

My first instance came from a man living at Gull Harbor, about ninety miles from the south end of Lake Winnipeg. He and a companion, in 1929 or 1930, saw a large frog leap at a hummingbird that they were watching and capture it. They tried to recover the frog, but it escaped under a shed. The bird was hovering at a flower when seized.

The second instance was related by a man living near Portage la Prairie who also observed a large frog take a hummingbird while the bird hovered at a flower.

My third instance was related by my friend, the late Hugh Moncrieff, of Winnipeg—a keen naturalist and nature photographer. He was at his summer cottage at Gimli in the summer of 1939, and was watching a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird hovering at some flowers. He had intended to get out his motion-picture camera and photograph it in color. While trying to estimate the exposure and general situation in advance, he heard a snap and saw a frog fall on the flower-border while at the same time the bird had disappeared. He chased the frog but it escaped under his cottage. He called some boys to help and they recovered the frog in about fifteen minutes or less. He then instructed the boys as to killing the frog and dissecting it to recover the bird. While the operation was going on, Mr. Moncrieff took a moving picture showing the recovery of the hummingbird.

My fourth case occurred in August, 1940, to Mrs. Osborne Scott, whose husband is Passenger Traffic Manager, Canadian National Railway Co. In her garden at the summer cottage at Victoria Beach, on Lake Winnipeg, Mrs. Scott had adopted "an enormous green frog with large black spots" which had complete liberty. This frog was basking in the sun of an old camp bed in the garden, only three or four yards from where Mrs. Scott was sitting on the verandah. A waterhose was playing on the flowers and a leak in the pipe sent up a fine spray near the frog. A few Yellow Warblers were playing in the spray, sometimes flying through it very near the frog. She saw the frog leap about two feet into the air and seize a Yellow Warbler as it flew past. She ran out and found the tail and legs of the bird still protruding from the frog's mouth while the frog had its 'hands' on the tail. The frog soon swallowed the bird completely.

I am unable to state definitely that the frogs were leopard frogs, but that identification is, in my opinion, almost conclusive in every instance, due to the fact that the only frog in the province large enough to handle anything like a hummingbird is the leopard frog. I know of no records of the bullfrog in the province, and the next largest frog we have is the northern wood-frog (*Rana sylvatica cantabrigensis*). The leopard frogs, furthermore, are the only really spotted frogs we have here.—L. S. T. NORRIS-ELYE, *Manitoba Museum, Winnipeg, Manitoba.*

**Observation on the food of the Bronzed Grackle.**—Although aware of the wide variety of foods taken by the Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus versicolor*), I was surprised to find two birds catching, killing, and devouring small leopard frogs (*Rana pipiens*). These grackles were observed in a small, swampy woodlot adjacent to the St. Bonaventure College campus, near Olean, New York. On June 20, 1943, I saw what appeared to be a sick or wounded grackle fluttering about a small pool of water lying in a hollow of the woodlot. When I approached the bird, however, it behaved quite normally and took wing. The next day, June 21, I noticed two birds going through the same performance. Circling the pool, they would suddenly run along the ground, fluttering their wings, and jab viciously at the small frogs which abound in the pool. I watched while the birds killed three frogs, then frightened them away and examined the remains. Each frog was neatly

pierced with a bill-sized gash in the soft throat or near the eyes. None of these frogs exceeded eight centimeters in length.

June 23 found three birds at the pool, but one flew at my approach. I observed one bird eating a frog in a small oak above the pool and noted that the other was actually in the water and that the belly feathers were wet. This bird repeatedly stabbed at frogs and missed, but I later found two dead frogs floating in the pool; both had been pierced through the head. Here again the frogs measured about eight centimeters in length and though there were larger frogs available, these smaller ones were apparently easier to catch and handle. The last bird was seen at the pool June 24; one frog was taken into the small oak and eaten. The grackle held the frog across the branch in hawk-like manner with one foot, and tore the flesh with its bill. All birds observed were adults.—STANTON GRANT ERNST, *Dept. of Forest Zoology, New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, N. Y.*

**Nestling House Wrens hatch a foster egg.**—The ability of young birds in a nest to incubate and hatch eggs by their own body warmth was tested and proved by a family of House Wrens (*Troglodytes aëdon*). In my yard were two families of nesting House Wrens. The parent females were banded 139-72379 and 41-98935. For convenience, they shall be called no. 79 and no. 35. No. 79 laid her five eggs July 7 to 11, 1943. On July 17, when no. 79's eggs had been incubating six days, no. 35 laid her first egg. This was marked and left in the nest. On July 18, the second egg was laid before 8 A. M. and was immediately removed, marked on each end with a single painted dot, and placed in the nest of no. 79. The next day, before 8 A. M., the third egg was marked with two dots and placed in the other nest. Later eggs were treated in like manner. The evening after the fifth egg was removed, the mother bird, no. 35, was caught and found to have another egg ready to be laid the next morning, but that sixth egg was not deposited in this nest and the mother was never seen again. Then no. 35's first egg was removed and placed in the nest with the others. These foster eggs seemed to remain in the positions in which they were placed, and surrounding the eggs properly belonging to that clutch. I enlarged the cavity slightly, to make a base large enough to hold the ten eggs without over-rolling. On July 24, three of the eggs of wren no. 79 were hatched and two more were hatched early the next morning, the 14th day. With five young birds to feed, the parents had little time to brood them and to warm the foster eggs. Numerous observations showed that the adults spent only enough time within the box to feed their young, which grew rapidly. On August 2, one of the foster eggs was hatched; it had been laid July 17. This young bird was scarcely larger than the heads of the older birds, and although I would place it upon their backs and it held its mouth open, I do not believe it received any food. It died the next day. The other eggs were not hatched, but three of them were advanced in incubation; one was not fertile. After the brood of wren no. 79 left the nest on August 9, I examined the remaining foster eggs and found well-developed feathers in one, progressively less developed features in the others, showing that had the foster eggs been added to the second nest earlier possibly all might have been hatched and reared.—HAROLD B. WOOD, *Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.*

**Age of a Red-vented Bulbul.**—"Billy," a Red-vented Bulbul (*Molpastes cafer*), long-time resident of the Los Angeles County Museum, escaped through an open window, February 20, 1944, during a very heavy rainstorm. He was picked up dead six days later, probably a victim of the inclement weather. The writer has