east to northerly in direction and ranged from 0 to 35 mph in velocity with a mean average of 20 mph for the 13–21 September period. Possibly the turbulence from Fern was responsible for the occurrence of the Brown Booby in this locale. The published sight records indicate that this species may be expected in coastal Texas waters during the summer when turbulent weather disturbances, spawned far out in the Atlantic and Caribbean, occasionally reach Texas.—WARREN M. PULICH, SR., *Department of Biology, University of Dallas Station, Irving, Texas 75060*, and WARREN M. PULICH, JR., *Marine Science Institute, University of Texas, Port Aransas, Texas 78373*. Accepted 10 Aug. 72.

Census of Kirtland's Warbler in 1972.—The population of Kirtland's Warblers (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) on the nesting ground in northern Lower Michigan remained level from 1971 to 1972, although down 60 percent from the level of 1961 and 1951. The count of singing males in June 1972 was 200 as compared to 201 the preceding year. It was 502 in 1961 and 432 in 1951. As we believe the number of males and females to be approximately equal, we judge the total adult population to have been about 400 at the beginning of the 1972 nesting season.

Virtually all Kirtland's Warblers now nest in three counties, Crawford, Oscoda, and Ogemaw. We found two males in one location in Wexford County, but isolated individuals had vanished from three counties where found in 1971, Otsego, Iosco, and Montmorency. All of this species now nests in 11 "colonies" on 27 surveyors sections (square miles).

The decline of the last decade was marked by a withdrawal from peripheral habitats and a contraction into the heart of the nesting range, where the density of the population in favored areas is as great as ever. From the standpoint of efforts to preserve the species, this concentration is fortunate because it has placed 45 percent of the entire population on tracts already designated in state and national forests as Kirtland's Warbler management areas. In addition to these, nearly all of the remainder also are nesting on public forest lands, where special attention can be given to them.

The only factor that has been clearly demonstrated to be detrimental to Kirtland's Warbler is the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). In recent years several samples have revealed between 60 and 70 percent of warbler nests parasitized, with a heavy loss of young. Therefore in 1972 the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the U. S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Audubon Society undertook a cooperative effort to remove cowbirds, mainly by trapping, in the most important nesting localities. This work was carried out with the advice of a committee named by the Michigan Audubon Society and representing various groups interested in the preservation of this rare bird.

Nest studies in two of these areas by Lawrence H. Walkinshaw disclosed only two instances of parasitism among 32 nests and the highest yield of fledglings ever recorded for the species in a sample of respectable size. This report was encouraging, but the effect cannot be fully appraised until the 1973 campaign, which will ascertain not only the number of warblers returning to breed but also changes in the cowbird pressure in this restricted and specialized habitat.

For details of census methods and other circumstances, see my reports of previous censuses (Auk 1953, 70: 17; 1962, 79: 173; 1972, 89: 263).

In the 1972 count 31 people participated as follows: C. T. Black, Arlow Boyce, Jerry Brow, John D. Byelich, Doris Chopard, Jack Cook, Marvin Cooley, William A. Dyer, Warren R. Faust, Elsworth M. Harger, Ronald Hoffman, Thomas Heatley, George W. Irvine, Victor S. Janson, John Joldersma, Eugene E. Kenaga, Harold D.

Mahan, Larry Masters, Harold F. Mayfield, Virginia Mayfield, Douglas S. Middleton, Ray Perez, Bruce E. Radabaugh, Lawrence A. Ryel, Eric Schneider, Jean Skellenger, Robert G. Strong, Lawrence H. Walkinshaw, Oscar Warbach, Harold Wing, and Mark A. Wolf.—HAROLD F. MAYFIELD, *9235 River Road, Waterville, Ohio 43566.* Accepted 15 Aug. 72.

Albinism in a population of Blue Jays.—Published records of banded Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) indicate that individuals may live 15 years in a restricted locality, and that migrants may return to the same area for several subsequent breeding seasons. Therefore it is plausible to asssume that the recessive gene for albinism has persisted for at least 45 years in a population of Blue Jays in the West End residential section of Nashville, Tennessee, substantiated by my records of four occurrences from 1927 through 1972:

In 1927 a newly fledged albino Blue Jay was caught in the West End and raised by A. C. Webb (photograph of the bird appeared in "Nashville Banner" 27 August 1927). It died and was mounted.

On 14 June 1959 I was given two fledglings just off the nest and captured on a nearby lawn. I hand-raised them with two unrelated normal Blue Jays. They were less vigorous and died in 1960.

On 29 May 1972 I was given three more fledglings caught on a lawn. One was very weak and died immediately. The two survivors are acquiring first winter plumage (August 1972).

On 25 August 1972 a fully developed albino Blue Jay of unknown age was trapped as it fed on grain in a residence yard. I received it on 28 August. It will be released.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, *1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville, Tennessee 37215.* Accepted 5 Sep. 72.

Least Bittern nesting colonially.—Unlike most herons, bitterns are considered to be noncolonial nesters. Literature records of the nesting dispersion of the Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) support this view. Beecher (1942) reported densities ranging from 1 nest in 39.87 acres (0.06 nests per ha) to 4 nests in 1.38 acres (1.7 nests per ha) with an average density of 1 nest per 2.54 acres (1 nest per ha). Kent (1951) found 19 nests in 44 acres of marsh (1.1 nests per ha), one of which was from a second nesting. Wood (1951) reported that W. Koelz found 15 nests in 2 acres of rushes (18.5 nests per ha). Weller (1961), who found 62 nests in 83 acres (1.8 nests per ha), considered Wood's report exceptional. Later, Weller and Spatcher (1965) found 5 nests in 3 10,000 ft^2 quadrats (5.1 nests per ha), the result of exceptionally favorable habitat conditions.

In southern Florida the Least Bittern is a common resident of the Everglades marshes nesting primarily in sawgrass (*Mariscus jamaicensis*) and cattail (*Typha* spp.). On 12 April 1972 I found an unusually high concentration of active nests in Shark Valley Slough, Everglades National Park. The nesting aggregation was 50 m west of a canal and levee in a habitat typical of the southern Everglades, stretches of medium height (2 m) sawgrass, known as strands, interspersed with open marsh composed primarily of spikerush (*Eleocharis cellulosa*) and pickerelweed (*Pontedaria lanceolata*). The bitterns nested within the strands of tall sawgrass, using the vertical sawgrass blades for support, but making the nests entirely of spikerush leaves. Boat-tailed Grackles (*Cassidix mexicanus*), Common Gallinules (*Gallinula chloropus*), King Rails (*Rallus*