

chicks scattered from the nest in all directions. I caught one of the young, and as I held the chick, which remained silent, the adult ran about at a distance of one to three meters from me, with its head lowered, wings widely spread, and tail raised (Fig. 1), uttering sharp *heck* calls every two or three seconds. The body feathers were not raised. It moved erratically through the cattails, rocking from one side to the other, and occasionally beat at the water with its wings. After I released the chick, which immediately ran into a dense cattail clump, the adult moved farther away, continuing to display until I left the area, five minutes later.

Observations of distraction displays by Virginia Rails have been reported by Weber (1909. *Auk*, 26:19-22) and Pospichal and Marshall (1954. *Flicker*, 26:1-32). The bird observed by Weber, at a nest containing 10 eggs, remained near the nest, "strutting about with her feathers puffed up and wings spread like a turkey cock," uttering a low grunting sound. In contrast to this description, the birds I observed displaying did not raise the body feathers. Pospichal and Marshall reported that adults with young moved about the nest site, often walking toward the nest with head and neck bowed and outstretched and wings partially outspread and bowed, frequently giving regularly spaced rasping calls. —JOHN A. WIENS, *Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1 August 1965.*

The Carolina Parakeet in Illinois.—Little is known about the distribution of the now extinct Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) in Illinois. The earliest published references are in the accounts of explorers and fur traders. McKinley (1960. *Wilson Bull.*, 72:274) summarized the earlier literature on the Carolina Parakeet in the Mississippi Valley. My account summarizes the available information pertaining to the distribution of the parakeet in Illinois. Two additional records for the state are included, and corrections regarding two earlier publications are noted.

Hahn (1963. "Where is that Vanished Bird?" Royal Ontario Mus.) listed two Illinois specimens among the 720 skins and mounts and 16 skeletons possessed by various institutions and individuals. One of these specimens (Chicago Acad. Sci. Coll.) was collected by R. Kennicott in Union County, Illinois. Conflicting data are available for the date of collection: The specimen label lists 1857, but the Museum Catalog card has the note "about 1855." The second specimen (U.S. Natl. Mus. Coll.), a male, is the one listed by Baird (1858. "Pacific Railroad Survey," 9:68) as being collected at Cairo, Illinois, in about 1834, and presented to the U.S. National Museum by Kennicott. Recently Daniel McKinley informed me (letter, 18 September 1965) that this latter specimen was actually collected by J. K. Townsend, not Kennicott, and just how Kennicott got it is unknown.

Smith and Parmalee (1955. *Illinois State Mus. Pop. Sci. Ser.*, 4:36) reported a sight record (substantiated by T. E. Musselman) of a flock near Kates Lake, Adams County, about mid-April 1884. McKinley (1960. *op. cit.*) felt this represented a late date for that area.

In March 1963, while looking over the small Currier bird collection in the Aurora Historical Museum, I discovered a well-mounted Carolina Parakeet, listed as Number 17, and reported as being from the Aurora area. An actual collection date for the specimen was not given but brief notes accompanying the specimens stated that they were prepared in the 1880's. This collection was donated by Dr. Charles R. Currier, father of the late Dr. Clark Currier, and contains only locally collected specimens.

Daniel McKinley (letter, 18 September 1965 and 7 October 1965) informed me of a fourth Illinois specimen which is in the collection of the late Harold H. Bailey at Rock-

bridge Alum Springs Biological Laboratory, Goshen, Virginia. The specimen is a female collected along the Illinois River on 8 May 1879 and originally in the collection of Matthew Clugston.

From the data presented it is apparent that the parakeet was still present in the Illinois River Valley until 1880, and was not extirpated about 1861 as cited by Swenk (1934. *Nebraska Bird Rev.*, 2:55-59). Bent (1940. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 176:12), refers to references regarding two sight records for the Chicago area in 1912, but feels that these are based on escaped cage birds. With the disappearance of the parakeet from surrounding states prior to 1890, little doubt this is correct.

I'm greatly indebted to Mr. Daniel McKinley of Lake Erie College for furnishing data from his files, and also Dr. William E. Southern of Northern Illinois University for suggestions and advice.—HARLAN D. WALLEY, 717 North Elm St., Sandwich, Illinois, 15 November 1965 (originally submitted 12 July 1965).

A Florida winter specimen of *Dendroica petechia gundlachi*.—On 2 December 1961, a dead Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) in good condition was found floating in Tavernier Creek, Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, by Alexander Sprunt IV and the author. Subspecific identification proved the specimen to be the West Indian race, *gundlachi* (formerly known as the Cuban Golden Warbler). To my knowledge this represents the first specimen of *gundlachi* taken in the United States during the winter months and confirms the resident status of this form in the Florida Keys. There have been many recent sight records during the winter season. The specimen (No. 4717) has been deposited in the reference collection of the Department of Zoology, University of Miami.

Since its discovery in the Lower Florida Keys in 1941 this West Indian race has apparently extended its breeding range into the Upper Keys and to the keys of Florida Bay. Though no actual nests have been found, singing males have recently been discovered during the breeding season on Virginia Key near Miami and on the Oyster Keys of western Florida Bay in the Everglades National Park. It is reasonable to expect that within the near future the breeding range of this warbler will extend to suitable mangrove habitat on the mainland of south Florida.—RICHARD L. CUNNINGHAM, *Everglades National Park, Homestead, Florida, 5 August 1965*.

Notes on mate and habitat selection in the Yellow Warbler.—The typical habitat of the Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) is "moisture-loving shrubs and small trees" (Bent, 1953. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 203). We have some observations indicating that the vegetational nature of the territory selected by the male influences the female's choice of a mate.

We studied the behavior of a population of Yellow Warblers at Howland's Island, New York from 30 April to 9 May 1963. The birds were concentrated along a river and the population density was very high. However, the habitat varied: although all of the study-area territories possessed tall trees, one part of the area, occupied by five males, seemed to differ only in having little or no vegetation less than 20 feet tall. The first female arrived on 4 May and on 8 May we censused the females. The five males in the areas without shrubbery were unmated, while only two of the 10 males in the adjacent area with shrubbery were unmated. We could not continue the study beyond 8 May, by which