

Olive Warbler taking over a year to acquire adult plumage is more characteristic of *arizonae* than of more southern races. Such geographic variability throws doubt on the use of this molt character as a generic distinction, as was done by Bent (*op. cit.*) and Chapman (1907, "The Warblers of North America," D. Appleton & Co., New York, p. 110).—J. DAN WEBSTER, *Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana, and California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California.*

**Unusual Nest and Nesting Behavior of a Mourning Warbler.**—While studying the breeding biology of the Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) at the University of Minnesota Forestry and Biological Station in Itasca Park, Minnesota, the writer found on June 21, 1956, a nest containing three eggs of the owner and one of the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). The latter egg was removed. The nest was located at the edge of a clump of raspberry (*Rubus* sp.) in a clearing in the forest. It was supported about 5.5 inches from the ground by several small dead branches.

The nest was peculiar in having two cavities instead of a single open cup. It was shallow and elongate, measured 9 inches in length, 5.5 inches in width and 3.5 inches in height. The depths of the cavities were 1.5 inches and 1 inch. The diameter of the deeper cavity was 2.5 inches and the overall inside diameter of the nest, including both cavities and the area between them, was 6.5 inches. Three other normal nests examined by the writer averaged 4.3 inches in outside diameter, 3.7 inches in height, 1.9 inches in depth of cavity, and 2.2 inches in inside diameter. Both cavities of the nest under consideration were poorly lined. The eggs were in the deeper of the two cavities.

The extra cavity, although never containing eggs or young, apparently stimulated incubating and brooding responses in the female. During attentive periods of incubation, when the female faced the secondary cavity, she would often hop from the main cavity to the secondary one. In many cases she did not settle but simply paused a few seconds and hopped back into the main cavity. At other times she settled, usually facing away from the main cavity. In settling, she used the same side-to-side rocking motion employed in settling on the eggs or young. The usual time spent in the secondary cavity was 10 seconds to 1.5 minutes although she occasionally remained as long as 3 minutes. Sometimes the female would resettle and was even seen to rise and poke in the cavity as though moving eggs or rearranging the nest lining. Visits to this secondary cavity occurred usually from 1-4 times during each attentive period of incubation, which averaged about 28 minutes in length in this female. This behavior continued after the young had hatched, although the time spent in the secondary cavity was less.

The construction of the nest was also responsible for the death of the young. In addition to being shallow, the nest was slightly tilted, making it easy for the young to fall out. On the morning of July 7, two young (one egg failed to hatch) were found on the ground beneath the nest. Although cold and feeble, they were still alive and were replaced in the nest. The side of the nest was propped up with a small stick, but despite this the young were found dead beneath the nest the next morning.

The writer wishes to thank George C. West and Richard Brewer for suggestions regarding the manuscript.—GEORGE W. COX, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.*

**Pied-billed Grebes Mistake Highway for Water.**—It is interesting to speculate upon the frequency with which birds, in flight or migration, make mistakes