

outside my window. At first I could not decide what the bird was doing. After I had watched it for five minutes, however, I noticed that it was getting wet, its tail was already hanging heavy and its body feathers were soaked. It finally occurred to me that the bird was actually taking a bath. It was now 7 a.m. and the morning was cold; the sun was up just enough to shine on the top of the avocado. There had been a heavy dew in the night, and drops of water glistened on the leaves of the tree.

The bird would alight on the end of a branch where the new growth evidently held more moisture, then rub its head from side to side on the leaves, at the same time fluttering its wings in regular bird-bathing fashion. This would end with a great flapping of wings as the bird fell—indeed crashed—down through the leaves for several feet. When falling in this manner, the Mockingbird was showered with a mass of water droplets. It would check its fall about halfway down the tree and either fly back to a higher branch or sometimes to another tree fifty feet away and go through the same performance again. I watched the bird for twelve minutes as it repeated this over and over until it was well soaked. It then perched on a topmost branch and finished its bath with a series of fast shakes, flutters, and preening.

While I was watching this activity, my wife noticed in a tree in the backyard another Mockingbird which evidently had just finished its bath as it was very wet and was drying itself. Presumably its procedure had been similar to that of the first bird. So far as I know there was no water near by.

In my many years of bird study I have never seen or read of this peculiar yet natural way of bathing. Even so, I suspect that leaf bathing is of fairly frequent occurrence but has somehow escaped general notice.—WALDO G. ABBOTT, *Santa Barbara, California, January 1, 1954.*

**Association and Seasonal Succession in the Use of Nest Sites.**—In the vicinity of their nests passerine birds exhibit varying degrees of tolerance of the presence of other species. In general, however, two species do not place their nests close together, especially if they use the same type of nest site.

In several areas near Ann Arbor, Michigan, I have been impressed by the fact that three species of birds build their nests in the same type of vegetation, although at different times in the nesting season. These three species are: Traill or Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), and American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*). The data presented here were obtained during the breeding seasons from 1947 through 1953. Four of the five areas mainly concerned in this report are located in Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw County: (1) University Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor (Section 33); (2) Blanchard's Pond (Section 31); (3) Geddes Pond (Section 27); (4) Hogback Road area (Section 36; for a photograph of part of this habitat see Berger and Parmelee, *Wilson Bull.*, 64, 1952:35); (5) near Dixboro, Michigan (Section 20, Superior Township).

There is, of course, some overlap in the breeding seasons of these species, but the main nesting period for each is different from that of the other two species. Much of the overlap that does occur is probably due to re-nesting after failure of a first nest. So far as is known the Yellow Warbler and the Traill Flycatcher are single-brooded in southern Michigan. Some American Goldfinches have two broods.

Nest building by the Yellow Warbler begins in the first or second week of May (May 10, 1951, May 11, 1949, and a nest with one egg on May 11, 1952). I have never seen an active nest later than the first week of July.

The Traill Flycatcher starts to build in the first week of June (June 2, 1950, and 1953, June 4, 1951), and eggs have been found on June 7 (1951 and 1953) and June 9 (1952). The earliest dates I have known young to fledge were July 4 (1951), and July 6 (1952 and 1953). The latest dates for nestlings were August 16 (estimated date of fledging, August 19, 1948; see Berger and Hofslund, *Jack-Pine Warbler*, 28, 1950:10) and August 19 (1951). I have some evidence to indicate that this species does not attempt to re-nest if a nest is destroyed after the third week of July.

Although I found a goldfinch nest with one egg on June 12, 1947 (Berger, *Wilson Bull.*, 60, 1948: 52-53), in subsequent years this species has begun nest construction in the first or second week of July. Nestlings have been observed each year as late as the third or fourth week of September.

Depending on the area concerned, the following vegetation has most often been used as nest sites: ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), panicled dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.), and privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*). It is interesting to note that in the Ann Arbor region red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) is rarely used for nest sites by any of these species. Nickell (*Auk*, 68, 1951:

455), however, found that 10 per cent of 243 goldfinch nests were built in *Cornus stolonifera* in southern Michigan, and Stokes (Wilson Bull., 62, 1950:118) found goldfinch nests "commonly placed in red-osier dogwood" in Wisconsin.

