

The sustained type of hawking was seen not only in the Starlings' usual daytime feeding areas, but over their summer roosting places (I am not confusing it, here, with social flying) and on several occasions along the course of their flight to a roost. Selections from my notes are:

October 17, 1938, Baltimore. At 4:45 p. m., Starlings were hawking spectacularly, in Chimney Swift fashion and usually in considerable numbers—about 10 in sight at a time—over a chiefly wooded area. Flying at altitudes of perhaps 70 to 200 feet, and widely scattered, the birds glided, made sudden half-spins sideways, and climbed almost vertically for short distances.

October 9, 1939, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. At 4:53 p. m., a number of Starlings paused and made hawking swerves during a long flight across farming country, presumably to their roost. At noon a number had been hawking over a meadow, and at 12:45 some were hawking widely above an orchard.

October 6, 1940, Baltimore. This afternoon the first Chimney Swifts, *Chaetura pelagica*, since October 2 appeared and spent 40 minutes or more hawking about, and less than a minute after I saw the first of these, Starlings began hawking over the same territory and continued pretty steadily for 30 minutes. There is a strong suggestion that the Starlings' hawking today was partly imitative, for not only did it start suddenly when the swifts appeared, but it was stopped and resumed three times in close correspondence with periodic disappearances and reappearances of the swifts.

August 24, 1949. Between 6:10 and 6:22 p. m., bands of Starlings flying to a roost near my home occasionally hawked briefly on their way, and some that seemed to have paused in outlying trees occasionally flew up and hawked briefly.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

**Starlings, *Sturnus vulgaris*, Eating Monarch Butterflies.**—It is generally believed that butterflies of the genus *Danaus* are "protected" by chemical secretions which are distasteful to birds and to predaceous insects. On this assumption is based the theory that certain butterflies of the genus *Basilarchia* "mimic" members of the genus *Danaus*. Holland (The Butterfly Book, 1902: 84) calls attention to the close resemblance between the monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus* Linnaeus, and the viceroy, *Basilarchia archippus* Cramer. He assumes that the viceroy mimics the monarch for protective reasons.

On several occasions during August, 1950, I saw Starlings pursuing monarch butterflies. On August 17 I watched a Starling capture and eat a monarch, and on August 19 I witnessed two such captures. In each case I examined the wings of the eaten butterfly to make certain of the identification.

The summer of 1950 in West Virginia was unusually cool, and many insects were notably scarce. Broods of certain species appeared three to five weeks later than average, and some broods did not appear at all. Butterflies of all species were conspicuous by their scarcity until late in August. It may be that birds turned to butterflies of any available species for food, or it may be that so hardy and omnivorous a bird as the Starling is not effectively repelled by the chemical protection which monarch butterflies are supposed to enjoy.—MAURICE BROOKS, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.

**Nesting of Bell's Vireo, *Vireo bellii*, in Louisiana.**—Breeding of Bell's Vireo in Louisiana has been indicated for some time, but prior to 1950 no nesting record had been established. Oberholser (Bird Life of Louisiana, 1938: 503) considered the species a "very rare and local summer resident" on the basis of one bird observed by him in June and three spring records by Lowery. Lowery (Aud. Field Notes, 3:

213, 1949) recorded my observations near Robson, southeast of Shreveport, on May 14, 1949, as well as a singing bird near the same place on May 2, 1948 (incorrectly published as May 12).

On June 11, 1950, I heard two birds of this species singing in the trees on a batture on the Red River at the community of Dixie Gardens, just outside the southeastern city limits of Shreveport. This batture is covered with sand bar willow, *Salix interior*, with a scattering of cottonwood, *Populus deltoides*. Concentrating on one bird, I soon located its nest, which was situated about 4.5 feet above the ground in marsh elder, *Baccharis halimifolia*, and contained four eggs. On June 18, I attempted to locate the nest of the second singing bird. It was found about 25 yards from the first nest, also in marsh elder and at about the same distance above the ground. It contained four eggs. The first nest was subsequently visited by other observers, as well as myself, until after the young were on the wing. The abandoned nest was collected and is now in the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, along with color slides taken by Dale Hamilton.

Three other singing males of this species were observed regularly during June. One of these, located in willows along the bank of the river a short distance below the batture, was first noted by Ambrose Daigre on May 28. The other two, in willows on a batture about one mile west of Curtis, almost directly across the river, were observed by Daigre, Hamilton, and me on June 4 in an area where I first heard one individual on May 6.

The few individuals of this species which have been observed in this vicinity all show a proclivity for willows. It is interesting to note, however, that neither of the nests was situated in willow, despite its abundance in the area.

Bent (U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 197: 254, 1950) states that where the range of this species overlaps that of the White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo griseus*, "they are often found in similar haunts or in the same thickets." The White-eyed Vireo is a common summer resident in the vicinity of Shreveport. However, to the present time I have neither seen nor heard it in any of the areas where I have found the Bell's Vireo.

I wish to thank Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr., for his suggestions and for identification of the marsh elder.—HORACE H. JETER, 4534 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana.

**Number of Contour Feathers on a Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*.**—With the aid of several students, I counted the feathers on a male Cowbird taken February 21, 1948, at College Station, Texas. The feathers forward of the junction of the head and neck were counted separately from the body itself. There were 1246 feathers (mostly very small ones) on the head and 3051 on the body for a total of 4297.—LEONARD W. WING, Texas A. and M. College, College Station, Texas.

**"Scaly Leg" (Cnemidocoptiasis) in the Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*.**—A male Red-winged Blackbird trapped in Arkansas County, Arkansas, November 30, 1949, was observed to have a severe infection of the feet and legs. The infection was later diagnosed as "scaly leg," a condition that was caused by a small mite, *Cnemidocoptes* Fürstenberg, 1870, burrowing into the skin underneath the scales on the leg. The long, fringe-like projections on the infected area, as seen in the photograph are the result of an exudate from the inflammation. The exudate had become hardened and actually replaced the scales.

According to the junior author the bird's activity was normal. There was also evidence from the manner in which the foot pads were worn that the infection had