

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*)

stuck in willow (*Salix* sp.) branches (Sherick, Blue Jay, 24: 143, 1966), and a Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) trapped by Spanish moss (*Tillandsia* sp.) (Funderburg, Florida Naturalist, 40:65, 1967). In Saskatchewan, young Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) are reported to frequently get caught in the sticky sap of gumweed (*Grindelia perennis*) (R. W. Nero, pers. comm.). Arthur P. Cooley of East Pachoque, New York, reported a Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) trapped in common burdock (*Arctium minus*) (O. L. Austin, Jr., pers. comm.). The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology reported a dead Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) gripped by the burs of a burdock (*Arctium* sp.) in an attempt to extract seeds (Archibald, Newsletter to Members, 55:4, 1970). From all indications, the frequency of entanglements in vegetation appears to be fairly common especially in the *Arctium* species.—RICHARD D. BROWN, *Science Dept., P.O. Box 10, Garden State Academy, Tranquility, New Jersey 07879, (Present Address: Dept. of Zoology, Ohio State Univ., Columbus, Ohio 43210) 30 December 1969.*

The double-scratch in the genus *Pooecetes*.—During the summer of 1969, I observed Vesper Sparrows (*Pooecetes gramineus*) double-scratching as they fed in a garden plot near Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland. This behavior was observed infrequently and consisted primarily of a rapid backward kick of both feet. Harrison (Wilson Bull., 79:22-27, 1967) had no evidence of this behavior in this genus—WALTER KINGSLEY TAYLOR, *Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Technological University, Orlando, Florida 32816, 20 November 1969.*

Common Grackle kills Cedar Waxwing in air.—During the first week of August, 1966, I saw a Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) kill a flying, immature Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). At Lac des Abatis, 40 miles east of Gracefield, Quebec, Canada, I was observing a flock of Cedar Waxwings feeding some 60 feet above a sandy point that jutted into the lake. Evidently an eddy in the air by a lone white pine was providing insects. A Common Grackle flew into the flock from above, hit one bird a blow, apparently on the nape, and followed its fall to the ground. The bird was dead, its neck broken by the time I reached it from 50 yards away. The grackle flew off at my approach. I examined the waxwing and took it to our fishing camp to skin. Looking back, I saw the grackle return, and search for its kill at the spot of the fall. It walked about the area, hunting thoroughly between the short marsh grasses, and then left. The skull of the waxwing showed no ossification.

According to James Baird (pers. comm.) there are a number of references in the literature to Common Grackles killing or attacking birds the size of House Sparrows. Baird and Smith (Wilson Bull., 77:195, 1965) comment on "the improbability of a grackle successfully pursuing and capturing a healthy small bird." Here, however, is an instance.

I am grateful to Mr. Baird for his interest, and assistance, in this note.—ERMA J. FISK, *17101 S W 284 Street, Homestead, Florida, 31 October 1969.*

First nesting colonies of the Lark Bunting in Missouri.—The Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) is a Great Plains species that has not been recorded breeding eastward into Missouri. Easterla and Anderson (Checklist of Missouri birds. Audubon Soc. Mo., 1967) consider the species as an accidental transient and summer visitant in the northwestern corner of the state. Two specimens and seven sight records are recorded for Missouri, with all of the sight records of recent occurrence.

On the morning of 5 June 1969 while conducting a Breeding Bird Survey in north-