

The Crow (*Corvus frugivorus*) as a Fisherman.—I am courteously permitted by Mr. L. I. Flower of Clifton, N. B., to publish the following note of an interesting incident which came under his observation.

“A few years since, while crossing the Washademock Lake, I noticed a Crow flying close to the surface at a spot where the water is very shoal. Suddenly, when but a short distance from my boat, the Crow thrust his claw down into the water and drew to the surface what I afterward discovered was a fish of about half a pound weight, and then seizing it with his bill, by aid of ‘tooth and nail’ succeeded in drawing it out of the water and carrying it to an adjacent rock, the fish all the while struggling hard to get free.”—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*

Odd Nesting-site of a Great-crested Flycatcher.—In 1875, in either the latter part of May or early in June, at Chesnut Hill, a suburb of Philadelphia, but about eight miles northwest of the city proper, a pair of Great-crested Flycatchers (*Myiarchus crinitus*) made three attempts to build a nest in the gutter pipe of an inhabited house. The house was of stone, with a ‘French’ roof covered with slate. The pipe was of tin and opened out of the gutter about six feet from a window of a boy’s room. It was bent at the top at an angle of about 30° from the perpendicular, and at this bend the birds endeavored to lodge their nest. Each time the materials were washed down by rain, and the day after the third flood the birds abandoned the locality. There was not a tree on the place over ten years old, and I have never, before or since, known a Great-crested Flycatcher to establish itself within a mile of the house in question. The house was partly covered with vines, but there were none above or within five feet of the junction of gutter and pipe.—FRANK R. WELSH, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Duck Hawks breeding in the Helderberg Mountains, New York.—Last summer I observed a pair of Duck Hawks (*Falco peregrinus naevius*) several times in the neighborhood of a high cliff in the Helderberg Mountains, about thirty miles from Albany. Thinking it probable from their actions that they had bred there, I visited the locality last April and found that they had been there some time already. Diligent search was at once commenced for the nest; during which the old birds were frequently seen, and evinced the highest degree of excitability. On the 11th of April the eyrie was discovered; the eggs, four in number, were placed upon the bare surface of a ledge in an extremely wild situation; there was no appearance of a nest, but the eggs were surrounded merely by a few bones and feathers. The birds showed the greatest anger, flying, shrieking, in circles overhead. They were not shot and probably bred elsewhere upon the mountain later on, although their second nest was not discovered.—G. A. LINTNER, *Albany, N. Y.*

Hybrid between *Pedicecetes phasianellus* and *Cupidonia cupido*.—On the 1st of February last, or about that date, a curious bird was obtained at a poulterer’s shop at Brighton (in England) which had been sent over

from America with a large quantity of Grouse—viz., a hybrid between the Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pediocetes phasianellus*) and the Pinnated Grouse (*Cupidonia cupido*). The neck ruff is present, but only a quarter of an inch long; the tail, which is brown in the former species and white in the latter, is in the hybrid gray; the sides of the toes are only slightly feathered, and the general color of the plumage is intermediate between the two species. This bird, which through the kindness of Mr. Langton is now in my collection, was a male. Almost all wild hybrids are males, which doubtless arises from the more obscure plumage of the females causing them to be passed over, and this applies as much to Ducks and Finches as to Game-birds. As examples may be cited the cross between a Pochard (*Fuligula ferina*) and a Nyroca (*F. nyroca*), the Linnet (*Linnaea cannabina*) cum Greenfinch (*L. chloris*) cross, and the Blackcock (*Tetrao tetrax*) cum Capercaillie (*T. urogallus*), which are almost always all males, though females are picked up now and then. Of the Linnet cum Greenfinch cross, although I have examined many males, I have only seen two females, and I imagine that the experience of other observers in England would be the same.

That no doubt should exist about the hybrid Grouse, it was submitted to Dr. Elliott Coues, who confirmed its origin, adding that he had never seen a specimen before, though he knew of the existence of one, recorded in the 'Nuttall Bulletin' a few years ago.*—J. H. GURNEY, JUN., *North-repps, Norwich, England.*

Notes on *Lagopus leucurus*.—As Dr. Stejneger, in an article in a recent number of the 'American Naturalist,' on the moulting of toe nails in the genus *Lagopus*, makes no mention of *L. leucurus*, the following may be of interest.

An average of the nails of 22 winter (November to March) specimens gives 7-10-12-10 mm. for the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th toes respectively, and of 6 summer specimens (June and August) gives 6-8-9-8 mm. The extremes are an August bird, measuring 5-7-8-8 mm. and a February bird, showing 8-12-13-11 mm. with claws excessively curved. At first it seemed reasonable to suppose the shorter summer nails were due to wear on rocks, but one August bird showed the moult to be but partially completed, some of the nails falling off in my hands, and others clinging with but a slight hold. One bird showed a formula as follows: 9-12-11-11 mm., the middle claw being perfect and shorter than the 2d or 4th.

I failed to detect any positive difference between the summer plumages of male and female, unless it is in the female being more ochraceous. The fineness of the waving and mottling is variable in both sexes.

The shafts of the primaries are pure white, or white below and either black or dark colored above. The last form is only found in winter birds, and in every case of dark—not black—primary shafts, the webs were spotted with dusky.

* [By Mr. Brewster, in Vol. II, 1877, pp. 66-68.]