

purely suppositional frame of mind) are they coming back to nesting grounds that they held in pre-colonial or colonial days, where because of their resemblance to other commoner ducks, they were overlooked in the multiplicity of water fowl of that time? We cannot answer these questions presently, but the former postulation may be proven, in a sense, if more of the purely western species seek and find breeding grounds on the Atlantic coast.

In 1948, the Gadwalls are back again at Jones Beach, having been seen since the middle of March.—WALTER SEDWITZ, 24 West 76 Street, New York, City; IRWIN ALPERIN; AND DR. MALCOLM JACOBSON.

**First Long Island breeding record of the Brown Creeper.**—The Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris americana*) has been recorded nesting in northern New Jersey (Cruickshank, 'Birds Around New York City': 327-328, 1944). Up to the present time, however, there has been no confirmed record of its nesting on Long Island. The following observations on a pair nesting at Smithtown, Long Island, seem worth recording.

On April 14 and again on May 1, 1947, my eight-year-old nephew reported a pair of creepers nesting on a tree six feet from the edge of a much used driveway on the David Weld farm, Smithtown. On May 15 these reports were confirmed by the writer. The nest was located 53.5 inches above the ground on the southeast side of a large yellow locust (*Robinia pseudacacia*) beneath a large slab of loose bark. One bird was sitting on the nest. This bird was disturbed and shortly a pair appeared in the vicinity. They were completely silent. The nest contained five eggs. In conversation with the children, who had been subjecting the nest to frequent inspections, we deduced that these eggs were probably deposited about May 1.

On June 6 the nesting site was again inspected by the writer. It was empty. Conversation with the children indicated that the birds left the nest about May 23. At this time (June 6) the writer noted several (certainly three, possibly five) apparently young birds in the vicinity of the nest. They were exceedingly shy but apparently were being fed by at least one adult bird.

On June 8 a second creeper's nest was inspected (again in response to advices from the children). It was completely constructed, being just 53.5 inches above the ground on the southern side of a large yellow locust at the edge of the same driveway and about 100 feet to the south of the first nest. It contained no eggs. Two birds were in the immediate vicinity; both were silent.

On June 13 this second nest was inspected again; five eggs were noted. Two birds were seen in the vicinity, both silent and more shy than heretofore.

From June 13 to July 13 this nest was subjected to frequent inspections by the children and was once visited by a cat, the ultimate result being that it was empty and out of shape when last inspection was made by the writer on July 13. It appeared that the second brood was destroyed, though this can not be confirmed beyond a doubt.

In connection with the above it is also of interest to include observations of Dr. Ernst Mayr on probable breeding of the same species at Cold Spring Harbor, 15 miles west of Smithtown on the north shore of Long Island, during the same season. We quote the following from Dr. Mayr's letter concerning a singing male Brown Creeper, which he observed at Cold Spring Harbor on June 18, 1947:

"I had no doubt that the bird was breeding there. This is particularly true since the bird was on a locust tree which I had found in Germany to be a favorite nesting place of the genus. However, when I returned to Cold Spring Harbor on June 26 I saw no trace of the bird, neither did I see it during the rest of the summer,

although I spent hours in the various locust groves looking for the bird. I am sure I would not have missed it if it were there since I am familiar with the characteristic song. I do not have the faintest notion what happened to the bird between June 18 and June 26. I never saw more than the single singing bird. I wouldn't be surprised if the birds had been nesting in one of the locust trees since there were several accumulations of materials under the slabs of loose bark that could have been old nests of the species. However, I am fairly certain that there was no second brood in this locality. A second brood is normal in this species, as I found in New Brunswick in 1933."

It is considered that the exceedingly late spring on Long Island in 1947 may have accounted for the breeding of these birds at an unaccustomed and southerly station. The last frost in the Smithtown area was on May 9. It is also interesting that these birds chose a nesting site in an exposed and slightly elevated position, surrounded by lawns and scattered ornamental trees (principally Norway spruce) in preference to heavily wooded (deciduous), depressed, swampy ground surrounding the 20 or 30 acres of elevated "parked" land.—DAVID G. NICHOLS, 181 Liberty Ave., Westbury, N. Y.

**Painted Redstart in Massachusetts.**—On October 18, 1947, while casually birding at Marblehead Neck, Massachusetts, Mrs. Heyliger de Windt, of Boston, and Mrs. David H. Searle, of Marblehead, were attracted to a small bird, strikingly marked in black, white, and bright red, that was actively feeding in a tree above them. It was a species entirely new to them, and examination of their eastern bird books on returning home failed to place it. The bird was watched intermittently in the same neighborhood over a five-hour period, and every detail of color and marking was noted. A call to the executive director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and a further check on the bird by the discoverers and by Herbert Caswell, of the Essex County Ornithological Club, Salem, identified the visitor as a Painted Redstart. The bird was still present in the same area the following day, when it was observed by Ludlow Griscom, of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Harvard University, and many parties of bird enthusiasts, including fifty members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society on a regularly scheduled field trip.

In the Audubon party, a graduate student at Harvard, who was equipped with a motion picture camera having a telephoto lens, secured motion pictures in color of this western species as it posed obligingly for minutes between its active feeding and preening periods. The bird was last seen in mid-afternoon of that day.

As far as can be determined by the records, this is the first occurrence of the Painted Redstart in the United States outside of its usual range, which includes Arizona, New Mexico, and the Chisos Mountains of western Texas, except for somewhat recent reports of the species from southern California. How the bird happened to reach New England must remain a mystery, though other western and southwestern species have been reported in increasing numbers in recent years. The possibility of its being an escaped cage bird seems remote, since birds with food habits of the warblers are seldom caged, even by cage-bird enthusiasts living in México and Cuba.—C. RUSSELL MASON, *Massachusetts Audubon Society, Boston, Massachusetts.*

**Bell's Vireo in Connecticut.**—On the morning of May 11, 1947, the undersigned made a field identification of Bell's Vireo in Redding, Connecticut. The day was clear and sunny, with a light wind. A series of observations by all three observers was made over a period of not less than twenty minutes. The bird was seen