

height or song perch). A study now in progress at the William Hutcheson Memorial Forest, a mature oak forest on the Piedmont of New Jersey, offers some additional data for comparison. Forty-eight censuses to date, 30 during June and July of 1958, 10 in June, 1959, and others in April and May, 1959, have included observations of the singing height of at least 30 territorial males each year in the 63 acres of the forest. Stenger and Falls report that their birds sang from the lower branches of the canopy of each forest studied, which would be at heights of somewhat less than 45, 50, 55, or 85 feet according to the type of forest (Stenger and Falls, *op. cit.*, Table 1), and they observed that the height of song perches was proportional to the height of the canopy. At Hutcheson Forest, where the canopy is from 50 to 95 feet high, only 3 per cent of the singing males utilized sub-canopy perches. The majority, 71 per cent, of song perches were in the understory which is primarily of dogwood, 10 to 35 feet high. A few records (16%) show singing birds utilizing shrub or herbaceous perches. Evidently in this old oak forest, canopy height is not as important as it is in the aspen, conifer-birch, or maple-beech of Algonquin Park. Stenger and Falls indicate that in effect the Ovenbirds sang just below the densest layer of the forest canopy. Some interpretation is necessary here for Table 1 of Stenger and Falls (*ibid.*) indicates the "lower canopy" in the maple forest is the densest (85 per cent coverage at 35 feet, median values) rather than the "upper canopy," and this would then place Ovenbird singing height at near 35 feet rather than just under 85 feet, the former figure then being close to that observed at Hutcheson Forest. At any rate, singing height, or song perches at Hutcheson Forest is not as clearly related to density as in the Ontario forests, for both the dogwood understory and the oak canopy are essentially continuous, except in the area of windthrows, yet the birds utilize the lower continuous understory rather than the dense oak canopy. Territorial size does not seem to be related to height of song perches as the former is less variable than the latter, a fact in agreement with the findings of Stenger and Falls. Perhaps neither density or height of vegetation per se is a significant variable in determining singing height, though some factor operating as a consequence of density, for example, the extent of territory visible to the bird, may be involved. Certainly more data are needed on height of activity of this and other woodland species.—JEFF SWINEBROAD, *Department of Biological Sciences, Douglass College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, July 7, 1959.*

**Courting dance of the Whip-poor-will.**—One dark night I was listening to a Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*). He was very close but I could not see him. Suddenly his song stopped and a buzzing sound took its place, much as if a mechanical toy were running down. I could not imagine any bird making such a sound. I heard no more song and feared some animal had caught the bird.

Then came the summer of 1947, when a Whip-poor-will sang every night from my porch roof, his song often punctuated by the buzzing. On June 14, I stationed myself at a window opening onto the roof. It did not seem quite as dark as usual, or perhaps he sang a little earlier. There he was, almost on a level with me and not more than three feet away. I could see him very clearly, and watched his every move.

His actions as he sang reminded me of an opera singer. He turned to the left, sang *whip-poor-will*, faced the front, repeated it, and then sang it again facing right. He did this for several minutes, turning after each *whip-poor-will*. Suddenly his song stopped. He spread his wings and tail, and thrust his head forward and down. Seeming to use his head as a pivot, he turned around and around, all the time making the mechanical buzzing sound with which I had become familiar. In the increasing darkness I could not see another bird, but I feel there must have been a female nearby watching, and that

I had observed the courtship dance of the Whip-poor-will. This dance differed markedly from the courtship dance and behavior described by others, as quoted by Bent (1940. U.S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 176:164-165).—MARGARET F. FULLER, *Route 2, Frazeyburg, Ohio, August 5, 1959.*

**Black Vulture extends breeding range northward.**—Raymond W. Smith, reporting in 1891 the breeding of the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) in Warren County, Ohio, wrote (*Cin. Soc. Nat. Hist. Jour.*, 14:113), "This is, I think, the northernmost record of this vulture breeding, and the first record of its breeding in the state." Edward S. Thomas, having found a nest in Hocking County, Ohio, in 1923, wrote (1928. Ohio State Mus. Sci. Bull., Vol. I, No. 1), "This seems to be the northernmost breeding record of the species in Ohio, possibly in the United States." This Hocking County site has remained the most northern location of the species reported breeding in Ohio until the present record of a nest identified by us on July 26, 1959, in the northeast corner of Licking County, about one mile south of the Knox County line in Ohio, and about 45 miles north of the Hocking County location.

Of the records of the advance northward of this species in its breeding range in the United States, the one nearest to the Licking County site is that of April, 1952, near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which is apparently about 30 miles south of this new nest (Grube, 1953. *Wilson Bull.*, 65:119).

The present nest contained two eggs when discovered on July 1, 1959, a late date for a Black Vulture's nesting. The nest lacked positive identification until July 26, when we saw two nestlings covered with the tan down distinctive of the young of the Black Vulture, while an adult Black Vulture perched 15 feet away. The nestlings were estimated to be about two days old.

The finding of this nest is verification of earlier indications of the nesting of this species in this region. Greider, who has been watching birds here since 1942, first saw one or two Black Vultures from time to time in the summer of 1952, and the birds have been seen here in small numbers every summer since. Wagner reported observations in the area from 1955 to 1958 (*Aud. Field Notes*, 9:381; 10:144, 254, 387; 12:260, 282).

We have data on the food of the adults and on the appearance and behavior of the nestlings as they have grown. These details (and photographs) are available for anyone interested.

On August 22, 1959, the young birds remained at or near the spot where they were hatched. This is in an open area roughly 10 feet by 40 feet framed by boulders, and at the top of a ridge covered with fairly dense small second growth. This area is about six feet below the level of the ground above. The location is in the hilly unglaciated country of the Allegheny Plateau at the foothills of the Appalachians.—MARIE GREIDER, *61 North 24th Street, Newark, Ohio*, and ELIZABETH SIDWELL WAGNER, *Utica, Ohio, August 25, 1959.*