

Columbia. It was nearly sundown, and the place was gathering on the evening shadows, when, within a few feet of where we stood resting for some moments, there suddenly appeared a male hummingbird (*A. colubris*) in hot pursuit of a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus l. ludovicianus*), the latter leading it a pretty chase through the trees and dense vegetation. Both were giving vent to their peculiar notes indicating their excitement, while the hummer seemed bent on doing the wren any bodily harm it could effect with its bill. Once or twice it lit close to us, and the scolding notes of the wren brought two other birds of the same species to the scene. These were likewise immediately charged by the valiant little hummer with great vehemence, which uttered as it did so its little, shrill, squeaky pipings. All three of the wrens kept dodging these attacks, and it was remarkable to see the skill with which the hummer shot about after each in turn through the vines and small branches of the trees and shrubs.

In a few moments, several warblers put in an appearance, among them a Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis t. trichas*), a couple of Parulas (*Compsothlypis a. americana*), a Magnolia (*Dendroica magnolia*), and others which I could not with certainty identify, on account of the increasing darkness. Their arrival seemed to still further excite the hummingbird, which shot first after one, then after another according to their accessibility. In no instance, however, did I actually see it come in contact with the bird attacked, and always on account of the skill of the latter dodging a direct charge; for beyond such linear flights, the hummer could only buzz for a few seconds about the bird he was particularly after in any attack. Neither the wrens nor the warblers made any counter charges, while the entire affair did not last over a minute or two, when both assailant and the assailed flew off in different directions.

Never before in my life have I witnessed such a scene; and I can not conceive what could have occasioned a hummingbird to behave in such a manner.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Washington, D. C.*

Breeding of the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phœniceus phœniceus*) in Nova Scotia.—On June 21, 1914, after repeated searching, I found the nest of the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phœniceus phœniceus*) in a swamp near Antigonish, Nova Scotia. It was attached to cattail stems and rank grass, and was placed six or eight inches above the surface of water in which I stood knee-deep. It contained four eggs, corresponding exactly in appearance with the description of the eggs of this species given in F. M. Chapman's 'Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America,' 1912 edition. Unfortunately, I did not actually see the female at the nest, but she and a male fluttered over my head, or perched in the nearby bushes while I was examining the nest. They uttered many cries of distress and anger, and I consider that their actions, together with the situation and appearance of the nest and its contents, indubitably determine its identity. I did not collect it, as I did not wish to disturb the birds in any way. A second pair of the same species was present in this swamp and presumably

bred there. A male of the species was seen in the swamp on May 2, 1914, and one or more of the birds was observed there occasionally up to the time of finding the nest.

The following may also be of interest in this connection. On June 29, 1914, one male and two female Red-winged Blackbirds were observed in a cattail swamp near Truro, Nova Scotia, and probably within the limits of the town. The birds were easily and positively identified and presumably were breeding there. I can find no previous record of the breeding of the species in Nova Scotia.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Yarmouth, Nova Scotia*.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) **breeding in South-eastern Minnesota**.—It has long been definitely known and of late years frequently recorded that Brewer's Blackbird regularly nests in considerable numbers in *northwestern* Minnesota, especially throughout the valley of the Red River of the North and the region immediately adjacent to the eastward. A few scattered observations confirm its occurrence as a migrant further east in the state:—White Earth, Becker Co. April 6, 1885, W. W. Cooke, (Rep. Bd. Migr. Miss. Val. 1888, pp. 173-4); Bemidji, southern Beltrami Co., September 8, 1902, (L. O. Dart, MS. List); Parker's Prairie, southeastern Ottertail Co., "found here and breeds but is rather scarce during the breeding season," (Fred Barker, MS. List); and from still further eastward comes to the Minn. Nat. Hist. Survey a report from Rev. Severin Gertkin that "many" were seen on April 9, 1894, and "a small flock" on April 3, 1897, at Collegeville, in eastern Stearns County, a locality about fifty miles south of the geographical center of the State.

Dr. P. L. Hatch in his 'Notes on Minnesota Birds' 1892, p. 286, has the following to say in regard to the breeding of this blackbird in Minnesota: "They breed abundantly along the Red River from Big Stone lake to the Canadian line, and eastwardly along the shores of the woodland lakes and streams to Mille Lacs in Crow Wing county, and less commonly considerably further south." But the latter, and most important, part of this statement is unsupported by actual data and nothing up to the present time has been recorded to substantiate the presence of this blackbird east of the extreme western part of the State in the breeding season. Therefore the present circumstantial account of a nesting colony of Brewer's Blackbirds at a locality only thirty miles west of the eastern boundary of Minnesota is perhaps worthy of being placed on record, more especially as it is, as far as I can discover, the most eastern locality where it has been found nesting anywhere in its range.

The place where the birds were found is a swampy meadow of some two hundred acres in extent, resulting from the drainage, a few years ago, of a shallow lake or slough, called Palmer's Lake, a famous resort in times gone by of many kinds of wild fowl and marsh birds. It lies close to the northern limit of the city of Minneapolis. The discovery of the colony was made by Mr. F. H. Nutter on May 13 of the present year, 1914, while surveying this lake bed. Mr. Nutter has for many years been an earnest and intelli-