

"squeaking." Unlike many species, Sharp-tailed Sparrows which have once responded remain in view for several minutes allowing detailed study with binoculars or telescope.

Fall dates of occurrence of this species in southern Michigan range from September 16 (1956) to October 16 (1935), with most observations falling between September 23 and October 9. Fleugel reports: "In the fall I see them the last week of September through the first week in October." His records indicate that Sharp-tailed Sparrows enter Michigan in the spring as early as April 28, but he also notes that they are most numerous the last week in May. The May 29, 1939, specimen further bears out his observations. We wish to thank Fleugel for making his notes available to us.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*, and DALE A. ZIMMERMAN, *Department of Biology, New Mexico Western College, Silver City, New Mexico, April 4, 1958.*

Brown-headed Cowbird fledged in nest of Catbird.—In a search through the literature on the Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) and the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), I have found no documented record of cowbirds being hatched or fledged in the nest of a Catbird. Trautman (1940. *Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich.*, no. 44: 393) lists two examples of Catbirds feeding cowbird young out of the nest. No details were given. Elder (1921. *Bird-Lore*, 23:185) stated that he had known of cowbirds being reared in the nests of Catbirds but gave no further information. Friedmann (1929. "The Cowbirds," p. 193) stated that, "The Robin, Catbird and Yellow-breasted Chat are examples of absolutely intolerant species." Further (p. 253) in reference to the Catbird he wrote, "As far as I know the Cowbird has never been definitely reported to be successful with this bird . . ." Bent (1948. *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* no. 195:346) stated that, "it is obvious that the catbird is very intolerant of foreign eggs."

My field studies of about 3,000 nest records of the Catbird for southern Michigan over a period of 30 years show only eight nests parasitized or about one in every 375. My records of cowbird parasitism of the Catbird, all in Oakland County, Michigan, except the last, were on the following dates: One nest, June 11, 1939; two nests, May 28, 1950; one each on July 16, 1950, and May 12, 1951, May 28, 1952, June 1, 1953, and June 19, 1957. Six nests held one cowbird egg each at the time of discovery, and one nest held two eggs of the parasite. The cowbird eggs in two nests were partially covered by the nest linings, and two were laid in nest foundations so as to be completely covered by more than two inches of nesting material. All cowbirds' eggs had disappeared from five nests in less than a day from the time they were laid, one egg disappearing in less than an hour after being deposited. These eggs were probably ejected by the hosts, for in all instances the hosts' eggs remained undisturbed. Only the nest containing two cowbird eggs and two of the host showed evidence of possible removal of host eggs by the cowbird. The shells of cowbird eggs were found under three nests from which they had been removed.

On June 11, 1939, I placed a cowbird egg in the nest of a Catbird a short time after the Catbird's third egg had been laid. At 8:00 the next morning I observed that the fourth Catbird egg had been laid and that the cowbird egg had disappeared. One egg of the Catbird had been pierced. About three hours later I found another Catbird egg pierced, and the nest deserted. On June 27, 1941, I placed a 3-day-old cowbird in a Catbird's nest which contained four young about the same age. Three hours later the cowbird had disappeared, and one Catbird young was on the nest foundation outside the nest. I replaced the Catbird, and it was accepted by the adults. All the young later left the nest successfully. On June 20, 1957, five miles southeast of Windsor, Essex

County, Ontario, I found the nest of a catbird in a thick clump of hawthorn, 117 inches above the ground. The nest held two six- or seven-day-old Catbirds and one almost-fledged cowbird a day or two older. All three young were banded with Fish and Wildlife Service bands and placed back in the nest. The Catbird young stayed but the cowbird flew to another clump of hawthorns about 30 feet away where it was captured and returned to the nest. Both adult Catbirds made outcries and engaged in flogging at the nest and the site where the cowbird young was recaptured.—WALTER P. NICKELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, March 28, 1958.*

Singing by female Indigo Bunting and Rufous-sided Towhee.—The purpose of this note is to add two species, the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) and the Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), to the list of those in which the females, “ordinarily considered songless, may occasionally sing” (M. M. Nice. 1943. *Trans. Linnaean Soc. New York*, 6:131). Both bunting and towhee were heard near Bloomington, Indiana, on dates falling at the very beginnings of the nesting seasons of their respective species in this locality.

Passerina cyanea.—This female, a bird with no blue visible in her plumage, sang during two brief intervals on May 29, 1956, a cloudy day with temperatures of 66° and 76°F. at the times of singing. At 5:01 a.m. Central Standard Time she mounted to the top of a 15-foot Virginia pine, the highest perch within 20 yards in scrubby old-field growth. During the next two or three minutes she sang 10 loud songs, described below, then moved a few yards and sang 10 more from a spot out of my sight. Between 9:11 and 9:21 she sang six times from the same general location, but again I could not see her. There was no repetition of the song during the rest of the day, all of which I spent watching a Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) nest in this field. I did not hear the song here on four other dawn-to-dark watches and many briefer ones between May 17 and June 8.

The song, which was wholly unmusical, consisted of five similar windy, vibrant notes uttered in staccato fashion and seeming to my ear to rise in pitch from first to last. I was reminded of the abrupt, choppy song of the Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) and could not have identified the singer's species by her voice.

A male Indigo Bunting was on territory in the field, and though he sang and was in view repeatedly throughout May 29, I neither saw nor heard him while the female was singing. A female was found incubating on this territory some two weeks later.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus.—At 4:30 a.m. on April 23, 1957, a cloudy morning with the temperature at 65°, I heard a loud and unfamiliar song, faintly reminiscent of the utterance of the male towhee. A female was perched 14 feet high in the top of a flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) in an old field; in five minutes she sang 15 times, then flew down and fell silent. I heard her no more, although I passed the spot daily and in June spent two full days watching warbler nests nearby. A male towhee held territory there, but he was not in evidence within 15 minutes of the time when the female sang. A towhee nest with eggs was being incubated in May.

The song under discussion was made up of five and sometimes six notes, a long “dee” followed by a series of rapid “da” sounds on the same key. The quality was labored and unmusical, flat and somewhat squeaky.

It will be noted that each of the foregoing singers is like the female Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) in certain particulars mentioned by Mrs. Nice (*op. cit.*, 127): The song “is confined to the period in early spring before nest building begins . . .; it is always given from an elevation—a large weed, a bush or even a tree, in contrast to the