

There are, apparently, three other records for the State. In the vicinity of Magnolia, in southwestern Arkansas, in the fall of 1941, J. R. Forbes saw two birds, an immature male from October 18 to November 1, and an adult male from October 28 to November 3. The former, collected on November 1, is now in the Cornell University collection (Forbes, 1942. *Auk*, 59: 579). At Mena, near the Oklahoma border in west central Arkansas, a Vermilion Flycatcher was seen on October 21, 1945. Details of the record, as reported to Dr. W. J. Baerg, will appear in the current revision of his "Birds of Arkansas," now in press.—BROOKE MEANLEY, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Stuttgart, Arkansas.*

**Vermilion Flycatcher on east coast of Florida.**—On March 25, 1951, Roger N. Early, of Lakeland, Florida, and I observed a male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) near the United States Coast Guard Station, New Smyrna, Volusia County, Florida. We first saw it as it flew from a telephone wire along the highway to the top of a small tree. We spent an hour observing it at close range with and without the aid of a binocular. It continued perching in the tops of small trees, feeding with the characteristic technique of its clan. When approached too closely, it merely flew to the next bush or tree and continued feeding. Often it wagged its tail in the manner of a phoebe (*Sayornis*) just after alighting.

During the course of our observations Mr. Early obtained 40 feet of motion pictures in color from a distance of about 35 feet, using a six-inch lens. In my attempts to photograph the bird, I several times approached to within 20 feet before putting it to flight. It appeared to be established in one particular area. By persistent following I induced it to fly in short "hops" to a tree about 200 yards from the spot at which we had first seen it. From this place it circled back to its original perch. Mr. Early attempted to photograph it at close range, causing it to move about 150 yards, but again it returned to its 'base,' as before.

Although the Vermilion Flycatcher has been seen many times in winter in northwestern Florida, there are few published records for the peninsula proper, and this one may be the first for the east coast. We made no attempt to collect the specimen. Our photographs turned out well.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, *812 East Hendrix Street, Brazil, Indiana.*

**Wing-flashing by male Mockingbirds.**—My observations on a few marked Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) run counter to Tomkins' belief that wing-flashing by males is rare (1950. *Wilson Bulletin*, 62: 41-42). This species is scattered through Baltimore's suburban sections as a permanent resident. On the grounds about my home, however, I have seen it only in winter, spring and fall. Six birds that I have color-banded have proved, by spring singing, to be males. I have seen wing-flashing by three of the six: on three occasions (March 21, April 18, April 27) by an individual present from October 1, 1947, to May 2, 1948; on seven occasions—March 6, 17, 21, 24 and 31 (twice), and April 1—by a bird present 43 days (March 4 to April 15, 1946); and on one occasion (April 16) by a bird present from April 9 to 22, 1950. I have seen wing-flashing by a silent (and therefore probably a female) color-banded bird on four occasions during a 7-day stay in April. Wing-flashing by unbanded Mockingbirds (sex ?) elsewhere I have witnessed in January (once), May, July and September.

Like Tomkins, I have seen the gesture made above the ground as well as on it. On the 22 occasions that I have seen adult birds perform, the place has been: lawn, 12 times; concrete paving, 1; my second-floor window feeding shelf, 8; on the bird's nest-bush, 1. I have also once seen a large fledgling flash its wings in a tree (wing-flashing by young birds on the ground appears to be common, but I have had no opportunity to study it systematically). Like Wampole (1949. *Wilson Bulletin*, 61: 113), I find that the extent to which the wings are lifted and spread varies greatly: sometimes they are moved only a little away from the sides and spread only slightly. I have included the less conspicuous instances in my tabulations.

On all but one occasion, as the above summary suggests, wing-flashing by adults has

been done during foraging or in the actual presence of food. But although it therefore seems to be connected with feeding, some of my observations, like some of Sutton's (1946. *Wilson Bulletin*, 58: 206-209) make a simple "game flushing" explanation unsatisfactory. On many visits to my uncovered feeding shelf for raisins and suet, the birds have done no wing-flashing; in some of the eight instances that it was done there, and in at least two instances elsewhere, the full circumstances show that the birds were under the influence of emotion, as well as hunger.

My notes on the color-banded bird, WA, which appeared to be a female, will illustrate. This bird was present from April 9 to 15, 1948, during which time she associated with male BA-S, present October 1, 1947, to May 2, 1948. The notes are:

"April 11. At 9:42 a.m. male BA-S visited the feeding shelf for raisins, then left. At 9:43 WA alighted on one corner of the shelf and, as she did so, raised her wings to 45 or 60 degrees and partly spread them. Then after several seconds she advanced onto the shelf and ate raisins, and a number of times during the first part of this feeding again slightly raised and spread her wings. This may have been a sign of uneasiness at my watching from about ten feet back in the room—although she has done no wing-lifting during other such observations.