The same bush has been used as a nest site by one or all three of the species in successive years. In several instances, in a single summer, either two or three of the species discussed here have built in the same clump or thicket or in nearby bushes.

One especially interesting example of nest site association, in panicked dogwood, was observed at Geddes Pond in 1952. On June 10, I found a Yellow Warbler nest with three young estimated to be four or five days old; a Traill Flycatcher nest was under construction in the same clump of dogwood 53 inches from the warbler nest. Three young flycatchers hatched on July 3 or 4. An American Goldfinch nest, begun about August 15, was placed 40 inches from the Traill Flycatcher nest and 23 inches from the Yellow Warbler nest. In 1953 both Yellow Warblers and Traill Flycatchers nested again in this same clump of dogwood. I did not visit the area until July 7, 1953, at which time the one remaining flycatcher flew from the nest at my approach; the warbler nest had been empty for some time.

At the University Botanical Gardens, two young flycatchers left their nest in a privet hedge on July 30, 1953. On August 20, I first noted a complete, empty goldfinch nest, in the same hedge, 40 inches from the flycatcher nest. Five goldfinches hatched on or about September 5.—ANDREW J. BERGER, *Department of Anatomy, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan, September 10, 1953.*

**The White-winged Crossbill in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon.**—On September 17, 1953, while preparing some specimens of Red Crossbills, Mr. Ed Parker, a local forest Ranger, asked me how old a crossbill had to be "before they developed white markings on their wings." On questioning Mr. Parker he told me that since late August of that year a flock of crossbills "with white patches on their wings" had been seen at Big Cultus Lake, altitude 4668 feet, in the Deschutes National Forest. On September 19, 1953, Mr. Parker guided me to the exact spot where he had observed these birds. As our boat landed on the lake shore, an adult White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) was seen among the rocks beside an old campfire site. Between 4 and 5 p.m., we saw five more individuals. An adult male, a female and one immature were taken; the sex of the latter could not be determined.

To the best of my knowledge this species has not before been taken in the Cascade Mountains south of Mt. Rainier, Washington, and only once in the Wallowa Mountains (Miller, Condor, 40, 1938:226) of extreme northeastern Oregon.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon, October 3, 1953.*

**Yellow-headed Vulture in Tamaulipas, México.**—Inspired by Wetmore's interesting and clarifying paper (Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci., 40, 1950:415-417) on the Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*), and Heermann's (Dresser, Ibis, 1865:322-323) sight record of this species in the Brownsville region of Texas, presumably in 1864, we decided to look carefully for it during our visit to the Tamaulipas coast in the summer of 1953.

We had been in México only three days, but had trained our binoculars on several scores of Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) in the Tampico region before identifying the smaller yellow-headed species. On June 19 one was seen flying over sand dunes along the Gulf, east of Loma del Real. On June 23, we saw two birds perched together on fence posts along the Mante-Tampico highway 6½ miles south of Altamira. We did not identify a Yellow-headed Vulture again with certainty until July 20, when we saw two flying over the field at the Tampico airport.

On July 21, we obtained a specimen. A vulture that we identified as this species alighted on a fence post in the open, marshy *Spartina* flats, 8 miles north of Tampico and about a mile inland from the Gulf. As we approached it, a Turkey Vulture soared close and actually flew at the Yellow-headed Vulture, driving it from its perch and settling there itself—this in spite of the fact that there were many similar perches to either side. Fortunately the *burrovianus* alighted again only a few posts away. The larger *aura* showed definite signs of anxiety. Twice as we neared it, it made false starts, spreading its wings as though to fly, while the Yellow-headed Vulture seemed undisturbed by our presence, although we were actually closer to it. Blake (Birds of Mexico, 1953:64) called attention to this apparent tameness of the Yellow-headed Vulture. Having individuals of the two species so close together, we had excellent opportunity to compare them and were struck especially by the marked differences