

These observations were made while the second author was supported by NSF grants GB-28714X, GB-28714X1, and GB-35269.—JOAN BIRD, 4300 4th Ave. NE, Seattle, Washington 98105, JOHN ALCOCK, Department of Zoology, Arizona State University, Tempe Arizona 85281, AND W. JAMES ERCKMANN, Department of Zoology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195, 12 January 1973.

Nest records of Cerulean Warbler in Delaware.—The Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), first described by Wilson from specimens taken along the Schuylkill River in eastern Pennsylvania, remains a rare, but locally fairly common, species in the Atlantic Piedmont region. A nest found near the White Clay Creek in northern Delaware on 13 May 1972 represents the first known state record of a Cerulean Warbler nest; however Rhodes (Auk, 22:194–205, 1905) reported Cerulean Warblers in June 1903 along the Choptank River in Maryland's Eastern Shore and at Seaford, Delaware, approximately 70 miles below the fall-line in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Because of the Cerulean Warbler's sporadic occurrence and the expressed notion that the breeding status and range might be changing (Bull, Birds of the New York area, Harper and Row, New York, 1964; Fables, Annotated list of New Jersey birds, Urner Ornithol. Club, 1955) the location of some easternmost breeding populations is noteworthy. In northern New Jersey breeding birds have been reported at ten locations along streams in the Appalachian Highlands and the Piedmont Plateau, but not below the fall-line (Stone, Bird studies at Old Cape May, Delaware Valley Ornithol. Club, 1937; Bull, op. cit.; Fables, op. cit.). The White Clay Creek breeding record in northern Delaware is in the lower Piedmont, while in nearby Maryland a breeding colony was reported in the lower Susquehanna River Valley (Stewart and Robbins, Birds of Maryland and D. C., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv. N.A. Fauna 62, 1958), and another breeding population has been observed in an arm of the Oak-Chestnut Piedmont section extending below the fall-line: Elk Neck in the upper Chesapeake Bay. A breeding population at Piscataway in southern Maryland (A.O.U. Check-list of North American birds, 1957) is also located slightly below the fall-line; however the Eastern Shore record of Rhodes is the real anomaly. Habitat descriptions of that Eastern Shore area do not fit the streamside mature open forest type of habitat reportedly preferred by Cerulean Warblers (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 203, 1953). Several other breeding species generally associated with cooler climates occur regularly in the Eastern Shore section, (Stewart and Robbins, op. cit.), but those species, including Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) and Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), are Coastal Plain birds.

The rich transitional habitat in the White Clay Creek Valley in northern Delaware numbers such southern species as the Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) and Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) along with such northern species as Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) and Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) among the 90 species listed as breeding along a 6 mile stretch of the creek floodplain (Dyer, Delmarva Ornithologist, 8:24–30, 1973). Two nests, 0.7 miles apart, found near the White Clay Creek in 1972 culminated yearly searches since discovery of Cerulean Warblers there by Frederick Lesser in late May of 1963. The first nest, 40 feet high in a small crotch in a white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) was approximately 200 yards away from where the birds were normally seen and heard in tall sycamores overhanging the stream. The nest habitat, an old field overgrown with sumac, blackberry and black gum, and the location, away from the stream, appear atypical. The second nest, while close to the stream (approximately 20 yards away), varied from most nest site descriptions in being only 17 feet high (equal to the lowest of 12 nests listed in Bent) and overhanging a busy road and parking area.

Neither white ash nor osage (*Maclura pomifera*), the trees supporting the two Cerulean Warbler nests, are listed among the several trees in the Cerulean Warbler breeding habitats in Bent (op. cit.). Four species of vireos and three species of *Empidonax* flycatchers evidently nested within 170 yards of the second Cerulean Warbler nest. Within that 170 yard radius, nests of Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*), Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*), Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) Red-eyed Vireo (*V. olivaceus*), and Warbling Vireo (*V. gilvus*) were found, while Least Flycatcher and White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) were located by territories. The Least Flycatchers were part of the only known breeding population in Delaware, and the Willow Flycatcher nest is the first one of that species recorded in the state. The nest was destroyed by high water from Hurricane Agnes on 19 June 1972, a few days after it was completed.

A female Cerulean Warbler's excited chatter over a cowbird investigating the nest site on 13 May led to my discovery of the first nest. On 12 June fledging started when, following a feeding, one of the two nestlings hopped to a branch a foot away. A territorial dispute drew my attention to the second nest site on 14 July, and on the following day the nest was spotted by Charles Conway (Scott and Cutler, *Amer. Birds*, 26:844, 1972) when the female fed three young. The nestlings fledged on 19 or 20 July.

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House Sparrows feeding young at night.—Night foraging by House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) has been reported by Broun (*Auk*, 88:924-925, 1971) and Brooke (*Auk*, 90:206, 1973). Both point to the unusual nature of this activity. Broun believed the birds he saw were feeding young but did not actually observe this. On several occasions in May 1966, I observed two pairs of House Sparrows feeding their young at times varying from 22:00 to 24:30. Their nests were in recessed light fixtures under the overhanging roof of a building on the campus of Tarkio College, Tarkio, Missouri. The adults captured insects attracted to the lights and were not seen to leave the lighted area.—CARL D. MARTI, *Department of Zoology, Weber State College, Ogden, Utah 84403, 12 March 1973.*

Red-winged Blackbird feeding on horseshoe crab eggs.—On 15 July 1972, I observed a Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) digging in a sand beach about one meter from the water's edge of the Choptank River near Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. When I arrived, the bird was scraping and kicking simultaneously with both feet and had created a depression about 8 cm wide and 5 cm deep. After each kick the blackbird used its bill to remove some minute food matter from the scrape. I flushed the bird and searched the depression to find a cache of horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*) eggs buried at the bottom of the hole. When viewed with a microscope the eggs proved to be in an advanced stage of development, but not hatching. It is not known exactly how the blackbird discovered the eggs since the sand beach was unmarred by tidal action, animal or human activity. Presumably the bird saw neither the eggs being buried or fertilized, the young invertebrates escaping from the sand nor eggs exposed by sand disruption.—JAN G. REESE, *St. Michaels, Maryland 21663, 26 January 1973.*