A LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED AT GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA.

BY FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

GAINESVILLE is situated in the southeastern part of Alachua County, midway between the Gulf and the Atlantic, a position which, during the winter, proved excellent collecting ground for the species which should occur there at that season, but the distance from either coast rendered it a comparatively isolated point during migration.

Evidently the peninsula acts as a wedge dividing into two waves, which flow up either coast, the sea of north-bound migrants; from these waves small streams of summer residents penetrate the interior in search of breeding places, and these, in addition to occasional ripples caused perhaps by a high-tide, constitute the entire migration.

How closely migrating birds adhere to the coast is well illustrated by the fact that of the thirty-five arrivals noted, twenty-six are summer residents of the Louisianian Fauna, leaving but nine strictly transient birds as the number observed, where forty or more might have occurred. The capture of four species which have not, to my knowledge, been before recorded from Florida during the winter, may also be due to this inland position; for these birds probably drifted in with flocks of true winter residents, and being thus removed from the coast currents, were left stranded. The country surrounding Gainesville is favorable for occupation by all the species which should occur there, there being, 'black-jack' and palmetto pineries, hummocks, thickets, clearings, swamps, 'prairies,' numerous small ponds and streams, and Alachua Lake, about nine miles long and averaging two or more in width. This lake, as the chief ornithological point of interest, deserves particular mention; a large portion of its surface is covered with a dense growth of yellow pond lilies (Nuphar advena), locally known as 'bonnets,' affording a home to innumerable Coots (Fulica americana) and Ducks. At its eastern end is an immense savanna bisected by an inflowing creek, and dotted with clumps of cypresses and numberless small pools. A few years ago Herons were abundant and bred
here; today it is comparatively deserted, the result of merciless persecution by plume hunters. One other locality remains to be noticed,—an almost impassable swamp, known as 'Sugar-foot Prairie,' a favorite breeding ground for several species of Herons.

March 8, I visited this place and my notes for that day record: Great Blue Heron, Great White Egret, and Little White Egret, all common; Little Blue Heron, abundant; Black-crowned Night Heron, one; Bittern, three. April 17, 20, and 21, I again went there and the total number of Herons seen on the three days was: Great Blue Heron, two; Great White Egret, one; Louisiana Heron, one; Little Blue Heron, ten.

Later I learned that a plume hunter's camp, with its pile of decaying carcasses, had been found there, and the cause of the disappearance of the Herons was no longer a mystery.

The following notes are based almost entirely on observations made from November 27, 1886, to May 27, 1887; for, although a return was made to the same locality the following winter, my stay was a comparatively short one and permitted but little additional work.

All data, therefore, unless the contrary is stated, refer to the first mentioned period. I have to thank Mr. Roth Reynolds for permission to examine a number of Gainesville birds in his possession, mounted by himself, mention being made in each case when a record is based on such examination.

For comparison I append the mean temperature of each month during the winter and spring of 1886-7: December, 53.2°; January, 50.9°; February, 66.4°; March, 61.8°; April, 68.6°; May, 77.1°.

1. Podilymbus podiceps. PIED-BILLED GREBE. 'DIE DIPPER.'—Common; none were observed after April 27.
2. Urinator imber. LOON.—From March 31 to April 17 about fifteen were seen flying over at a great altitude.
3. Anhinga anhinga. ANHINGA.—Three extremely wild birds wintered among the cypresses on the lake; April 12 two flocks of seven or eight each were seen passing over, and on the 26th a flock of six more.
4. Lophodytes cucullatus. HOODED MERGANSER.—A rare winter resident.
5. Anas boschas. MALLARD.—Not uncommon.
The Florida Black Duck was not found, and was unknown to local sportsmen, even as a summer resident.
7. Anas strepera. GADWALL.—A female was taken February 8, the
first one, I think, reported from the State. Six were seen and one killed January 11, 1888.

9. Anas discors. Blue-winged Teal.—Rather more common than the last. Last records were April 27, two, and April 29, one.
10. Anas americana. Baldpate.—Not uncommon.
11. Spatula clypeata. Shoveller.—A single specimen in Mr. Reynolds’s possession.
15. Aythya collaris. Ring-necked Duck.—The most abundant Duck.

