

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

Shaver's Mountain in Randolph County (Handlan, 1949. *The Redstart*, 16:51). The Brown Creeper is a moderately common summer resident in the northern mixed forests and spruce forest at high elevations in West Virginia, but it has not previously been found below about 2,500 feet in the summer. This same situation apparently obtains in the neighboring states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.

While the nesting of this species at this extremely low elevation in more or less atypical habitat is very probably purely fortuitous, it might be well to point out that another possibility does exist. The creeper is a common winter resident in these latitudes and regularly, but uncommonly, a few are reported in the latter part of May and are usually thought to be delayed migrants. However, since Brown Creeper nests are not conspicuous, and since many bird students are totally unfamiliar with the territorial song of the species, it is possible that the species nests under these circumstances more often than is realized.—GEORGE A. HALL, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.Va.*, AND NEVADA LAITSCH, *M.C. 21, East Liverpool, Ohio*, 3 June 1963.

Western Meadowlark in West Virginia.—On 21 May 1961, while on a field trip of the Brooks Bird Club in Jefferson County, West Virginia, I heard what appeared to be the song of a Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). We quickly located the bird singing from a perch on a short power line. It sang for some time using only the typical *neglecta* song. It was quite evident that the back of this bird was much paler than in the case of the Eastern Meadowlark (*S. magna*), which was also present in this field, but none of the other distinguishing marks could be made out. We studied the bird for about half an hour; five of us were familiar with this species in the West.

Upon being alarmed, the bird left its perch and flew low over the field giving the "chupp" call mentioned by Lanyon (1957. "The Comparative Biology of the Meadowlarks (*Sturnella*) in Wisconsin") as being distinctive of this species. It showed great attachment for the particular section of wire on which it was first discovered and repeatedly returned to it when flushed. When observers approached too closely to it while on the ground, it would fly close to the perching locality, calling frequently, and then hesitate and fly off. It did not closely associate with the two or three individuals of *magna* present.

This observation was made in a small open field not far from Harper's Ferry and only a few hundred yards from the crest of the mountain which forms the Virginia border. Most of this mountainside is covered with dense brush or moderately heavy forest and this small field represents a virtual island of meadowlark habitat.

The bird was seen again in the afternoon, but not thereafter. Mr. Clark Miller of Inwood, West Virginia, informed me that the field was mowed during the next week and that he failed to find the bird there again.

There are no published records for this species in West Virginia, and, as far as I am aware, this is the first fully authenticated sight record for the species in the state. On two earlier occasions observers who were familiar with this species believed that they heard the bird in the state but did not follow up their observations. Mrs. Maurice Brooks of Morgantown, West Virginia, reported hearing one in Marshall County some four or five years ago; and Mr. Joseph Grom of Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, reported hearing one in Tucker County in 1960. Mrs. Nevada Laitsch of East Liverpool, Ohio, has written me that on 19 June 1961, on the Guyan River in Lincoln County (220 air miles to the southwest), she heard a Western Meadowlark. This bird was also in a small field which was an ecological island in a densely wooded area.—GEORGE A. HALL, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia*, 3 June 1963.