

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

Summer Number

Issued October 1955

by

Cleveland Audubon Society

and

The Kirtland Bird Club

Editors

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CONTRIBUTORS

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James F. Akers	Carl F. Hamann	Merit B. Skaggs
L. P. Barbour	Perry F. Johnson	Raymond Smiley
Mrs. Robert V. D. Booth	Charles H. Knight	Susan Storer
Vera Carrothers	Donald L. Newman	Robert Sullivan
Owen Davies	Margaret Perner	Elliot Tramer
Leo Deininger	Marjorie Ramisch	Allen E. Valentine

Summary of Weather Conditions

From U. S. Weather Bureau Reports (Cleveland Hopkins Airport)

- June A pleasant month indeed, rather cool for the most part but with an abundance of sunshine and just a moderate amount of rain which fell on only eight days.
- July Truly a scorcher! The average of 79.1 degrees was the highest average monthly temperature in the 85-year history of the local weather bureau. On 16 days the thermometer reached or exceeded 90 degrees, which equaled the all-time record set in July 1952. Precipitation of 2.50 inches was somewhat below normal.
- August Continuing the hot pace set in July, this was the second hottest August on record, with new highs of 96 degrees on the 2nd and 100 degrees on the 19th. As a result of the influence of hurricane "Connie" which raged up the East Coast, heavy rains and strong northwest winds reaching a velocity of 42 miles per hour occurred on the 13th. Total rainfall of 3.82 inches was considerably above normal for the month.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

A Black and White Warbler seen by Robert Sullivan at Shaker Lakes on July 16, was first in the long parade of passerine birds observed migrating through our region during the last part of the summer and on into autumn. Shorebirds, too, began to appear in mid-July although the very earliest arrivals reported were three Least Sandpipers seen by Donald L. Newman on July 3, at White City. Excepting a few scattered records of lone individuals, there was apparently no marked movement of the smaller songbirds until about August 25; but from that date until the end of the month, 17 species of transient, or non-breeding, passerine birds were recorded together with an influx of numerous individuals from the more northerly limits of the breeding range of some of our summer resident species.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON (Cont'd.)

Migrating Nighthawks - 15 in all - were reported by Owen Davies in Lakewood on August 15. Subsequent records for this leisurely migrant include for the Shaker Lakes region 35 on the 16th, 35 on the 25th, and 44 on the 26th. There is also a record of an early-morning flight (6:30) observed by James F. Akers on August 25, when between Gordon Park and White City he noted a total of 16 Nighthawks "migrating westward at treetop level." On that same date at White City, Akers saw a band of 38 Chimney Swifts which were moving westward "in a compact group without any circling" in what appeared to be a migratory flight. In Painesville on August 28, L. P. Barbour recorded some 200 Swifts, while on the same day, in Bedford, Charles H. Knight saw an estimated 350 of these gregarious birds funneling into a chimney at dusk.

From July 27, until about August 6, a flock of Rough-winged and Bank Swallows, chiefly the latter, estimated by Merit B. Skaggs to consist of 300 birds, roosted on the wires near the Hach Sanctuary. Other reports of flocking Hirundinidae include "literally hundreds" of Purple Martins on the wires along Beach Cliff Boulevard in Rocky River Park on August 19, observed by Fred J. Ackermann, and 400 Purple Martins and 150 Barn Swallows at Bedford Metropolitan Park on August 21, observed by Charles H. Knight.

The mind is challenged and the imagination tempted by the occurrence in our region during the breeding season of a singing male White-eyed Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Orchard Oriole as well as of several male Magnolia Warblers, which we believe is a breeding species though no nest has been found. While we do have several nesting records for the Orchard Oriole and two rather ancient, but reliable, nesting records for the Chestnut-sided Warbler (1917 and 1919), the other three species have been regarded as migrants - and uncommon ones at that. Are these lone males, then, just unmated strays whose occurrence here has no significance in the composition of our summer resident population? Are these birds pioneers - trailblazers, as it were - presaging an extension of their breeding range into our Cleveland region? Or is it simply that our observers are making a more intensive study of our region with the result that they are finding "new" birds to add to the summer resident population? Only the passage of time combined, of course, with much careful and persistent observation will provide the answers to these questions. The editors hope that some of our contributors will be challenged by these "problem" birds and in succeeding summers will devote themselves to a study of whichever species they consider most interesting.