"At 11 a.m. WA was finishing a rain bath on a rear gate-post. A Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) alighted in the concrete-paved alley a few yards away. Soon WA ended her bath, swooped downward past the Robin and on some yards east, and as she alighted on the concrete in front of a garage she raised her wings once about as high as her back, closed them, then moved about over the concrete and a few more times made the wing-raising gesture distinctly, though not in extreme form. Then she foraged out of sight.

"12:42 p.m. After my presence at the window had kept both BA-S and WA from the feeder for about seven minutes, during which WA once gave a little *skraa* note that seemed to indicate annoyance, I withdrew into the room. BA-S then flew to the feeder and after he left WA flew there, and at first WA, while watching me watch her, slightly flipped her wings a few times.

"April 14. While WA was sitting on a wire in our back yard at 7:41 a.m., BA-S settled about eighteen inches away on a parallel wire. WA looked toward him with bill widely open for some seconds, then practically closed her bill, then in a few seconds flew at him; he darted to another wire a few yards away, then flew next door. Soon WA came to our feeder and ate raisins, and during the eating just *twitched* her wings once or twice."

The two other instances alluded to include my one winter observation of the gesture. With a small hardware-cloth trap I was attempting, on January 8, 1949, to catch a Mockingbird at a ground feeding place it was visiting for raisins. When the bird appeared, it was unable to find its way into the trap; after trying for a while, it hopped up on top of the trap, moderately raised and opened its wings once, then in a few seconds dropped to the ground beside the trap and once raised and opened its wings to a still lesser extent. For some seconds more it tried vainly to find a way in to the raisins, then it left.

On July 12, 1946, I made this observation in another part of Baltimore: "Two Mockingbirds were engaged in a pursuit across some lawns. One of them then flew onto a forsythia bush on one lawn, partly raised its wings a couple of times, then entered the bush. A few minutes later I flushed a bird out of that bush and found a nest with three eggs."

In all but the second of those instances, at least, uneasiness, frustration or sexual excitement seems to have possessed the birds at the time of their wing-flashing. And although all but the last instance occurred while the bird was immediately preoccupied with food or feeding, four times out of five the food was inanimate fruit. My observations, therefore, make me believe that wing-flashing is an instinctive game-flushing gesture, but one that has become a displacement act performed under emotional stress of widely varying sorts,

particularly in any real or potential feeding situation. This is much the same conclusion reached by Hebard (1949. *Florida Naturalist*, 23: 16-18).—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler in Ohio.**—On November 15, 1950, Gene Rea and I happened upon a Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) on the Ohio State University campus at Columbus. It was with a small company of Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*) feeding in shrubbery above a rock garden south of Mirror Lake. It was active and nervous, though not particularly shy, resembling the kinglets in this respect. Several times we moved to within 15 feet of it.

In the half hour or more during which it was under observation, it spent most of its time feeding actively in, the shrubbery. Several times it flew to some tall trees nearby, but returned each time to the lower vegetation. Its call-note, which we heard repeatedly, seemed to our ears somewhat intermediate between, though softer and weaker than, that of the Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) and that of the Myrtle Warbler (*D. coronata*).

The bird was subsequently observed by a number of persons before it was collected by Jeff Swinebroad, who very kindly presented it to the Ohio State Museum. The specimen, an immature female, is now No. 7939 in our collection. The species apparently has not previously been taken in Ohio.—EDWARD S. THOMAS, *Ohio State Museum, Columbus*.

**Audubon on Territory.**—An early reference to territorialism in the life of an American bird is to be found in Volume 2 of Audubon's "Ornithological Biography" (Boston, 1835: 218) where, in treating of the Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), Audubon wrote: "At the approach of spring, the flocks break up, the females first separating. The males then commence their migration, flying in small flocks, or even sometimes singly. At this season the beauty of their plumage is much improved, their movements have acquired more grace, their manner of flight and all their motions when on the ground evidently shewing how strongly they feel the passion that glows in their bosom. The male is seen to walk with stately measured steps, jerking out his tail, or spreading it to its full extent, and then closing it, like a fan in the hands of some fair damsel. Its loud notes are more melodious than ever, and are now frequently heard, the bird sitting the while on the branch of a tree, or the top of some tall weed of the meadows.

"Woe to the rival who dares to make his appearance! Nay, should any male come in sight, he is at once attacked, and, if conquered, chased beyond the limits of the territory claimed by the first possessor."

This description reappears in Volume 4 of the author's "Birds of America" (1842: 72). Whether or not there may be other similar observations on territory in Audubon's works I do not know.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, 9 Francis Ave., Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.

**Nest location, Cowbird parasitism, and nesting success of the Indigo Bunting.**—During the summers of 1948, 1949, and 1950, I observed 14 nests of the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). The data on nest location, parasitism by the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), and nesting success are tabulated below. Six (42.8%) of the 14 nests were parasitized and only one Cowbird was fledged from the seven eggs laid. Of 41 bunting eggs laid, 18 (43.9%) young were fledged.

On July 3, 1950, I saw a House Wren (*Troglodytes aëdon*) fly from nest No. 11. When I got to the nest, I found the contents of the one bunting egg beginning to seep from a bill hole in the shell.