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The absence of hematozoa in Burrowing Owls of the Tampa Bay area, Florida.—The Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) has been given very little attention in surveys of blood parasites of birds. This may be due in part to the difficulty in capturing these ground-dwelling birds. Previous studies of Burrowing Owls (Stabler and Holt 1965 J. Parasitol. 51:927-928; Greiner et al. 1975 Can. J. Zool. 53:1762-1787) revealed no hematozoa in the few birds checked.

The effects of hematozoa on birds differ with the species of parasite and the species of bird infected. Pigeons (*Columba livia*) infected with *Haemoproteus columbae* seldom show any signs of disease, yet *Leucocytozoon simondi* is highly pathogenic to ducks and geese with the fatality rate approaching 85% in ducklings.

We examined blood smears from 1 adult and 29 young Burrowing Owls over the 6-year period 1975-1980, but no hematozoa were observed. Twenty nine of the birds were captured in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, by plugging and carefully excavating the burrow. One bird, found injured and being held captive until recovery, was from Homosassa Springs, Citrus County, Florida.

Thin smears were prepared from blood obtained by venipuncture in the tarsometatarsus region. The smears were fixed in methanol and stained with giemsa. A minimum of 50 oil immersion fields were carefully examined by two of the authors (GMD, PMD).—GEORGE M. DOORIS, *Division of Natural Science and Mathematics, Saint Leo College, Saint Leo, Florida 33574*, and PATRICIA M. DOORIS AND WILLIAM D. COURSER, *Environmental Section, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Brooksville, Florida 33512*.

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American Robins and Cedar Waxwings rain-bathing under lawn sprinklers.—At Merritt Island, Brevard County, Florida, on 17 January 1974, a day of high humidity and temperature (max. 87° F), I watched a group of about 35 American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) and 35 Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) rain-bathing in the spray of rotary water sprinklers operating in two adjacent residential lawns. For the 20 min I watched the two species, there was no aggression between them.

The two species used different methods of bathing. For example, some robins just squatted in the wet grass for 2-3 min at a time, with their heads and necks extended horizontally and with bills slightly open and pointing upward. Often their wings and tails were spread over the grass. Some robins lolled on one side with the upper wing partially extended over the ground, or more often stretched at an upward angle. Then, after a while, they turned onto the other side of their bodies and repeated the performance. Intermixed with this bathing was

some body and wing shaking with tail swishing. Bent (1949, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 196: 29) describes these postures in the robin as sunbathing and comments on robins frequently sunbathing "even on the hottest days". Simmons (p. 279 in Thomson, A. L. (ed.). 1964, New dictionary of birds, New York, McGraw Hill) mentions that some birds ("pigeons") may use similar postures when bathing in the rain or when sunning.

The bathing behavior of the Cedar Waxwings was less complex. The waxwings hopped in and out of the sprinkler zone with fluffed body feathers and brief wing flapping. Occasionally both species perched on the rotating arms of the sprinklers when they preened, or just rested while being rotated around. Some of these returned to bathing as described, while a few left the locality. Eventually all the birds departed when disturbed by passing vehicles.

I have searched a fairly extensive literature, especially on the American Robin, but have not located records of rain-bathing for either species.—BERNARD KING, *Gull Cry*, 9 Park Road, Newlyn, Penzance, Cornwall, England.

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Yellow-throated Vireo nests in west-central Florida.—The Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) is known to breed in Florida south to Brooksville on the west coast (Sprunt 1954, Florida bird life, New York, Coward McCann, Inc.). Recent evidence indicates the species has extended its breeding range in east-central Florida to Orange County and apparently to southern Polk County (Freeman 1978, Fla. Field Nat. 6: 19-20 and references therein). There are no records of Yellow-throated Vireos breeding south of Hernando County in west-central Florida. However, Mason (1952, Fla. Nat. 25: 83) "observed a pair near Plant City as late as June 1, 1948" and Ogden (Stevenson 1964, Aud. Field Notes 18: 504) found the species 16 km south of Plant City (Hillsborough Co.) on 16 June 1964.

In Pasco County, Florida, several sightings of Yellow-throated Vireos from the J. B. Starkey Wilderness Park, 8 km east of New Port Richey, were made by Schupp and Courser. Three observations from 15 April through 6 May 1975 were of individual, singing adults in habitat composed primarily of sand pine (*Pinus clausa*) with sparse understory. Courser and many others also saw the species in the area on 24 April 1976 and 21 April and 19 May 1979.

Nesting of Yellow-throated Vireos in the J. B. Starkey Wilderness Park was confirmed on 12 April 1979 when López observed two adults and their nest. One bird was on the nest while the other perched nearby. The nest was checked on 19 May, but no evidence of successful breeding was found, neither were the birds present. The characteristic lichen-covered nest was suspended about 3 m above ground in the outer periphery of a 10 m live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). The habitat was typical of Florida's sandhills, with turkey oak (*Q. laevis*) and live oak as dominant tree species. A variety of herbaceous plants such as wire grass (*Aristida* sp.), beggar-ticks (*Bidens pilosa*), milk pea (*Galactia* sp.) and other plants provided nearly complete ground cover. The nest was collected on 4 October 1979 and sent to the Florida State Museum, Gainesville.

These nesting activities represent the first breeding record for the region. J. B. Starkey Wilderness Park is about halfway in latitude between the Orange and Polk county records. Freeman (1978) and our recent observations suggest that the Yellow-throated Vireo has extended its breeding range south in Florida.

We appreciate the assistance of Patricia M. Dooris, Frances Butler and Becky Hatten in preparation of this note.—MANUEL LÓPEZ AND WILLIAM D. COURSER, *Southwest Florida Water Management District*, 5060 U.S. 41 South, Brooksville, Florida 33512 and EUGENE W. SCHUPP, *Department of Biology, University of South Florida*, Tampa, Florida 33620.