BIRDS OF CLEVELAND, which is based upon all available records prior to January 1, 1949, defines the status of the Least Flycatcher as: "Common migrant; possible rare summer resident," with the added comment, however, that the records suggest a small summer population. Since that time we have received reports on seven nestings, all of them east of the Cuyahoga River, including three nesting records for this summer as well as a considerable number of reports of singing males in habitats typical for this species. It seems advisable, then, to redefine the status of the Least Flycatcher as: Common migrant; locally common summer resident.

The most indefatigable observer this summer was unquestionably Robert Sullivan, who covered the Shaker Lakes area almost daily exploring the remotest corners of both the Upper and Lower lakes and often visiting the smaller Marshall's Lake and Green's Pond as well. Out of these frequent field trips came a vast quantity of records which were of great use in the preparation of the CALENDAR. One of the illuminating statistics which Sullivan reported was the total number of species recorded each month, demonstrating as is shown below the marked change in the composition of the bird population once migration has begun:

Month	<u>Total Species Recorded at Shaker Lakes</u>
June 1955	58
July	57
August	83

COMMENT ON THE SEASON (Cont'd.)

Special commendation is due Margaret Perner for her breeding bird census at North Chagrin Reservation - in the same area where Dr. Arthur B. Williams carried on his pioneering studies for 18 years. Because of its long history this census is of particular value, and for that reason we are indebted to Miss Perner for conscientiously devoting time and effort to it.

For those who are annotating their copy of BIRDS OF CLEVELAND, the following changes should be made:

New Latest Spring Date

Lesser Scaup Duck - June 6 (Davies)
Black-throated Blue Warbler - June 2 (Sullivan)

New Earliest Fall Date

Baird's Sandpiper - July 17 (Newman)
Bay-breasted Warbler - July 17 (Deininger)
Western Palm Warbler - August 25 (Akers)

New Latest Fall Date

Prothonotary Warbler - August 27 (Davies)

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Little Blue Heron - On three separate occasions during August, Allen E. Valentine observed this vagrant Heron in the Rocky River Valley. His first observation was on the 14th when he saw a solitary bird feeding along the edge of the river. On the 15th he discovered the same or another Heron stalking the river edge in search of food, while on August 20, at 6:30 a.m. he observed three Little Blues which "flew in together and alighted on a small shale island recently uncovered by the falling of the river," where he watched them for half an hour. All of these birds were in the immature plumage.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - Unlike the summer of 1954 when we had six records of this species occurrence in the Rocky River Valley, we had only one record this summer, that of an adult Yellow-crown observed in the valley on August 15, by Allen E. Valentine.

Ruffed Grouse - Vera Carrothers reports that on June 12, one of the park policemen at the North Chagrin Reservation saw a Grouse crossing the park road near the service barn accompanied by "five or six young about as big as his thumb."

Northern Phalarope - Present at Nimisila Lake from August 21 to 26, was a single bird in winter plumage, as reported by Mrs. George Wiley who wrote that at the time she saw this Phalarope, which was in the company of many shorebirds, it was feeding in a little pool and was almost constantly moving about. Once when it flew off she noted how greatly its flight resembled that of a tern.

Forster's Tern - Two at Edgewater Park on August 13. (See Owen Davies' account)

Olive-sided Flycatcher - On August 24 and 25, and again on the 29th, Robert Sullivan observed a solitary individual at the Lower Shaker Lake, where on each occasion he watched the bird making sweeping sallies from a tall dead tree at the edge of the woods, which suggested the possibility it was the same bird that had tarried in the area for a few days.

