

The incident reported herein represents apparently the only record of a shrike killing a poisonous reptile of any species. The snake, collected two miles west of Milnesand, Roosevelt County, New Mexico is deposited in the Herpetology Collection (Specimen 5401), The Museum, Texas Tech University.

A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes removed three Merriam's pocket mice (*Perognathus merriami*), a green treefrog (*Hyla cinera*), and a spring peeper (*H. crucifer*) from a study area one mile south of Riviera, Kleberg County, Texas in August 1966. Pocket mice are nocturnal but are occasionally taken by diurnal predators at dawn or dusk (Beal and McAtee, U.S. Dept. Agr. Farmers' Bull., 506:1-35, 1912). Although Northern Shrikes have captured a similar sized pocket mouse, *P. parvus* (Scheffer, U.S. Dept. Agr. Tech. Bull., 608:1-15, 1938), this is the first record of pocket mice being taken by Loggerhead Shrikes.

The frogs were impaled on a barbed wire fence near a stock tank. Desiccation lessened the food value of the frogs within 2 days, but the shrikes visited and pecked the mummified carcasses for eight months. It is not known how long that shrikes will visit impaled prey (Bent, loc. cit.). *Hyla* has been previously reported in the diet of *L. ludovicianus* but the species was not identified (Miller, 1931).

The observations at Riviera, Texas were made while the senior author was supported by a National Science Foundation grant GY 369 administered by Dr. R. L. Packard, Texas Tech University.—BRIAN R. CHAPMAN AND STANLEY D. CASTO, *Department of Biology, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409, 13 March 1972.*

**Cowbird parasitism of Western Kingbird and Baltimore Oriole nests.**—On 9 June 1971, in a farm woodlot in York County, Nebraska, I examined a Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) nest that contained three kingbird eggs and one Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) egg. The nest was in a Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) approximately 20 feet above ground. The eggs were being incubated.

Subsequent examinations at two day intervals indicated that all of the eggs hatched on approximately 18 June. Examination of the nest was conducted at irregular intervals after 19 June. However, I observed feeding of the young daily until 1 July when the nest was empty. Throughout the entire period the ground in the vicinity below the nest was searched daily. On 19 June a few bits of kingbird egg shell were found. A dead young kingbird was found on 23 June and another on 26 June. It appears that the cowbird and one kingbird were fledged from the nest.

Cowbird parasitism of Western Kingbirds appears to be rare. Friedmann (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 233:49-50, 1963) notes one other instance of its occurrence and that one without precise data.

On 20 June at the same location, I observed a female Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) enter her nest which was approximately 25 feet from the ground in a Siberian elm. I was standing a short distance away from immediately under the nest. My attention was directed elsewhere until I heard a soft "plop" on the ground under the nest. Examination showed the source of the noise to be a fresh cowbird egg that was broken. The female oriole was then observed on a twig next to the nest preening. It appears that the oriole removed the cowbird egg from the nest. This might explain the lack of records of cowbird parasitism of Baltimore Orioles as Friedmann (op. cit.:133) suggests.—THOMAS S. SMITH, *Department of Natural Resources, Nelson Hall, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481, 26 March 1972.*