

Yellow-headed Blackbirds Breeding at Rainy River, Ontario

DURING THE period May 13 to June 9, 1961, male and female Yellow-headed Blackbirds, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (Bonaparte), were observed in the regions of the mouth of Rainy River and the shores of Lake of the Woods by members of a Royal Ontario Museum field party excavating an Indian mound some three miles upstream from the mouth of the river. The birds were usually observed in reed islands isolated from the mainland. The reed islands are located south of Quick Island at the northeastern end of Sable Island in Lake of the Woods, within the Inner Passage behind Sable Island leading from Quick Island to Four Mile Bay at the mouth of Rainy River, and upstream in Rainy River on both shores as far as Church Point, Wabanica Creek, Minnesota.

A minimal count of 35 males was made on a boat trip on June 7. Many of the males exhibited territoriality and singing. Only two nests were observed, but the presence of others was suspected from the behavior of a number of females. One male and one nest with four eggs were collected on this trip. These are preserved as specimens in the Royal Ontario Museum, Life Sciences Division, Department of Birds, Numbers 91628 (male skin) and 7544 (nest and eggs). The male obtained was singing near the nest, and was probably the male of the pair, the female of which was put off the nest when it was collected. The four eggs were fertile, the vitelline plexus and blood islands being well developed, as observed upon blowing.

This is the first breeding record of the Yellow-headed Blackbird in Ontario. However, previous reports of nesting and summering are as follows: One unconfirmed nesting report by John D. Jacob, game warden, at Saganagons Lake near Quetico Park, on May 14, 1931 (ROM files); one summer observation by L. Paterson at Quibell on the Cana-

dian National Railway west of Sioux Lookout for which no date is available (L. L. Snyder, Trans. Roy. Can. Inst., 30: 84, 1953); one bird on May 24 and four birds on June 3, 1959, seen at Dryden by Mrs. Laura A. Howe; one on May 5 in the Black Sturgeon area by T. Swift; one on May 24 in Fort William by W. Zaroski and possibly another individual by A. E. Allin (J. M. Speirs, Bull. Fed. Ont. Nat. 85 (3):24, 1959), and one male specimen collected at Macdiarmid on Lake Nipigon on June 20, 1933 (L. L. Snyder, Trans. Roy. Can. Inst., 16: 266, 1928). An additional sight record of a male Yellow-headed Blackbird can be noted from Indian Reserve 35C, on the south shore at the base of the Aulneau Peninsula, Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods, by the author, on May 24, 1961.

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First Record of the Keeled Slug, *Milax gagates* (Drap.), in Nova Scotia*

THE FIRST OCCURRENCE of the keeled slug, *Milax gagates* (Drap.) in Nova Scotia was authenticated with the collection of a single specimen at Amherst, Nova Scotia, in early May, 1961. It was later identified by Dr. Aurele La Rocque, Department of Geology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. The original specimen and subsequently several more were collected in the cellar of a house by R. S. Horsburgh of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing. It was immediately seen to be an unfamiliar species, possibly the great slug of Europe, *Limax maximus* L. The strongly keeled back, elliptical impression on the mantle, and frequently darker colour in *M. gagates* will differentiate it from *L. maximus*. The specimens col-



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