Winter Wren - Frank Shankland informs us that a pair of Wrens of this species nested in the yard of a private home in Eastlake, not far from where the Chagrin River flows into Lake Erie. The nest,

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (Cont'd.)

which was begun about March 19, and completed on March 26, was located about five feet above the ground in an abandoned galvanized milk bottle receptacle attached to a tree and consisted of a bulky mass of leaves and moss. Before any eggs were laid, both birds were killed by a cat.

Last year, however, this or another pair of Wrens successfully reared a family in this same yard, but Shankland did not learn of it until after the young had left the nest; consequently, he was unable to obtain any of the nesting data. While we have five summer records for this species in the last 17 years, including one record of a singing male at Little Mountain on July 4, 1938, this is the first report of an actual nesting of this bird, which is normally associated with the cool, gloomy coniferous forests of the north.

White-eyed Vireo - At Big Creek Parkway Bog in Middleburg Heights on June 17, July 15, and July 20, James F. Akers both saw and heard a bird of this species. Although he maintained a close watch between July 15 and 20, he could find no evidence of nesting, nor did he ever see more than one bird at a time. For that reason he thought it possible the male had established a territory but was then unable to find a mate. This is the first summer record of a White-eyed Vireo reported from our Cleveland region.

Magnolia Warbler - In addition to a singing male observed on July 9, 14, and 16, in Stebbin's Gulch, where this species occurs regularly, Vera Carrothers also reports that at North Chagrin Reservation on June 18, she "saw one bird in each of two widely separated hemlock areas" and at a time interval of about two hours. She adds that near the lookout shelter in the reservation, which was the general area where she had made her observation, George King, on June 20, watched a male Magnolia Warbler for some time, noting that its behavior was certainly like that of a resident bird although it was not singing.

Chestnut-sided Warbler - First observed in the Bedford Reservation on July 5, by Charles H. Knight, this bird was still singing vigorously on August 7, and was last recorded on August 21. Despite the careful watch he kept on the bird during several visits to the reservation, Knight found no evidence of a nesting female or of young. One especially interesting aspect of this record is that on June 2, 4, 5, and 8, Knight traversed the precise area in which he later found this warbler yet neither saw nor heard it, which suggests the possibility it was an unmated male that was tardy in establishing its territory.

Mourning Warbler - After calling for some time from a tangle of dead limbs and branches thickly grown with poison ivy not far from the river's edge in North Chagrin Reservation, this ground-dwelling warbler, which was discovered by Vera Carrothers and Susan Storer on June 17, flew up into a cottonwood tree. There, perched in the bright sunlight at a height of about 20 feet, it sang spiritedly for several minutes after which it disappeared and was not seen or heard again.

Orchard Oriole - The male bird which Merit B. Skaggs first observed near his home in Willoughby on May 11, remained in the vicinity until about July 6, and did most of his singing about dusk. No nest was found.

Summer Tanager - As was reported in the previous issue of the CALENDAR, an immature male was first observed in the Bedford Reservation on May 30, by Charles H. Knight, and he continued to see this particular individual through June 8. It frequently sang from a low elevation, often in a dead beech tree, and was "easily located by its distinctive call-note." Although he returned to the area on June 12 and 19, Knight was unable to find the bird again.

From Neighboring Localities:

Wood Ibis - Paul H. Savage, of Ashtabula, reports that two Ibises were present on two farms in Conneaut Township between mid-afternoon on June 30, and 9:30 a.m. on July 1. Both birds were observed along the border of a dense woods about one-half mile south of the Lake Erie shore. A photographer was able to obtain pictures of the birds, which were quite approachable, and a tracing

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (Cont'd.)

of the footprint was also secured. When the photographs were shown to Dr. Emerson Kemsies and W. S. Randle, both of the University of Cincinnati, who were in the area at the time but just missed seeing the birds, they agreed the identification was absolutely correct. Savage writes that although one of the Ibises seemed slightly smaller than the other, "neither had the dingy mantle of juveniles, but were white, with wide black edgings to the back of the wings, and had black tails."

