

the plumage and the dark melanins were absent or "diluted" in many of the feathers. Gross (*Bird-Banding*, 36: 240-242, 1965) listed only six cases of xanthochroism in North American birds, none occurring in Parulidae.

The coloration of the abnormal feathers on our warbler was apparently due to a deficiency of melanic pigments. We were unable to determine whether the structural color determiner (needed for the feathers to appear green) was altered. It appeared that the yellow pigments were distributed in a similar manner in both the normal and abnormal feathers. Thus, the xanthochroistic condition was apparently due to the absence of the melanins which serve in conjunction with yellow pigments and a structural color determiner to produce a green color. We propose that definitions of xanthochroism, such as Pettingill's (*A laboratory and field manual of ornithology*, Minneapolis, Burgess Publ. Co., 1956), be expanded to include not only conditions where excessive yellow pigments are present, but also circumstances where the yellow is unmasked because melanic pigments are lacking.

We thank William E. Southern and Wesley E. Lanyon for their assistance. A grant from The Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund (The American Museum of Natural History) to Caldwell is gratefully acknowledged, and we are both indebted to the Central Michigan University Research Advisory Committee for financial aid. The Cape May Warbler specimen is no. 785753 in The American Museum of Natural History.—GARY D. SCHNELL, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas*, and LARRY D. CALDWELL, *Biology Department, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan*.

Mid-winter nesting of the American Robin in western Pennsylvania.—The majority of American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) of the northeastern part of the United States are migratory, although often several Robins, perhaps birds from still farther north, are reported from many localities there during the annual Christmas "census" conducted by members of the Audubon Society.

The winter of 1964-1965 in many eastern states was characterized by unusually mild weather through December, with severe cold and heavy snow beginning in January, 1965. Mrs. G. C. Denniston, my mother-in-law, of Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, reported to me (letter, 1/25/65) that a Robin's nest with three eggs had been found by Chet McCrumb on 4 January 1965. The nest was built about seven feet above the ground in the crotch of a maple tree. Some artificial icicles from a Christmas tree had been woven into the exterior of the nest. A Robin incubated the eggs from 4 January (when the nest was found) until 20 January. Throughout this period, a male Robin often was seen to chase birds of other species that came for food that had been put out. Mrs. Denniston took pictures of the incubating bird and of the three eggs.

On 10 January, when there was a light snow cover on the ground, the air temperature dropped to 12° F. Lower temperatures were recorded on 11 January (0° F) and 17 January (-10° F). About five inches of snow fell on 20 January, but the Robin continued to incubate as the snow piled up around it on the nest rim. The bird deserted the nest the following day.

Such mid-winter nesting, especially in the northeastern area of the United States, is, of course, very rare. T. R. Howell and R. D. Burns (*Condor*, 57: 246, 1955) reported a late December nesting of the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) at Los Angeles, California.—ANDREW J. BERGER, *Department of Zoology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii*.