

many nests of the Parakeet built precisely as above described. Formerly, when the birds were abundant in the surrounding region, he used to find them breeding in large colonies in the cypress swamps. Several of these colonies contained at least a thousand birds each. They nested invariably in small cypress trees, the favorite position being on a fork near the end of a slender horizontal branch. Every such fork would be occupied, and, he has seen as many as forty or fifty nests in one small tree. Their nests closely resembled those of the Carolina Dove, being similarly composed of cypress twigs put together so loosely that the eggs were often visible from the ground beneath. The twigs of the cypress seemed to be preferred to those of any other kind of tree. The height at which the nests were placed varied from five or six feet to twenty or thirty feet. Mr. Long described the eggs as being of a greenish white color, unspotted. He did not remember the maximum number which he had found in one set, but thought it was at least four or five. He had often taken young birds from the nests to rear or to give to his friends. He knew of a small colony of Parakeets breeding in Waukulla Swamp, about twenty miles from Tallahassee, in the summer of 1885, and believes that they still occur there in moderate numbers.

It seems difficult to reconcile such testimony with the statements of Audubon, Wilson, and others that the Carolina Parakeet lays its eggs in hollow trees. It may be, however, that, like the Crow Blackbird and some of the Owls, this Parrot nests both in holes and on branches, according to circumstances; at all events the above account has seemed to me to rest on evidence sufficiently good to warrant its publication.

I may add in this connection that the wide-spread impression that the Parakeet is on the verge of extinction, is not literally correct. A few are still found as far north in Florida as the Weekiva River bottom, while south of Kissimee they are still actually abundant over a region of considerable extent. Everywhere, however, they are decreasing fast, and unless steps are taken to protect them from the ravages of the specimen and plume hunters, who invariably shoot all that come in their way, the total extermination of the species can be a matter of only a few more years.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Melanerpes carolinus Eating Oranges.—As corroborating Dr. Warren's account in his late report on the birds of Pennsylvania, it may be worth while to state that when at Enterprise, Florida, in February, 1889, I observed a Red-bellied Woodpecker eating the pulp of a sweet orange. He flew down to the ground and, hopping along rather clumsily, approached an orange, and for several minutes pecked at it in a slow deliberate way. When I showed myself he at once took flight, and sought shelter in the dense foliage of the trees above. Upon examining the orange, I found that it was decayed through the whole of one side. In the sound portion were three holes, each nearly as large as a silver dollar, with narrow strips of peel between them. The pulp had been eaten out quite to the middle of the fruit. Small pieces of rind were thickly strewn about the spot. Upon searching closely I discovered several other oranges that had been

attacked in a similar manner. All were partially decayed, and were lying on the ground. I was unable to find any on the trees which showed any marks of the Woodpecker's bill. The owner of this grove was surprised when I called his attention to the above facts, which were quite new to him. Nor had any of the other orange growers in the neighborhood any knowledge of this orange-eating habit of the Red-bellied Woodpecker.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) in Connecticut.—I have the pleasure of recording a few notes on the Fish Crow in this State. For several years I have detected birds of the Crow family along the shore, which, from the notes, method of flight, and apparently smaller size almost convinced me they were Fish Crows, but until this season had no opportunity to verify the belief. On the 10th of May I killed a fine specimen in an extensive tract of swampy woods bordering a salt marsh in Stratford, and saw two others at the same time; the latter, being highly excited at the disappearance of the other, circled about some time calling loudly but finally quieted without offering a shot. Many times afterward I saw the birds, and others, seeing no less than four at one time (May 29), all mature birds. The one secured, although a male, showed evidence of having assisted in incubation, but owing to the dense and almost impassable nature of this swamp no nest was found.

In Fairfield, a pair was seen many times, and a nest found before it was entirely finished, but I watched them so persistently that they soon deserted. They must have reared young elsewhere, as subsequently on several occasions previous to the middle of June they exhibited much alarm at my approach, circling about overhead by the hour in a highly vexed and tireless fashion, following me sometimes for half a mile. Although I saw no young I need no better evidence than their actions to convince me that they were breeding.

Linsley in his 'Catalogue of the Birds of Connecticut' gave the Fish Crow as occurring at "Stratford," but added no further remarks. Within one or two years others have been taken here, of which no record has been published. It is not common, but it may be called not a rare bird, and I think has been largely overlooked from its resemblance to *Corvus americanus*. I feel confident the species also winters here, as I have several times seen what certainly appeared to be Fish Crows, feeding on the sand bars at low tide, retiring to the woods at high tide, and never associating with the common species.—EDWIN H. EAMES, *Bridgeport, Connecticut.*

Mortality among Eave Swallows.—A calamity which has affected two or three species in this section may be worth chronicling. Early in the month of June, 1889, I was asked by two or three persons as to what had become of the Eave Swallows (*Petrochelidon lunifrons*), it being reported that but very few were to be seen. An investigation revealed the fact that not over five per cent of them were to be found. They had, however, come in their usual numbers earlier in the season. An examination of the newly completed nests revealed dead birds in nearly every nest. Large