Franklin's Gull - Also from Paul H. Savage is a report of this "prairie dove," which was seen on June 3, 4, and 5, at Walnut Beach, Ashtabula, in the company of Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls. When in flight overhead, the dark mantle and the white patch separating the black wing tips from the grey of the rest of the wing were clearly distinguished. Although we have a small number of fall and winter records from the Cleveland region for this species, we have no spring or summer records whatever.

Whip-poor-will - At about 6:30 p.m. on August 25, at a spot known locally as Whip-poor-will Ledges, which is near the Ravenna Arsenal, Mrs. George Wiley counted some 26 of this rarely seen bird as they silently flew out of the woods near the ledges and quickly disappeared off to the southeast. This is a particularly valuable record because so little is known about the migration of this species.

FIELD NOTES

Nesting of Prothonotary Warbler. At Aurora Pond on June 11, about mid-afternoon, my husband and I were standing near the water's edge just to the right of the parking lot when we heard and soon saw a male Prothonotary Warbler in a small tree in the water near us. He moved around as he sang but kept in the same area. After several loud songs he flew to a dead birch stump located halfway between the shore and the island where he disappeared into an opening about four feet above the water. His actions suggested a nest with eggs since he did not reappear while we watched the stump. Quickly obtaining a boat we hurriedly rowed to the stump. Upon reaching it I stood upon the seat and looked in the top whereupon the female Prothonotary shot out past my head, frightening me as much as I frightened her. In the hollow of the stump, completely unprotected from above, was a lining of dried grass on which there were four white eggs speckled with brown. We left immediately since we did not want to disturb the female any further; however, we did not see her return to the nest while we were in the vicinity. The male was singing on a stump nearby as we departed.

SUSAN STORER

Early Nesting Goldfinch. On July 4, in the Rocky River Reservation, I discovered a Goldfinch sitting on her nest located in an ash-leaved maple tree. The nest, which was a beautiful structure, was lined with a silky substance, something other than thistle-down. On July 8 and on the 13th it contained one egg. When on July 18, it still contained but one egg, I concluded the nest had been abandoned - possibly because of the many fishermen who passed within just a few feet of the nest site. (This is an unusually early nesting for this species, which does not normally begin to nest until late in July. - Ed.)

FRED J. ACKERMANN

Gulls, Terns, and Wind. Hurricane "Connie" had its greatest effect on Cleveland on August 13. Fifty mile per hour winds from the northeast had Lake Erie up in the air. Along the lake edge in Edgewater Park it was hard to determine how much of the water blowing at you was from the lake and how much was rain since the breaking waves were being blown far over the land. At times the rain slackened somewhat, but the winds did not. A tremendous concentration of gulls and terns was grounded on the grass of the baseball diamond, and very few of them were flying out over the lake. At times some scattered individuals would try to get into the air, but, usually, after being blown around for several minutes they would settle back down on the grass.

The birds were not segregated by species, but were all intermingled - Black, Common, and

FIELD NOTES (Cont'd.)

Caspian Terns; Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, and Herring Gulls; and even two Forster's Terns. In and out around them ran two Turnstones and one "peep" sandpiper. Common Terns and Bonaparte's Gulls made up the bulk of the flock. Just before we left, a boxer dog which was running loose put them all into the air at once in a flurry of white wings beating against the wind. When they settled in groups scattered across the grass, each bird faced into the wind.

OWEN DAVIES

UNSUCCESSFUL NESTING OF RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

by James F. Akers

At the Big Creek Parkway Bog on July 15, as I watched a White-eyed Vireo for possible nesting activity, I discovered a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird building a nest; and so on the following day shortly before noon I returned to study this activity. The half-completed nest was located in a large red maple tree about four feet from the tip of the lowest limb. It was almost cradled in the fork made by the junction of two small branches with the main branch, which was about one-half inch thick. This nest was about 12 feet above the ground and rested on a branch that slanted down at an angle of approximately 45 degrees.

