

YOUNG, C. G. 1929. A contribution to the ornithology of the coastland of British Guiana. *Ibis*, Ser. 12, 5: 231-261.

—W. JOHN SMITH, *The Biological Laboratories, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Another Nest of *Pitangus lictor*.—Ornithologists have attributed both domed and open nests to the Lesser Kiskadee (*Pitangus lictor*) because they confused it with several other strikingly similar neotropical flycatchers. *Pitangus sulphuratus*, the only one of these flycatchers that reaches the United States, always builds a domed nest. But Haverschmidt (*Auk*, 74: 240, 1957) collected *P. lictor* at an open nest near Paramaribo, Surinam, and thus confirmed the description of the nest by the Penards (*De Vogels van Guyana*, Vol. 2, 263, 1910). Recently Davis (*Auk*, 78: 276, 1961) has claimed that the Penards were mistaken and that the nest found by Haverschmidt was that of *Empidonomus varius*. As did a few other authors, Davis reported domed nests for *P. lictor*.

On 21 May 1961 I found an open nest of *P. lictor* at Buena Vista Point, just north across the Panama Canal from Barro Colorado Island. The thin cup of dry twigs and stems was 1.4 meters up in the twigs of a bush over an inlet of Gatun Lake, separated from second growth nearby by a marshy fringe. One of the three eggs disappeared by 28 May. The two young hatched between 4 and 11 June, and on 18 June were so well feathered that the black and white stripes were evident on their heads. On 25 June the pair greeted me, as always, with buzzy *dzeir* and *dreir*, *dear-ur* calls. Whenever they came near each other, whether in flight or perched, they exposed their bright crown patches and flashed the reddish edges of their primaries by fluttering uplifted wings as both chattered *wip-you* and *wip-wip-wip-you* at the same time. In bushes over the fringing marsh near the empty nest a young bird echoed the calls of its parents with weak *dree*, *uh* notes before it flew off very well. It resembled them in size and plumage, but its tail was only a third grown and the angles of its gape were still brightly colored.

Empidonomus varius does not reach the Canal Zone, and the other local medium-sized flycatchers that resemble *P. lictor* build domed nests (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*, *M. similis*) or nest in holes in trees (*Coryphotriccus parvus*). None are so confined to the edges of quiet inlets as is *P. lictor*, and none forage low over the surface of the water from overhanging branches, sedges, or stubs projecting from the water as does the Lesser Kiskadee.

Hence Haverschmidt and the Penards are quite correct in reporting that *P. lictor* builds an open nest, thus differing from the only other member of the genus. The domed nests reported by Davis are perhaps those of *P. sulphuratus*. As Haverschmidt points out (*Auk*, 78: 278, 1961), the eggs mentioned by Davis fall within the size range of eggs of *P. sulphuratus* rather than that of the eggs of the much smaller *P. lictor*.—EDWIN O. WILLIS, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California.*

Possible Change in Status of Brewer's Blackbird in Florida.—Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) were observed by the authors during March and early April 1961, on Payne's Prairie, 10 km (six miles) south of Gainesville, Florida. The earliest sighting was on 2 March, when the senior author observed two large flocks, each of 150-200 birds, and several smaller groups. Because the birds could not be approached closely, and since flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), and Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were present, his identification was

tentative. On 4 March, with the help of Charles Trost, we collected a male and female of the suspect species, and another bird was taken on 10 March (Florida State Museum Collection: Nos. 8233, 8234, and 8305). Until mid-April, individuals and groups numbering up to 150 birds were seen regularly in an area less than two km in diameter. We could not determine the total abundance of the species because we did not examine similar habitat in some of the 5,000 hectares (20 square miles) of surrounding prairie. The behavior of the birds indicated they may have been residing in the area. Morning flocks moved onto and across the prairie from the west, and evening flights moved in the opposite direction. Both were along a path used by known icterid residents. Brewer's Blackbird has been considered as accidental in Florida (Sprunt, *Florida Bird Life*, 442, 1954), but the change in status suggested by our observations would be in accordance with range extensions recently reported by Walkinshaw and Zimmerman (*Condor*, 63: 162-177).—DALE E. BIRKENHOLZ and TED T. ALLEN, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida*.

Baltimore Oriole Kills Hummingbird.—My wife and I were watching a male Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) on a *Caragana* shrub in our garden on 4 June 1961. Two male orioles had been feeding on the blossoms all day without apparent friction, and two pairs of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) were also working over the flowers. A male hummingbird was seen to hover in front of a blossom within about one-third meter of one of the male orioles. The oriole turned and pounced and caught the hummingbird in its beak. It then flew to a nearby branch and held the hummingbird down with its feet and pecked it violently until feathers flew from it. When I approached to observe more closely, the oriole flew away and dropped the hummingbird to the ground. The hummingbird was dead when I picked it up.—BRUCE S. WRIGHT, *Director, Northeastern Wildlife Station, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B., Canada*.

Wing-Flashing Motions in a Catbird.—Wing-flashing motions of the Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) have been mentioned by Vaurie (*Wils. Bull.*, 69: 309-310, 1957), as being associated with courtship behavior, and commented upon by Hailman (*Wils. Bull.*, 72: 355, 1960), but apparently no description of these motions has been published. In Kalamazoo, Michigan, at 14:00 on 24 July 1961, I watched an adult Catbird look at, run three times around, and repeatedly wing-flash over two light-brown puff balls (2 cm and 2.5 cm in diameter) growing together in five-cm-high lawn grass. Three two-cm slugs were eating the puff balls. There were two different types of wing motions: (1) almost completely opening the wings horizontally in one movement, and (2) fanning downward suddenly the forward edges of the open wings in one to three movements. The bird circled the mushrooms, opening and closing its wings in the first type of motion, occasionally interrupting this action with the second type in a definite sequence as follows: run, open wings, stop, fan downward one to three times, stab at slug with bill, jump backward suddenly. If slug is caught during stab—close wings, eat slug, run, open wings, etc.; if slug is missed during stab—run two or three steps with open wings, fan downward one to three times, stab, etc.

Two of the three slugs picked off during stab motions were eaten; the other was shaken off the Catbird's bill when the bird shook off a large piece of dead leaf adhering to the slug. The Catbird moved a few meters away from the puff balls with its wings closed after it lost the third and last slug. The bird hunted and pecked in the grass without flashing its wings again.

The day was overcast, so no shadow was spread over the slugs, and there are no light-colored areas in the Catbird's wing that might reflect more light on prey.