raised ear coverts under the same conditions. The reaction is not easy to see and, in fact, I have only seen it clearly twice, once in a towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, and recently in a hen pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus*. In each case the bird's head faced directly away from me, and the coverts projected from the outline of the head like two little, lateral crests. The function of the action is clear. Even the specialized anterior auricular feathers must exert a considerable attenuating effect on sound waves which would be diminished by raising and separating the feathers.—CHARLES H. BLAKE, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Insect food of the Nevada Savannah Sparrow.—Studies of insect food of Utah birds, with particular regard to their feeding on the beet leafhopper, *Eutettix tenellus* (Baker), and on the pea aphid, *Macrosiphum pisi* (Kalt.), resulted in accumulation of 14 stomachs of the Nevada Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis* Grinnell. Recognizable insect food contained in the 14 stomachs consisted of: Orthoptera, one grasshopper nymph; 50 Homoptera, nine of which were leafhoppers, five being clover leafhoppers, *Aceratagallia sanguinolenta* Prov., besides four beet leafhoppers, 31 aphids, 29 being pea aphids and two European grain aphids; 39 Hemiptera, of which nine were mirids, three being lygus bugs, seven damsel bugs—nearly all *Nabis alternatus* Parsh., and 16 lygaeids, all of which were false chinch bugs, *Nysius ericae* (Schill.); 28 Coleoptera, of which four were larvae, three chrysomelid leaf beetles, five weevils of which one was an adult, three larval alfalfa weevils and one a pea weevil; eight larval Lepidoptera and 17 eggs; 15 Diptera, of which 13 were chironomid midges; four Hymenoptera, two being ants. In addition, numerous insect fragments and 136 weed seeds were recognized.—GEORGE F. KNOWLTON, *Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.*

Some breeding records from eastern Kentucky.—The only mountain in Kentucky which is high enough to have an avifauna of northern birds (Transitional Zone) is Big Black Mountain, altitude 4150 feet, in Harlan County. First collections were made there by Howell (Auk, 27: 295–304, 1910). Wetmore's party from the U. S. National Museum also visited there in 1938 and verified the subspecific status of such birds as the Carolina Junco, Cairn's Warbler, and the Mountain Vireo (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 88: 529–574, 1940). Notes on the birds of this area have also been published by Barbour (Kentucky Warbler, 17: 46–47, 1941) and Breiding (Kentucky Warbler, 23: 37–40, 1947). With one exception no mention is made of nests, and the breeding status is based either upon their presence in June or July or upon birds collected in juvenal plumage. In view of the fact that part of Black Mountain is in Virginia, the presence of juvenile birds (unless exceedingly young and helpless) is doubtful proof of breeding in Kentucky. It, therefore, seems desirable to record the discovery of nests of three of these northern species.

John Reynolds, a student at the University of Louisville, and I camped near the top of Black Mountain from June 16 to 18, 1947. The summit of the mountain, which is fairly flat, has been largely cleared and parts of it are in grassy fields. The peak lacks entirely the growth of such conifers as spruce and fir which are so characteristic of the higher summits in adjacent states.

Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*.—On the evening of June 16, we observed a pair of these warblers at about 4000 feet carrying food to a spot near the center of a blackberry patch. The nest with four well-fledged young was soon located in a dead brier, two feet above the ground. When we returned the next morning, all four young leaped from the nest when the parents gave alarm notes. We succeeded in capturing three for examination. The adults were fearless and came

within three feet of us in their attempts to distract our attention. The male was trapped and banded when he tried to feed two of the fledglings which had been placed in one side of a two-cell Potter trap. When returned to the nest, the young Chestnut-sided Warblers refused to stay and quickly disappeared into the briers. The empty nest was then collected.

The framework of this nest was made of coarse grasses, silvery in color, woven around and between the branches of the brier. A small amount of web had been used to stick the grass to the twigs. The nest was lined with finer brown grass. The outside dimensions of the nest were: diameter 7.5 cm., height 7.5 cm. The cavity measured 5.5 cm. in diameter by 3.0 deep. The exact thickness of the nest was hard to determine, because loose coarse grass extended 12 cm. beyond the cup-like portion, making a total height of about 20 cm. This appears to be the first record of the nesting of the Chestnut-sided Warbler in Kentucky.

