 minutes; and the nest was unattended by adults for periods of 14, 7, 20, 7, and 15 minutes.

In a period of three hours and 25 minutes on June 14 and two hours and 10 minutes on June 15, Dr. and Mrs. W. Powell Cottrille noted eight visits by the female on two of which the bird stayed to brood (24 and 19 minutes each); and 11 visits by the male, of which six lasted 6 to 13 minutes and others two minutes or less. The adult male was banded on June 23 by A. J. Berger. There appeared to be two young birds in the nest, one with the yellow head-patch of a male. On June 29 the young birds raised their heads to the entrance, and on June 30 stood in the entrance (one at a time) with heads protruding. Even when hidden in the cavity, the young almost steadily uttered vibrant calls that could be heard more than 100 feet. Verne Dockham found both young birds present on July 2, but only the young male was visible when Walkinshaw and Dyer arrived on July 3. The young bird called incessantly as though very hungry, and the adults did not appear during the half hour the men waited. The next day Dyer spent more than two hours waiting for the adults to appear while the young male called steadily as though in great hunger.

On July 4 at 10:30 a.m., 34 days after the nest was discovered, the young male left the nest, flying 200 feet to a tall dead pine and then on to a grove of living pines, calling steadily. The adults were not seen.—HAROLD MAYFIELD, *River Road RFD, Waterville, Ohio, January 9, 1958.*

American Avocet in Michigan.—On September 22, 1957, Laurence C. Binford, Larry L. Wolf, and I observed an American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) on a pond at the corner of Dunbar Road and U.S. Highway 24 A., Monroe, Monroe County, Michigan. The bird was feeding in water two inches deep about 25 feet from a cat-tail marsh bordering a city dump.

The bird (UMMZ No. 152485) proved to be an immature female; bursa of Fabricius 12 × 10 mm., ovary 12 × 7 mm., weight 338.1 grams, moderately fat.

This appears to be the first specimen for Michigan, although Walter B. Barrows (1912. "Michigan Bird Life," pp. 169–170) reports an unverified specimen taken by W. H. Collins from the St. Clair flats (? Michigan or Ontario) in 1874. Mr. Louis W. Campbell saw an Avocet near the Erie Shooting and Fishing Club Clubhouse, near Erie, Michigan (10 miles south of the collecting site of our specimen) on September 8, 1957. It is likely that the bird seen by Campbell is the one we collected. However, an invasion of the species may be indicated by observations in Ohio. Alta Smith reports having seen an Avocet on September 14, 1957, at Bay Point near Marblehead, Ohio, 45 miles southeast of Monroe, and Jack Confer photographed 12 on the mud flats of the Miami River near Dayton, Ohio, on August 27, 1957.—ROBERT P. KIRBY, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, January 10, 1958.*