

October 6, in southern Louisiana." Oberholser's latest autumn date in Louisiana is October 6, 1889, and there are no winter records. I have been unable to find any other record of winter occurrences in the state. Howell and Green, in their works on Florida birds, report the species as not uncommon in winter in southern Florida; Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 179: 91, 1942) likewise reports winter records from southern Florida; Greene *et al.*, in their work on the birds of Georgia, have a single record of a wintering bird—at Tifton, southern Georgia, January 2 to February 9, 1943; Burleigh does not record the species in his study of the birds of southernmost Mississippi; Williams, Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, tells me that he knows of only two winter records of the species on the Texas coast in the last 15 years—at Galveston on December 14 and December 25, 1941, and at Rockport on December 6, 1942; and the species has appeared but once (1939) on the Christmas bird-counts recorded from the lower Rio Grande Valley since 1933. In view of the extreme scarcity of the species in winter along most of our gulf coastal area, the three birds wintering in southern Louisiana seem worth recording.—JOSEPH D. BIGGS, *Waubun Laboratories, Schriever, Louisiana.*

***Muscivora forficata* in Florida.**—In the Auk (65: 143, 1948) I saw a record for the scissor-tailed flycatcher, *Muscivora forficata*, in south Florida. It should be pointed out that this species is by no means rare at Key West. There are numerous records for that area. I saw at least three there on March 9, 1946, and even obtained kodachrome motion pictures of one. On April 4, 1942, I saw one near Homestead; on April 13, 1946, I observed another as far north as Cross City and on March 2, 1948, found one at Fort Meyers.—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, *Rye, New York.*

**Crested flycatchers nesting some distance from their foraging area.**—Shackleford Banks is a narrow island on the North Carolina coast, just westward of Cape Lookout. The outer half of the island is a desolate stretch of barren sand, on which are scattered about the broken skeletons of a dead forest of red cedars killed by wind-driven sand. The inner half of the island is covered by a dense woodland formed chiefly of red cedar, live-oak, and yaupon holly. The inner margin of the sand forms a wall which is slowly advancing over the island and burying the woodland along an irregular line which now lies 400 to 800 yards from the outer beach.

In June, 1948, two nests of the crested flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*, were found far out in the dead forest. The first (June 10) was in a weathered-out knothole in a nearly horizontal branch of a red cedar, about two feet above the sand. This tree stood 167 long paces, in a direct line, from the woodland at the edge of the sand wall, and 114 paces from the beach. Two birds were bringing food to the nest which contained at least three young. A second nest was discovered (June 11) in a similar location, about 1200 yards distant. This one was 274 long paces from the woods, only 97 paces from the beach. It was within sight and sound of the surf, in one of the outermost of the dead trees. Here also, two birds were busy feeding the five young.

In short observation periods on three separate days I saw these birds make ten round trips between the nest sites and the woodland carrying food to the young. Insects were not entirely lacking on the sandy waste since many large dragonflies hawked over it, but the strong onshore wind which always blows here in the summer kept the area decidedly clear of the mosquitoes, gnats, and several kinds of biting flies which are numerous in the woodland. Once, one of the parents, perching as usual for a moment on the nest-tree after a trip to the nest with food, darted out to catch a dragonfly within five feet of the nest and carried it inside. This was the only observation of the birds taking food over the sand waste. They habitually flew