

both in location and in construction. And, judging from previous records, a set of five eggs probably is unusual.—J. K. JENSEN, *Santa Fe, New Mexico*.

Rocky Mountain Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata orestura*) in Clayton County, Iowa.—On May 12, 1926, the writer secured a male of this sub-species, near the village of Giard. Identification was made by Dr. H. C. Oberholser. There are several previous records, east of its range. One from Fort Snelling, Minn., and one from Williamsport, Pa.—OSCAR P. ALLERT, *McGregor, Iowa*.

Nesting of the Cerulean Warbler in Piedmont, Virginia.—The Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), a fairly common migrant in the Piedmont region of Virginia, appears to be nesting sparingly around Lynchburg. I understand that Bradford Torrey once made a special trip to prove to himself a report that this species was nesting at Natural Bridge, Virginia. I have heard the unmistakable song of the Cerulean Warbler several times in the past four years, during the breeding season, in Lynchburg and vicinity. On June 12, 1927, I heard its song on Tye River in Nelson County at an altitude of about 850 feet. On July 17, 1927, and on July 27 and 28, 1930, individuals were heard singing within the city limits of Lynchburg. We also heard the song of the Cerulean twice during June, on trips in the nearby Blue Ridge mountains.—RUSKIN S. FREER, *Lynchburg, Va.*

A Breeding Record for the Winter Wren in the Mountains of North Carolina.—From what the writers can learn, by a perusal of 'Birds of North Carolina' by Pearson and Brimley, there seems to be but one specific record of the breeding of *Nannus h. hyemalis* in that State. To quote from this work: "Cairns found it breeding on Black Mountain;" Rhoads is also stated to have found it in the fir belt of Roan Mountain in June; Sherman heard one singing on Grandfather Mountain at 5000 ft. in late June, and Pearson heard two singing on Mount Mitchell at 6500 ft., in August.

In view of these records it will be of interest to record that we saw an adult feeding young birds on August 1, 1930, on the slopes of Grandfather Mountain at an elevation of about 5200 ft. In descending what is known as the "chin" of the mountain, a chattering note coming from near the trail attracted our attention. The note was distinctly Wren-like and we dropped down on a fallen log and awaited results. In a short time an adult Winter Wren appeared followed by another and though the surroundings were quite thick and heavy, we saw that one had food in its bill. Just at this juncture, a very thin, high note was heard which we took to be that of a young bird, and in another moment we saw the adult fly a few feet and alight beside a youngster hitherto unnoticed, and feed it. This took place six times in a very few minutes and it transpired that there were at least two young. One came very near to us, just being able to

fly and the yellow lining of the mouth was plainly visible. At one time we both had our glasses trained on an unaccompanied youngster and the adult suddenly flashed into the field and fed it while we watched. We were both impressed by the fact that the youngster seemed larger than the adult.

In its search for food, the adult kept very close to the trail and we were interested to see that it frequently circled the trunks of trees in exactly the same manner as a feeding Nuthatch. Earlier in the day, we had heard the song of this species in two other parts of the mountain. There were at least five singing birds beside the pair we saw feeding young, which last did not sing at all. This observation was made in Avery County, Grandfather Mountain lying in three counties, Caldwell, Watauga, and Avery.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, S. C.*, and JAMES J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*

Intoxicated Robins.—There are many clumps of bush honeysuckle in a large park immediately adjacent to my Denver home. These bushes produce, in July, an abundant crop of small bitter red berries, which are greedily eaten by Robins, old and young.

For several seasons past my neighbor Mr. F. S. Bonfils, and I have noted a condition of more or less profound intoxication in these Robins after they have eaten these berries. This drunkenness has been seen in every shade of severity, from mild unsteadiness to a degree of incoordination sufficient to cause the birds to fall to the ground. It seems to make some of the birds utterly fearless and perhaps a bit belligerent, for they become quite unafraid of passers-by and interested spectators. A few dead Robins have been found about these honeysuckle bushes, suggesting the idea that some birds consume enough of the berries to carry the toxemia to the threshold of lethality. There has been as yet no opportunity to make an autopsy on one of these dead Robins, presumably poisoned by the berry diet.

Mr. F. C. Lincoln and his colleagues of the Biological Survey have been kind enough to identify this honeysuckle bush for me, as *Lonicera tatarica*. The botanists of the Survey informed Mr. Lincoln that this species contains saponin, an ingredient which readily explains the intoxication outlined above. Other bushes and plants also contain saponin, as for example seneca, horse-chestnut and sarsaparilla. Saponin is a well known toxic glucoside; locally used it acts as an anesthetic and muscle poison, and when given hypodermically or by the alimentary tract, paralyses the greater nerve centers. In sufficiently large doses it causes death by cardiac paralysis. In Robins this assumed saponin poisoning resembles that of ethyl alcohol if the poison be taken in moderate doses, but larger doses are much more toxic than the alcohol. To me the most interesting thing about the situation under discussion is the fact that the birds have not learned to avoid these injurious berries. This explodes the myth that no animal eats anything harmful to itself.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*