I observed the female's building activities for some 20 minutes. The first couple of trips were evidently with spider web because she worked on the nest with a wiping action of her bill. The next two trips were to an old nest (perhaps the first brood's) where she obtained more building material. This old nest was in the same tree at almost the same height and in almost the identical situation as the nest under construction. After the trips to the old nest, she returned with some kind of plant down and placed this inside the nest. Timing of the next six trips indicated that the female was gone about 45 seconds and then upon returning worked on the nest about 15 seconds. During these trips I walked to a point half way between the old and new nests. When I paused and lowered my glasses, the busily occupied female seemed to notice me for the first time. She stopped, tilted back and forth, and then darted to within two feet of my face, hovering there for perhaps five seconds. Then, apparently, satisfied I meant no harm, she resumed her nest building activities.

At about 8:30 a.m. on July 17, the Hummingbird was not observed at the nest, but at the same time on the following morning she was present and I watched her for some 30 minutes. Although the nest was not yet finished, her activities were much reduced. She remained motionless on the nest for several minutes, then dabbled at the nest rim for the next few minutes before departing. She was absent for about five minutes, then returned and rested in the nest for another five minutes. This procedure was repeated once more before I left.

On July 20, between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. the Hummingbird was on the completed nest, and she was also on the nest at noontime on July 26. After this last date I did not see her again and presumed the nest had been deserted. At no time during these observations was the male Ruby-throat in evidence.

NOTES ON THE NESTING OF A TUFTED TITMOUSE

By

Raymond Smiley

April 23 - I discovered a Titmouse building her nest in a Bluebird box which was placed in a tree along a fence row near the edge of a small woods adjacent to the fairway at Hawthorne Valley Country Club.

April 24 - In another Bluebird box (#2) about 250 feet from box #1 found a second Tit-

NESTING OF TUFTED TITMOUSE (Cont'd.)

mouse nest, which was about 50% complete. This nest was probably built by the same bird that was building in box #1.

April 30 - A House Wren and a Titmouse were fighting over occupancy of box #1 in which the Titmouse nest was now about 75% complete.

May 7 - The entire nesting material deposited by the Titmouse had been removed, and twigs - customarily used by House Wrens - covered the bottom of box #1. The Wren failed to complete this nest, however. A subsequent closer inspection of the ground around box #1 disclosed a portion of one Titmouse egg and one egg which was unbroken but which had a tiny pinhole puncture and consequently was dry.

May 13 to May 16 - On each of these four successive days one egg was laid in box #2, the bird depositing them directly on the wooden bottom of the house and then concealing them each time with a covering of leaves.

May 18 - At the base of the tree, to which the nesting box was attached, I found the shell of one Titmouse egg although there were still four eggs in the nest. This mystery of the fifth egg was never solved, but I suspect that an egg may have been laid on May 17, and then in some unaccountable manner it was removed from the nest - by whom I cannot even guess. In any event, incubation probably began on the 18th.

May 24 - Examination of the nest disclosed that the eggs were no longer lying on the wooden bottom of the box but were now arranged compactly on a mat of fine leaves, moss, and hair (rabbit and squirrel fur).

June 1 - Although I did not flush the sitting female, I believe that the eggs hatched on this day.

June 2 - Looking into the birdhouse while the female was absent, I found that there were four young, naked and with their eyes closed.

June 4 - The wing and tail feathers were beginning to develop.

June 8 - The nestlings' heads were covered with feathers, the plumage on the back was developing, and the wing and tail feathers were about one-fourth developed.

June 11 - The young had grown considerably and were quite well feathered. Although their rumps were still rather bare, their backs were covered with feathers, the wing and tail feathers were about three-fourths grown, and the plumage on the flanks was a pinkish buff. All four young as well as one adult were banded by Charles H. Knight.

