

## GENERAL NOTES

**Violet-crowned Hummingbird Nesting in Arizona and New Mexico.**—In late July 1957, Levy (Auk, 75: 350, 1958) discovered six Violet-crowned Hummingbirds (*Amazilia verticalis*) in Guadalupe Cañon in extreme southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. These observations, plus those reported by Brandt (Arizona and Its Bird Life, p. 706, 1951), indicated that the species probably bred there. Working in this cañon during the summer of 1959, we recorded the nesting of this hummingbird in both states.

On 20 June Zimmerman saw a Violet-crowned Hummingbird add material to a barely begun nest 30 feet above ground in a sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*), four tenths of a mile from the New Mexico boundary in the Arizona portion of Guadalupe Cañon. On the same day he saw another individual one mile from the state line in New Mexico. On 28 June we jointly visited the Arizona site but found no trace of the nest. In the same thicket, however, a Violet-crown, which we had under observation, flew to and settled on a completed nest near the tip of a horizontal sycamore branch at least 40 feet above ground. The bird appeared to be incubating, but we could not determine the nest contents. This hummingbird was also observed on the nest by Marian Zimmerman, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Small, and Ben King, Jr.

On 29 June Levy several times observed a Violet-crowned Hummingbird carrying lichens and spiders' webs into a large sycamore one-half mile from the Mexican border in Arizona, but he did not find the nest.

Returning to the New Mexican section of the cañon on 5 July, Zimmerman found a Violet-crown's nest 1.3 miles from the Arizona boundary. It was saddled on a horizontal sycamore branch, about five feet from the tip and an estimated 25 feet from the trunk. Although only 34 feet above the trail, it could not be obtained or closely examined without risking destruction of its contents. Zimmerman watched this nest for several hours, during which time an adult remained on the nest for periods of up to 55 minutes, occasionally flying out to feed among nearby flowers or to chase foraging Gila Woodpeckers (*Centurus uropygialis*) from the branches about the nest. The bird assumed an elevated position on its nest, suggesting that it was brooding. Twice Zimmerman caught glimpses of what appeared to be the bill of a young hummingbird projecting above the nest rim when the adult was absent, although he noticed no behavior that could be interpreted as feeding when the adult returned.

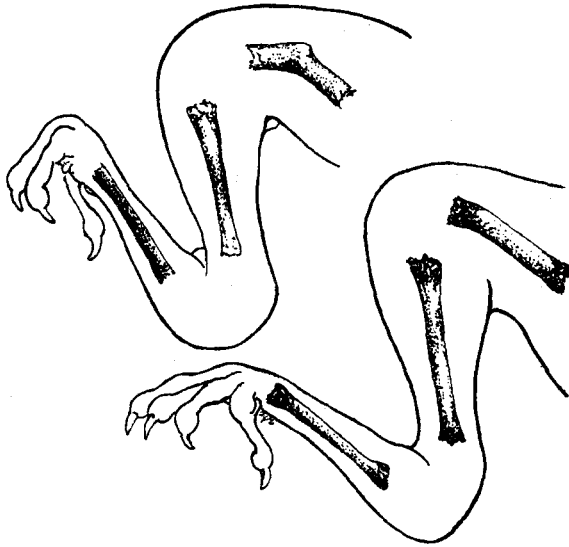
On the same day Bruce Harris, Merle Wisnowski, and Zimmerman saw another Violet-crowned Hummingbird adding lichens to a nearly completed nest one mile from the Arizona state line in New Mexico. This nest, also in a sycamore, was placed in the sharp angle of a "V" in a malformed, semipendant branch about 25 feet above ground. The attending bird proved to be a female with enlarged ova and a distinct brood patch. This specimen apparently is the first Violet-crowned Hummingbird taken in New Mexico.

At a third New Mexican locality, 1.6 miles from the Arizona border, the Zimmermans repeatedly saw two Violet-crowns, one or both of which made nine observed trips to the same portion of a particular sycamore, and remained hidden there for long periods of time. Careful scrutiny of the branches disclosed no nest, but one individual of this presumed pair was seen to gather insects from spiders' webs and tree trunks and fly directly to the sycamore tree.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore has very kindly identified the New Mexican Violet-crowned Hummingbird specimen, and that collected by Levy in Arizona in 1957,

as *Amazilia verticalis clliotti*, a form heretofore considered accidental in the United States.—DALE A. ZIMMERMAN, *Department of Biology, New Mexico Western College, Silver City, New Mexico*, and SEYMOUR H. LEVY, *Route 9, Box 960, Tucson, Arizona*.

**A Skeltal Teratism in Neonatal Red-winged Blackbirds.**—Two similar teratological specimens of the Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, from different geographical areas were found in the course of artificially incubating eggs of this species. The defect was observable in the neonates only by corrosion-staining-clearing techniques; therefore the ultimate fates of individuals so affected in life is unknown as is also the incidence of occurrence. The defect was not observed in any of more than 500 specimens of about 100 species of passerines similarly (mostly concurrently) incubated, hatched, and prepared (Wetherbee, *Artificial Incubation of Wild Birds' Eggs and Developmental Condition of Neonates*, pp. 1-153, University Microfilms, 1959). The first of these specimens was taken at Storrs, Connecticut, the second at New Salem, Massachusetts.



**Figure 1. Skeltal teratism (upper) in neonatal Red-winged Blackbird.**

Following is a description of the anomalous condition (Figure 1, upper) compared with the normal (Figure 1, lower). The femora and humeri were crooked (the most striking character); the ilia and ischia were much shortened; there was delayed ossification at the distal ends of tibiae, tarsometatarsi, ulnae, and radii. Dr. Walter Landauer (University of Connecticut, 14 April 1958, personal communication) did not remember having seen a similar condition in his extensive experience with teratological embryos of fowl. That there seems to be an over-all retardation in ossification could suggest that the abnormal birds, although neonatal, are merely physiologically younger than the normal neonates. However, the