

Nesting of Acadian Chickadee in Maine.—On July 2, 1938, a pair of Brown-capped Chickadees (*Penthestes hudsonicus littoralis*), each with insect food in its bill, drew my attention, as I followed a trail in the deep woods of Somerset County, Maine, near Carry Ponds. This was at an elevation of about 1200 feet. The path wound through mixed woods for a mile or two and came to a clearing, floored with broken granite ledges and carpeted with sheep laurel and caribou moss. Scattering clumps of spruce and fir, a few birches, a cedar or two, grew in this open space. For some moments the two chickadees flew about nearby, uttering faint scolding notes of alarm and continued to gather insects from the ends of spruce boughs. It was not until I had seated myself and remained quiet that one of the birds flew to a clump of spruce trees, a lone birch and a cedar. Presently the chickadee dropped down low behind the cedar for an instant. Suspecting it might be the nest, I approached and discovered the nesting cavity hidden in the cedar. Fifteen inches above ground the cedar, not over six inches in diameter, divided into two upright branches at an easy angle. Where they joined on the inside, a space fully ten inches in length, the secret lay—an ideal cavity with a narrow opening. Within the nest were young birds well feathered, nearly ready to leave. When I revisited the nest on July 5, they had departed. Search of the vicinity failed to discover any of the fledglings or of their parents. The nesting cavity contained finely shredded cedar peelings and bits of decayed cedar. But the bulk of the nest consisted of moss and deer hair.

Intermingled with this moss were various forms of invertebrate fauna both living and dead. I am greatly indebted to the U. S. Biological Survey of whose staff Mr. L. W. Saylor analyzed the material and prepared the following report. "In vial: one adult *Protocalliphora* sp. and several pupae probably of this species; one ? *Agromyzidae* pupa (not usual in nests); two *Fannia* sp. larvae (spiny ones); many beetle larvae, *Choleva* sp. (a small silphid beetle); fragment of Anisoptera wing.

"For your information, the *Protocalliphora* above are bloodsucking flies and some species of the genus are known to do a good deal of damage to birds; thus the maggots of California species have been taken from the nests of the Mourning Dove, Nuttall's Sparrow, California Purple Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Willow Goldfinch, California Brown Towhee, and California Linnet. At times the fly maggots may be sufficiently numerous to kill not only the very young but also those nearly fully fledged. The anthomyiid fly, *Fannia*, on the other hand is a scavenger and probably feeds on the excrement in the nest and possibly also on the deer hair."—AARON C. BAGG, 72 Fairfield Ave., Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Type locality of the American Robin.—Linnaeus's name (*Systema Naturae*, ed. 12, 1: 292, 1766) was based on the *Turdus pilaris migratorius* of Catesby (*Natural History of Carolina*, 1: 29, pl. 29, 1731) and Kalm (*Resa til Norra America*, 3: 46, 1761) and the *Turdus canadensis* of Brisson (*Ornithologie*, 2: 225, 1760). Doubtless because Linnaeus adopted one of Catesby's descriptive adjectives as a specific name, Catesby has been considered the primary reference. South Carolina has thus become the accepted type locality for the nominate race of the Robin, as stated in the latest edition of the 'Check-list.' This is somewhat unfortunate, since the species is known in the vicinity of Charleston (where Catesby presumably first saw it) only as a winter resident. The selection of Canada (i.e., the city of Quebec), *ex* Brisson, on the other hand, would have simplified matters, since we now know that southern-bred Robins are appreciably smaller in size and paler in general coloration than those from the north. Raleigh, North Carolina, is the type locality designated for this small southern race, *achrusterus* of Batchelder. Could it be shown, however, that the

Robins that winter in the Charleston region are *achrusterus*, the name would fall as a pure synonym of *migratorius*, and a new name would be necessary for the northern race—unless a shift in the type locality were permissible. I know of no rule in nomenclature governing such cases.

In describing *achrusterus*, Batchelder was at some pains to define the status of *migratorius* in South Carolina, but evidently he had no specimens to support his opinion. Efforts to secure winter specimens of the Robin from South Carolina have proved fruitless until quite recently, when through the active interest and cooperation of Mr. E. Milby Burton, the Director of the Charleston Museum, a series of twenty-one specimens became available. These have now been measured and compared, and are clearly referable, as a series, to the larger northern race. While the possibility remains that both races may occur in this region in winter (traveling perhaps in separate flocks?), the occurrence there of northern-bred birds is at least definitely established, and the pertinence of the name *migratorius* may be considered settled.

A recent writer (Magee, Bull. Northeastern Bird-Banding Assn., 3: 84, 1927) raises the question as to whether there is a northern race of the Robin. Truly such a race exists, but it is the race to which the name *migratorius* is strictly applicable. The supposed character of the white eye-ring to which he calls attention does not hold in our series from Labrador and the Hudson Bay region, however. These specimens are not only larger, sex for sex, than southern birds, but are darker and generally more richly colored, with the upper parts more often suffused with black. Adult males measure: wing, 126–136 (average, 132 mm.); tail, 95–106 (100). Breeding birds from western Pennsylvania measure: wing, 123–132 (127) mm.; tail, 92–100 (95.5). The latter are thus obviously intermediate between *migratorius* and *achrusterus*, but nearer the latter. Under the circumstances I think that coining another name for the Robins of the Middle Atlantic States would be inexpedient.—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.*

A curious clutch of Robin's eggs.—On June 11, 1924, at Arlington Reservoir, Massachusetts, I found a nest of the Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) on the bough of a thirty-foot pine, at a height of twenty feet from the ground and about four feet from the bole. The nest was slightly oval in shape, its interior measuring 80 by 100 mm. It held eight eggs, two of which were normally colored and measured 28 by 22 mm.; both contained large young almost ready to hatch. Six eggs were white, with a faint pink tinge imparted by the yolk showing through; all were more elongate in shape than the blue-green eggs. Three of them measured 29 by 20 mm., one was 27 by 19 mm., one 24 by 17 mm., and one 22 by 17 mm. All six had been incubated sufficiently to develop a trace of blood except the smallest egg which had been perforated near its larger pole—presumably by the bird's claw. All these white eggs were slightly decomposed. The perforated egg was blown through the 'claw hole', and the whole clutch presented to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.—ARTHUR LOVERIDGE, *Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Nevada.—On June 20, 1938, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*) was observed near St. Thomas, Nevada, on the north arm of Lake Mead. Undoubtedly this bird was a straggler, although it was observed during what would normally be the breeding season. This constitutes the first record of this bird from Nevada.—RUSSELL K. GRATER, *National Park Service, Boulder City, Nevada.*

Juvenal plumage of the Evening Grosbeak.—All the authorities that have dealt with the plumages of the Evening Grosbeak have described the juveniles of