

marsupialis) and a giant water bug (*Lethocercus* sp.) (Hemiptera: Belostomatidae). The insect was intact and about 5 cm in length. Giant water bugs can inflict a notably venomous bite.—WALTER KINGSLEY TAYLOR, *Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Technological University, Orlando, Florida 32816, 20 November 1969.*

Egg transport recorded for the Red-bellied Woodpecker.—The activities of a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers (*Centurus carolinus*) at a nest hole seven feet above the ground in a tree and 20 feet from my apartment door in Tampa, Florida, held my attention every morning, in the spring of 1968. On 25 June 1968, at 08:00, I suspected that perhaps one of the parents was feeding young since the tail of one of the woodpeckers bobbed in and out of the nest hole. A moment later it flew directly towards and only a few feet above me and disappeared behind some nearby buildings. As soon as it left the nest I noticed an unbroken, white egg in its bill, presumably its own, oriented with the larger end towards the tip of the bill. Unfortunately, I was unable to determine the sex of this bird.

Egg transport, due to destruction of the nesting tree, has been recorded on film for the Pileated Woodpecker in Florida and noted for the Yellow-shafted Flicker in Massachusetts due to disturbances by Starlings (Truslow, *Living Bird*, 6:227–236, 1967). A record of the Red-bellied Woodpecker transporting House Sparrow eggs is given by Brackbill (*Bird-Banding* 40, 323–4, 1969). A high population of Starlings, one pair of which eventually occupied the evacuated nesting hole, may have been responsible for this unusual behavior in this present sighting.—GRAHAM C. HICKMAN, *Dept. of Biology, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79415, 26 January 1970.*

Eastern Phoebe nesting in old Barn Swallow nest.—The Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) often chooses unusual nesting sites and occasionally uses a nest, with repairs, in successive years (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 179:141–142, 1942). I have found only one recorded instance, however, of a Phoebe laying in an abandoned nest of another species. Stoner (New York State Mus. Circular, 22:1–42, 1939) reported a case where a phoebe lined an old Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) nest with horsehair and successfully fledged a brood from it. On 8 June 1969, I inspected for possible reuse old Barn Swallow nests in a culvert near the Purdue Golf Course in West Lafayette, Indiana. A phoebe was flushed from a previous year's Barn Swallow nest which had been unused this year. A check of the nest showed that it contained four fresh phoebe eggs. The nest was attached to a vertical concrete wall about five feet above a small stream which flowed through the culvert. It was made completely of mud and straw and apparently had not been modified by the phoebe. The eggs were resting on a few coarse straws which covered the mud base.

Subsequent checks revealed that these eggs were the complete clutch. On 26 June, all of the eggs had hatched and the adult phoebes were feeding the young. On that day, Russell E. Mumford, Purdue University, verified that the nest's construction was that of the Barn Swallow. On 11 July, I flushed two fully fledged phoebes, able to fly well, from the nest, and they landed near an adult in a bush just outside of the culvert.

Earlier in the year, on 4 May, a typical phoebe nest was found under the same culvert with a full clutch of four eggs. It, too, was attached to the vertical wall and was composed primarily of mud and moss. Bent (op. cit.: 142) said that moss is "a constant component of phoebe's nests." The eggs had disappeared on 15 May and I removed the nest. It is possible, although not determined, that it was the same female that built this earlier nest and later used the old Barn Swallow nest. If this was the case, it may be that, being

ready to lay, she returned to reuse her old nest and, finding it gone, occupied the nearby (10 feet) Barn Swallow nest.—HARMON P. WEEKS, JR., *Department of Forestry and Conservation, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana 47907, 17 November 1969.*

Hermit Warbler in Missouri.—On the afternoon of 20 December 1969 I observed a Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) at an eight-acre conifer grove, 10 miles west of Maryville, Nodaway County, Missouri. The warbler was feeding in Scotch pines (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Austrian pines (*Pinus nigra*) with Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) and Golden-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus satrapa*). The warbler was collected and preserved as a study skin (DAE 2290). It was a first year male (skull slightly ossified; testes less than 1 mm; 10.5 gms; moderately fat) that appeared to be in good health.

The Hermit Warbler has not been previously reported from Missouri (Easterla and Anderson, Checklist of Missouri birds. Audubon Soc. of Mo., 1967) and is accidental in the eastern and midwestern United States with only two records (Cambridge, Minnesota [A.O.U. Check-list, 1957:496] and Cambridge, Massachusetts [Audubon Field Notes, 18:425, 1964]) being reported. Besides several records from coastal California, this is the only other United States winter record for *D. occidentalis* (Ibid.). The factors which influenced this bird to stray to Missouri are unknown. That it was healthy and was surviving a Missouri winter seems remarkable since this species normally winters in central southern Mexico (Ibid.). At the time of observation the temperature was 20°F and had been below freezing on previous days. Examination of the proventriculus and gizzard indicated an insectivorous diet which was surprising considering the time of the year. Food items were: stink bugs (Pentatomidae), pigmy locusts (Acrydiinae), ground beetle (Carabidae), leaf beetle (Chrysomelidae), checkered beetle (Cleridae), leafhopper (Cicadellidae), and spider (Arachnida-Araneidae).

Appreciation is extended to Leroy Korschgen and Wilbur Enns, Columbia, Missouri, for identification of food items and to Richard C. Banks, National Museum, for confirming identification of the warbler.—DAVID A. EASTERLA, *Department of Biology, Northwest Missouri State College, Maryville, Missouri 64468, 2 February 1970.*

Yellowthroat caught in common burdock.—On 26 September 1966 on the campus of Garden State Academy near Tranquility, Sussex Co., New Jersey, I found an adult male Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) caught on the top of the common burdock (*Arctium minus*). Both feet had become entangled in the burs and the bird had fallen helplessly upside down; the legs were crossed and the tips of the primaries of the right wing were entangled in a lower bur. The three-foot plant was in bloom at the time and the burs were noticeably sticky.

While the Yellowthroat was being released, it made no attempt to bite. Judging from the appearance and activity of the bird, it seemed to have been trapped for only a short time. Since it took some effort to release the bird, it seemed clear that it was hopelessly entangled. Had the bird survived the night, it would likely have died during the following day from predation, starvation, dehydration, or exposure.

In my brief search of the literature I have found reports of a Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) entangled in grass (*Setaria verticillata*) barbs (Tucker, Condor, 57: 119, 1955), a Pearly-eyed Thrasher (*Margarops fuscatus*) trapped by sedge (*Scleria lithosperma*) (Bond, Condor, 62:294–295, 1960), two Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) entangled in hound's-tongue weed (*Cynoglossum officinale*) (Nickell, Auk, 81:555–556, 1964), a Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) caught in a prickly lettuce (*Lactuca scariola*) plant (Houston, Blue Jay, 24: 79, 1966), an American Widgeon (*Mareca americana*)