At the time of my departure, May 27, a flock of cripples, four males and three females, was in an arm of the lake, and I was told that crippled Ducks (the results of flock shooting during the winter) of different species frequently remain through the summer, but although, as in the present instance, both sexes may be represented, they have never been known to breed.

17. Ajaja ajaja. Roseate Spoonbill.—None were observed by myself, but three were reported to me by my friend Mr. Bell on April 23, and Mr. Reynolds had a specimen in his collection.
18. Guara alba. White Ibis.—March 4, 1887, and January 11, 1888, one observed each day.
21. Ardea egretta. American Egret.—Not uncommon during the winter, and frequently observed until its plumes were sufficiently grown to render them worthy the plume hunter’s attention, when it became almost rare and exceedingly shy.
22. Ardea candidissima. Snowy Heron.—The same remarks apply to this species.
23. Ardea tricolor ruficollis. Louisiana Heron.—Not uncommon. Almost all those observed were adult birds.
24. Ardea caerulea. Little Blue Heron.—The most common Heron. The blue slightly outnumber the white birds, and but three in intermediate plumage were seen.
25. Ardea virescens. Green Heron.—One seen January 28 was the only one observed until April 4, when new arrivals were noted. They were common throughout May, and on the 25th of that month young just from the nest were taken.
27. Rallus elegans. King Rail.—Two specimens taken by Mr. Reynolds at the lake.
28. Porzana carolina. Sora.—A single specimen in Mr. Reynolds’s possession was taken at the lake.
270. *Ionornis martinica.* **Purple Gallinule.**—None were seen until May 25, when in a part of the lake before unvisited,—a mass of floating islands and 'bonnets'.—I found them not uncommon. Four were taken; in the oviduct of one a partially formed egg was found, and several eggs had evidently been deposited.


31. *Fulica americana.* **American Coot,** 'Blue Peter.'—Extremely abundant, every 'bonnet' patch contained its flock, all equally noisy until as spring advanced they became almost silent. A number remained until April 29, all those seen after that date being wing-broken birds, which, unlike the crippled Ring-necked Ducks before mentioned, did not gather in flocks but were met with singly, lurking in the 'bonnets' at the borders of the lake.

32. *Philohela minor.* **American Woodcock.**—December 3 and 24, one was seen each day.

33. *Gallinago delicata.* **Wilson's Snipe.**—Locally abundant, sometimes flocks of fifty or more being flushed from favorable feeding grounds. Two seen together April 15, were the last noted.

34. *Totanus flavipes.* **Yellow-Legs.**—A flock of five was seen March 5, and a single bird April 5.

35. *Totanus solitarius.* **Solitary Sandpiper.**—From April 2 to May 6, twelve were seen or taken.

36. *Bartramia longicauda.* **Bartramian Sandpiper.**—April 8, two were seen, April 10, three.

37. *Actitis maccularia.* **Spotted Sandpiper.**—From April 27 to May 10, seven were noted.

38. *Aegialitis vocifera.* **Killdeer.**—An abundant winter visitant. My last records were April 27 and 29, one each day.

39. *Colinus virginianus floridanus.* **Florida Bob-white.**—Abundant. The call of two, and rarely three, notes was first heard March 17, and although they were now beginning to pair, flocks were seen as late as April 16.

40. *Meleagris gallopavo.* **Wild Turkey.**—Rare.

41. *Ectopistes migratorius.* **Passenger Pigeon.**—Said by sportsmen to be a rare winter visitant; Mr. Reynolds had two in his possession.

42. *Zenaidura macroura.* **Mourning Dove.** 'Dove.'—Common resident.

43. *Columbina passerina.* **Ground Dove.** 'Mourning Dove.'—Common. A nest found May 12, on the ground beneath a small scrub palmetto, contained two eggs.

44. *Cathartes aura.* **Turkey Vulture.**—Abundant.

45. *Catharista atrata.* **Black Vulture.**—Abundant. There was apparently little difference in the numbers of this and the preceding species, but the first named was much more common in the town.

46. *Elanoides forficatus.* **Swallow-tailed Kite.**—April 29, three, May 9 and 10, one each day. All escaped capture.

