

been assumed to be *leucurus*, will prove to be *nelsoni*. The first two of the latter, a typical female and male, were taken by Robert L. Landberg, of the Museum staff, at Rockport, Weld County, Colorado, on January 23, 1938 (C.M.N.H. nos. 18337-8). These specimens are of large size and have prominent white wing-markings and almost immaculate, unbarred tails. In addition, there are two other specimens in the collection (C.M.N.H. nos. 13739 and 18563) taken at Swink, Otero County, October 30, 1908, and at Barr Lake, Adams County, Colorado, on February 26, 1938, respectively, that are as large as *nelsoni* with wing-markings the same, but with tails more heavily barred, which are intermediate between *nelsoni* and *leucurus*. The above specimens were submitted to George Willett, of the Los Angeles Museum, and we are indebted to him for his determinations.—ALFRED M. BAILEY AND ROBERT J. NIEDRACH, *The Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado*.

Data from ninety Eastern Crows.—At 4 a. m. on March 9, 1938, a crow roost near Sharon, Rock County, Wisconsin, was dynamited, killing well over 5,000 Eastern Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*). On the next day two men assisted the writer in a search for bands but none was found on the entire lot. It was noticed, however, that a number of birds had lost part of their toes or legs. Ninety birds were picked up at random and given to Dr. T. T. Chaddock, Veterinarian of the Wisconsin Conservation Department, for posting. As a result of his examination it was found that the gizzards in all but one specimen were entirely empty of food and that the males and females were almost equal in numbers. Of seventy-seven specimens, an estimate of age showed twenty-three to be old birds and fifty-four young. Old birds ranged in weight from 419 to 567 grams and averaged 492.33 grams; while young birds ranged from 335.5 to 588.41 grams and averaged 498.14 grams. Of the twenty-three old birds, fourteen were females and eight were males. Females (44) averaged heavier than males at 496.48 grams and ranged between 401.7 and 588.4 grams. Males (45) averaged 486.65 grams and ranged between 329.8 and 576.4 grams. The heaviest bird (a female) weighed 588.4 grams or 1 pound 4.75 ounces, while the lightest bird (a male) weighed 329.8 grams or 11.63 ounces. Fatty degeneration of the liver was noted in sixty-nine of the ninety specimens and other diseases were observed. Measurements of the testes and ovaries were secured and furnished to C. T. Black, of the Illinois Natural History Survey, to assist in a cooperative crow investigation now in progress. The need for more banding of crows was clearly evident and should be encouraged. Although the dynamiting of this roost is of small account compared to activities in some more southerly States, the writer sincerely hopes that this first experience will also be the last for Wisconsin.—WALTER E. SCOTT, *Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison, Wisconsin*.

Chickadee neurasthenia.—I have had a number of experiences with Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus atricapillus*) which suggest a type of nervous debility, perhaps due to a corresponding excitement. Two of these experiences I would like to record.

Five Chickadees were feeding at our second-story shelf, carrying sunflower seeds to trees about twenty feet away and there opening them and eating the meats. Suddenly, one bird swung under the twig on which it had been cracking a seed, and hung upside down by both feet. All the rest, except one, flew away, so I suspect something frightened them at the moment this happened. The remaining active Chickadee twice approached the unconscious (?) one, uttering sharp, high notes. It exhibited concern, but in a few moments flew off. The stricken Chickadee hung motionless swaying slightly with the wind like a dead leaf. This lasted for about four minutes and then the bird came to, as suddenly as the spell had descended upon it. Im-

mediately, it began calling the familiar *chick-a-dee-dee-dee* very excitedly and soon flew away.

The second experience occurred when a Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea arborea*) was feeding on the shelf. A Chickadee landed on the edge of the shelf, six inches from the Tree Sparrow; immediately the latter showed the usual antipathy to another bird on the feeding tray by a defiant attitude with open wings and bill. The Chickadee started to go, when apparently it was caught by extreme nervous excitement. The legs trembled, the body was jerked from side to side and the head was thrust backward and forward while the bird seemed rooted to the spot. This condition lasted about ten seconds; then, the bird regained poise and fairly tumbled off the shelf in its haste to get away. It appeared normal a few moments later. With the start of the performance, the Tree Sparrow resumed feeding and paid no further attention. I shall be interested if other observers have had similar experiences.—GORDON BOIT WELLMAN, *Wellesley, Mass.*

A Robin's nest containing eight eggs.—On April 26, 1938, at my brother's home in Media, Pennsylvania, I found eight eggs in a Robin's nest. Neither my brother nor his wife had noticed any unusual behavior among Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) about the lawn. I suspected, however, that two females had laid these eggs, inasmuch as in the only other recorded case of eight eggs in a Robin's nest, two females had incubated them side by side (Forbush, E. H., 'Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States,' 3: 413, 1929). I therefore examined the eggs very carefully. First I found it possible to separate them into two groups of four each by a general inspection of their contours. One 'set' had sharper ends than the other. My sister-in-law then noticed that the set with sharp ends was uniformly a few shades lighter in color than the set with blunt ends. On measuring the two sets, I found further evidence for their double origin:

Light set, sharp ends

30 x 21 mm.
30.5 x 22
31 x 21.5
31 x 21.5

Dark set, blunt ends

29.5 x 22 mm.
29.5 x 22
29 x 22
29 x 23

I watched this nest carefully on subsequent visits to Media: *May 3*, eight eggs still present; *May 7*, one egg just hatched; *May 8*, one young Robin, one piped egg, six un-piped eggs; *May 10*, two young Robins thriving, six un-piped eggs; *May 11*, no change; *May 16*, oldest fledgling almost ready to fly. It has pushed out the other fledgling, which is dead on the ground; three eggs have also been pushed out. Only one of these eggs is to be found; it contains an embryo about ready to hatch and not noticeably decomposed. *May 19*, fledgling has flown; three remaining eggs sterile.

My conclusions from these facts are that an unmated female laid her eggs, none of which hatched, at about the same time that the mated female did, but that this unusual happening resulted in irregular oviposition and incubation on the part of the mated female, so that her eggs hatched, actually or potentially, at irregular intervals. That the superfluous female was unmated is suggested further by the fact that at no time did a third Robin object to my presence at the nest.—C. BROOKE WORTH, *Dept. of Zoölogy, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.*

Starlings summer in Arkansas.—Three Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were observed sitting on the crosspiece of a light-wire post, along the road, six miles west of Fayetteville, on June 15 and 16, 1938. Identification was made at close range with