

**A Slate-colored Junco display.**—In a thicket in some vacant land in the northwestern part of Baltimore on 21 February 1938 a complex Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) utterance—a jumble of rapid, flutey *tyou* notes, buzzes, and song trills—led me to two of these birds that were hopping about each other on fallen brush and sometimes in the low branches of shrubs. The brush often obscured my view, but for a time the birds seemed to bob to each other, and every once in a while one of them, which had its breast plumage puffed out, took an erect posture with head raised. The complex utterances continued. After several minutes of this the displaying bird, which I thought was the singer, although I could never see either's bill open, went to the ground, picked up a blade of dead grass, and hopped about the floor of the thicket—and, less often, low branches—as if seeking a place to put it. This now went on for several minutes, then I moved and the birds fled. During the grass-carrying I paid inadequate attention to the other bird; afterward my impression was that it had seemed to ignore the displayer.

This display seems to have had elements of both courtship—which would have been far out of proper season and latitude—and hostility. It somewhat resembles a display of the male *J. h. carolinensis* that Tanner (1958. *Migrant*, 29:62) presumed to be courtship: "It is usually performed on a perch near the ground when the female is nearby. He spreads and droops his tail, droops his wings, and frequently sings a quiet, Goldfinch-like warble which carries only a short distance, very different from the regular song." On the other hand, I have since found both the *tyou* notes and the head-up posture to denote hostility. As for the grass-carrying, Tanner (loc. cit.) found that the female *J. h. carolinensis* "does all the building," though Saunders (1938. "Studies of Breeding Birds in the Allegany State Park," *New York State Mus. Bull.*, 318:136) says of a nest of *J. h. hyemalis* that "In the building of this nest both birds took part." Perhaps the display I saw was an agonistic one with the grass-carrying a displacement component.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore, Maryland, 16 May 1967.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird nesting in Southern Ontario.**—The easterly range expansion of birds in the Great Lakes region has been reviewed by deVos (1964. *Amer. Midland Nat.*, 71:489–502). In this review the sporadic establishment of the Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) in the large marshes at the western end of Lake Erie is discussed. Yellowhead nests have been reported from northern Ohio (Sandusky) and sightings have been reported from southern Ontario. In 1965, at a Lake St. Clair Marsh near the mouth of the Thames River (Bradley Marsh), three territorial adult male Yellowheads and one female were sighted. One suspected nest with nestlings was reported but the birds fledged before this could be confirmed. On 30 May 1966 a territorial sub-adult male and two females were sighted in the same marsh and one completed nest with two eggs was found. One of the eggs was collected and sent to the Royal Ontario Museum (Catalog Number 9336). Two additional eggs were laid, 1 June and 3 June. Another nest under construction was found nine meters distant from the first on 3 June. On 6 June the first egg was laid in this second nest and by 12 June there were four eggs. The first egg hatched in nest number one on 12 June and by 14 June all three eggs had hatched. All birds fledged by 25 June.

Of the four eggs laid in nest number two, three hatched and the fourth disappeared. Approximately every second day these three nestlings were weighed. Two fledged on 30 June and the third disappeared before fledging.

It is noteworthy that no adult male Yellowheads were observed in 1966, and since only one sub-adult male held a territory, immediate establishment of a breeding colony is perhaps doubtful. But if the trend of outward expansion continues and young birds continue colonization there is no reason known at the moment that will prohibit the Yellow-headed Blackbird exploiting the large marshes surrounding Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie.—MARK SAWYER AND M. I. DYER, *Department of Zoology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, 3 November 1966.*

**Black-throated Gray Warbler and Virginia's Warbler banded in New Jersey.**—Since the "Operation Recovery" banding program started in 1956 at the Island Beach State Park in Ocean County, New Jersey, several western species have turned up in the nets. Some have been collected; others have been banded, photographed in the hand, and released.

Two noteworthy captures which have not been reported and not collected are a Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) caught on 29 September 1962 and a Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*) caught on 6 October 1962. The Black-throated Gray Warbler (Fig. 1) was captured by John Miller; it was seen and identified by Mr.



Fig. 1. Black-throated Gray Warbler, Island Beach State Park, New Jersey, 29 September 1962.

and Mrs. Stanley S. Dickerson, Walter K. Bigger, James Richardson, and myself, as well as several visitors and assistants at the banding station. In our opinion it was most probably an immature female, the age being determined by the "skull-ageing" method.

The Virginia's Warbler was caught by James Richardson; it was seen and identified by Mr. and Mrs. Dickerson, Walter K. Bigger, and Mrs. Mabel Warburton. The age and sex of this bird were not determined. Both birds were photographed in color by Francis P. Hornick.

I would like to thank John Miller and Chandler Robbins for permission to use the banding data from the Island Beach project, and especially to Francis P. Hornick for the use of his photograph.—BRUCE ADAMS, 40 Summit Road, Riverside, Connecticut, 15 March 1967.