The occurrence of this species on a 6,600 acre airport so far from its normal range immediately suggests the probability of plane-assisted passage, all the more because, within their home range, they also favor airports and similar places such as golf courses. I don't believe anyone familiar with this race of Burrowing Owl would seriously consider that they would undertake an unassisted flight from the state of Florida to New York. One thing, however, is certain wherever they are encountered Burrowing Owls are a joy to watch and are especially entertaining when introducing their young to the outside world.

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[Anyone who observed the last two of these birds and who has original field notes is encouraged to send a copy of those notes to the NYSARC. Even fragmentary remains of rarities found dead should be saved and deposited in an ornithological collection along with your name, the date and place the remains were found, and an indication of why the specimen should be preserved. Skeletons and scattered feathers usually suffice to permit later verification of a record; New York State's Yellow-billed Loon record is documented by a lower mandible only! — The Editor]

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Late Date For Unfledged Juvenile Wood Thrush — On 3 July I discovered a female Wood Thrush completing a nest at Heart Lake, Essex County. The site is at an elevation of 2178 feet above sea level. The nest was built only a few hundred feet from the shores of Heart Lake near lean-to number 10. The nest rested in the branches of a Red Maple tree and was 25.5 feet above the ground. The branch it rested on curved gently away from the trunk and the nest was about 24 feet out from the base of the trunk. The tree grew within a few feet of the lean-to.

The outside of the nest was draped generously with bark of the Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and a long strand of plastic-like wrapping material. Small shells were found in the mud used for construction of the nest. It had apparently been collected from the nearby shores of Heart Lake. The mud was combined with leaf mold to make a sturdy nest. A few blowfly larva were found in the used nest. The nest also included some Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) cones, some dried plant stems, rootlets and one rubber band.

Between 3 July and 6 August I devoted in excess of 15 hours closely observing the behavior of the pair of Wood Thrush from nest building through the fledging stage. Reconstructing the events, I believe the nest was finished on 4 July. Three eggs were laid from 5 July through 7 July. Incubation continued from 8 July through 20 July and the nestling period was from 21 July through 3 August. The dates from the list compiled by Gordon M. Meade

for the N.Y. State Breeding Bird Atlas project (1981) range from 22 May through 1 August for unfledged Juveniles. My observation at Heart Lake indicates that this range should be extended to 3 August. Nesting at Heart Lake probably represents the upper elevational limit for breeding for this species.

My observations closely parallel those reported by Donald Stokes (*A Guide To Bird Behavior Volume II*) for the nestling period. Stokes states that the female broods or attends (standing at the nest's edge) her young about 70% of the time. My observations show that the female was at the nest 62% of the time and the male was there 20%. The nest was unattended 18% of the time. Most of the unattended time occurred at the very end of the nestling phase. Stokes states that the male does about 2/3 of the feeding. My data shows that the male made 62% of all the deliveries of food to the nest. The female usually would leave the nest and return with food within a few minutes. The male usually was gone for a much longer time. During that time the female brooded the young. The male did not brood the young at all. He usually hopped to a nearby branch and alertly stood guard over the nest, waiting for the return of the female. During nesting it is the female that usually attends to cleaning up the nest. This includes either eating the fecal sacs or carrying them away. During the later stages of the nestling phase I observed the female carrying away 57% of the fecal sacs. Many times the female would reach into the nest with her bill and clean it. From my vantage point there was no way of knowing whether she was eating the fecal sacs. For this reason her contribution to removing the fecal sacs actually may be much higher than the 57% which I observed. From my observations the diet of the nestlings were exclusively insects. Branches heavy with the fruit of the Juneberry (*Amelanchier arborea*) hung within 10 feet of the nest. The berries were readily accessible, but at no time did I observe the adult feeding the nestlings juneberries. After the young fledged however, their diet shifted to include some berries. I observed both pin cherries and juneberries being fed to the young.

The adults were silent around the nest as far as I could tell. I heard neither of them sing or call during the nesting period. Both were alert around the nest, with no unnecessary movement that would draw attention to the nest. Even though the juneberry tree was the center of feeding activity for many birds in the area, only one American Robin passed close enough to be chased by the Wood Thrush. The female even allowed four Blue Jays to approach within 15 feet of the nest without giving chase. A Solitary Vireo perched within three feet of the nest and was not chased. Their instinct is not to move unless absolutely necessary.

The young grew so quickly that by age 13 days they virtually outgrew the nest. They were forced to leave, because by this time the nest was too small to contain them.

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