

Acadian Flycatcher flies backward.—Because it seems to be a popular belief that the hummingbird is the only bird capable of flying backward, it seems worth while to record the fact that the Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) has been observed to perform this feat very neatly and apparently very easily.

While in the vicinity of a nest of a pair of Acadian Flycatchers in the summer of 1937, the writer noticed one of these birds poised in the air facing a large insect (probably the big syrphid fly, *Milesia virginiensis*) also poised in mid-air facing the bird. The two were only three or four inches apart and each seemed to be regarding the other with fixed attention. Except for their rapidly vibrating wings they were practically stationary in the air. However, the insect appeared to be the more aggressive of the two, for shortly it began a slow advance, while the flycatcher retreated at the same rate, flying backward without apparent effort, while still facing the fly and maintaining the same distance from it. This lasted for only a few seconds, when the insect darted off and the bird sought its familiar perch.

This observation was made without the aid of glasses, at a distance of from fifteen to twenty feet, without any obstruction to clear view. It recalled at once the deft flight of the hummingbird as it backs away from the flower which it has just been probing. The flycatcher executed this maneuver so readily that the writer has not much doubt but that it could as easily duplicate other aerial feats for which the hummingbird is famous.—ARTHUR B. WILLIAMS, *Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio.*

Key West Vireo at Miami, Florida.—On February 16, 1938, the writer collected an adult male Key West Vireo (*Vireo griseus maynardi*) along the bank of a drainage canal, twelve miles northwest of Miami, in Dade County, Florida. The locality is over forty miles from the Florida Keys, the typical range of this race. The specimen was examined and identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser and is now in the collection of the Bureau of Biological Survey.—JOHN C. JONES, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Territorial aspects of the American Redstart.—During the course of about thirty-five cruises over four seasons for a census of the breeding birds in a heavily wooded slope in Westchester County, New York, the writer found *Setophaga ruticilla* to be a highly territorial species. Males advertised their presence by their typical well-known song and by formalized territorial displays that apparently served to define boundaries and reduce fighting. These displays consisted of short, horizontal, semi-circular flights made with stiffened wings and out-spread tails. These performances were frequently observed between males, less commonly between females and never between a male and a female where a question solely of territory was involved. Hingston's interpretation of the function of warning coloration in plumages seemed to be particularly applicable in these cases. Low, repeated *quit, quit* notes could be heard when the displays were concluded and the birds returned to their perches. As far as could be observed, these same performances seemed to serve as some part of the male's courtship of females. On all exciting occasions, of course, both sexes spread their tails like many other American wood warblers. Flight songs appeared to be absent. Singing perches, if present, were largely undetected by the observer. One male which took up territory in a blackberry-locust association sang frequently on April 30 and May 8 only one to two feet from the ground. Three males were once watched for an entire morning before females had arrived on the area: one was quite obviously patrolling the boundaries of his territory, the two others seemed to