

**A Snake-eating Robin.**—On February 6, 1958, while staying at the Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Florida, I frightened a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) from an open place in pine woods and near a swamp. The Robin flew to the edge of a thicket of saw palmetto (*Serenoa*) with something hanging from its bill. I now saw that it was trying to swallow a small snake, 8 to 10 inches of which hung from a corner of its mouth. A little later the Robin flew 15 or 20 yards to open ground. Here it assumed a peculiar stance with head forward and body vertical, as if leaning back on its tail. By this time and for the remainder of the 18 minutes I had the bird under observation, it made no real efforts to swallow or to disgorge the snake but just let it dangle. It flew to several other places. Its final perch was on a limb in full sunshine where I took its picture through a telephoto lens. After that I lost track of the robin in a thicket. The snake, pale yellowish underneath and dark on top with a thin yellow stripe, corresponded to pictures of the Ribbon Snake (*Thamnophis sauritus*). Exact identification, however, could not be made. I have found no similar instance reported by Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull., 196: 14–6, 1949), though he mentions the case of a robin eating a dead field mouse, possibly killed by a terrier (*op. cit.*: 50–51).—LAWRENCE KILHAM, 7815 Aberdeen Road, Bethesda, Maryland.

**A Connecticut Breeding Record for the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.**—The author with Hans Weber observed on territory a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (*Poliophtila caerulea*) during June, 1957 near the Mansfield Hollow Dam in Mansfield, Connecticut. We were able to establish what appears to be the first Connecticut breeding record for this species, which has been observed with increasing frequency in the state in recent years. A pair did build a nest in southwestern Connecticut in May, 1947 but were not successful (see Auk, 67: 255, 1950). The A. O. U. Checklist (1957) does not list it as a breeder northeast of New Jersey and New York.

The dam basin consists of rather well drained marshland and storage areas, unusually dry in June, 1957. The surrounding areas are partly oak and pine forest and partly old fields growing into scrub woods. The pair was first observed on June 10, 1957 in a large white pine on the edge of the basin. They flew frequently between the pine and a nearby thicket although apparently were carrying neither food nor nesting material on that date. A Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) which flew into the pine was viciously attacked by the gnatcatchers until he withdrew. A House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) singing from the tree top was not molested.

Repeated observations of the birds were made by members of the Natchaug Ornithological Society. The birds were usually to be found in the pine or in the nearby thicket. Although the nest was not located, the author and many members of the Society (including Jerault A. Manter and James A. Slater, respectively Professor Emeritus and Professor of Ornithology in the University of Connecticut) on June 28 observed four young being fed by adults in oaks on a nearby ridge. The young on June 28 were barely able to fly and could not have been more than a day or two out of the nest. Neither the adults nor young were subsequently observed.—ROBERT W. LOUGEE, *University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.*

**The Affinities of *Oreothraupis arremonops*.**—One of the unsolved problems in the classification of the passerine birds is the delimiting of the tanagers and the groups to which they are closely allied. Until much more is known about the behavior and anatomy of many species, the final answer cannot be expected. Still, it is possible on the basis of "skin" characters to point out certain apparent rela-