

for food and the parent bird after finding a hairy worm would slap it about until it was shorn of its spines when it would thrust it down the yawning maw of the young beggar apparently without appeasing its hunger in the least as it would immediately demand more. The two were wandering about in short second growth saplings and I had ample opportunity to watch them without the aid of my glasses for some little time as they were within easy vision. There was no possible question of their identity. Has any one a later date for the nesting of this well-known bird?—ETTA S. WILSON *Detroit, Mich.*

Local Decrease of Warblers in 1917.— In the spring of 1917 very wet weather with cold spells prevailed through the western peninsula of Ontario and a good deal of the country to the north of it, the result being that many of the small birds failed to raise the usual number of young, and when the time for the autumn migrations arrived the birds usually seen in large numbers did not appear, or were in such small numbers as to be negligible.

Opposite my house in the city of London lies a small park of about three acres planted with the usual variety of shade trees, and in that park it is a usual thing to see in the autumn migrations quite large numbers of warblers and the species that usually associate with them, but in the autumn of 1917, the total number of warblers seen by all the observers who frequent the park, was not half a dozen, while in previous years it was a frequent thing to find half a dozen species in the course of a fifteen minutes' hunt.

So far as I could learn conditions throughout the western peninsula of Ontario were nearly uniform. At Point Pelee warblers were in extremely small numbers and every observer with whom I spoke or corresponded remarked on the great scarcity of these birds in that season. Fortunately, this state of affairs does not seem to have been universal and from many parts of the continent come different reports. The present breeding of 1918 was not altogether favorable and the number of migrating birds up to the time of writing (September 13), is small though there are more than were noted the previous year.—W. E. SAUNDERS, *London, Ont.*

The Name "erythrogaster," and Others.— A nomenclatural, or rather etymological, question has recently been raised which illustrates how great a tempest in a teapot may be stirred up over a point already settled by existing rules of nomenclature, and a brief statement of the case seems desirable.

In a paper on "The Birds of the Anamba Islands" (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 98, p. 31, 1917) Dr. H. C. Oberholser designates the American Barn Swallow as *Hirundo rustica erythrogastris*, explaining in a foot-note that "the subspecific term *erythrogaster* as here used is a Latin adjective of the third declension and therefore has for its proper feminine nominative *erythrogastris*, not *erythrogastra* as commonly written."