47. *Ictinia mississippiensis.* **Mississippi Kite.**—Two were noted April 29.
48. **Circus hudsonius.** Marsh Hawk.—Common.
49. **Accipiter velox.** Sharp-shinned Hawk.—Not uncommon.
50. **Accipiter cooperi.** Cooper's Hawk.—Not common.
51. **Buteo borealis.** Red-tailed Hawk.—Common.
52. **Buteo lineatus.** Red-shouldered Hawk.—Abundant. The nine specimens obtained were all true *lineatus*.
53. **Haliaeetus leucocephalus.** Bald Eagle.—Common.
54. **Falco sparverius.** American Sparrow Hawk.—Abundant resident.
55. **Falco columbarius.** Pigeon Hawk.—A single specimen was taken January 4.
56. **Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.** American Osprey.—Common.
57. **Strix pratincola.** American Barn Owl.—I saw but two; one, an almost fully grown male, was brought to me alive May 30. During his short life (his death, June 19, was due to an accident) he proved an interesting but perfectly untamable pet; fresh meat was refused, but sparrows (Passer domesticus) he devoured with great relish, pulling out most of the wing and tail-feathers and swallowing the body without further dissection.
58. **Syrnium nebulosum alleni.** Florida Barred Owl.—Common. Two nearly grown young attended by the parent birds were seen May 9.
59. **Megascops asio floridanus.** Florida Screech Owl.—Said to be common. A single specimen was secured March 12.
60. **Bubo virginianus.** Great Horned Owl.—A specimen in the possession of Mr. Reynolds was taken at Gainesville.
61. **Coccyzus americanus.** Yellow-billed Cuckoo.—A not common summer resident. Arrived April 27.
62. **Ceryle alcyon.** Belted Kingfisher.—Common during the winter, but after April 2 their numbers had greatly diminished.
63. **Dryobates villosus audubonii.** Southern Hairy Woodpecker.—Common.
64. **Dryobates pubescens.** Downy Woodpecker.—Slightly more numerous than the last.
65. **Dryobates borealis.** Red-cockaded Woodpecker.—Common, but confined exclusively to the pineries.
66. **Sphyrapicus varius.** Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.—Common, and very generally distributed. Last noted April 21.
67. **Ceophleucus pileatus.** Pileated Woodpecker.—Rather rare. The individuals met with were extremely unsuspicious; I have even placed my ear at the base of the tree on which they were pounding.
68. **Melanerpes erythrocephalus.** Red-headed Woodpecker.—But thirteen birds of this species were seen until April 16, when new arrivals were noted, and after the 26th of that month they were very numerous. This species was common throughout the winter of 1887-88.
69. **Melanerpes carolinus.** Red-bellied Woodpecker.—Abundant.
70. **Colaptes auratus.** Flicker.—Abundant up to the last of March, after which date they were less numerous.
71. Antrostomus carolinensis. CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.—Common summer resident.

72. Antrostomus vociferus. WHIP-POOR-WILL. — None were heard, and a female, taken March 3, was the only one observed.

73. Chordeiles virginianus chapmani. CHAPMAN'S NIGHTHAWK. — Arrived April 17, and became common on the 21st, after which date no change was noticed in their numbers. 'Bullbat,' or as it is more frequently termed, 'Bat,' shooting is here a popular pastime, great numbers being killed for food, and in August, when the birds have gathered in flocks, favorite fields may be occupied at nightfall by as many as a dozen shooters.

74. Chætura pelagica. CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Arrived April 5, and was common after the 16th.

75. Trochilus colubris. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Five were observed from March 8 to April 27.

76. Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.—A common summer resident. Arrived April 2, and became common on the 5th.

77. Myiarchus crinitus. CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—An abundant summer resident. Arrived March 31, and became common April 5.

78. Sayornis phoebe. PHOEBE.—An abundant winter visitant, and very generally distributed. Last records were March 21 and April 4, one each day.

79. Contopus virens. WOOD PEWEE. — A rather common summer resident, arriving April 7. A nest found May 9 was placed on the horizontal limb of a pine, about forty feet from the ground.

