

Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*).—Several were seen in this general area at one time. Their attitude was similar to that of the Barn Swallows, staying in the area for short periods of time but no sightings of ant captures were observed.

The following were noted during the observation period, but were not seen to feed on ants: Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), and Black-and-White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). The last two species were seen feeding on insects other than ants.

Unlike the observations of Baird and Meyerriecks (Wilson Bull., 77:89–91, 1965) the food supply (represented by the ants) was not heavily used by birds. Certainly there was no observed social stimulation during this period. Only the Purple Finches fed heavily on ants, and their activities were apparently not sufficient to stimulate or attract other species to this abundant food supply.

I noted several species feeding on grounded ants, while Baird and Meyerriecks apparently saw none. This was most evident with the Purple Finches and Hermit Thrush which were observed taking grounded ants. Although exact capture counts were not made, I would estimate that both these species fed as much on grounded as on flying ants.

I would like to thank James Baird for his advice.—RICHARD A. HARLOW, JR., *Tabor Academy, Marion, Massachusetts, 02738, 10 August 1970.*

Nesting of Bell's Vireo in North Dakota.—The first known nesting record of the Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) in North Dakota was obtained by the junior author, approximately one mile northwest of Bismarck, North Dakota on 11 July 1954. The male had been seen, and its characteristic song heard, in the immediate vicinity on 9 July, but the nest had been overlooked at that time. When discovered, the nest contained one dead young and had been abandoned. A severe rainstorm which had deluged the site, one day prior to the discovery, was believed responsible for the death of the young bird and the desertion by the adults.

The nesting site was in a thicket of dogwood (*Cornus* sp.) in the bottomland on the east side of the Missouri River. Similar dogwood thickets form a part of the woodland-edge complex of the bottomland hardwood forest found in this river valley for many miles up and down from Bismarck. This habitat was similar to that described for the species in South Dakota (Over and Thomas, "Birds of South Dakota," Univ. of South Dakota Mus., 1946).

A search of the literature has revealed no earlier records of this species from North Dakota. Barlow (Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist., 12:241–296, 1962) stated that it "is a summer resident in riparian and second growth situations in the central United States south of North Dakota." It has, however, been reported in increasing numbers during recent years from both Minnesota and South Dakota. Huber (Flicker, 33:109–110, 1961) has summarized known information from southeastern Minnesota, and more recently he has reported it for Rock County in southwestern Minnesota (Loon, 36:53, 1964). For South Dakota this species is listed as a summer resident in four of the state's six ornithological regions, including the three regions bordering on North Dakota (Checklist of South Dakota Birds. South Dakota Bird Notes, 8:13–19, 1956). The species has been found as far west as La Creek Refuge near Martin (South Dakota Bird notes, 9:24, 1957) and as far north as Chamberlain (loc. cit. 4:29,

1952) and Pierre, where it was recorded in the then unflooded Oahe Dam Site (loc. cit. 5:28, 1953 and by N. R. Whitney, Audubon Field Notes, 16:425, 1962).

Since the Missouri River Valley between Pierre, South Dakota and Bismarck, North Dakota has had very little ornithological exploration it is not surprising that this species should have first been observed in the latter state in the Bismarck area. It is doubtful, however, if the species exists at present in most of this Missouri valley region for woodland habitat suitable for the species has now been inundated by the Oahe Reservoir.

It appears that this species may either be spreading northward or is just now being observed by ornithologists, for in the 1960's several additional records of this species have been recorded in the state. The first observation of this species made by the senior author occurred in 1961 while he was making breeding bird observations on a study area three miles southwest of Riverdale in McLean County, North Dakota. The song of this species was heard on 20 June 1961 in thick, low willow growth adjacent to the Missouri River but off the study area. He was unable to find the bird at the time, however, and no further verification was made of its presence. In June of 1968 the senior author was again making breeding bird censuses in the Riverdale area when he found this species breeding there. The area being surveyed was a portion of the abandoned main channel of the Missouri River approximately one quarter mile south of Garrison Dam which had contained water in 1958, but had since 1960 grown up into a savanna consisting of relatively open areas interspersed with dense stands of young diamond willow (*Salix missouriensis*), 5-8 feet high. Two singing males were found on territory in this willow habitat and were observed on six separate visits between 11 June and 10 July 1968, when the last visit was made to the area. Considerable effort was made to locate nests in the dense tangle of vegetation but only one was found and it had already been abandoned.

We know of only one other reported observation of this species in North Dakota from outside the Missouri River area. This is of a singing male observed by R. E. Stewart on 4 June 1966 "along Brush Creek, a tributary of the Knife River in Mercer County, about 4 miles SSW of Beulah" (Stewart, Audubon Field Notes, 20:579, 1966). —EDMUND A. HIBBARD, *Dept. of Zoology, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota 58102* AND PAUL D. KLINE, *Iowa Conservation Commission, Indianola, Iowa 50125, 5 August, 1970 (originally received 21 April 1965)*.

Persistence of remains of birds killed on motor highways.—There are published in the literature numerous counts of birds killed on motor highways, and the counting of dead birds appears to hold possibilities for use in evaluating the magnitude of bird mortality on the highways. However, if the resulting data are to be used in a meaningful way to evaluate even the magnitude of the mortality, the counts must be supplemented with information on the durability of evidence of automobile-killing of different species on highways having different amounts of motor traffic. In this note data are given on the durability of parts of House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) on an interstate highway and on a country road in North Carolina.

In the forenoon of 20 May 1968, I threw 50 dead House Sparrows from an automobile window onto the surface of Interstate Highway 85, between Oxford and Creedmoor, North Carolina. I returned 90 minutes later and found remaining the parts of only five birds. In driving over the highway another 30 minutes later, no part of any of the birds was found, and all evidence of dead birds observable from a moving automobile had thus been obliterated by the heavy motor traffic within two hours.