

this period to the time they leave the nest, the youngsters call incessantly from dawn to dusk, occasionally giving lusty cries long after it has become too dark for the parents to gather food.

I saw one brood voluntarily leave the nest box on the sixteenth day after some coaxing by the parents. The largest nestling on its initial flight from the box flew 70 yards. Three others flew to a clothesline 10 yards away, but the smallest missed the line, volplaning to the ground 30 yards from the nest.

The parents commence to feed the first young to hatch, and as the interval between hatching of the entire clutch may be twelve hours or longer, it is evident that the most precocious youngsters secure a good start over their less fortunate nest mates. When the birds are small, about 60 to 90 trips a day suffice, but with increasing size and greater alimential needs, the parents must 'hustle' from dawn to dusk. During a three-hour period (5 a. m.-8 a. m.) the adults made 47 trips to the nest and later on the same day (4 p. m.-8 p. m.) 61 trips were recorded. Cursory observation during midday did not suggest that feeding was curtailed in any way. On this basis we may assume an average of 225 trips a day.

As soon as the first brood has left, the female commences relining the nest, and within a few days has started incubating her second clutch. Meanwhile, the male is caring for the young birds. They seldom venture far from the home site, and may almost invariably be seen within a quarter mile or so of it. When the second brood has hatched, and this may be late July or early August in the event of a late first nesting, the male parent returns and aids in the feeding. Occasionally feeding duties are rendered less arduous by the young of the first brood aiding in these duties.

Nesting Bluebirds which I have observed are seldom concerned over the proximity of other native birds, but I have seen the male vigorously pursue Baltimore Orioles on several occasions, chasing them for two hundred yards or more. On one occasion the male threw two eggs of a Chipping Sparrow from a nest in a nearby plum tree.—W. J. HAMILTON, JR., *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Unusual nest of the Parula Warbler.—What I am inclined to believe is the first nesting record of the Parula Warbler in this immediate vicinity was secured this month. I discovered the nest along the Chemung River about two miles west of this city on June 10. The nest had been built within a cone of grasses, weed stalks and leaves that had been caught on one of the slender lower branches of a maple tree overhanging the river when it was in flood. The receding waters had left this particular cone about nine feet above the present sloping bank. Lacking the customary *usnea*, the Parulas had utilized fine rootlets, grass fibers, bits of linty material, and the like for the nest itself.

When discovered, the young had already hatched. On June 16 they left the nest. My husband and I subsequently collected the nest, at the suggestion of Dr. Arthur A. Allen of Cornell University, who in the meantime had been notified and on June 12 came and filmed both nest and parent birds. For the Parula to build this type of nest appears so exceptional as to deserve special mention.—OLIVE R. YORK, 862 *Hoffman Street, Elmira, New York.*

Bullock's Oriole as a fighter.—While serving as a member of a biological collecting party in southeastern Utah during June and July of 1927, the writer had an opportunity to observe some interesting and unusual activities of Bullock's

Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*) nesting at Green River City, Utah. In this locality the orioles were quite numerous and were in the midst of their nesting season.

Maggies (*Pica pica hudsonia*) also were very common. One of these omnivorous feeders, a juvenile about one-half to two-thirds grown, was observed circling about an oriole's nest as though searching for a breakfast of eggs. The Magpie soon alighted in the tree in which the nest was hanging and began to come closer and closer to the beautiful swinging structure. Almost at the instant the Magpie settled upon the edge of the nest, the male oriole, which apparently was but a few rods away, was heard to give an abrupt and angry call of warning. A moment later the enraged male came with all his force at the intruder, striking it on the crown of the head. The Magpie dropped to the ground, stunned to such an extent that the writer was able to pick it up, and only after ten minutes could it regain sufficient strength to fly away.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

Bass eats Yellowthroat, young Stilts, and young Ducks.—While fishing on Lake Okeechobee, Florida, in October, 1942, our party caught a three-pound largemouth bass (*Huro salmoides*) that had the remains of a Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) in its stomach. This fish struck savagely from under a clump of water hyacinth at a surface lure, and it is easy to imagine how it could catch a Yellowthroat, fluttering over the water to pick up floating insects, as I've seen them do in a similar manner.

Mr. Marvin Chandler of Okeechobee City tells me that some years ago he saw bass take downy young Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) that had been frightened into the waters of Lake Okeechobee and were swimming there, and that he knew of eight of a brood of twelve downy young domestic ducks being eaten by bass in a single day on a tributary of Lake Istokpoga.—A. L. RAND, *Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Florida.*

Turkey Vulture feeding habits.—On June 5, 1942, Elton J. Hansens and I flushed five Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) on the Cross Keys Road, about two miles east of Glassboro, New Jersey. Upon arriving where the birds had been we found the remains of the carapace and plastron of an eastern box turtle, *Terrapene carolina carolina*. These parts had been cleaned of most of the meat. The turtle had been killed that morning by an automobile and what meat was left appeared fresh and no apparent decomposition had set in as no odor was noticeable.

On June 17, 1942, Mr. Hansens and I flushed a Turkey Vulture on the Cross Keys Road about a mile east of Glassboro. We found that the bird had been attracted by a dead gray squirrel, *Sciurus carolinensis carolinensis*. The bird was flushed before it had a chance to start eating the squirrel. The squirrel was covered with greenbottle-flies (Calliphoridae), but there was no noticeable odor.

In both of these cases it is interesting to note that there was no odor which might attract the Vultures to these dead animals; also that in both cases they were interested in fairly fresh meat. This shows that odor may play little or no part in helping Turkey Vultures find their food.—WILLIAM F. RAPP, JR., *130 Washington Avenue, Chatham, New Jersey.*

Defensive behavior of the White-breasted Nuthatch.—On the morning of April 25, 1942, while conducting field observations on birds in Washington Park, Albany, New York, I witnessed a demonstration of the interesting defensive behavior of a