

wren box. Twice, however, when we pulled the branches aside the Catbird was incubating, and the evidence suggested that it was now spending most of its time on its own nest and carrying food to the wrens as it returned at the end of inattentive periods. There were two other developments of 16 and 17 June: Both Catbirds now sometimes chased the wrens when they met them; and the nestling wrens did not always accept the items brought by the Catbird, which then usually left with the food after 30 to 60 seconds at the wren house. Wing-quivering continued to mark the smaller Catbird's behavior, and at times it or its supposed mate called *chuck* in the immediate vicinity of the wren house.



A few days later, Mrs. Beatty found the wren house on the ground below the railing, and when she attempted to hang it in a new position the young wrens left it. The noise of the departure of the wrens brought a Catbird to the scene, but no attentiveness to the fledglings was noticed. Shortly after this, the Catbird eggs hatched, and the young ultimately left the nest.—VAL NOLAN, JR., *Indiana University*, and RAYMOND SCHNEIDER, 2805 Headley Road, Bloomington, Indiana, 21 December 1961.

Meadowlark killed by electric fence.—In early September 1955, near Waterman, DeKalb County, Illinois, I discovered an Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) hanging by one foot from the corner of a fence row. The dead bird was suspended from a brace wire running from the top of the corner post to the ground at the next post. About two inches from this wire was a fence wire carrying a pulsating six-volt shock alternated with a twelve-volt shock every sixth time. The extra strong sixth shock of this popularly named "weed burner" fence is for the purpose of burning off plants that would normally grow up around the fence and short it out. The bird was apparently shocked and killed when attempting to step from the grounded brace wire to the electric wire. The foot, by which the bird was hanging, was badly scorched and the mark of the wire was embedded in the flesh of the toes. The free-hanging foot was badly burned; two toes remained intact. The bird probably died instantly because when I moved it the attached foot fell free; had the bird struggled much it would certainly have fallen from the wire.—JAMES TATE, JR., *Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois*, 16 October 1961.