

color markings. This came from a "lesser" Sandhill Crane banded as an immature on 29 December 1960 and killed on 25 May 1961 near Krasneno Anadyr, Magodon region, U.S.S.R. (64° 37' N lat., 174° 22' E long.). The recovery was reported by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Science and no mention was made of the collar.

Although the presence of breeding Sandhill Cranes in eastern Russia has been noted by Walkinshaw (*The Sandhill Cranes*, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Cranbrook Inst. Sci., 1949), this is the first record which relates this breeding area to a specific wintering population in the United States.—WILLIAM S. HUEY, *Box 565, Santa Fe, New Mexico*.

Destruction of Red-legged Thrush nest by a Pearly-eyed Thrasher.—In my recent study of the Red-legged Thrush (*Mimocichla plumbea*) in Puerto Rico, I expressed my belief that during the nesting season interspecific competition occurs between this species and the Pearly-eyed Thrasher (*Margarops fuscatus*), even though direct encounters were never observed (Rolle, *Studies Fauna Curacao Carib. Isl.*, 14: 1-40, 1963; see pp. 20-21). The observations reported herein support my contention that competition between these species may at times become so intense as seriously to interfere with reproductive activities.

On 20 February 1963 initial observations were made of a thrush in the process of nest construction in a Bourbon palm (*Livistona chinensis*); the nest site was about 20 feet above the ground. (As I have never observed males of this species to assist in nest construction [Rolle, *op. cit.*: 23-24], I assume that the bird responsible for nest construction was always the same bird, i.e., the female.) On 21 February the thrush was still working on the nest; but this same day I noted that a Pearly-eyed Thrasher was constructing a nest in another Bourbon palm some 30 feet distant from the tree in which the thrush was building. The two birds took no apparent notice of each other for two hours, but then the thrasher began to slip into the nest of the Red-legged Thrush when the latter was absent from the nest site. At such times the thrasher would tear the nest apart and would pirate nest materials.

This pattern of activity continued throughout the days of 21, 22, and 23 February. Sometimes the Pearly-eyed Thrasher succeeded in completely destroying the thrush's nest before the owner returned, but at other times the thrasher was "caught in the act"; when this happened a violent struggle ensued, terminating when the birds, locked in combat, fell to the ground. In 12 hours of observation (spanning three days) 10 encounters of this sort occurred. After each encounter the thrush resumed nest construction.

At 1045 hours, 24 February, I discovered the thrush lying dead beneath the palm in which she had been building her nest. During preparation of the skin (UPRM 1607) I noted no injuries that might have caused death. However, a fully developed egg (22.5 × 33.0 mm; 8.93 g) was taken from the cloaca of the bird. The following measurements are from the prepared skin: length of bill from nostril, 15.9 mm; length of wing (chord), 128.0 mm; length of tail, 111.8 mm; and length of tarsus, 38.0 mm.

It is possible that the repeated encounters of the thrush with the Pearly-eyed Thrasher may have caused death through egg-binding. It is also conceivable that the Pearly-eyed Thrasher also died, since, while the thrasher completed its nest, no eggs were deposited. Throughout the period of observation, I failed to detect the presence of a mate of either of the birds.—FRANCIS J. ROLLE, *Museum of Biology, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, P. R.*