

Steve Whitey of Crookston, Minn.— J. W. FRANZEN, *Minnesota Academy of Sciences, Minneapolis, Minn.*

Audubon's Caracara in New Mexico.— On May 4, 1914, Mr. Andrew Archer brought to my office a specimen of Audubon's Caracara (*Polyborus cheriway*) that had been shot by Mr. Harold Church from a cottonwood tree standing in an alfalfa field near Mesquite, N. M., below Las Cruces in the Rio Grande Valley. This specimen was an immature male not yet in typical color. In the stomach were found the almost completely digested remains of a small bird and a small rodent, whose identification could not be determined. The skin is now in the collection of the New Mexico College of Agriculture, at State College, N. M.

This constitutes the second established record of the occurrence of this species near here. Mr. E. W. Nelson, of the U. S. Biological Survey, kindly gave me the following note on its occurrence. "There is but a single other record, so far as we know, of this bird's occurrence in the State. This was one taken by Dr. Henry at Ft. Thorne in the winter of 1856 and sent to the U. S. National Museum." — D. E. MERRILL, *State College, N. M.*

Actions of the Red-tailed Hawk.— In 'The Auk' for 1913 (page 582) I described the very active defense of her nest offered by a Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus lineatus*). It may be recalled that two sets of eggs, April 6, and April 29, 1913, were collected from this pair of birds. I was then especially anxious to observe the birds the next year, and early in April I visited the Sawyer woods for this purpose. The birds flew from trees on the east side of the woods from which direction I was approaching. They were very noisy but flew high and no nests which seemed to be recently occupied were seen. On April 23 I again visited the woods approaching from the east, near the southern edge. Both birds met me at the edge of the woods and flew about with noisy screaming at some elevation as I walked westward. At the west side of the woods I turned and walked in a northeastly direction directly towards the beech tree in which the first set of eggs were taken in 1913. The female was in a tree top near this beech and when I was possibly 200 feet away she launched herself directly at me. I could hardly conceive she would attack me as I stood on the ground, but she came straight on and I had to drop to my knees to avoid her blow. She alighted west of me and I walked on toward the nest, watching her over my shoulder. I had hardly stepped forward when she again dashed to the attack with more fierceness possibly than before and I again was compelled to drop to my knees. She came to rest about 30 feet from me in a small maple where she rested in a threatening attitude for some time while I stood admiring her. Her plumage was perfect, her breast being almost red, and her attitude of fearless defiance as she stood leaning toward me made a picture impossible to forget. She made no further attacks till I began climbing the tree when she struck at me viciously four times.

It is needless to say I kept her in sight all the time, keeping the tree between us as much as possible, and jerking my head out of the way to avoid her outreached claws. She made no attacks after the eggs were taken from the nest. The male left the woods or at least kept out of sight while the female was attacking me. Later he returned and the pair soared screaming at a considerable height. The eggs were three in number, incubation just begun, and as stated, were laid in the same nest occupied in April 6, 1913.

It may be added that I visited Mr. Sawyer, who owns the woods, explaining to him that the hawk would now be more wary, but even yet might fall an easy prey to any gunner and asking him to do what he could to prevent her being killed. Though apparently not very appreciative of the traits I so much admired in the bird, and my reasons for the preservation of her life, he promised to do what he could to prevent her being killed.

Other nests visited in 1914 were occupied in every case by wary and cautious birds. The conditions which developed the audacious daring of the one exception without at the same time costing her her life are not easily understood.—E. B. WILLIAMSON, *Bluffton, Ind.*

Richardson's Owl in Illinois.—Records of the occurrence of Richardson's Owl (*Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni*) in Illinois, are so few that the following hitherto unpublished note, unimpaired, I hope, by age, may be of interest.

During the last week of January, 1887, in a period of great cold and deep snow, an owl of this species was caught by some school-boys in a farmer's barn near Sycamore (50 mi. west of Chicago) and brought to me alive. Identification was easy but I did not then appreciate the rarity or value of the specimen; and small stuffed owls being in great demand just then as parlor "what not" decorations, I sold this to a neighbor for the munificent sum of \$1.25, for that purpose.—L. E. WYMAN, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, Calif.*

An albinistic Bobolink.—While walking over a piece of prairie, near Stickney, southwest of Chicago, Mr. Kohmann, the taxidermist, and the writer saw an extremely queer-looking Bobolink. It appeared to be all white, but on closer inspection showed some checkering of black. This impression was found to be true, when it was taken. The buff of the nape is also white; some feathers on the crown and cheeks, on the sides of the breast, on the back and in the wings are black, but not in symmetrical arrangement, thus on one wing the fourth primary is the first black one, whereas in the other the first primary is black, while the tail is all white with the exception of the outermost section on one side. Altogether, it is a unique specimen.—C. W. G. EIFRIG, *River Forest, Ill.*

Leconte's Sparrow in Wisconsin.—Kumlien and Hollister in 'The Birds of Wisconsin' state concerning this species: "It is also rather remarkable that the closest search has failed to produce a single specimen in spring." On April 11, 1914, three were seen and one taken at Madison,