Cairn's Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi*.—On June 17, a nest of this warbler was discovered at 3800 feet by Reynolds in a tiny buckeye tree only five feet tall. The nest had been constructed on top of a dead central shoot and was fastened on one side to two vertical shoots. The nest, which was 18 inches from the ground, contained three well-fledged young which quickly fluttered away into the undergrowth when disturbed. The understory in this area was so sparse that the nest was exposed on all four sides. The site was in a grove of large sugar maples, *Acer saccharum*. The ground cover consisted of spinulose wood ferns, *Trillium*, mayapple, and several woody plants such as a small yellow birch, a small beech, a mountain maple, and a group of witch hazel bushes. The body of the nest which was rather bulky was made out of strips of bark and wood. The bottom of the nest was irregular and loose, but the rim was firmly woven of strips of bark, held together and to the supporting branches by spiders' webs. The deep bowl of the nest was lined with fine dark rootlets. The nest was slightly oval with the following dimensions: outside diameters, 6.5 by 7.5 cm., and height 9.5; inside diameters of the cavity, 4.7 by 5.5 cm., and depth 4.0. The lower three or four centimeters of material were loosely organized and hardly a part of the nest proper. The Black-throated Blue Warblers of this area, according to Wetmore whose party collected a series of four males and three females, are typical of *D. c. cairnsi*. Breiding (*op. cit.*) reported a nest with two young on the mountain on July 6, 1944, but does not give any details. We found this species to be the most common woodland bird in the deciduous forests along the higher slopes from 3500 to 4000 feet.

Carolina Junco, *Junco hyemalis carolinensis*.—A nest of this junco was discovered on June 17, six feet from the spring at our camp site. The nest had been constructed under a root on a sloping bank five inches from the surface. It contained three well-incubated eggs which were later taken and are now in the collection of Burt L. Monroe of Anchorage. Later, we trapped and banded the incubating female. Two hours later, when we checked the nest, we found her back on it.

The nest itself was poorly made of slender brown grass and, on the side nearest the entrance, a cluster of feathery green moss had been incorporated. The dampness of the location had kept the moss fresh. There was very little lining in the nest except for a patch of reddish-brown sporophytes of a moss. They had been plucked off with their capsules still attached. When the nest was removed, it left a smooth, rounded depression in the damp ground. The nesting area was clear of bushes, near an open field, but under the shade of a large maple tree.

Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia canadensis*.—One additional breeding record was established on Black Mountain on June 18, when a Canada Warbler was observed

carrying food in a wooded area. The recipient proved to be a fledgling so recently out of the nest that it could fly only short distances. This species was observed in two other wooded places above 3500 feet on the mountain.—HARVEY B. LOVELL, *Biology Department, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.*

Note on behavior of birds on a cold, winter day.—At Manhattan, Kansas, the morning of March 11, 1948, was clear, with the sun shining brightly. The thermometer registered −12° F. Thursday, March 11, followed a two-day blizzard with the wind from the northeast, in which six to eight inches of snow fell upon about as much snow already present and which had been frozen with a one or two-inch crust, making penetration difficult.

Eastern Bluebirds, *Sialia sialis*, Robins, *Turdus migratorius*, and English Sparrows, *Passer domesticus*, were observed to be feeding on bittersweet berries as early as 7:30 a. m., March 11. After a short feeding period, the bluebirds flew to the chimney-top of a house which was heated by a gas-burning installation in the furnace. A light northwest wind was blowing. The birds alighted on the south rim of the chimney, some with their heads into the chimney, others facing out from the chimney. Early in the morning, there were only two Bluebirds observed. Later in the day, other Bluebirds and some Cedar Waxwings, *Bombycilla cedrorum*, joined the group. The Bluebirds and Cedar Waxwings spent much time (until about 2:30 p. m.) on the chimney rim. A quantity of droppings was subsequently found on the chimney rim and on the roof at the south and southwest corners of the chimney.

At 12:30 p. m., the outside temperature was +6° F. and there were four Bluebirds and two Cedar Waxwings on the south rim of the chimney, apparently taking advantage of the warm air coming up.

On March 12, with the minimum temperature of −5° F. and a maximum temperature of +38° F., the birds were not seen feeding or keeping warm.—RALPH L. AND IRENE D. PARKER, *Manhattan, Kansas.*

An avian association in the Himalaya Mountains.—A recent article on 'Species Association in Winter Groups' by Wing (Auk, 63: 508–511, 1946) brought to mind similar circumstances I had observed in India.

It was at a hill station, Ranikhet, in the northern part of the United Provinces, just west of Nepal in the Himalaya Mountains. The elevation was 6000 to 6500 feet. The tops of the ridges were crowned with long-leafed pine, *Pinus longifolia* Roxb., and the arid slopes below 5000 feet were not forested, except in the gullies where various oaks and acacias grew.

On the afternoon of July 15, I was hiking through a pine woodland that had a thick understory of young pine and several shrub forms such as *Berberis*, *Viburnum*, *Rhododendron*, and *Vaccinium*, when I found myself in the midst of a flock typical of those we find in winter in Oregon. Although this can hardly be called a winter flock, it was definitely a post-breeding flock for nestings had been completed more than a month previously.

Species composing the flock were (names are from Hugh Whistler's 'Handbook of the Birds of India'):

Brown-fronted Pied Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus auriceps*)
Gray Tit (*Parus major*)
Green-backed Tit (*Parus monticolus*)
Red-headed Tit (*Aegithaliscus concinnus*)
"Chestnut-caped" Tit (*Aegithaliscus* sp?)
Himalayan Tree Creeper (*Certhia himalayana*)