June 13 - The nestlings were now fully feathered.

June 15 - One of the young left the nest.

June 16 - The three remaining young departed from the nest.

About six weeks after their departure from the nest, I saw two banded Titmice together with an unbanded bird in the woods just a few hundred feet distant from the location of the nesting box.

TWO NESTINGS OF
THE LEAST FLYCATCHER

by
Carl F. Hamann

Nest No. 1. On June 2, I located the nest of a Least Flycatcher newly built and situated four feet out on a horizontal limb of a white oak tree about 15 to 20 feet up and about four feet from the trunk. The nest was secured by small lateral branchlets. The male sang frequently in the territory and there was much chasing around by two or perhaps more birds of this species, which was indicative of the mating procedure.

I was unable to visit the nest site again until June 21, when the female was observed either incubating or brooding (probably the latter as she once stood on the rim of the nest peering into it). The same behavior occurred on June 24, and by this time the heads of downy young were visible over the rim of the nest as they were being fed by both adults every one to three minutes. The adults foraged for insects (?) in the low shrubbery within 150 feet of the nest. They were not seen hawking as does the Wood Pewee.

On July 1, the adults were feeding one large immature bird who filled the nest, had a very heavy conical bill, and was, I judged, a Cowbird. The nest was empty on July 3, and search of the area revealed neither adults nor young.

Nest No. 2. On June 28, I found a second nest of the Least Flycatcher located about 150 feet from the first. It also was on a horizontal branch of a white oak tree, about 25 feet up and some two feet from the trunk. Both trees were small, about 30 to 35 feet tall, and were sparsely branched. Like the first, this nest was saddled on the top of a horizontal branch and was supported by small branchlets. The female was on the nest when I discovered it.

On July 1, an adult was on the rim looking in when I arrived. She soon flew away returning in about six minutes and settling on the nest remained there for 28 minutes. She was ever on the alert and spent much time with bill agape as it was a hot, humid day. The male then sang and came to the nest, the female flying away. He poked his bill into the nest apparently feeding the young. In about four minutes the female returned and seemed to distribute food in three directions. She then settled on the nest and brooded. On July 3, both adults were feeding, the female occasionally brooding or standing on the sunny side of the nest as if to shade it. These activities went on for the half hour or more that I watched. On July 7, there were at least three downy young in the nest whom the adults fed alternately every one to four minutes, and occasionally in rapid succession. The average time between feedings was about 2.7 minutes, both adults sharing the task about equally. The female, however, did most of the housekeeping. After leaving the nest site the male was observed some 200 feet away hawking for insects.

On July 10, the nest was empty, and although the male was singing in the territory and another adult (female?) was seen, a circling of the area revealed no young; however, they might well have been hidden in the shrubbery.

Much of this observation was done with a 20-power spotting scope from a distance of 60 feet but at an angle to the nest. At this distance it was possible to see the small hairs around the bill and on the chin of these birds. Both nests were at Aurora Lake, about half way to the dam and west of the road.

(For Hamann's earlier account of the nesting of the Least Flycatcher, see the Summer 1950 issue of the Cleveland BIRD CALENDAR, 46(3):13. - Ed.)

NESTING OF AN ACADIAN FLYCATCHER

by

Donald L. Newman

(The following account is based upon notes supplied by Robert Sullivan, who first discovered the nest, and from my own notes beginning on June 2.)

The nest of an Acadian Flycatcher was found on May 31, 1955, in the Middle Woods of the Shaker Lakes park system. It was located at a height of about eight feet in the forked outer end of a horizontal branch of a large witch hazel bush which grew at the base of a steep slope where it was well shaded under the heavy canopy of foliage of the surrounding tall red oaks. Although this Flycatcher customarily builds in a loose, rather careless fashion, this particular nest, composed of fine grasses, rootlets, and slender fibers of grapevine bark, was fairly well made, with a tight bottom through which light did not penetrate. The loose ends of several heavier strands of wild grapevine bark hung some three to four inches below the bottom of the nest, making the structure as a whole appear like a small mass of woodland debris that had lodged in the forked branch.

