

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

female's usual behavior of staying close to the ground; it is short, simple, and entirely unmusical." Like the female Song Sparrow's performance, too, those described here apparently elicited no response from other birds of the relevant species.—VAL NOLAN JR., *Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, March 14, 1958.*

Semipalmated Sandpiper from Tamaulipas.—On August 21, 1954, J. R. Alcorn collected two Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*), 20 miles southeast of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, along the Gulf Coast in the vicinity of the Laguna del Barril. The measurements of the two specimens (KU 34475, male; KU 34474, unsexed) are, respectively: bill, 18.5 and 17.0 mm.; wing (chord), 88.0 and 94.0 mm.

These specimens are the first of this sandpiper from Mexico outside of the State of Quintana Roo and Cozumel Island (Friedmann, Griscom, Moore, 1950. *Pac. Coast Avif.* no. 29:99). H. E. Dresser (*Ibis*, 1866:37) stated that this sandpiper was not uncommon near Matamoros; Dresser probably took no specimen. The absence of records of the Semipalmated Sandpiper from the coastal states of Mexico is seemingly due to lack of ornithological field work, since this bird is known to winter from the southern coast of the United States south into South America.—MAX THOMPSON, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, February 20, 1958.*

Steller's Jay anting with tobacco smoke.—Three hand-reared Steller's Jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), sent to me from Seattle, Washington, have several hours' liberty each day, but always follow me into the songbird observatory in the early evening where they are safe from predators during the night. Although all three are exceedingly trustful and, while out, remain among the shrubbery or on the lawn within calling distance, one will not let me out of its sight, even following me into the wooded areas surrounding my Windinglane Bird Sanctuary.

While on the lawn, this bird in particular, ants with the small yellow ant, *Tapinoma* sp. Much of the time, however, he stays close by me, never still except when he stands on my shoulder. Should I be smoking a pipe while he is there and the smoke blow toward him he ants with the smoke in the typical manner of anting. Should I light my pipe and blow the match out he grabs it and ants with the hot carbonized end. Should a visitor light a cigarette he will fly past and grab it from the visitor's mouth. Yet, I have not seen him ant with the burning cigarette, which he simply tears to pieces.—H. ROY IVOR, *R.R. 1, Erindale, Ontario, May 29, 1958.*