80. Empidonax acadicus. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—Not uncommon in the denser woods; arrived April 20. A completed nest, found May 9, was constructed almost entirely of 'Spanish moss,' and contained on the 27th two eggs with half formed embryos.

81. Cyanocitta cristata florincola. FLORIDA BLUE JAY.—Extremely tame and everywhere abundant, frequenting the live and water oaks of the city streets, where it appears half domesticated. It possesses greater vocal powers than the northern bird (C. cristata); twenty or more different and distinct calls were counted.

82. Corvus americanus floridanus. FLORIDA CROW.—I saw less than ten, all some distance from the town in the larger pineries.

83. Corvus ossifragus. FISH CROW.—Common only in the vicinity of small ponds and the lake.

84. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. BOBOLINK.—January 5, a female having the secondaries missing from one wing was caught by our dogs while Quail shooting. April 26, small flocks were heard passing over, and on the 29th flocks of several hundred males in full song were seen. The oats were now nearly ready to harvest and considerable damage was done to them by these birds. On my last visit to the oat-fields, May 25, both sexes were as abundant as at any previous time.

85. Molothrus ater. COWBIRD.—Not uncommon.

86. Agelaius phœnieus. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—Abundant, the
sexes being generally in separate flocks; the males frequenting the pines, the females open fields; but in the vicinity of water both sexes were associated. A nest containing four eggs was found May 6.

87. Sturnella magna mexicana. Mexican Meadowlark.—Abundant. Comparison will not permit me to refer the small, dark Meadowlark, resident in Florida, to Sturnella magna, and while they are not fully typical of S. m. mexicana, they approach it so closely as to apparently render subspecific separation impossible. Florida birds are perhaps slightly darker above, the neck gorget is somewhat wider, and the yellow of the underparts has more of a sulphur tint than in Mexican specimens, but in measurements, as the appended table shows, there is little, if any, difference in birds from the two regions.

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88. Icterus galbula. Baltimore Oriole.—A male was taken December 15, and on February 4 a second was seen and heard calling among the blossoms of the cypress.

89. Icterus spurius. Orchard Oriole.—A rare summer resident.

90. Scocleophagus carolinus. Rusty Blackbird.—A common winter resident. Last seen April 14.

91. Quiscalus quiscula aglaeus. Florida Grackle.—Common only in the city where there were a number of flocks, all very tame.

92. Quiscalus major. Boat-tailed Grackle.—Abundant. On one occasion a number were noticed jumping from the ground at passing insects. A singular note of this species greatly resembles the flapping of wings, as of a Coot tripping over the water; this sound was very familiar to me, but so excellent is the imitation that for a long time I attributed it to one of the numerous Coots which abound in most places favored by Q. major.

93. Carpodacus purpureus. Purple Finch.—Rather rare during the winter of 1886-87, but not uncommon the following year.

94. Spinus tristis. American Goldfinch.—Common in small flocks up to April 15.


96. Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna. Savanna Sparrow.—Even more abundant than the preceding. My last record was May 6.

Mr. Maynard's southern form of the Yellow-winged Sparrow (*Ammodramus australis*), is described as being "similar to the northern Yellow-wing, but smaller, darker, and in all stages of plumage streaked across the breast."* My series of fifteen specimens average, wing, 2.36; tail, 1.81; tarsus, .71. Three of these have streaks on the breast, but none are more heavily marked than a specimen in my collection taken at Englewood, N. J., with which they agree in size, and none are darker than any northern specimens I have seen.

98. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. **White-throated Sparrow.** — Common, as late as April 27.

99. *Spizella socialis*. **Chipping Sparrow.** — Abundant in large flocks at the borders of fields.

100. *Spizella pusilla*. **Field Sparrow.** — A common winter resident, found in the same situations as the last. I saw none after April 16.

101. *Plectropterus estivalis*. **Pine-Woods Sparrow.** — Arrived March 31. Common in only one locality, a high, open palmetto pinery, where, May 21, a nest with four fresh eggs was found.

101 a. *Plectropterus estivalis bachmani*. **Bachman's Sparrow.** — Three were taken during the winter in a 'black-jack' pinery; March 25, one was captured at the edge of a palmetto pinery, and on the 26th one in an open field a mile or more from the nearest pines. These last were probably migrants, as both were found in localities which had before been thoroughly searched.


