

During the 1938 season, Bert Oudette, the writer and several others observed another female using a cavity on the Pennsylvania portion of the reservoir.

During the spring of 1942, many ducks and shorebirds used a series of small ponds created by the Columbus sewage disposal plant just southwest of the city and west of the Scioto River, Franklin County. Several pairs of Wood Ducks, Mallards, Black Ducks, and Blue-winged Teals remained to breed; two broods of each species were observed. On May 14, 1942, Nelson Thompson reported a female Hooded Merganser with ten small young. Each day thereafter we attempted to find and collect a duckling to substantiate the record, but the brood appeared to be particularly elusive. Eventually the female and all but one duckling escaped to the safety of the Scioto River. After three hours of hectic pursuit from one tiny island and peninsula to the next, swimming and wading through sewage waters and debris, the writer collected the remaining duckling on May 18, 1942, thanks to the corralling assistance of Nelson Page and John Anderson. This duckling, a male weighing 56.4 grams, proved to be about nine days of age. It is now in the Ohio State Museum collection. Breeding of this species in Central Ohio, far south of its normal range and in such a unique habitat, is indeed remarkable.

During the summer of 1943, the writer discovered another female with six three-weeks-old young on a marsh in eastern Lucas County near the Ottawa County line and the Lake Erie shore. Thus the Hooded Merganser is now known to breed in four counties of Ohio: Ashtabula, Franklin, Ottawa and Lucas.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.*

**Rose-throated Becard nesting in Cameron County, Texas.**—A pair of Rose-throated Becards (*Platypsaris aglaiae*) was observed working on a nest the last week in April, 1943. The locality was about thirteen miles southwest of Harlingen, Texas, in the tract used as a nesting-census area by the writer in May and June, 1938 (*Bird-Lore*, 40: 356, Sept.—Oct., 1938). Both the male and female were carrying material to the nest which was in a hammock or swing stage of construction. The next time the place was visited the nest was found to have been abandoned without any further additions. This beginning of a nest was of interest from the point of view of construction as the two ends of the swing were attached to separate small twigs of a black willow so that they pulled slightly apart as the larger branch above swayed in the breeze. The bottom of the nest was about twenty feet from the ground.

Later (the first week in May) another beginning of a nest was found about 200 yards south of the first. It appeared to have been abandoned at a still earlier date. It also was in a black willow and was about 22 feet above ground. About fifty feet north of this location the birds were again observed. This time they were working on an almost completed nest. The third attempt was again in a black willow and the bottom of the nest was about 21 feet from the ground. Material was still being added, however, and there was still an opening at the extreme top of the bag as well as the one at the side of the ball-like bottom. It was noted that the female made about twice as many trips to the nest per unit of time as the male and that she alone did the work on the interior. By May 7 the nest seemed to be completed. The writer was out of the region the first half of June; hence it is impossible to report on the results of the nesting. The birds could not be found when the place was visited on June 18, but the nest was in good condition and the opening was clean and firm. By the first week in July the nest was showing signs of disuse and the opening was half closed.

The male bird was somewhat 'dirty white' below. A reddish tint, which showed in the tail feathers when the tail was spread, might indicate that he was only one year old. The willow trees in which the nests were placed are about fifty feet out from a

dense bank of ash trees, vines, and underbrush (described as "edge" in the above-mentioned breeding-census report). The willows grow in open woods with grass and weeds below, but there are scattered clumps of mimosa shrubs here and there.

On June 27, 1943, a pair of Rose-throated Becards was found tending one juvenile female in a heavy ash-hackberry jungle on the Santa Ana tract south of Alamo, (Hidalgo County) Texas. The site was just outside the plot of the breeding census reported by the writer in 1940 (Bird-Lore, 42: Sept.-Oct., 1940); the whole tract is now a federal wildlife refuge. The juvenile moved only once during the half hour it was under observation and then only from one tree to the next. Both adults were quite excited and gave alarm notes which they repeated as long as the writer remained in the area.

The male in this case was not quite pure white below and it is thought that it was slightly darker on the sides of the breast than the Cameron County male. Since all the resident males that I have observed are light below, it now seems likely that the female and juvenile male which I first observed in 1937 were also residents instead of accidental visitors from the west as I at first supposed. Ridgway classified his white-breasted specimen from Nuevo Leon as *P. a. albiventris* (Birds of North and Middle America, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 50, pt. 4: 851, footnote). Bent discussed the birds, reported earlier by the writer, under the heading of *albiventris*, apparently following Ridgway's lead, but suggested that they might belong to the race *richmondi* van Rossem, in case the A. O. U. should see fit to recognize that subspecies. Since this has now been done (*cf.* Auk, 61: 452, 1944) and it is known that our Rio Grande Delta-region birds are residents rather than accidental stragglers from the west, they should be called *richmondi*. In 1942, Mrs. D. C. Ring sent the writer a description of an "unknown" bird which she had observed on her farm north of Alamo, Texas. It was quite obviously another male Rose-throated Becard. These various records now seem to establish the species as a resident of low density in both Hidalgo and Cameron counties of Texas.

Postscript.—Since submitting the foregoing note, I have made an additional observation that is of interest. This spring (1944) a male has appeared here in Cameron County that is completely gray below except for the rose spot on the throat, including even the chin. This answers the question as to whether or not all the birds at this extreme northern limit of the range are light below. Heretofore all seen by the writer were either white below or almost so, as is mentioned in a preceding paragraph.—L. IRBY DAVIS, *Harlingen, Texas.*

**A correction.**—I wish to correct an unfortunate error which occurred on Plate 23 of *The Auk* for October, 1944. The upper photograph shows a Horned Lark nest, not a Lapland Longspur nest, as stated. The error occurred during selection of photographs for the paper, three years after field observations were made; it in no way affects the accuracy of the accompanying data on Lapland Longspurs.—L. I. GRINNELL, *Ithaca, N. Y.*