

Male Townsend's Warbler in Dutchess County: On April 24, 1965, Marion Van Wagner and I went to Thompson's Pond, Pine Plains, to look for early warblers. A strong wind kept the birds up against the mountain as we started along the path, and right away we saw Palm and Myrtle Warblers. We were looking over each bird when we both noted a different warbler. It had a black cap, bright yellow cheeks and breast with a large black triangle thru the eye, wing bars, and black streaks down the side similar to the Prairie Warbler. The lower belly to under the tail was white. We did not recognize the bird, although we are familiar with all Dutchess County's 38 warblers. We were sure it must be a rarity or hybrid.

Later we verified that it was not pictured in Peterson's Eastern Field Guide, but found it in "The Warblers of America" by Griscom and Sprunt. It was unmistakably a male Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*). We had seen all field marks except his back and tail spots.

Our alert went out and the next morning 8 of us hunted for two hours before locating it within 40 feet of the previous sighting. No leaves were on the trees at this time, so visibility was good. The first day he was 25 to 35 feet from the ground. This time he ranged from 8 to 15 feet from the ground, and we were able to see the tail spots. The others who saw the bird were Mary and James Key, Florence Germond, Thelma and Paul Haight, Dorothy Lloyd and Alice Jones.

Records of Townsend's Warbler in the east are very scarce. I could find only three positive records prior to 1964. However, *Audubon Field Notes* Vol. 18, No. 4, August 1964 lists three records in 13 months for the New York City area. The date we saw this warbler appears to be the earliest date one has been seen.

Eleanor Pink, Main Street, Pleasant Valley, N.Y. 12569

Chimney Swifts Bathing: On June 12, 1965 at North Camillus I noted two Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) bathing in a peculiarly stereotyped manner. Some eight or ten Chimney Swifts were flying about, apparently feeding over a small wildlife marsh and pond just north of Devoe Road. I had twice heard a fluttering rattle before I realized that it was being made by two low-flying swifts. The swifts would circle about the pond briefly, then set the wings for a long glide, strike the water momentarily with the anterior portion of the breast, glide steeply upward 25-35 feet, then quickly flutter the wings in deep, rapid strokes below body level, producing a spurt of fine droplets and a loud, brief wing clatter. The two birds—and as far as I could determine there were only two birds involved—performing in this fashion did so repeatedly (some eight to ten passes each) and each pass was exactly like the first observed. At no time was any other sound than the fluttering rattle heard; the birds were not seen to open their bills even minutely, and no in-the-air preening of feathers occurred. When the two birds appeared actually black-breasted from the continual wetting, they circled a few times and flew away.

F. G. Scheider, 427 South Main Street, North Syracuse, N.Y. 13212

Redwinged Blackbird Nests 6 Inches Apart: In our pond in the spring of 1965 (exact date not noted) a Redwinged Blackbird female built a nest about 18 inches above water level in cat-tail residual from last year's growth, then appeared to abandon this and built another nest approximately six inches away and at the same level. The two nests almost touched and were in plain view of one another. We had seen this happen in previous years, except that the nests were farther apart.

The female laid 4 eggs, and always flushed noisily from the nest when we

approached within 20 feet. Once, to my surprise, two females flushed, and upon investigation we found 5 eggs in one nest and 4 in the other. Upon each of our subsequent visits, the two birds flushed, in opposite directions, and then challenged our approach in a seemingly combined effort. Although males in the area were seen to chase one another, I never saw these two females in conflict, and even observed them feeding close together, apparently on dragonfly larvae in the shallow water's edge.

Not having known such behavior of Redwings before, I watched daily developments, until unfortunately grackles plundered both nests and left empty shells on the pond bottom along a small log where the eggs were carried and eaten. I found no evidence that the birds rebuilt nearby.

It is impossible for me to say whether the extra female simply appropriated abandoned property or whether the two nests were actually built by different birds. It may be significant that only a very small clump of cat-tails was available here, perhaps six feet in diameter.

Howard W. Thomas, R.D. #4, Oak Hill Road, Binghamton, N.Y. 13901

Ed. Note: The late Arthur A. Allen remarked that late-arriving females, if they do not locate unmated males, may move in with a mated pair, and polygamy is practiced in this species. However, I can find no reference to nests as close together as those described by Mr. Thomas.

Corrigendum: Vol. XV, No. 3, p. 158—date for Little Gull at Montezuma May 16, 1965.

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