

bridge Alum Springs Biological Laboratory, Goshen, Virginia. The specimen is a female collected along the Illinois River on 8 May 1879 and originally in the collection of Matthew Clugston.

From the data presented it is apparent that the parakeet was still present in the Illinois River Valley until 1880, and was not extirpated about 1861 as cited by Swenk (1934. *Nebraska Bird Rev.*, 2:55-59). Bent (1940. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 176:12), refers to references regarding two sight records for the Chicago area in 1912, but feels that these are based on escaped cage birds. With the disappearance of the parakeet from surrounding states prior to 1890, little doubt this is correct.

I'm greatly indebted to Mr. Daniel McKinley of Lake Erie College for furnishing data from his files, and also Dr. William E. Southern of Northern Illinois University for suggestions and advice.—HARLAN D. WALLEY, 717 North Elm St., Sandwich, Illinois, 15 November 1965 (originally submitted 12 July 1965).

A Florida winter specimen of *Dendroica petechia gundlachi*.—On 2 December 1961, a dead Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) in good condition was found floating in Tavernier Creek, Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, by Alexander Sprunt IV and the author. Subspecific identification proved the specimen to be the West Indian race, *gundlachi* (formerly known as the Cuban Golden Warbler). To my knowledge this represents the first specimen of *gundlachi* taken in the United States during the winter months and confirms the resident status of this form in the Florida Keys. There have been many recent sight records during the winter season. The specimen (No. 4717) has been deposited in the reference collection of the Department of Zoology, University of Miami.

Since its discovery in the Lower Florida Keys in 1941 this West Indian race has apparently extended its breeding range into the Upper Keys and to the keys of Florida Bay. Though no actual nests have been found, singing males have recently been discovered during the breeding season on Virginia Key near Miami and on the Oyster Keys of western Florida Bay in the Everglades National Park. It is reasonable to expect that within the near future the breeding range of this warbler will extend to suitable mangrove habitat on the mainland of south Florida.—RICHARD L. CUNNINGHAM, *Everglades National Park, Homestead, Florida, 5 August 1965*.

Notes on mate and habitat selection in the Yellow Warbler.—The typical habitat of the Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) is "moisture-loving shrubs and small trees" (Bent, 1953. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 203). We have some observations indicating that the vegetational nature of the territory selected by the male influences the female's choice of a mate.

We studied the behavior of a population of Yellow Warblers at Howland's Island, New York from 30 April to 9 May 1963. The birds were concentrated along a river and the population density was very high. However, the habitat varied: although all of the study-area territories possessed tall trees, one part of the area, occupied by five males, seemed to differ only in having little or no vegetation less than 20 feet tall. The first female arrived on 4 May and on 8 May we censused the females. The five males in the areas without shrubbery were unmated, while only two of the 10 males in the adjacent area with shrubbery were unmated. We could not continue the study beyond 8 May, by which

date most females were building. It is certainly possible that all the unmated males eventually obtained mates. However, they were bypassed by the first females. Since most nests in the area were low (three to 10 feet), the female's preference for a territory with shrubbery is probably related to this. Verner (1963. *Proc. Internatl. Ornith. Congr.* I:299-307), has shown that the nature of the habitat is also important in the female's selection of a mate in the Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris*).

This poses the question whether the female chooses the habitat or the male. The answer is probably that both are important. An unmated female is attracted to a singing male, then features of the territory as well as male responses determine whether she will remain. Thus, there is a "double check" which functions to assure reproductive success. Males make the initial choice of a territory, and certain environmental features are important in their choice. Then the female bases her selection of mate at least partially on features affecting the availability of suitable nest sites. Females that arrive earlier obtain a greater choice of potential mates and territories. Selection for early arrival of females, however, is probably counterbalanced by other selective pressures such as cold weather, which in some years may result in food shortage.

This study was supported by a Frank M. Chapman Memorial Grant and NSF (GB-891).—MILLICENT S. FICKEN AND ROBERT W. FICKEN, *Department of Zoology, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 13 April 1965.*

Preferences for food by birds at a winter feeding station.—Although preferences by certain species for certain foods are recognized, few data exist. The present observations made 10 miles northeast of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, record what preferences birds had for certain foods and, in addition, weather conditions and flock size. The feeding station was a backyard having a north-facing slope with grass, wild flowers, and bushes. The northern edge is lined with small to medium-sized elm and maple trees.

Six feeding stations, constructed of plywood, were partitioned into four sections. The left side was larger to prevent the food from scattering. All openings faced toward the observation window. Four different common bird foods were used: (1) medium-sized cracked corn, (2) pieces of white bread, (3) sunflower seeds, (4) commercial bird-feed mix, consisting mainly of seeds from which sunflower seeds and corn kernels were removed. Two handfuls of each food were placed into a section every three days. About every third or fourth refilling, all foods were cleaned out and each food was moved one section to the right, to eliminate habitual return to the same section.

Observations of 15 minutes each at random times during the day, totalling 20 hours,

TABLE I
RECORDS OF SIX SPECIES' FOOD PREFERENCES GIVEN IN PERCENTAGES

Species	House Sparrow ¹	Starling ²	Slate-colored Junco ³	Black-capped Chickadee ⁴	Tree Sparrow ⁵	Evening Grosbeak ⁶
Total birds recorded	765	365	167	183	45	20
Cracked corn	29.3	26.0	18.6	2.7	17.8	0.0
Pieces of bread	4.3	64.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sunflower seeds	1.3	4.4	0.6	85.9	0.0	100.0
Wild seeds	65.1	4.9	80.8	11.4	82.2	0.0

¹ *Passer domesticus*.

² *Sturnus vulgaris*.

³ *Junco hyemalis*.

⁴ *Parus atricapillus*.

⁵ *Spizella arborea*.

⁶ *Hesperiphona vespertina*.