

Pilot black snake predation on the Long-billed Marsh Wren.—On 6 June 1965 we observed a juvenile pilot black snake in a Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris*) nest in a marsh along the Potomac River 4 miles south of Washington, D.C. The snake was collected and two fresh Long-billed Marsh Wren eggs were found in its stomach.

The nest containing the snake and several nearby nests were built in narrowleaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) at a height of about 4 feet above high tide and at a distance of about 15 yards from the river. The snake, 38.25 cm in total length and 0.75 cm in diameter, was identified as *Elaphe o. obsoleta* by Dr. James A. Peters of the U.S. National Museum.

According to Wright (1957, "Handbook of Snakes," pp. 230-235) this snake is one of the most arboreal of northeastern snakes and is found mostly in hilly, rocky, or scrubby mountainous regions. It lives upland, away from lakes and swamps, and is not generally considered an aquatic or semiaquatic snake. However, Kilham (1959, *Wilson Bull.*, 71:191) observed a pilot black snake near a Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) nest in a swamp over a period of 5 days.

Uhler et al. (1939, *Trans. Fourth N. Amer. Wildl. Conf.*, pp. 608, 612-613), in a study of pilot black snake food habits in Virginia, reported that birds and their eggs constituted 13.31 per cent by volume of this snake's diet. No marsh wrens were reported as food items but this is to be expected since the study area did not contain marsh wren habitat. Apparently this is the first record of snake predation on the Long-billed Marsh Wren and is certainly the first record for the pilot black snake.—ROGER CLAPP AND TINA C. ABBOTT, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., 7 September 1965.

Nesting record of the Hermit Thrush in the Black Hills.—On 19 June 1965, while attending the Wilson Ornithological Society meeting in the South Dakota Black Hills, we observed a Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*) nest in the vicinity of Sylvan Lake. Recorded sightings of the Hermit Thrush in the Black Hills are few and no nesting records have been recorded, according to Pettingill and Whitney (1965, "Birds of the Black Hills").

The nest site was approximately 1 mile northwest of Sylvan Lake near the top of the western slope of the canyon below the dam. The nest was about 35 feet from the ground in a birch (*Betula papyrifera*). About 15 feet north of the tree was a sheer granite up-rising estimated to be at least 100 feet in height. South of the tree was a smaller rock about 30 feet in height from which we stepped into the tree to observe the nest. Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), spruce (*Picea glauca*), and birch were the dominant trees in this moderately wooded area.

We first sighted the nest at 6:30 AM and a bird, presumably the female, was sitting on the nest. After observing no conspicuous eye ring we flushed the bird and immediately saw the reddish tail. The nest held four unmarked blue eggs.

We returned to the nest site at 7:30 AM with Dr. George M. Sutton, who verified our finding after observing the incubating bird and one of the eggs.

We carefully observed the nest from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM, during which time the female remained on the nest. At 9:30 AM a second bird, presumably the male, flew to the large lateral branch supporting the nest. The male, approximately 8 feet from the nest, stayed in this position for 1½ hours, during which time the only movements observed were several head twists, one seemingly in response to the call of a Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*). At 11:00 AM he moved down the branch and stood on the edge of the nest. No interactions were noted between him and the incubating bird. The

male then dropped to the ground and was not observed again. He did not sing during this period.

At 5:00 PM we returned to the nest site briefly with Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. and Dr. Nathaniel R. Whitney, Jr. The incubating bird flushed when we were within 20 feet of the nest.

On 20 June we returned to the nest site at 4:30 AM and again inspected the nest and four eggs. The female was incubating and did not leave until we were only a few feet from her. Several times she flew in close during our brief visit.

The nest was attached to a loose, dead branch, about 1½ inches in diameter and 1½ feet long, that lay in a crotch where a somewhat larger live branch extended laterally from the main trunk. The outside of the nest was constructed of dry grass, small spruce twigs, a few pine needles, and some pieces of lichen (*Usnea* sp.) and moss (*Hypnum* sp.). It was lined with dry grass and fine rootlets. The inside diameter of the nest was about 3¾ inches and the total diameter was about 5 inches.—DALE W. GREINER AND BOB NEILL, *Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas, 9 August 1965.*

Returns of Kirtland's Warblers banded as nestlings.—Mayfield (1960. "The Kirtland's Warbler." Cranbrook Inst. of Science, Bull. 40, p. 206) states that of 222 Kirtland's Warblers (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) banded as nestlings, three have been seen as adults. During the 1963, 1964, and 1965 seasons we have been doing field work on the Kirtland's Warbler Management Area, Huron National Forest, Oscoda County, Michigan. During the 1963 and 1964 seasons 31 warblers were banded as nestlings by us and by Andrew J. Berger. Two of these have been seen as adults, both during the 1965 season.

The list below gives the data on these latter two birds as well as data on the first three, which Mr. Mayfield has kindly sent me from his files. All five were females.

41-97295 banded by Josselyn Van Tyne, 12 June 1946, Sec. 12, T27N, R1E, Oscoda County. Recovery by Harold Mayfield 14 June 1947, Sec. 19, T25N, R4E, Oscoda County (30.6 km SE of nest where banded).

49-30955 banded by Josselyn Van Tyne, 23 June 1953, Sec. 34, T26N, R2W, Crawford County. Recovery by Andrew J. Berger, 18 June 1955, Sec. 4, T25N, R2W, Crawford County (1.1 km SW of nest where banded).

49-30961 banded by Josselyn Van Tyne, 21 June 1953, Sec. 33, T26N, R2W, Crawford County. Recovery by Andrew J. Berger, 23 June 1956, Sec. 8, T25N, R3E, Oscoda County (37 km E of nest where banded).

50-28080 banded by Andrew J. Berger, 24 June 1963, Sec. 10, T25N, R3E, Oscoda County. This bird was first sighted, as an adult, by Nicholas and Mabel Cuthbert on 14 July 1965. Following their directions we relocated this female on 15 July. We found her nest and recovered the female in Sec. 28, T33N, R2E, Presque Isle County (73 km N of nest where banded).

107-76121 banded by us on 19 July 1964, Sec. 11, T25N, R3E, Oscoda County. Recovery by us 29 June 1965, Sec. 2, T25N, R3E, Oscoda County (1.6 km WNW from nest where banded).

Only the gradual accumulation of occasional sightings will reveal the movements and distribution of Kirtland's Warblers banded as nestlings and fledglings. It is hoped that this list of records known to date will make interested people more alert to future sightings.—BRUCE E. RADABAUGH, FLOYD E. RADABAUGH, AND CLARICE A. RADABAUGH, *1208 East 12-Mile Road, Royal Oak, Michigan, 7 September 1965.*