

**Cuban Golden Warbler, *Dendroica p. gundlachi*, on Florida Keys.**—On June 13, 1948, the writer and Mr. Wray H. Nicholson observed two singing males of the Cuban Golden Warbler in the mangroves near the highway on Ramrod Key, Florida. This bird was first discovered on June 15, 1941, on one of the Bay Keys, off Key West, by Roger T. Peterson and Earle R. Greene; on June 28, 1944, a nest was found by these observers at the same location. This marked the first recording of this species in the United States (Auk, 59: 114, 1942). Mr. Greene again observed individuals of this species on the Bay Keys and Big Mullet Key in June, July, and August, 1942 (Auk, 61: 304, 1944).

On June 14, 1948, we saw two more of these birds, both in song, in mangroves near Raul's Club, Key West. A search for a nest resulted in failure. Returning homeward on June 15, we observed another Golden Warbler in the mangroves off Perky, Sugarloaf Key. Later in the day, the birds were again seen on Ramrod Key and were heard in the same locality, indicating probable nesting birds. Since Ramrod Key is about 27 miles from Key West, the indications may be that this bird is extending its range along the keys. There seems to be little doubt that it has become a regular summer resident on the lower Florida keys.—ROBERT F. MASON, JR., *Maitland, Florida*.

**Nesting Black-throated Gray Warblers, *Dendroica nigrescens*, East of the Rocky Mountains.**—On May 30, 1949, we observed three male and two female Black-throated Gray Warblers at an altitude of about 7,000 feet in an open woods of small piñon pines and cedars on one of the low ridges formed by intrusive volcanic dikes east of Dike Mountain, Huerfano County, Colorado. This area is west of Walsenburg and north of the La Veta Pass highway and is noteworthy in that it is east of the Rocky Mountains, 100 miles east of the Continental Divide, and thus east of the usual range. On June 11, we returned and located in pine trees two of their feather-lined nests about seven feet from the ground; one nest contained two fledglings and the other three gray eggs speckled with brown.—JULIA W. AND ROBERT M. ARMAGAST, *Adams State College, Alamosa, Colorado*.

**A Western Meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*, in Alabama.**—At Fort Morgan, Alabama, on March 19, 1949, I heard a song which was instantly recognizable as that of the Western Meadowlark, familiar to me through past field experience and from hearing recordings of it. The bird flew from bush to bush in the open area bordering the salt marsh just south of the Fort. I was unable to approach closely enough to collect it, but during these efforts, the bird occasionally uttered call notes which corresponded to certain notes of the eastern species, yet were noticeably different. With 10-power glasses the paler color of the back could easily be discerned, and the black 'V' appeared to be suffused with gray. The father of the lad who loaned a gun to me recognized this bird to be different from the "field lark" of his acquaintance and remarked that it looked larger, but this I could not definitely ascertain.

Although recorded previously as far southeast as coastal Georgia (Helme, Auk, 21: 280) and coastal Mississippi (Burleigh, 'The Bird Life of the Gulf Coast Region of Mississippi'), this appears to be the first record of the Western Meadowlark in Alabama.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, *Department of Zoology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida*.

**Adjustment to Environment by Blackbirds, *Euphagus cyanocephalus*.**—Bird books say that Brewer's Blackbirds nest in thick trees. On May 24, 1949, on the Baily Wildlife Refuge near Reno, Nevada, the writer observed a pair of black-

birds which had made a nest in an abandoned mine shaft. Just below the top of this shaft, rising and lowering water had hollowed out a bowl-like excavation, on the under section of the top part of which the blackbirds had made a nest in a tunnel under a rock. No animal or human could reach it and no bird could see it from above.

The blackbirds perhaps used this device to adapt their nest to an environment in which it was threatened by more than one kind of hawk which used adjacent pine trees—the only trees for a mile or more in any direction. These birds made themselves safe from predators by changing their tree-nesting habits to one more like that of a Bank Swallow.

They were secure at least until their young were ready to fly. Whether the young will be able to fly upwards when they leave their nest, or how the parents will save their brood from being drowned in the water in the bottom of the shaft or sump, is uncertain.—FISHER C. BAILY, *Reno, Nevada*.

**A Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*, Annihilates a Wasp Nest.**—In November 10, 1948, I saw one female Summer Tanager destroying the nest of large red hornets. The events were as follows: At 9:30 a. m. my attention was attracted toward an active tanager on a tree some ten meters from my work room in the museum.

The nest of hornets was long and uncovered externally. With my binoculars I could plainly see the pupae and larvae of the wasps. The bird was making short flights from a branch some three meters from the hornets. In each flight the bird grasped with its bill a hornet from the nest. The angry insects followed the bird a short distance. Once on its perch or on any twig not far from the wasps, the tanager triturated the insect and swallowed it. An instant later the bird was making other flights and capturing other hornets, and so on and on all morning.

Sometimes the tanager could not capture the wasp in passing near the nest, but as the insects rushed after the bird it would turn suddenly, grasp one of them and dive to escape the insects. It would then return promptly and take another hornet. The bird did not always swallow the insects; many times it merely killed the hornets and dropped them to the ground which soon became covered with many dead hornets.

All this continued, with only occasional resting periods for the bird until about noon when, after an attack from the tanager, the hornets suddenly *en masse* deserted the nest. Promptly the bird alighted on the nest and gorged on the larvae and pupae and caught any hornet that approached the nest. At 1:30 p. m. the bird flew out of sight and I had to go to lunch, but on my return at 4:00 p. m. I was surprised to see that the hornets had returned to the damaged nest. The bird was not within sight and did not return all afternoon.

I concluded that the tanager was through with these hornets, but the following morning it came back punctually at 9:00 a. m. and once more I found myself witnessing the same interesting events. This time, however, the hornets withstood the bird only until 10:45 a. m.; at this hour the remaining insects deserted the nest. The tanager once more alighted on it, swallowing the pupae and larvae left the previous day and tearing to pieces the damaged hornets' nest.

Was the tanager merely eating the adult insects or was its interest focused on trying to force the adult hymenoptera away so that it could feed on the tender young?—MIGUEL ALVAREZ DEL TORO, *Museo de Historia Natural, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico*.

**Winter Courtship Display of Female Cardinal, *Richmondia cardinalis*.**—We have outside our window a feeder used by a pair of Cardinals, as well as other birds. On February 16, 1949, my wife called me to the window to look at the