

were fully erected and the head and neck stretched far forward and almost touched the ground. He moved after her in a zig-zag line, continually moving the body to and fro. The female apparently detected me although I stood still in my tracks. She flew when fifteen feet away and returned in the direction of the drumming log, disappearing in the trees. The male looked about a bit, then lowered his display and went toward the drumming log on foot.

He drummed again in a few minutes and I was able to find him on the log. I paced the distance from the log to the spot where the female left and found it to be fifty-three single paces. My paces average about a yard. The route taken from the log to the spot where the female left was much longer as it was apparently circuitous.

This observation would indicate that the female does come to the drumming log at times, and that the male may pursue her from here. It is possible that in this case the drumming served as a location notice from the male rather than as a territorial proclamation.—LEONARD WING, *Madison, Wis.*

**A Local Nesting Habit of the Towhee.**—The Red-eyed Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*) is a rather abundant summer bird along woodland borders in southern Michigan, where it nests usually on the ground with the nest rim about even with the ground level. Of twelve nests I have found only two were in shrubbery, one a foot, the other about two feet, from the ground.

While spending some time at Lovells in Crawford County in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, I found during July, 1937, four nests of the Towhee on an area which had been burned over two or three years before. This area was now covered with shrubbery and low trees, most of which were under seven or eight feet in height and with numerous low branches or basal sprouts. All four nests were located in this dense undergrowth, well off the ground; one was up 21 inches, another 24 inches, while two were 36 inches above the ground. These nests were found in July and are summarized as follows: Nest No. 1, July 5, two eggs and one of the Cowbird; Nest No. 2, July 8, two eggs, and on July 9, three eggs; Nest No. 3, July 9, one egg, and on July 10, two eggs and one of the Cowbird, and on July 11, three eggs and one of the Cowbird; Nest No. 4, July 11, two eggs and one of the Cowbird. In Nest No. 3 the young Cowbird and two of the Towhees left the nest on August 1, with date of hatching undetermined.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek, Mich.*

**Red Phalarope in Northeastern Illinois.**—A specimen of the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) was secured by the writer on September 10, 1938, on the Lake Michigan beach north of Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois. It proved to be a male in full fall plumage except for a few small patches of the breeding plumage on the back. The skin (No. 110141) is now in the study collection of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

The only other extant Illinois specimen of the Red Phalarope which the writer was able to locate, is in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York. This, a female (No. 357777, Dwight Collection No. 21134), was collected by Charles K. Worthen along the Mississippi River near Warsaw, Hancock County, Illinois, on September 27, 1883. It is very likely one of those "taken two or three times" in that region by the same collector (p. 62, Widmann, A Preliminary Catalog of the Birds of Missouri; *Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis*, Vol. XXVIII, No. 1, Nov. 16, 1907). The species is listed for the state by a number

of early ornithologists (Kennicott, Nelson, Ridgway), and specimens have been taken in neighboring states (southern Wisconsin and Indiana).—FRANK A. PITEKKA, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.*

**Lesser Scaup Duck Defending Nest.**—That the Lesser Scaup Duck (*Mareca affinis*) is fearless in defense of its young has often been observed, but the incident related below, of an individual defending her nest, is unique in my experience.

On a small, wooded island in Ministik Lake, Alberta, on July 20, 1931, a Lesser Scaup was disturbed from her nest in a patch of sedges near the water's edge. The nest contained eight eggs. The bird did not fly but walked in a crouching attitude toward the water. After proceeding about ten feet, she turned about, walked back in the same manner and settled upon the eggs. Meanwhile, with a companion, I was standing within three feet or so of the nest. My companion then put out his hand which prompted the duck to again leave the nest, and, moving forward with wings outspread, grasp a finger with her bill.

We returned to the nest again an hour later and the same performance was repeated with variations a number of times. A sudden movement would impel her to leave the nest only to return immediately. Not once did she fly. Sometimes she picked at the sedges around the nest, or, standing upright, re-arranged the down. Usually upon settling, she turned her tail toward us and once after doing this, turned completely about and faced us. Finally at a time when the bird was relaxed on the eggs we drew together the sedges above the nest and left her in peace.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C.*

**Nesting Behavior of Kingbirds.**—The writer's porch faces westward upon a row of elms, where on the evening of June 16, 1938, a pair of Arkansas Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) were busy building a nest in a fork some twenty-five feet from the ground. It seemed but half completed and both birds were industriously bringing materials to be woven into it by the female. Several pieces of string were added, one of them so long that it became entangled in the surrounding twigs.

During an interval when both owners were away, an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) alighted at the nest and began tearing it to pieces with claws and bill. Hastily collecting the looser bits, she flew directly to a group of trees back of the house. Returning shortly, the female owner was greatly excited. She flitted off and on the nest, re-built and re-shaped it and then spent a time perched above it complaining shrilly. No sooner had she departed upon another collecting trip, however, than her white-breasted cousin returned, tore hurriedly at the nest, struggled with the entangling string and left with a bill full of materials by the same air-way as before. These raids were repeated until dusk, the owners sometimes surprising the thief and driving her off with furious attacks and great noise.

During the following day all was quiet, the Arkansas Kingbirds occupying the tree alone. Evening, however, saw the return of the trespasser and several severe battles ensued. Other species, especially Robins, mingled in the fray, apparently assisting the owners. A female Baltimore Oriole suddenly appeared to assist in repelling the invader, but when all had again quieted, she was seen tugging away at the long string, pulling and fluttering to carry it aloft, and in the absence of