

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*)