

It is possible that the diet of moths alone may have been wholly or mainly responsible, but it seems more probable that the continuous feeding had the effect of upsetting the normal daily digestion, with fatal results. As the adult birds probably continued their own feeding while engaged in caring for the wants of the young, it must be assumed either that the quantity of food consumed by them was governed wholly by appetite or that the mature functions were more readily adjusted to the increased hours of activity.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Nesting of the Starling, (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in Michigan.—A nest of the Starling with five, nearly grown young, able to fly from the nest was found by me and members of my zoölogy class on June 5, 1926. It was in a partly dead hickory tree isolated from other trees in a farm lane some four miles northeast of Ypsilanti, Michigan. The nest was in a cavity evidently made by a Woodpecker and about twenty feet up. It was a bulky mass principally of straw, strips of bark and feathers and cemented internally, probably by the excrement of the birds, to form the bowl. A thick, dust with many insect fragments from dried droppings formed a deposit in the nest. Parts of June beetles (*Phyllophaga*) were recognized and an entire living white grub, that probably escaped the young, was found in the material. Streaks of excrement extended from the nest entrance down the tree trunk and the whole situation was foul.

The nest was first located May 7, 1926 by our seeing the bird leave the hole, but it was not examined until June 5. Seven feet below the Starling's nest was a hole occupied by a pair of Northern Flickers (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) with their young.

One of the young Starlings was brought to my house and placed temporarily in a box. This was in the evening. The next morning an adult was trying to feed the bird. No Starlings had heretofore been noted by me within a mile of my home, and the nest from which the bird was taken was about five miles away.—T. L. HANKINSON, *Ypsilanti, Michigan.*

***Idiopsar brachyurus* in Argentina.**—In a small collection of birds lately received from a collector in Argentina there is a specimen of *Idiopsar brachyurus*. This bird, a male, was secured in July, 1924, at Laguna Eslocada, in the Sierra de Zenta at 4500 meters, Departamento de Humahuaca, Jujuy, Argentina. This appears to be the first record for the species in Argentina; the specimen is now number 264,526 U.S.N.M. The label gives the iris as coffee colored, bill dull brown, and tarsus clear brown. The measurements are as follows: Wing 97 mm.; tail 67 mm.; culmen from base 20 mm.; and tarsus 26.5 mm.

Idiopsar has an interesting history. It was long known only by the type in the United States National Museum, secured at "La Paz," Bolivia, and described by Cassin (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1866, 414). It now appears that the type has a deformed bill, since it is worn and elongated, measuring 25 mm. This type, No. 32,664, U.S.N.M., was one

of several birds received from Mr. David K. Cartter bearing the general locality "La Paz, Bolivia," and may perhaps have come from some other section of that country. Dr. P. L. Selater has some remarks upon this specimen, and furnishes a colored plate by Keulemans, in which the abnormalities noted in the bill have been to some extent corrected by the artist. (Ibis, 1884, 240.)

The species next appears in February, 1895, in Bolivia, at Iquico, on the Illimani at 4000 meters, and again at Rinconada on the road over the Andes; also east of La Paz at about the same altitude, in September, 1896. At these localities Herr Gustav Garlepp secured twelve specimens, including adults of both sexes and a young bird. All of these were nearly alike in coloration. The collector found it up to 14,000 ft. near the line of eternal snow. (Von Berlepsch, Ibis, 1898, pp. 62-65.)

In 1906, Mr. Herbert C. Robinson records a specimen in the Free Public Museum of Liverpool, secured prior to 1846 by Thomas Bridges near La Paz, Bolivia. (Ibis, 1906, 386.)

It appears that this striking and peculiar form ranges in the higher mountains from northern Argentina north into Bolivia.—B. H. SWALES, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Brewer's Blackbird Nesting at Madison, Wisc.—On the morning of June 9, 1926, while walking through a dry marsh just south of this city in search of Henslow's Sparrows, I noticed that a pair of Blackbirds were following me about excitedly and with continuous outcries. At first I paid little attention to them, supposing them to be some of our common Red-wings protesting my presence near their nest. After a time, however, I happened to glance at one which had a lighted on a low bush nearby and immediately forgot the Henslow's, for it was evident that the glossy bird before me was a Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*).

I watched the pair for the next half hour, during which time I saw each of them fly off and return with food in its bill, indicating that there were young ones about. Later in the day I returned with Warner Taylor and after a careful search we located the nest with three little ones which we estimated to be about ten days old. The nest was on the ground, well concealed by the short weeds and grass. It seemed to be particularly well located. The soil consists of a firm but spongy peat for a depth of two or more feet, with a blue clay sub-soil, giving such perfect drainage that after a hard, all-night rain I have found both ground and nest perfectly dry in the morning. The vegetation is abundant and very diverse, 18 kinds of herbs being counted in a small area. The ordinary marsh grass, however, grows so sparingly that the field was fit neither for haying nor for pasturage, and as the nearest road is 200 yards away the birds would have been entirely undisturbed had it not been for meddlesome ornithologists. The nest itself was composed of dried weed stems and fine strips of dried bark from some of the marsh shrubs. It was firmly attached to the roots and fibres of the soil so as to be practically a part of it.