103. *Melospiza georgiana*. **Swamp Sparrow.** — Few were found in low or swampy ground, but in certain old fields they were very abundant. Two seen April 27 were the last noted.

104. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. **Townee.** — Abundant up to the date of its departure, April 27.

104 a. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus alleni*. **White-eyed Townee.** 'Joree.' — Common. Not found associated with the preceding, which inhabits thickets in or near hummocks, while *allenii* prefers the dense growths of scrub palmetto in the pineries. The difference in their calls is marked, and the familiar chewink of *erythrophthalmus* is easily distinguished from the clear, whistled, cherwee of *allenii*, which gives it its local name of 'Joree.'

105. *Cardinalis cardinalis*. **Cardinal.** — Abundant. The first song was heard January 17, and on February 1, they were in full song. April 17, a completed nest was found, and May 27, young just from the nest were taken.

106. *Passerina cyanea*. **Indigo Bunting.** — A female, captured January 27, was the only one observed.

107. *Piranga rubra*. **Summer Tanager.** — Males in full song arrived

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April 14, females two days later, and after this date they were common in pairs, not inhabiting pine lands exclusively, but being equally common in dense scrubs.

An adult male, taken April 15, has appearing from the left side of the pygostyle, in addition to the eleven fully formed rectrices, three new and growing feathers, measuring 1.54 inches in length, of a pale tawny color, thus differing from those of either normal male or female.

In a female taken April 20, there is a peculiar blending of the color of both sexes, the red of the male predominating, which gives it a unique rosy appearance.


110. Ampelis cedrorum. Cedar Waxwing. — Common but irregular winter visitant in flocks of ten to twenty. None were observed after April 28.

111. Lanius ludovicianus. Loggerhead Shrike. 'Loggerhead.' — Common, particularly in the town. Young were seen from April 7 to May 12.


114 a. Vireo solitarius alticola. Mountain Solitary Vireo. — Four of the ten Solitary Vireos taken during the winter and spring of 1886-87, prove to be this race, their identity being determined by Mr. Brewster, to whom they were submitted for examination. Eight additional specimens secured the following year are true solitarius.

115. Vireo noveboracensis. White-eyed Vireo. — Probably a common winter resident, although few were seen until January 31, when they announced their presence from the depths of dense thickets where, silent, they would have been passed unnoticed.

116. Mniotilta varia. Black-and-white Warbler. — A rare winter resident, becoming common March 15, and was last noted April 20.

117. Protonotaria citrea. Prothonotary Warbler. — Two males, taken April 5, were the only ones observed.

118. Helmitherus vermivorus. Worm-eating Warbler. — A single male was taken April 11, and a female December 26, 1887.

119. Helmimnthropila celata. Orange-crowned Warbler. — A not uncommon winter resident. None were observed after April 11.

120. Compsothlypis americana. Parula Warbler. — Commenced to arrive February 22, was abundant on the 25th, and common at the date of my departure.

121. Dendroica tigrina. Cape May Warbler. — A male was taken April 14.
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122.  Dendroica caeruleascens.  **Black-throated Blue Warbler.**—April 5, two males, April 20 and 26, a male each day, May 6, two females, were the entire number observed.

123.  Dendroica coronata.  **Myrtle Warbler.**—The most abundant bird of any species, and very generally distributed. Fully nine tenths of their numbers departed after a severe northeast storm on April 8 and 9.

124.  Dendroica striata.  **Blackpoll Warbler.**—April 23 and 26, a male each day, May 9, two males and a female, constitute the entire record.

125.  Dendroica dominica.  **Yellow-throated Warbler.**—Rather rare winter resident. March 2, migrants in full song began to arrive, and on the 4th of that month they were abundant in the cypresses and common in the pines near water. After this there was little or no change in their numbers or distribution. A partly formed egg was found in the oviduct of a female taken April 14. Several birds in my series of thirty-two are albilora so far as measurements are concerned, but none are without at least a trace of yellow over the eye.