On June 2, a Cowbird was first to deposit her egg in the nest; and it was not until June 4, that the Flycatcher laid her first egg after which she laid her second and third egg on the 5th and the 7th. The first two Flycatcher eggs were a soft peach-pink with tiny flecks of chestnut brown on the larger end, while the third egg seemed somewhat paler and was more sparsely marked. On June 8, the Cowbird egg was removed by an outside observer. Regrettably, not enough time was spent at the nest site to determine the date on which incubation began, but presumably it started with the completion of the laying of the full clutch of eggs on June 7. Judging from an earlier intensive study of a nesting of the Acadian Flycatcher, I believe that the male does not participate in the incubation of the eggs, but this question will not be finally resolved until studies are made of banded pairs of breeding birds.

All three eggs were still intact on the evening of June 20, but at 7:45 a.m. on June 21, two of the eggs had hatched, and the female was sitting close, not leaving the nest until I walked directly beneath. Upon my return at 7:15 p.m., there were still just the two nestlings and the one unhatched egg, which appeared from its distinctive coloring and markings to be the third egg laid. Both of the young, whose skin was a dull pink, had a scant edging of white down on the crown, the shoulders of the wings, and along the line of the backbone; their eyes were covered by a thick black membrane. When I touched the rim of the nest, they gave the typical food response, raising their heads and opening their bills.

By 7:40 a.m. on June 22, the third egg had hatched. Assuming, then, that incubation did begin on June 7, the incubation period for the first two eggs was 14 days and for the third egg, 15 days.

On my visit to the nest on the evening of July 4, I found that the three young, which were then almost two weeks old, filled the nest to overflowing. One nestling faced southwest with its bill resting on the rim; the middle bird faced northeast, its clean white breast showing through a large rent in the nest just below the rim - an opening as large as a twenty-five cent piece; and the third young one faced south, its stub of a tail protruding through the hole in the nest and its bill resting on the opposite rim. Both parent birds appeared when I walked under the nest, but neither flew at me with snapping bill, which one or sometimes both had done on my earlier visits, and even their alarm notes did not seem as emphatic as before. The ground immediately beneath the nest was marked with the excreta of the young.

All three young were still in or on the nest upon my arrival at 7:30 a.m. on July 5. One was standing on the rim, the second sitting high on the opposite side, while the third occupied the center of the nest with its bill extending out of the hole in the side. As I had always done on previous visits, I placed a small step ladder below the nest and mounted to the second step to obtain a closer look, without disturbing the nestlings. But when I advanced to the third step bringing my

NESTING OF AN ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (Cont'd.)

head even with the nest and only about a yard distant, the two outer birds suddenly flew off (not fluttered) and were almost immediately lost to sight in the dense understory. The parent birds, in a state of alarm, quickly appeared and called repeatedly without any response from the two young that had left the nest; nor could I find them in a hasty search of the immediate area.

Despite her apprehension, the female continued to flycatch in the vicinity of the nest, and the male during the ten minutes I lingered in the woods sang his emphatic "ka-zeep" song three times. Upon my return to the woods at 7:00 p.m., the nest was empty. After considerable searching, however, I discovered a bob-tailed fledgling on the steep slope about 50 feet from the nest site. This was undoubtedly the third young one which had remained in the nest that morning. The female fed it several times, and once I heard the sweet, gentle "twee-dul" notes of the male which had also come into the vicinity. When I approached the young bird, it flew off the ground and in a somewhat uncertain, buzzy manner of flight advanced to a low bush about 70 feet away, where it perched for a moment and then moved on into the denser undergrowth eluding me entirely. Later in the evening I found a second fledgling in a grapevine tangle at the edge of the brook, some 150 feet from the nest site, but this bird, too, soon eluded me.

