

Dr. Sutton concluded, after examining the eggs, that possibly only 4 Cowbirds had parasitized this nest. Four female Cowbirds could have laid the 8 eggs in 2 days.

The situation at the nest remained unchanged during the observations on June 1 and June 3. On June 4, however, I discovered the 8 eggs destroyed and the Warbler departed, apparently due to predation by some carnivorous mammal.

Eight is apparently the greatest number of Cowbird eggs reported for any of the numerous host species of *Molothrus ater*. In a letter dated May 26, 1949, Dr. Herbert Friedmann informed me that 8 Cowbird eggs had once been reported for a Towhee nest, but that 5 was the most reported heretofore in a Black and White Warbler's nest. It is unfortunate that the commonness of parasitism of the Towhee did not come to my attention in time for me to determine the species of the 3 nestlings found near the Warbler's nest.

While this series of observations is of interest principally because of the number of Cowbirds' eggs in the Warbler's nest, it also furnishes a nesting record for a part of Michigan where the Black and White Warbler nests only infrequently; and, further, it shows an unusual perseverance by the female Warbler in incubating a remarkable number of eggs for almost twice the duration of the normal incubation time.—GEORGE W. BYERS, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor*.

**Red-wings feeding on white ash.**—Robert Nero's recent note under this heading (1950. *Wilson Bulletin*, 62: 39-40) reminds me of my own observations of this habit of the Red-wing (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Every October beginning with that of 1922 this species has fed on the seeds of a large white ash (*Fraxinus americanus*) behind my house in West Roxbury, Massachusetts. My first note of this behavior, dated October 22, 1922, reads as follows: "A small flock composed of both sexes feeding in the top of our white ash. After reaching up and picking off a samara the bird held it against the twig on which it perched and evidently detached the wing, or perhaps shelled the seed, in this way. They seemed to require a solid twig to aid them in the shucking process and not to be able to cut the wing off with the bill alone as some of the finches do."

In some Octobers I have seen only male Red-wings feeding on ash seeds; in others, both sexes. My notes for October 26, 1947: "Many females among the Red-wings here today feeding in the ash trees and resting in hemlocks, etc. The females were in preponderance and flew about together." On at least one occasion (October 16, 1928) I have seen Rusty Blackbirds (*Euphagus carolinus*) similarly feeding on the ash seeds.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *215 La Grange St., West Roxbury 32, Massachusetts*.

**Unusual bathing techniques employed by birds.**—Near my home in Streetsville, Ontario, I have observed three species of birds bathing in unusual ways:

Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*. On February 26, 1946, I watched a chickadee bathing in new, light fluffy snow under a wide-spreading shrub. It dived in and fluttered and floundered along with bathing motions of head-dipping and wing-quivering.

Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrina*. On September 30, 1949, a Tennessee Warbler bathed at a pond's shallow edge by flying down into the water from an over-hanging willow branch. It dipped in and out several times until thoroughly wet.

Slate-colored Junco, *Junco hyemalis*. On October 10, 1949, a junco took an early morning bath in dewdrops. There had been fog in the night, and everything was heavily bedewed, including a patch of thick clover in the lawn. Here the junco burrowed in under the wet leafage making the customary bathing motions of the wings, and sending the spray flying.—MARGARET H. MITCHELL, *Streetsville, R. R. 1, Ontario, Canada*.