126.  Dendroica vigorsii.  **Pine Warbler.**—An abundant resident of the pineries, in full song February 1, and frequently heard before that date. Young, about two days from the nest, were taken April 18.

127.  Dendroica palmarum.  **Palm Warbler.**—Abundant and very generally distributed; numbers appearing in the streets and gardens of the town, reminding one of Chipping Sparrows as they hopped around our doors and piazzas. They commenced to moult about March 15, and had not acquired their new plumage at the time of their departure, April 29, up to which date they were common.

127 a.  Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea.  **Yellow Palm Warbler.**—Occasionally found associated with the last, in all about fifteen individuals being noticed.

128.  Dendroica discolor.  **Prairie Warbler.**—Arrived March 31, became common April 5, and remained common until May 5, after which date none were observed.

129.  Seiurus aurocapillus.  **Ovenbird.**—A not uncommon inhabitant of the hummocks.

130.  Seiurus motacilla.  **Louisiana Water-thrush.**—Arrived March 8. Very few were seen.


132.  Sylvania mitrata.  **Hooded Warbler.**—April 2 and 11, a male observed each day.

133.  Setophaga ruticilla.  **American Redstart.**—April 7 to May 9, six males, and on the last date three females, were the entire number seen.

134.  Anthus pensylvanicus.  **American Pipit.**—Abundant in flocks of twenty to fifty, frequenting the shores of the lake, hummock clearings, and freshly plowed ground.

135.  Mimus polyglottos.  **Mockingbird.**—Abundant everywhere. The birds of the town commenced to sing January 26, and were in full song February 3, while those of the surrounding country were not in full song
until March 7. The same difference was noticed in the times of breeding, my first notes on the subject being April 20, when almost fully grown young were seen in the city and a nest containing one egg was found a few miles out in the country.

136. **Galeoscoptes carolinensis.** Catbird. — Common, but silent and retiring. None were observed after May 10.

137. **Harporhynchus rufus.** Brown Thrasher. 'Thrasher.' — A common resident. The first song was heard February 8.

138. **Thryothorus ludovicianus.** Carolina Wren. — Abundant. A single specimen (No. 1111, Dec. 13, 1887) in my series of eleven birds has faint wavy marks upon the flanks, thus approaching the berlandieri form.

139. **Troglohytes aëdon.** House Wren. — Abundant, both in the town and surrounding country, wherever there is sufficient growth to afford it concealment. Singing was commenced March 20, and none were observed after April 15.

140. **Sitta carolinensis.** White-breasted Nuthatch. — A not uncommon resident of the pines.

141. **Sitta pusilla.** Brown-headed Nuthatch. — Common in small troops in the pines. One of three fully grown young, taken May 5, exhibits rather peculiar albinistic markings, the bill, head, and tertiaries being whitish, the toe nails flesh color.

142. **Parus bicolor.** Tufted Titmouse. — Abundant. Young attended by the parents were taken May 27.

143. **Parus carolinensis.** Carolina Chickadee. — On two occasions single birds of this species were seen with flocks of *Sitta pusilla* in the pines, but with these exceptions it was a bird of low swamps and scrubs, frequently associating with the preceding. A partly formed egg was found in the oviduct of a female taken March 15.

144. **Regulus calendula.** Ruby-crowned Kinglet. — Abundant. In full song from March 15 to the date of its departure, April 16.

145. **Polioptila caerulea.** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. — A rare winter resident, becoming common March 8. The first song was heard February 28.

146. **Turdus aliciae.** Gray-cheeked Thrush. — A male was taken April 26.

147. **Turdus aonalaschkae pallasi.** Hermit Thrush. — Abundant in the hummocks and common in the pines. Several were heard singing January 8, and from March 10 to 26, they sang occasionally. Few were noted after the last named date until the time of their final departure, April 15.

148. **Merula migratoria.** American Robin. — Abundant in large flocks, and in full song until December 31, no songs being heard later. The greater portion of their number had departed March 15, but several birds were seen in April, on the 11th, 21st and 27th, one observed each day.

149. **Sialia sialis.** Bluebird. — Resident birds inhabit the pines, while the large flocks of wanderers were probably winter visitants. Young just from the nest were taken April 20.