

could be observed from a centrally located blind. Each nest contained 2 eggs of 1 of the 6 colors used earlier. Between 28 June and 11 July, 45 hours of observation were accumulated, covering a sample of all daylight hours. Eggs were placed in the nests at the start of each observation period and removed at its end. The nests remained as placed for the entire experiment and were empty except for the daily periods of observation. The color of the eggs in each nest was determined randomly prior to the observation, subject only to the criterion that all 6 colors be used in each observation period.

Three instances of egg stealing by Blue Jays were observed: on 3 July, between 0745 and 0915 (EDT) 1 orange egg was taken from a nest, on 7 July, between 0930 and 1030 (EDT) 2 yellow eggs were taken from 1 nest and 2 white eggs were taken from another. In each of these cases a Blue Jay was seen to land in the tree containing the nest, to approach the nest and remove an egg, and to fly off, carrying the egg in its bill. Each episode took less than 1 minute. During all observation hours Blue Jays were frequently seen while no other known nest predators were noted at any time in the area under observation. Thus, we believe that most, if not all, egg losses from all nests were due to Blue Jay predation.

This is interesting from several points of view. In the first place, despite the fact that the original nests of 10 June were distributed over a large area, they were placed in rows so that each nest was visible from at least 1 other nest location. In some cases as many as 4 nests were visible from a single, ground level vantage point; it is conceivable that a Blue Jay perched in the top of a tree could see even more. Thus actual nest placement produced a high density of open nests which should be subject to extensive predation by Blue Jays (Fretwell, S.D., 1972. *Populations in a seasonal environment*. Princeton Monogr. in Pop. Biol. no. 5, pp 149-151).

A second point concerns the relative decline in clay egg losses with time. From 10 to 12 June, 89 of 92 eggs disappeared, but only 69 were lost over the next 8 days. While this still represents extensive predation, it may reflect some learning on the part of the predators. As Blue Jays and other corvids are reputed to exhibit considerable behavioral plasticity, such a conclusion should not be unreasonable (Thompson, A. L., 1964. *A new dictionary of birds*. McGraw-Hill, pp 163-164).

Finally, Orr (JPW, 1975: 53:59-66) named predation as partially responsible for egg and nestling losses in the Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) and 1 observed instance of Blue Jay predation on Kirtland's Warbler has been reported (Orr, 1975: 65). In light of Orr's report and our findings, the problem of Blue Jay predation requires continued attention.

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### Kirtland's and Blackpoll Warbler Banding Recoveries

On 2 July Bruce Radabaugh banded a newly fledged Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) at Mack Lake, four miles (6.4 km) southeast of Mio, Oscoda County, Michigan. I recaptured this male on 18 June 1973 on the Lovells Management Area 4 miles (6.4 km) north of Lovells, Crawford County, Michigan, about 28 miles (45 km) from where he was born. I also banded his mate and their 4 nestlings, and color-marked

the parents. The nestlings fledged on 27-28 June. Warren Faust had observed a banded male Kirtland's Warbler on this same territory in early June 1972 but we had not captured it.

During the 1974 spring, this male was found on the same territory mated with a 2-year-old, color-marked, female which had been born on an adjacent territory in 1972. (Her father was on the next territory to the north; one of his male siblings nested to the west; another male sibling nested 13 miles [21 km] away at the Muskrat Lake region, 1½ miles [2.4 km] northeast of Red Oak, Oscoda County, Michigan. These siblings and the above female constituted the entire brood at the 1972 nest). Since this female's 1973 mate did not return, this new pair used the territories occupied by both pairs the year before. This pair fledged 5 nestlings on 24 June 1974. (One, a female, nested ½ mile to the southwest in 1975). The second 1974 nesting attempt of this pair in July was disrupted by a Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) which parasitized the nest. The cowbird hatched first but did not fledge. The warbler nestling was found the morning he hatched an inch in front of the nest dead, and with one foot missing.

The male mated with a third female in the spring of 1975 and the pair fledged 5 nestlings on 23 June. Since all Kirtland's Warbler banding was curtailed in 1975, his mate and nestlings were not banded. The male was found dead by Suzanne Doerger on 27 September 1975. It had apparently flown into a window in their house in the Westwood Section of Cincinnati, Ohio. An account of the specimen was given by Karl H. Maslowski in the Cincinnati Enquirer, 5 October 1975.

I banded 44 Blackpoll Warblers (*Dendroica striata*) between 30 August and 2 October 1974 at our station 10 miles [16 km] northwest of Muskegon, Muskegon County, Michigan. One bird of undetermined age and sex and weighing 13.4 grams was banded 19 September. It was recaptured and released alive on 25 September 1974 at Stamford, Connecticut, by Robert M. Boone. The bird accordingly traveled a distance of 700 miles [1,120 km] mainly eastward, in no more than 144 hours.

— Lawrence H. Walkinshaw, 1145 Scenic Drive, Muskegon, Michigan 49445

### Say's Phoebe in Muskegon, Michigan

On 2 May 1975 about 10:00 a.m. a Say's Phoebe, *Sayornis saya*, came to our yard. It looked to be between 6 and 7 inches long. Its back was a soft brown, with a darker head and no eye ring. The throat was a light buff, the breast a rusty color becoming deeper and more reddish in the undertail coverts. The tail and wings were darker than the head and there were only faint wing bars. The bird stayed within 10-15 feet from us for close to half an hour. We had previously observed Say's Phoebe in Arizona.

This is apparently only the second record of the species for the State.

— August and Mildred Twiest, 1880 LeLarte Ave., Muskegon, Michigan