Exclusive of the day of departure, the first two birds hatched spent 14 days in the nest and the third bird hatched, just 13 days. Acadian Flycatchers were present in the Middle Woods throughout July and as late as August 18, when two individuals were recorded.

NESTING OF GRINNELL'S WATERTHRUSH

by
Carl F. Hamann

On May 31, in the swamp forest west of the road leading to the dam at Aurora Lake, I found the nest of the Grinnell's Waterthrush, the third such nest I have discovered in the locality since 1947. When I entered the forest, I first observed the male Waterthrush singing and carrying food. In an obvious state of alarm and anxiety he returned to a certain area several times, but although I retreated and tried to conceal myself he would not go to the ground and reveal the nest. I therefore carefully searched the area, investigating the bases of several trees, many fallen trunks, and clumps of cinnamon fern when suddenly something ran out from the base of a small yellow birch, where in a cavity at ground level I found four young birds, perhaps three to four days old. The "something" that had run out from the nest was the female Waterthrush which had held to the nest until the very last moment; indeed, had she remained on, I would never have discovered her or the nest.

Retreating to a distance where I would not be cause for alarm, I watched through my binoculars as both parent birds carried food to the young. When returning to the nest, both adults landed about 10 to 15 feet away and walked to the nest through the concealment of the ferns and other ground cover. At the time there were one or possibly two other Waterthrushes singing in the locality.

On June 2, I returned with Mr. and Mrs. Hal H. Harrison, of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, who were anxious to secure pictures of this species. A dummy camera and blind were set up near the nest, and the Harrisons were able to watch both adults feed the young. I was unable to be present on June 3, when Mr. Harrison was successful in obtaining pictures. Confirming his success, however, he wrote: "All during the day (I did not leave until evening) the birds crept to the nest like mice. They left the same way. Never a sound; never any unnecessary movement until they had walked away." I visited the nest again on June 21, and found it in good condition but empty. There was no singing and none of the birds was seen.

In addition to breeding at Aurora Lake, the Grinnell's Waterthrush also breeds at Fern Lake, Geauga County, and at Aurora Marshland in the southeast corner of Aurora Township, Portage County. I might add that there is one member of the vegetable kingdom that I associate with this Waterthrush, and that is the poison sumac. This plant grows in low, wet ground in bogs where there

NESTING OF GRINNELL'S WATERTHRUSH (Cont'd.)

is usually forest cover. In fact, one of the nests which I found in 1947 was in a cavity at the base of a poison sumac!

(We are indebted to Hal H. Harrison for his kind permission to use one of his photographs of the Grinnell's Waterthrush to illustrate this issue of the BIRD CALENDAR. - Ed.)

BREEDING BIRD POPULATION STUDY

Climax Beech - Maple Forest with some Hemlock - Total area 65 acres

Location - North Chagrin Metropolitan Park

Coverage - April 17, 27; May 1, 7, 13, 18, 30, 31; June 3, 5. Total hours 43.35

Census by Margaret Perner

Breeding Bird Population

<u>Species</u>	<u>Territorial Males</u>
Red-eyed Vireo	23
Redstart	23
Hooded Warbler	21
Wood Thrush	15
Scarlet Tanager	10
Cardinal	7
Wood Pewee	7
Ovenbird	6
Cerulean Warbler	6
Tufted Titmouse	5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5
Acadian Flycatcher	5
Downy Woodpecker	4
Louisiana Waterthrush	3
Chickadee	3
Yellow-throated Vireo	3
Crested Flycatcher	3
Black-throated Green Warbler	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2
Cowbird	2
Barred Owl	1
Cooper's Hawk	1
Phoebe	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Total males	162
Number of species	25
Density	249 territorial males per 100 acres

Visitors - Blue Jay, Catbird, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Robin, Towhee, Veery, Wood Duck, Great Horned Owl