

beaten, and stripped of its loose interior furnishing, the nest was essentially intact. Its walls of dark clay were strongly reinforced with tough grasses, and the foundation, bearing the impress of the two branches between which it had been held, was unusually generous in its proportions. During the winter the nest doubtless had contained snow and water, which, owing to the small soil particles of the clay, probably escaped almost altogether through evaporation, for the nest as it stood would hold water like a cup. I should estimate its weight at fully 18 ounces. In our orchard in Missouri I used to observe a number of robins' nests in the spring that had successfully weathered the winter, and it had often occurred to me that the birds would exhibit commendable economy if instead of building new nests they would remodel the old structures; but if this ever was done it escaped my notice. However, the nest that the farm employee placed upon the harvester tongue attracted a pair of robins, and I observed the female sitting in it. She evidently was getting the feel of it, and deciding whether or not to accept it in preference to the labor required to construct a new one. Being interested in the matter I asked the proprietor of the farm to report to me a fortnight later what the pair had decided. He wrote that they had "taken it" for the season. I should like to know whether this is a common practice among robins, or any other species. Charles Dixon in his 'Birds' Nests,' first edition, published in 1902 by Grant Richards in London, says, on page 242: "... various species of swallows breed in the disused nest of the Oven-bird . . . We might almost presume that these birds have relinquished the habit of forming a mud shell or outer nest when they discovered that these mud 'ovens' saved them the trouble of making one for themselves." Purple Martins will year after year occupy the same house or box. It is but one step further to an old nest in the case of robins.—DEWITT C. WING, *Chicago, Ill.*

**Two New Records for British Columbia.**—LARK BUNTING (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). On June 8, 1914, I collected a male Lark Bunting in a thicket of hawthorns on the shore of Okanagan Lake at Okanagan Landing.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). On October 6, 1913, I collected a male White-throated Sparrow that was with a large flock of Nuttall's and Golden-crowned Sparrows at Saanich, Vancouver Island. Both these birds are now in the provincial museum.

SITKA KINGLET (*Regulus calendula grinnelli*). A female taken at Okanagan Landing, December 29, 1913, is the first record east of the Cascades. A series collected here in summer have been identified as *calendula* by Dr. Louis B. Bishop. There are no winter records for this form.

BLACK MERLIN (*Falco columbarius suckleyi*). On February, 1913, I collected a Pigeon Hawk at Okanagan Landing, identified as *suckleyi* by Mr. Allan Brooks. This form is a straggler east of the Cascades.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). Usu-

ally a scarce summer resident, this bird was unusually plentiful this year (1914). On July 28, I saw a flock of about 60, nearly all were adult males.— J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C.*

**Some Unusual Breeding Records from South Carolina.**—WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*). In view of the alarming decrease in numbers of this species in recent years, the following record is of particular interest. On June 23, 1912, in the Otranto Swamp near Charleston, S. C., I found a brood of seventeen well grown young. This, I believe, is an unusually large number, as all of the authorities which I have consulted on the subject give the full complement of eggs as ranging from eight to fifteen. In this case it is probable that even more than seventeen eggs were laid as it must be rare indeed for a full set of eggs to be hatched and the young brought to the age of two or three weeks without casualty of any kind.

It has been suggested that two sets of eggs may have been laid in the same nest.

WOODCOCK (*Philohela minor*). Although Woodcock are known to breed sparingly in the coast region of South Carolina, definite records of breeding are few. On February 22, 1913, a female was shot at Summerville, near Charleston, S. C., and was found to contain several eggs the largest of which would probably have been laid the next day.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*). While the Loggerhead often begins nest building in February, it is seldom that eggs are laid before the end of March, and I have never before known a pair to be successful in incubating during the inclement weather that usually prevails in the early part of that month. However, on March 30, 1913, I saw a young Loggerhead which could not be distinguished from its parents in size, and could be recognized as a young bird only by its actions and because it was being fed regularly. We had ample opportunity to watch this performance for the parents were busy catching insects while the young bird followed them closely and by fluttering and squawking, insisted upon having his share. Allowing twelve days for incubation and at least as many for the then age of the youngster — both of which estimates are probably very low — the full set of eggs must have been complete by March 6, if not earlier.— FRANCIS M. WESTON, JR., *Charleston, S. C.*

**Notes on Some Birds of the Maryland Alleghanies; An Anomaly in the Check-List.**— After a lapse of twelve years, the writer was fortunate enough to be able to again spend a week in the highest part of the Maryland Alleghanies, namely at Accident in Garrett County. This is the westernmost county of Maryland and the hamlet in question is about ten to fifteen miles northeast of Deer Park and Mountain Lake Park, the well-known summer resorts on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The natural features of this so-called glade region of the Alleghanies, its beauty and attractiveness to the naturalist and nature-lover, have been more fully described in Vol. XXI of 'The Auk,' in the article headed: 'Birds of Western Maryland.' Excepting the melancholy fact that saw-mill and