

Nesting of the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) in Eastern Pennsylvania

BY W. E. ROBERTS AND W. E. HANNUM

I

A PAIR of Mockingbirds were seen by myself on June 17, 1901, in Solebury township, Bucks county, Pa., about my home, two and a half miles west from New Hope, and a mile in a direct line from the Delaware River. I noticed them fly out from an osage hedge that extended past my home. I had never seen any birds there that were marked like these, and upon looking them up in a Warren's "Birds of Pennsylvania," I found that they were Mockingbirds. My brother had seen this pair two days earlier than I, and my father had also seen them flying about the hedge before that. This road by the hedge marks a divide between two creek valleys. It is possible that the birds followed one or the other of the streams and found conditions so to their liking that they stayed to nest. The pair seemed tame, flew about our yard among the pine trees and were undisturbed by the wagons passing by. As I was occupied in the daytime during the birds' stay, I usually had an opportunity to observe them only in the early morning or evening. This accounts for the lack of more detailed information. I do not know when nest building was begun. I thought from the actions of the birds that it must be going on however; so on July 7, at my first opportunity for search, I found the nest about thirty yards from the house on the north side of the low thick hedge. It then had the full complement of four eggs and was about four feet from the ground and probably six inches below the top of the hedge. Sticks lined with horse hair composed the nest. There was no difficulty in discovering its location, for the male himself showed where it was, flying to a par-

ticular place and remaining there just long enough to have given some food to the female and then flying back again to his perch. I cannot say whether he did actually feed his mate or not, but his actions so indicated. Pie-cherries were ripe just at this time on a tree close by and seemed to be their principal food. The male could mimic to perfection the notes of the Killdeer, the Bluebird, and the Blue-jay, and I also noticed the songs of the Whip-poor-will, Catbird, Flicker, Plover, and Robin in his repertoire. I saw the old birds no more after the last week in July, and the young not at all.—*W. E. Roberts.*

II.

A PAIR of Mockingbirds that came under my observation reared two broods of young at Concordville, Delaware County, Pa., during the summer of 1896. They were first reported in the vicinity about May 15, although I did not see them myself until about the first of July. By that time they had constructed a nest similar to that of a Robin, but without the mud and a little smaller. It was situated in a small evergreen by the side of the road about four feet from the ground. The eggs hatched during late cherry time, toward the end of June, and the pits in the nest bear evidence that the birds fed on the cherries of a near by tree. At the time I saw the birds they uttered only the alarm notes, showing none of their remarkable abilities, though I was informed that they sang somewhat like the Thrasher. The pair raised a second brood after the first were on the wing, building this time in an osage hedge close to a road, and some two hundred yards from the site of the first nest. They flew about later with their entire brood, numbering eight birds, four from each nest, and disappeared about the end of August. There could be no mistake in their identity, as they were identified by several persons independently, and carefully compared with the plate and description in Warren's "Birds of Pennsylvania."—*Wm. E. Hannum.*