

on 14 February held four red-backed voles (*Clethrionomys*) and one meadow vole. A pellet seen cast by a Snowy Owl at Dushack's Marsh, northeast of Madison, on 28 March, contained three meadow voles. Part of a freshly killed American Coot (*Fulica americana*) was dropped by an owl observed in Madison on 17 April, while two pellets from another Madison Snowy Owl on 21 April contained two rats (*Rattus*) and one meadow vole.—LLOYD B. KEITH, *Department of Wildlife Management, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 15 March 1963.*

An observation of parental behavior of a Rough-winged Swallow.—On 13 June 1959, Vincent Abraitys and I were leaning on the parapet of the highway bridge that spans Lockatong Creek, a small stream that empties into the Delaware River two miles north of the Borough of Stockton in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Below us a few Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) were hawking for insects above the water.

A small number of these birds have nested every year beneath the bridge in the open drain pipes that are encased in the bridge abutments. One of these pipes, the end of which extends an inch or so beyond the concrete, is situated about 2½ feet above the water, which there forms a quiet eddy a foot or so deep. Measured from a point directly below the pipe, the nearest shore is 5 feet distant. There a slightly inclined margin of clay separates the streamside vegetation from the water.

As we watched, a swallow entered the pipe and in a moment reappeared and flew off. There then appeared at the opening a young bird which teetered for a moment on the edge and then dropped into the water below, where it lay quietly with outstretched wings. Within seconds, an adult bird, which we assumed was a parent, appeared and hovered for a moment above the fledgling, then dropped lightly upon the fledgling's back and, with rapidly beating wings, propelled the fallen bird across the water toward the shelving bank. The old bird did not relinquish its position nor cease to beat its wings until the fledgling was completely out of the water. It then flew off, and the young bird, using its feet only, edged its way toward the waterside shrubs where it disappeared from our view.

Neither Abraitys nor I have found in the literature at hand any reference to such parental behavior, yet it seems not unreasonable to believe that for species nesting under conditions so precarious, succoring their young in this fashion might well be the rule.—HOWARD DRINKWATER, *Old Road, Whitehouse, N.J., 2 April 1963.*

Solitary Vireo found nesting in south-central Ohio's Hocking County.—Previous to 1961, the Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) had been recorded nesting in only three Lake Erie counties of northeastern Ohio (records reported in: 1933. *Wilson Bull.*, 45:189; 1950. Williams. "Birds of Cleveland Region"; published notes of Cleveland Audubon Society). The only recent records are from the Cleveland area.

On 10 June 1961, I heard the song of *V. solitarius* in Old Man's Cave State Park, Hocking Co., Ohio. Later that day a second male was heard in the vicinity of Ash Cave, about a mile's air distance from the first location. On the following morning, in the company of Jeff Kraemer and Jerry Meyer of Cincinnati, Ohio, I set out to investigate the unprecedented June occurrence of this species in Hocking Co. A short time later the male was observed carrying facial tissue to its nearly completed nest in a birch sapling near a park picnic area. Three-quarters of the outer structure was composed of strips of tissue, indicating the proximity of humanity, and the remainder was of bark of native birch.

On 16 June 1962, Jay Sheppard, Richard Watkins, Paul Woodward, Jeff Kraemer, and

I returned to the Old Man's Cave area and found five territorial males. Three males in full song in adjacent territories could be heard from the occupied territory of the nesting male of 1961.

The habitat concerned is mostly of northern type—hemlock, yew, black and yellow birch, and mountain maple (*Tsuga canadensis*, *Taxus canadensis*, *Betula lenta* and *lutea*, and *Acer spicatum*)—surrounding the deep, cool ravines which characterize Hocking State Forest, and the hillsides above the rims of these ravines which were planted to pines about 25 years ago.—WORTH S. RANDLE, 1534 Sutton Ave., Cincinnati 30, Ohio, 17 April 1963.

Tree Swallow nesting in martin colony.—While Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) will often tolerate other birds nesting in adjacent nest boxes, these are usually not closely related species. The House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) are mentioned by Bent (1942. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 179:503) as common competitors for nesting sites in active martin colonies.

On 22 June 1962, a female Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) was perched on the lower railing of one of the martin houses at the University of Michigan Biological Station, Cheboygan County, Michigan. Investigation revealed a nest containing four small Tree Swallows in a lower corner box. Two pairs of Purple Martins nesting in the same house were incubating and two other males frequented the same house. The entire colony was composed of 24 birds in three houses along the shore of Douglas Lake. During three afternoons of observation, no interspecific conflicts were noted at this house.

A photograph was made showing that the Tree Swallows occupied the side of the house nearest the trees. None of the martins was seen on this side, but preferred the more open approach afforded elsewhere. I banded the young Tree Swallows on 23 June, and they had fledged by 28 June. The martins had young by this time, which did not fledge until early in July.—JAMES TATE, JR., *University of the Pacific, Stockton, California*, 22 February 1963.

Brown Creeper nesting in West Virginia.—On 18 May 1963, several members of the Brooks Bird Club located a nesting pair of Brown Creepers (*Certhia familiaris*) on the bank of the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County, West Virginia, at an elevation of approximately 300 feet. The location, which is not far from Harper's Ferry, was on a well-wooded river terrace covered with a dense mature stand of mixed mesophytic forest. The immediate area is a picnic grounds for a private club and has been fairly well cleared of underbrush. There are no conifers in the immediate vicinity.

The nest was located about 15 feet from the ground in a snag of a broken silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) standing almost on the bank of the river. In typical creeper fashion, the nest was built of a few twigs placed under a large slab of bark that was beginning to pull away from what appeared to be an old lightning scar. Some of the nest material was visible from below through the side of the crack and we were able to examine the interior of the nest through this crack. The birds, however, entered from a hole several inches above the nest. At the time of discovery the nest contained six eggs.

Our attention had originally been drawn to the nest by seeing a creeper (thought to be a rather late migrant) carrying food in its bill and remaining on the snag for several minutes. Later, one of the birds was observed to offer food to the second, which was then sitting on the eggs.

This appears to be the second known nesting of the species in the state. The first reported nest was found at an elevation of about 4,100 feet in a virgin spruce forest on