

gulls and terns circled the area for approximately fifteen minutes, the majority coming back to the water instead of the sand. Later the pelicans alighted on the sandspit, and when they were last observed the gulls and terns were also on the spit. On the basis of information from George B. Sennett, Warren (1890. "Report on the Birds of Pennsylvania," pp. 29-30) writes that White Pelicans were seen in the vicinity of Erie between 1870 and 1875. Todd (1940. "Birds of Western Pennsylvania," p. 44) cites four other records for this bird in western Pennsylvania.—JOHN F. MEHNER, 1003 James Street, Pittsburgh 34, Pennsylvania, May 16, 1953.

**Incubation period of the Mourning Warbler.**—There are apparently few records of the incubation period of *Oporornis philadelphia*. Bent (1953. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 203) does not give any information about the incubation period nor about the time spent in the nest by the young of this warbler. Therefore, the following notes seem worthy of record.

On June 12, 1951, I flushed a female Mourning Warbler from her nest. The nest, containing three eggs, was located in a *Populus-Alnus* swamp within the city limits of Duluth, Minnesota. It was placed on the ground in a drier portion of the swamp, and was well hidden by wild strawberry plants. On June 13 a fourth egg was added. On June 23 the female was still incubating the four eggs. I was unable to visit the nest again until June 28 at which time I found the four eggs had hatched. I estimated the age of the young to be about four days, based on a comparison of their development with that of the Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas*). The young left this nest on July 2.

The second nest was found on July 1, 1953, in a windfall clearing on the grounds of the University of Minnesota Forestry and Biological Station at Itasca State Park. The nest was placed 14 inches above the ground, and was supported mainly by a swamp thistle (*Cirsium muticum*). At the time the nest was found it was empty. On the morning of July 3 the nest contained two eggs, and by 9:00 a.m. on July 4 a third egg was added. The nest was visited daily, and on July 16 all three eggs had hatched. I left Itasca Park on July 18, but Dr. William H. Marshall, of the University of Minnesota, provided me with further information on this nest. He visited the nest on July 23 and again on July 26. On July 23 the nest contained three well-developed young, but on July 26 the nest was empty. It was Dr. Marshall's opinion that the young had successfully left the nest, probably before July 26.

The observed incubation period for the second nest and the estimated period for the first nest indicate an incubation period of 12 days. The young apparently leave the nest at an age of eight or nine days.—P. B. HOFSLUND, *Biology Department, University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch, Duluth, Minnesota, August 12, 1953.*

**An unusually high nest of the Yellow Warbler.**—On June 6, 1953, Geza Hufnagel, Harold Mahan, Walter P. Nickell, and I made observations on the nesting birds at Rondeau Park, Kent County, Ontario. The habitat in the area studied is an extensive climax forest of beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and sugar maple (*Acer accharum*) with an admixture of red maple (*Acer rubrum*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and other deciduous trees. The predominant undershrubs are American hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), and raspberry (*Rubus*). These and other shrubs together with wild grape (*Vitis* sp.) and an abundant growth of beech and maple saplings form a dense understory.

The Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) nests abundantly in this understory association. Of 25 nests of the Yellow Warbler found on June 6, all but one were in this type of habitat, and were located at heights of from 21 inches to 12 feet. The exception was in an upright fork, almost at the top of an American beech. The female warbler flew from the nest when we tapped the trunk of the tree. The nest contained 5 eggs. A weighted line dropped from the rim of the nest to the ground measured 39 feet with a steel tape.

A. C. Bent (1953. *U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 203, p. 163) gives the usual heights for nests of this species as from 3 to 8 feet, rarely to 30 or 40 feet. However, he cites (p. 164) nests recorded by T. S. Roberts at heights of 40 to 60 feet in cottonwoods in the prairie region of Minnesota, where shrubbery is scarce. The highest nest that Bent mentions from eastern North America (p. 167) was 30 feet up in an elm, recorded by T. E. McMullen in either Pennsylvania or New Jersey (no date).—DOUGLAS S. MIDDLETON, 7443 Buhr, Detroit 12, Michigan, August 15, 1953.

**Cannibalism by a Burrowing Owl.**—While visiting a large prairie dog "town" situated  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles north and 2 miles east of Sharon, Barber County, Kansas, on the afternoon of May 6, 1953, I observed four Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia*). Three were perched on mounds of earth thrown up by prairie dogs at the entrances to their burrows. The fourth owl was observed feeding between two of these mounds. I approached the feeding owl and flushed it from a dead Burrowing Owl. Feathers from the breast and belly of the dead owl were scattered about in the short grass. The head had been torn from the body and could not be found. There remained the skin of the body with the wings and legs attached. The kill seemed to be no more than a day old; the exposed edges of the skin were dry and friable, and there were dried drops of blood on the feathers. Another instance of cannibalism by a Burrowing Owl has been reported by Bent (1938. *U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 170:390).—THANE S. ROBINSON, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, May 19, 1953.*

**Western records of *Chaetura vauxi tamaulipensis*.**—As recently as 1939 it was generally supposed that the distribution of the swifts of the genus *Chaetura* in North America, north of Tamaulipas, was very simple: *vauxi* in the western part of the continent, *pelagica* in the eastern, and casually west over the Atlantic drainage as far as New Mexico. The only problem thought worthy of study was the winter range of the latter, then unknown. Swifts being in most places notoriously difficult to collect, the "sight record," based on geographic "reasoning," held happy and unchallenged sway.

The first shock to this complacency came when Lowery (1939. *Wilson Bull.*, 51: 199-201) discovered that a few swifts occasionally winter in Louisiana, and that they are *vauxi* rather than *pelagica*! We still, however, lack records of *vauxi* in any other region near Baton Rouge, so perhaps the shock failed to open closed minds. Soon afterward, Sutton (1941. *Wilson Bull.*, 53:231-233) demonstrated the intermediate characters of the birds of northeastern Mexico, which he named *C. v. tamaulipensis*, and showed that they are at least partially migratory. The only record between October and March, apparently, was one from San Lucas in the mountain of southern Guatemala. With the announcement by Barnes (1946. *Auk*, 63:258) of the capture of *C. pelagica* in Utah, and the discovery of its winter home, it seemed likely that the next important discoveries would be in the northern or western parts of the Mexican mainland or the adjacent Southwest of the United States. Here, west of Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosí, *Chaetura* was