

many times a day during more than a week that it was watched, and single birds captured beetles at rates as high as 12 in 10 minutes. As for the other species, I have from two to a number of observations for all but the Mockingbird, which I have only once seen eating beetles.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

Some insect food of the Yellow-headed Blackbird.—Stomachs of fifteen Yellow-headed Blackbirds, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*, have been collected from marshes and near-by farms of northern and central Utah since 1940. Examination of the stomach contents revealed in recognizable form the following insects: 7 Orthoptera, mostly grasshoppers; 1 larval aphid lion; 7 naiads of damsel and dragonflies; 2 Hemiptera. Of the 96 beetles recognized, 13 were ground beetles, 2 predacious diving beetle larvae, 1 dermestid, 1 ladybird, 2 scarabaeids, 7 leafbeetles and 18 weevils, among them 4 alfalfa weevils, 2 clover leaf weevils and 1 rough strawberry weevil. There were 40 lepidopterous caterpillars recognized, 18 being cutworms and armyworms; of 13 Diptera, 4 were larval and 1 an adult horsefly, and 7 larvae of other kinds; 10 Hymenoptera included 7 ants. In addition were insect, plant and seed fragments, 2 spiders and 109 seeds, mostly of weeds. Cultivated crop seeds recognized were 18 wheat, 22 oat and 6 barley kernels.—G. F. KNOWLTON, Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.

Common Tern's nest with seven eggs. (Plate 16, top figure.)—On June 27, 1944, I found in a large nesting colony of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) one nest containing the surprising number of seven eggs. As I was only fifteen at the time, and relatively inexperienced, I did not realize what a rarity this was or I should have reported it sooner.

The nest was one of a very large number on the "Wing Dyke," a long, narrow, artificial island of limestone gravel about a quarter of a mile from the Canadian shore of the Detroit River, and directly opposite Amherstburg, Ontario.

Such a large number of eggs—which I believe might very well be unique for this species—might possibly not be a natural occurrence. A few anglers and other people frequent the dyke and one may have for some unknown reason placed a number of extra eggs in this nest. The eggs, however, were all very similar in shape, size, and markings, and this fact seems to indicate that they were all laid by the same bird. Unfortunately, I had very little opportunity for sustained observation of this nest, and as from a distance it was indistinguishable from the (literally) hundreds of nests surrounding it, I cannot even say definitely whether the eggs were brooded or deserted. When the accompanying photograph was taken one of the eggs had disappeared, but whether it had hatched or been stolen I am not prepared to say.

Several other nests in the colony contained four eggs, but the usual number was two or three as one would naturally expect. It is difficult to estimate the total population of the colony, but I believe that the number of occupied nests would lie between 700 and 1000. An estimate made on May 24, 1944 (long before the height of the nesting season), and based on actual counts made in characteristic areas, was between 500 and 600 nests, with an average of 1.9 eggs in each occupied nest. This estimate completely ignores those nests which apparently were ready for occupancy but did not then contain eggs. This number would probably increase greatly by the middle of June. In some small, especially desirable areas, barely more than a yard separated each nest from its nearest neighbor.—FREDERICK E. WARBURTON, Owen Sound, Ontario.