

disturbance of the adults contributed to the vulnerability of the young to predation by the Sparrow Hawks. Although my observations were very brief, I could find no evidence for predation by Sparrow Hawks on the young from three other Killdeer nests placed in much more favorable sites a few hundred yards further out in the marsh.—ANDREW J. MEYERRECKS, *Biological Laboratories, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts, October 2, 1956.*

Blue-winged Teal nest parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbird.—Near the village of Delta, on the Delta Marsh in south-central Manitoba, Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) nest commonly at the marsh edge, in pastures, and occasionally in or at the edge of small patches of wooded land. The Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) also occurs there through the spring and summer, frequenting wooded areas and the surrounding pasture and grassland up to several hundred yards from any woods. On June 2, 1956, at the grassy edge of a wooded, sandy ridge I flushed a female Blue-winged Teal at a nest scrape. The nest contained no eggs, lining or down. It was not revisited until June 8 when it was found to have been lined with grass and a small amount of down and contained the remains of three teal eggs, which had been destroyed by a skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). Two cowbird eggs were also present. On June 11 another cowbird egg was found on the open ground in the adjacent woods about 30 yards from the destroyed teal nest.

Friedmann (1949. *Auk*, 66:154–163, and preceding literature there cited) reported no recorded instance of a Brown-headed Cowbird parasitizing any species of duck. He mentioned only two cases of cowbirds parasitizing precocial or semi-precocial species, the Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and the California Gull (*Larus californicus*), and one additional instance of Cowbird parasitism of a species laying a large egg, the Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo regalis*).

Presumably, lack of discovery of a proper nest for parasitism may lead a female cowbird to drop her egg in a quite inappropriate place. The additional egg found on the ground lends support to the supposition that the female or females involved here were having difficulty locating suitable hosts at the time of this observation.—WILLIAM J. HAMILTON, III, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley 4, California, December 12, 1956.*

Nocturnal predation on Summer Tanager nestling by kingsnake.—On June 6, 1942, I found a nest of the Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), near Oreton, Raccoon State Forest, southeastern Vinton County, Ohio. The nest held three small young, and was 5 or 6 feet high in a small oak at the base of a fire tower. After dark in the early evening of June 7, I again visited the nest.

Because of the time lapse since the observation, I quote directly from my notes: "This evening I went out to look at the young tanagers in the nest near the fire tower. I flashed the light [flashlight] on the nest and was startled by a small Black Kingsnake, (*Lampropeltis getulus nigra*), coiled in the nest. The snake had just swallowed a young tanager. The tail and a foot of the young bird were protruding from its mouth." The snake was captured, and later released far from the nest. I left the area soon afterward, so I was unable to make further observations on the nest.—JOHN J. STOPPLET, *2612 Maplewood, Toledo, Ohio, January 16, 1957.*