

Observations at a Nest of Myrtle Warblers.—On July 25, 1927, a nest of the Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata coronata*) was found at Grey Rocks, Pelham, Massachusetts, by Miss Lucille Baker, six feet up in a small red cedar on a branch next to the trunk. It was a rather shallow affair, composed of cedar twigs and bark, plant fibers, a piece of string and pine needles, and was lined with a few horse hairs and many Ruffed Grouse feathers. Inside were three newly hatched young. I watched the nest for fourteen hours on July 27, 28 and 29 and Miss Baker watched it for five and one-half hours on July 30, August 1 and 2. The observer sat in full view, within seven feet of the nest (on account of the sloping and rocky nature of the ground it was not convenient to be nearer), but the parents did not object in any way.

On July 28 the female brooded twenty-five per cent of the time during six and one-half hours of observation, but on the following day only nineteen minutes were spent thus during six and three-fourths hours. The brooding periods averaged nine minutes. A great deal of her energy was expended in delousing the nest—thirty-six minutes on July 28 and seventy-four minutes during the forenoon of the next day, but after that there was little trouble. Once, during thirteen minutes she made over 250 captures, all of which she ate. Curiously enough after one session of burrowing about, she tugged at a feather in the lining, pulled it out and flew away with it.

The male brought food sixty times, the female forty-eight times, so that the young were fed once in 10.9 minutes. About one-third of the time the male brought two insects, while the female did so on about one-sixth of her trips. During the fourteen hours of observation, the male brought food once in every nineteen minutes, the female once in every twenty-eight minutes. During the last five and one-half hours, the male brought food once in twenty-two minutes, the female once in eighteen minutes.

The female young had difficulty in swallowing the large portions brought them. Once the female, after vainly presenting a round fat beetle to three young, took it to the ground. She shortly returned and at last disposed of the creature. On July 28, she was cleaning house, but hopped up above the nest upon the arrival of the male. For some time he worked with a large caterpillar, withdrawing it again and again from the throats of the young. The female came down to the nest rim and opened her bill. The male gave her the larva, and she held it while he pulled. She let go and he made another attempt to get it swallowed but had to manipulate it some more, his mate in the meantime standing with her bill open. However, it finally disappeared without further assistance from her.

The last feedings were watched on three evenings, the female settling down to brood for the night in each case. Sunset came at 7:15 p. m. on July 27, 7:14 on July 28, and 7:12 on July 30. The male's last feedings took place at 7:20, 7:08, and 7:16 p. m., respectively, the female's at 7:35, 7:24, and 7:31 p. m.

Excreta were eaten by the female through July 29, but she carried one away at 7:05 p. m., July 28. She ate twelve sacs and carried eleven; her mate carried twenty-five and ate one. He had brought a white moth and put it in the throat of one of the young, but it had fallen out and down without his noticing it. He picked lice off his legs and gave them to the babies. He then left and returned in ten minutes with two green larvae. After these were disposed of, he took a sac and swallowed it, hopped up to his favorite branch

above the nest and from there descended until he reached the moth, which he ate himself.

On the afternoon of August 1 there was a hard rain for twenty-five minutes, but although the male brought two meals and the female three, there was no move on the part of the parents to shelter the young.

The next afternoon, one of the young climbed to the nest rim, and another to the branch, but both returned. August 3 at 7:30 A. M. the last fledgling was just leaving the nest, flying over a hundred feet at its first attempt. A week later the male was seen in the vicinity feeding a fully grown young bird.

The parents made no sound near the nest until August 1, when the female came toward the observer with a low "*tchip*." The following afternoon when the young were getting out of and back into the nest, both parents became quite vocal, "*tchipping*" in nearby trees. Only ten songs were given by the male during the nineteen and one-half hours of observation.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio*.

Some Unusual Spring Records from Bibb County, Georgia.—The spring of 1928 brought an unusual number of new or rare bird records. Especially was this true of the water and marsh birds. Two facts may account for this. The spring has been unusually wet (the two previous springs had been very dry). Secondly, the local Isaac Walton League has been responsible for the establishment of a duck and game preserve in an old clay pit area south of town and near the river. Here, on February 11, Mr. Mounts and I saw two Red-shouldered Hawks, our first record of them for this region.

On May 12 was our most exciting trip to the clay pits. From far away a white heron was visible along the margin of one of the ponds. We watched this bird, hoping it would prove to be a Snowy Heron, but had to be satisfied with a young Little Blue Heron. Two full plumaged Little Blue Herons were also present. Near the herons were two Lesser Yellow-legs, and several more were scattered over the pond, one bird standing on one leg, the other one evidently badly injured. There were other waders of whose identity we were not sure. Along with the larger birds were six Least Sandpipers and one Semipalmated Plover. A pair of Blue-winged Teals swam about on the pond, and several times flew up, giving us a splendid view of the blue wing patches.

Not all of our rare records are from the clay pit region, however. On April 29, a House Wren appeared in our back yard and was seen, or heard in full song, for several days. This is a late record, and our first of the bird in song.

Not far from our home is a meadow, separated from the river by a low ridge. Two tiny streams run through the meadow, and in wet seasons there are several reedy, marshy patches. This year the Bobolink appeared there on May 1 and remained until May 12. Many years we do not see it at all. Here also we secured records of the Green Heron, King Rail, Short-billed Marsh Wren, and Purple Gallinule. The Purple Gallinule displayed an interesting habit. When flushed it flew to a tall tree bordering the marshy ground, and climbed higher and higher, hiding near the top, and evidently slipping out when not closely observed.

The most exciting record of the year came May 13. We had taken a friend to see the Bobolinks, which the day before were abundant and in full song. They had disappeared over night. A bird which at first glance I thought was a bob-tailed Red-wing flew up from a marshy spot and dropped down to the