

by a mammal, evidently the skunk whose den was within 50 feet of the cage. When the young Crows were about two months old, or after they had been confined for four or five weeks, they became too large and active for their cages and were released. Even at five weeks the adults were still feeding the young regularly.

Pellets and food items were collected from a sheet of heavy wrapping paper spread on the ground beneath the cage. When it rained, the paper, as well as the pellets and food, became wet. This made collecting a little more messy, but did not seem to affect the material, which was thoroughly dried within a few days by exposure to two 500-watt bulbs in a wooden-frame oven. From the four cages 52 collections, totaling 3,225 grams of dried material, were gathered for examination.—PHILIP BAUMGRAS, *Game Division, Michigan Department of Conservation, Lansing, Michigan.*

**Swainson's Warbler in Webster County, West Virginia.**—From June 13 to 20, 1942, the Brooks Bird Club held its annual field trip at Holly River State Park, Webster County, West Virginia. On the afternoon of the first day I identified there several singing Swainson's Warblers (*Limnothlypis swainsoni*), a species with which I had fortunately had several months' experience in Nicholas County. Subsequently Swainson's Warblers were observed by Mr. and Mrs. John Handlan, Russell West, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Conrad, Pete Chandler, Maxine Thacker, and other members of the club and were found at all suitable habitats visited in the park. This extends about 60 miles northward the known breeding range of the species in West Virginia.—WILLIAM C. LEGG, *Mount Lookout, West Virginia.*

**Variable Nesting Habits of the Parula Warbler.**—There seems to be a widespread belief among bird students that the breeding distribution of the Parula Warbler (*Compothlypis americana*) depends strictly on the presence of *Usnea* or *Tillandsia* beard "mosses." R. T. Peterson, for example, in a recent paper (*Audubon Magazine*, 44, 1942: 25) states that "the Parula Warbler is an especially good illustration of association with a particular life form. The northern race is a bird of the cool coniferous forest biome or Canadian life zone. Its ecological niche is where the *Usnea* lichen, or bearded moss, hangs from the trees. The southern race of this bird is found in a totally different biome, the more humid parts of the warm Lower Austral zone. There it is dependent on the Spanish moss" (*Tillandsia*). Clumps of these "mosses" furnish pendant nest sites for the parula warbler.

At Washington, D. C., where neither *Usnea* nor *Tillandsia* is present, Robert S. Bray and I, during May, 1936, found two nests in bunches of dead leaves and debris caught, during a flood earlier that spring, in low branches of deciduous trees bordering the Potomac River. Arthur A. Allen, in June, 1942 (personal letter), examined a similar nest found by Mrs. York along the Chemung River near Elmira, New York; and Florence Merriam Bailey mentioned this type of nest site in her "Handbook of Birds of the Western United States."

A nest collected by Ned Hollister at the National Zoological Park in Washington, D. C., on July 28, 1921 (U.S.N.M. 36282), is composed almost entirely of heavy brown wrapping cord and a small quantity of wool. It is scantily lined with horsehairs and rootlets and, apparently, hung pensive with the opening at the top, vireo-fashion. According to the label, it was found 6 feet, 8 inches from the ground in a Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) on a lawn near buildings. W. Howard Ball in May, 1934, at Washington, D.C., observed a similarly suspended parula nest about 60 feet up, in one of the topmost branches of a sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). Its materials could not be determined.

According to E. H. Forbush (*Birds of Massachusetts . . . etc.*, 3, 1929: 227), "Dr. Anne E. Perkins records that about three pairs come yearly to Collins, New