

grounds up the river many times during the time of incubation, one morning before sunrise she flew by, from the tree to the river, with a little duck in her beak which she left in an eddy a short distance up stream. She then made ten or twelve trips to the nest and each time took a little duck in her beak by the neck to the water, where they all huddled in a little bunch. It was all done in a few minutes and she evidently took them to the water very soon after they were hatched, as they were only little balls of down. In going to and from work, we passed the little bunch many times. On our approach the old duck would fly away and leave the little ones huddled in a bunch near the shore where the water was quiet.

John Muir in his 'Boyhood and Youth, a Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf' tells of a friend of his who was a keen observer who had seen the mother wood duck perform this same feat.—E. G. KINGSFORD, *Iron Mountain, Mich.*

Northern Phalarope in Michigan.—I am glad to be able to record two specimens of this rare bird taken within our limits. In November last, we received from Mr. Albert Hirzel of Forestville, Sanilac County, Michigan, a mounted specimen of a female Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) taken on October 4, 1911, while swimming in Lake Huron near Forestville. At the same time Mr. Hirzel sent us a male bird of the same species taken on October 28, 1911, while running along the beach at the same place. This species was given a place in my 'Michigan Bird Life' on the strength of several more or less definite Michigan records, no one of which, however, was supported by an actual specimen which could be located, in addition to several unquestioned records from adjoining states.

The above specimens seem to establish the bird properly in the Michigan list and they are numbered 9687 (female) and 9688 (male) in the museum catalog of the Michigan Agricultural College, East Lansing.—WALTER B. BARROWS, *Lansing, Mich.*

The Western Goshawk (*Astur atricapillus striatulus* Ridg.), in Iowa.—So far as the writer is aware the Western Goshawk has not been reported hitherto from Iowa. Two Goshawks of this subspecies have come to hand during the past season. The first was secured by Mr. Wesley F. Kubichek of Iowa City, having been shot in Johnson County, Iowa, during the last week in October, 1916. The sex of this specimen was not determined. The second specimen, a female, was shot by Mr. Joseph Shellhorn on his farm near Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa, November 16, 1916. Both of these birds were adult.

Mr. C. B. Cory in his 'Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin,' 1912, p. 460, mentions a specimen taken by Chas. K. Worthen near Warsaw, Illinois. The second of the two above mentioned specimens was submitted to Mr. Cory for confirmatory identification.

The past season has witnessed an unusual flight of Goshawks in Iowa,

no less than thirty-three individuals having been examined, or reported to me by accurate observers in various parts of the State.— B. H. BAILEY, *Cedar Rapids, Iowa.*

Chimney Swift Nesting in a Well.— On July 23, 1916, Mr. S. V. LaDow and I hopefully approached a well in an open field between houses along a highroad near Westfield, Bergen Co., N. J. It was a rather fancy well, with a curb about a yard high and four columns supporting a pointed roof, the whole affair of stone. But we found it evidently unused, as the water was about twenty-five feet down, scummy and with no means of drawing it. As we sat on the curb, a strange noise came from below; on repetition, we decided that it was of wings, probably a bat's. Hitting the inside of the well with a stick caused further repetition. Long looking revealed three blind, naked, pink-skinned Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) in a nest attached to the smooth, rounded concrete wall about seven or eight feet down, and finally an adult (disclosed by the whitish throat) perched a little to one side, also against the concrete. The young wriggled a little and made faint but distinct squeaking. We withdrew and after a few minutes returned and found the old Swift sitting on the nest covering its babies, its face toward the wall.

As after gazing sorrowfully at the water, we had sat quietly for a space before the Swift flew, and as it had not flown upward to any extent as though to escape, perhaps the rather loud noise of the wings in flight was made to scare us away.

Though the file of 'The Auk' contains occasional records of the Chimney Swift's nesting in hollow trees and in buildings, I have found no record there or elsewhere of a nest in a well except in Bendire's 'Life Histories of North American Birds,' 1895, p. 178: "In a letter from Dr. William L. Ralph, dated San Mateo, Florida, May 19, 1895, he says: 'One of my men brought me the eggs of a Chimney Swift that he said he took from a nest attached to the sides of a well, 4 feet below the surface of the ground. He says they often nest in such places in this vicinity.' I consider this as a very unusual nesting site for this species."— CHARLES H. ROGERS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York.*

Muscivora tyrannus (Linn.) in Massachusetts.— On October 22, 1916, I saw a Fork-tailed Flycatcher perched on the top of a wire fence at the side of the main road a short distance below Gay Head Lighthouse, Martha's Vineyard, Mass. When disturbed by my repeated approach, the bird flew only a short distance each time, and returned to the fence. The conspicuously long outer tail-feathers and general coloration made it easily recognizable. Subsequently, by the kindness of Mr. Outram Bangs, of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, I have examined specimens of this and other species, which entirely confirm my identification.— FRANCIS A. FOSTER, *Edgartown, Massachusetts.*