

Vermivora luciae. LUCY'S WARBLER. The fact that the first record for this bird in Colorado was also found breeding, makes it seem possible that the species has been overlooked by other collectors. Two specimens (C. M. N. H. Nos. 3384 and 3385) together with their nest and eggs, were collected at 'Four-corners' in Montezuma County on May 3, 1913.

Hylocichla mustelina. WOOD THRUSH. The first record specimen of the Wood Thrush was taken near Holly, Prowers County, on May 12, 1913 (C. M. N. H. No. 2629). It seems not unlikely, however, that the bird is extending its range westward. Confirmatory evidence for this belief is afforded by two additional specimens collected on Dry Willow Creek, Yuma County, on June 24, 1915.—F. C. LINCOLN, *Denver, Colo.*

Subsequent Nestings.—I was much interested in reading of Mr. J. K. Jensen's experience (Auk, January, 1918, pp. 83-84) with the White-rumped Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*) at Wahpeton, North Dakota, in 1917, as they are very similar to mine at Hatley, Quebec, in the same year with the Migrant Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*) an account of which it had been proposed to add as a postscript to my "A Study of Subsequent Nestings after the Loss of the First," Auk, Vol. XXXIV, 1917, pp. 381-393, but which had to be omitted at the last moment owing to unforeseen circumstances. My pair of birds laid four sets of eggs in succession, the first set being taken on May 30, and the last on July 4, thus again giving practically eleven days interval between each set. The first two consisted of six eggs each, the third of five, and the fourth of four, the first nest being in an apple tree twelve feet up, the second in a fir eighteen feet up, and seventy-one yards from the first, the third in the same apple tree as the first only seventeen feet up, whilst the fourth and last was again in an apple tree twelve feet up, and eighty-three yards from the fir tree, the site of the second, and one hundred and fifty-four yards from the apple tree, the site of the first nest. Now the most interesting fact to me was the pigment in these eggs, for whereas with each successive set the size, beauty and construction of the nests fell off, as well as the number of the eggs, the pigment or coloring increased if anything, the last set being equally or more highly pigmented than any of the others. At a Meeting of the Nuttall Ornithological Club held at Cambridge on November 19, 1917, at which I was present, I mentioned the above case. It was suggested by one of the members present (I believe it was Mr. Bangs) that the apparent higher coloring of this last set might be due to an increased thinness of the inner membrane or lining of the shell, or to the thinness of the shell itself, or both. The latter (thickness of shell) I have examined with a microscope through the blow hole as well as I was able, but can detect no apparent difference, but this is no easy matter to decide off hand, and will require much more careful consideration. It seems to me that we have here an interesting field for further investigation, as there really does not appear to be much known or at all events published on the causes and effects governing the pigment of eggs. The English

Sparrow (*Passer domesticus hostilis*¹) amongst its many other sins, has been responsible to a large extent for the generally prevailing idea that as sets increase pigment decreases (which seems to be the rule in its case for some unexplained reason), but my 'A Study of Subsequent Nestings' already referred to, goes a long way I think to demonstrate that the opposite is the more general rule in the case of other birds. What we really want is a special work dealing with the subject, such as Dr. Bergtold's 'The Incubation Periods of Birds' and Dr. Casey Wood's 'The Fundus Oculi of Birds,' wherein the subjects are fully dealt with and discussed in all their bearings.—H. MOUSLEY, *Hatley, Que.*

The Destruction of Nests by Farming Operations in Saskatchewan.—During the summer of 1917 from May 1 to June 15 I worked on a 1200 acre grain farm located near a small town, Estlin, sixteen miles south of Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan. This time included the earlier nesting wave which might be said to extend through the last weeks in May and the first in June. It is then that the greatest damage is done to nesting birds through agricultural operations.

The region in which the farm was situated was one vast treeless plain. Natives at one time or another have tried to grow trees and shrubs about their dooryards but these have either died or merely grown to a height of ten or twelve feet. Of course all parts of Saskatchewan are not treeless for in Regina there are fair sized shade trees along the streets and still farther north there are forests. The land is owned in large tracts of a half section or more, the largest of which I heard covering 16 sections. It is under an extensive system of farming with oats, wheat and flax as the staple crops. Most of the land is under cultivation but there is still some in lots of a half to two sections left in virgin prairie. One would naturally expect that the wild ducks and other ground nesting birds would select the prairie for nesting sites, but such was not in accordance with my observations, as I found that the great majority chose the cultivated areas.

The ducks and the Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found to be most abundant; of the former, Pintails were in the lead, with Mallards, Teals, and Baldpates in lesser numbers. Canada Geese did not nest there at all, but I was told that they breed commonly not far to the north. Marsh Hawks and Short-eared Owls were very common, as were Red-winged Blackbirds, Killdeers, and Western Meadowlarks.

The growing season is so short that the ground must be prepared with the greatest speed in the spring, since the large crops and early winters allow little time for fall plowing, thus leaving nearly all to be done just before seeding. We were plowing, disking, harrowing, and drilling grain until the first week in June, while the first duck nest was found on May 6, making at least a full month during which the farming operations may cause the destruction of nests. As above stated the ducks seem to prefer the stubble fields to the prairie, for of the twenty-five nests which I examined all but five were in the former kind of situation; of the remaining five,

¹ See Oberholser, Auk, 1917, p. 329.