

where several of the old buildings are thickly covered with the creeper. In the fall, winter, and early spring the vines are hung with innumerable clusters of berries and to them are attracted many of the winter resident birds. A year or more ago, at almost any hour, a glance through a window would reveal several birds, some of them perhaps within reach, clinging to the vines, feeding greedily. On one occasion, on opening a window, the writer surprised seven birds, representing six species, which were almost hidden in the vines encroaching upon the window opening. Of these a Flicker and a Cardinal whisked away but the others, including two Bluebirds, a Chickadee, a Tufted Titmouse and a White-breasted Nuthatch, trusted him and continued the feast. At times two or three Titmice could be seen twisting in and out among the berries, and brilliant Redheads often came. Indeed the number of charming new glimpses of birds made us almost wish there were Virginia creeper every where.

Bluebirds were the most constant visitors to the vines and a flock of them fed almost exclusively upon the berries. Each winter they frequented a tree midway between two great vine-covered walls and seemed never to leave the vicinity except for water. They were observed during one winter on practically every day from October 20 to February 20. Flickers relished the fruit almost as well. They liked to feed in vines upon which the sun was shining, and at one time five of these handsome birds were seen together on a thickly covered wall. On another occasion two Flickers, two Red-headed Woodpeckers and six Bluebirds feeding in the same place formed a pretty and most animated group.

An idea of the relative numbers in which birds of twelve species came to the berries may be obtained from a tabulation of several typical lists made on winter days in 1901, 1902 and 1903. Nine such lists have been selected and the totals for each species follow: Bluebirds, 43; Flickers, 21; Robins, 15; Tufted Titmice, 7; Juncos, 7; White-breasted Nuthatches, 4; Red-headed Woodpeckers, 3; Blue Jays, 3; Chickadees, 2; Cardinals, 2, and Chewink, 1.

The last named bird would not be expected to visit a busy college campus often, and in fact this was one of only two such occurrences noted in four years. The reason for the visit to the berries is plain: nearly all other food in the country was under a coat of ice. On the day we were honored by the Chewink, six other species, or seven in all, were seen in the vines, and two days previously nine were observed.

Such liberal patronage shows conclusively how birds value the Virginia creeper. The plant retains its fruit almost half the year and is therefore particularly valuable as an early spring bird food. To those who care to attract winter birds the Virginia creeper, both from its usefulness in this respect and on account of its decidedly ornamental appearance, is to be recommended most highly.—W. L. McATEE, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Michigan Ornithological Club.**—The annual meeting of the Michigan Ornithological Club was held in conjunction with the annual meeting

of the Section of Zoölogy of the Michigan Academy of Science in the Museum Lecture Room, Ann Arbor, on Friday, March 30, 1906. Chas. C. Adams, vice-president of the section of zoölogy, presided. The following ornithological papers were presented: 'Bird Dissemination of *Juniperus*,' Frank J. Phillips; 'An Ecological Study of the Birds of Ypsilanti Bayou,' Max M. Peet; 'Twenty-five years of Bird Migration at Ann Arbor,' Norman A. Wood; 'Notes on the Birds of the Michigan Forest Reserve,' E. H. Frothingham; 'The Bird Life of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Vicinity' (by title), Norman A. Wood; 'A Topographical Study of the Birds of the "Overflow" at Ann Arbor, Mich.,' R. A. Brown; 'An Ecological Survey of Isle Royal, Lake Superior,' Chas. C. Adams; 'The Ecological Distribution of the Birds on Isle Royal,' Otto McCreary; 'The Fall Migration of Birds on Isle Royal' (by title), Max M. Peet. Professor Walter B. Barrows, president of the Club and of the Academy, gave his presidential address before the Academy on 'Facts and Fancies in Bird Migration' in the lecture room of the physical laboratory on Thursday evening.

A business meeting was held in the afternoon in the office of the curator of the University Museum. The officers for 1906-7 were elected as follows: President, Prof. Walter B. Barrows, Agricultural College; Vice-Presidents, J. Claire Wood, Detroit, Edward Arnold, Battle Creek, Norman A. Wood, Ann Arbor; Secretary, Dr. Alexander W. Blain, Jr., Detroit; Treasurer, Frederick C. Hubel, Detroit; Editor of 'Bulletin,' Walter B. Barrows; Associate Editors, Dr. Wm. H. Dunham, Kalkaska, Dr. R. A. Brown, Kalamazoo.—A. W. BLAIN, JR., *Sec'y*.

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### RECENT LITERATURE.

**Buturlin's 'The Breeding-grounds of the Rosy Gull.'**<sup>1</sup>—The breeding-grounds of the Rosy Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) long eluded discovery, but Dr. Buturlin has now found one of its summer haunts in the delta of the Kolymá River, on the Arctic coast of eastern Siberia. Here (latitude 69° N., long. 160° E.) in June, 1905, he found small colonies of these birds breeding and secured a good series of skins of both adults and downy young, and 36 eggs. The first Rosy Gulls were seen May 30 and 31; "they had evidently just finished their migration and were tired after their exertions." In a few hours they had recovered from their fatigue. They were quite easy of approach, and Dr. Buturlin was able

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<sup>1</sup> The Breeding-grounds of the Rosy Gull. By S. A. Buturlin. *Ibis*, 1906, pp. 131-139, 333-337.