

A subsequent visit to the nest was made on June 26. Upon entering the black-berry patch, the female flushed at five feet and revealed a completed nest with one egg of a Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*) and two of her own. The nest had become almost entirely detached from one of the stalks, and was slanted at about a fifty-degree angle. This condition was probably to be attributed to the Cowbird's encroachment. When I disappeared from the scene, having left a camera and tripod in my stead, the female warbler slowly worked back to the vicinity of the nest. Its highly excited *chip-chip* notes, resembling those of the Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), changed to a somewhat fainter *cheep-cheep*; and although it did not actually settle upon the eggs until a half hour after my departure, it would often stop as it flitted by, stand on the rim of the nest, turn the eggs over several times and then dart into the underbrush. Not long after the female settled down to incubate, I released the camera's shutter from my improvised blind, twenty feet away, and the sitting bird immediately flushed. In less than five minutes she had returned to incubate. A second 'snap' of the shutter failed to disturb her. The male warbler was neither heard nor seen during the second visit. Upon an investigation two weeks later, the nest had become completely severed from its support and the contents lay broken on the ground.—M. BROOKE MEANLEY, JR., *Univ. of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.*

**Mourning Warbler nesting in Wisconsin.**—In the January, 1934, issue of 'The Auk' I mentioned the finding of the nest of the Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) near Germantown, Washington County, Wisconsin. Upon that occasion we found only one nest and saw but one pair of birds in the locality. Inasmuch as this was the first published record of the finding of a nest in Wisconsin, we considered the bird a rare nester in the State although Dr. Schorger reported having seen adults feeding large young at Lake Owen. On June 25, 1937, Mr. Warren Dettmann and I visited the Germantown area in the hope of finding another nest. Not far from where we found the breeding pair several years ago, we located a partially completed nest by watching the actions of a pair of adults. Upon further investigation of nearby open places in the heavy brush where jewel-weed and nettle grew, we saw a dozen or more males and two females and heard a number of singing males. Two pairs were observed to be feeding fully fledged young. We climbed trees in order to have a better view of the jewel-weed patches below, and learned that the adults do not fly directly to the young to feed them but alight at a point from twenty-five to fifty feet away and take a ground route. Their movements below were detected by the vibration of the tops of the jewel-weed. By noting the focal point of these movements, one may locate either the nest or the young. While trying to locate one of the young, several of us stood quietly and the adult female hopped along the ground within a few feet of us, apparently unafraid. In this locality this species seems to be partial to an undergrowth of jewel-weed and nettle. We visited several nearby wood patches which contained neither jewel-weed nor nettle, and could locate no more of the birds.

In a recent letter, Mr. C. H. Richter, of Oconto, reports that the Mourning Warbler is a fairly common summer resident along the Oconto River bottoms and on the small willow- and nettle-covered islands, but that he has not located a nest.

Mr. Clarence Jung of Milwaukee reports that on July 18, 1937, he observed a pair of Mourning Warblers feeding two fully fledged young in a nettle patch in a large woods a short distance west of Cedar Grove in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin.

In view of the foregoing facts it would seem that this species is not as rare a breeder

as was formerly supposed. However, with the exception of Dr. Schorger's observations at Lake Owen, all present breeding records are confined to the lake-shore counties.—O. J. GROMME, *Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

**West Indian orioles of the genus *Icterus*.**—In his recent revision of the *Icteri-dae* ('Cat. Birds of the Americas,' vol. 10), Dr. Hellmayr has arranged the West Indian orioles under five species: *Icterus dominicensis* of Hispaniola, with races in Cuba and Puerto Rico; *I. laudabilis* of St. Lucia, with a race on Montserrat; *I. leucopteryx* of Jamaica, with races on Grand Cayman and St. Andrew's islands. *I. northropi* of the Bahamas is considered conspecific with *I. mesomelas* of Central America, while *I. bonana* of Martinique is placed next to the Orchard Oriole (*I. spurius*). With the exception of *I. leucopteryx*, a very distinct species, I consider this grouping most misleading. In the first place, the nearest relative of *I. laudabilis* is undoubtedly the erythristic *I. bonana*, which bears no close relationship to *I. spurius*. Secondly, *I. northropi* has, in all probability, been derived directly from Cuba, as is the case with most of the Bahaman land birds. Those who wish to use the 'formenkreis' should treat West Indian orioles as two species, *I. leucopteryx* and *I. bonana*. This at least would be a more natural arrangement!—JAMES BOND, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

**The Western Meadowlark in Ohio.**—The Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) was unknown in Ohio until 1930, save for one accidental straggler, a male, collected by S. Hall, near Lakewood (Cleveland), Ohio, on April 8, 1880. This is now in the collection of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California (J. Stevenson, Auk, 48: 431, 1931).

A second specimen for Ohio was taken by the writer on May 22, 1937, along Swan Creek, three and a half miles west of Maumee, Lucas County, Ohio. This bird, a male, sang freely, and, when flushed, repeatedly returned to a favorite singing perch on a roadside telephone pole. No female was observed. This specimen is now No. 7507 in the Ohio State Museum collection. Through correspondence with Louis W. Campbell, of Toledo, it was later learned that a male (presumably the same one collected by me) had been seen on four occasions during May 1937. It was observed (while in full song) one mile east of Holland, Lucas County, on May 8, 1937, by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard R. Campbell, and on May 9, 1937, by Bernard R. Campbell and Louis W. Campbell. A week later it had moved its territory three miles to the southwest (near the place where collected). It was seen at the new locality by Bernard R. Campbell on May 15, and by Louis W. Campbell on May 21.

One sight record of the Western Meadowlark in Ohio has been published: a singing bird observed on March 17, 1932, by E. L. Wickliff and Milton B. Trautman in central Grand Rapids Township, Wood County (Auk, 50: 235-236, 1933). I know of no other records except those listed below.

The writer found this species as a rare and local summer resident in Wood, Henry, Fulton, Lucas, and Defiance Counties in 1930 and 1931 and concluded that it was probably a recent invader from the West. Most of the birds were obviously males, singing the typical song of the western species with great gusto and persistence. Three individuals seemed to have no definite territories, but most of the males recorded had well-defined territorial limits. The majority were obviously non-breeding birds (without mates). In two instances, however, males of typical "western" song consorted with females presumed to represent the same species. In one of the latter cases, adults were observed to carry food to nestlings. This seemed to constitute acceptable breeding evidence.