

one or both broods, or young birds or as eggs, were carried from the flooded area by the parents to this haven of safety. This, of course, is mere conjecture.

So far as I have been able to determine this is the first nesting of the Short-eared Owl definitely recorded from northern New Jersey.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) in Maine.—Mrs. C. W. Alexander of Hallowell, Maine, wrote one of the members of the Stanton Bird Club of Lewiston, Maine, giving a description of a strange bird that she had seen, remarking that it looked like the picture of the Arkansas Kingbird. When I read in a recent 'Auk' of the appearance of this species in Massachusetts, I was able to help her identify the bird.

Following is Mrs. Alexander's account. "I got wonderful studies of the Arkansas Kingbird as it visited the yard of a friend on the next street and I saw it at close range several times, about four feet, through a window, and ten feet in the open. Head grey; back brownish grey, yellow feathers on rump but not conspicuous; wings brown, feathers edged with white making lines lengthwise on wing; tail dark brown, two outer feathers white; bill rather long, black or very dark, lower mandible reddish next to throat; throat very light gray almost white; breast buffy; belly decidedly yellow; feet and legs black. Length about nine inches. It changed plumage somewhat after its arrival. The olive tinge of the back became quite brown and the breast much duller. I could see with my glasses tiny fluffy grey feathers that obscured it and gave it a buffy appearance. It was tempted with all sorts of grain, raisins, apple, suet, and crumbs but the only food it was seen to take was the dried berries of the woodbine which it took on the wing in true flycatcher fashion. It seemed to regurgitate, for as it sat on the clothes reel, its favorite perch, it would throw something out that I was unable to find in the snow. It was reported to me about one week before I saw it on November 12, 1920. I saw it the last time January 15, 1921. On the latter occasion sleet was frozen on its tail and back and it was so benumbed that apparently it did not notice me. It disappeared that day and never returned".—CARRIE ELLA MILLER, *Lewiston, Maine.*

Blue Jay Feeding on Pecans.—During the past fall and winter, I have been very much interested in observing the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata florincola*), feeding on pecans in the yard of my residence. Within the enclosure of my back yard, is a large pecan tree, on which remain during the winter, a few pecans hardly worth gathering on account of their size, which drop off the tree during the winter months, and which form food for the Blue Jays.

I have often noted a Jay fly down into the yard, take a pecan in his claw, alight on the top of the fence, hold on to the fence with one

foot, with the pecan in the other, peck a hole in it, and where the meat cannot be pulled out, apparently suck it from the shell. This performance is often repeated until the bird secures a meal of these nut meats. We do not disturb them in this performance and apparently they frequent the premises for that purpose.—PETER A. BRANNON, *Montgomery, Ala.*

The Starling again at Cumberland, Maryland.—My friend and correspondent at Cumberland, Md., Mr. John A. Fulton, writes me that the Starlings again turned up in that city in February 28, 1921. They also followed the same tactics as last year, wheeling about the vine-covered Episcopal church, with the apparent intention of settling down in the vines, but the English Sparrows lodging there promptly went at them again and again, until the Starlings withdrew and settled down in some trees nearby. This was repeated for several days.—G. EFRIG, *Oak Park, Ill.*

Evening Grosbeak Breeding in Michigan.—For a number of years I have had a flock of Evening Grosbeaks (20 to 60) feeding at my house every winter. About the end of May the last one would disappear and none would be seen again until they reappeared the latter part of October to again spend the winter. Last spring Dr. Christofferson, my associate in bird work, and myself heard rumors that a number of Evening Grosbeaks had summered during 1920 near Munising Junction, some 115 miles west of the Soo, had been there all winter and were still there. The doctor visited the Junction June 1, 1921, and saw six of the Grosbeaks. The station agent stated the Grosbeaks had been around all the previous winter and summer. The doctor arranged with the agent to keep track of the birds this summer and again visited the Junction, September 4. He saw twenty, including a number of young birds and on September 9, eleven. The agent informed him he had kept track of the birds and they had been around all summer.

Early in July we had reports that Evening Grosbeaks were at Hulbert, some forty miles west of the Soo. July 17, 1921, the doctor and I visited that locality. We only had an hour between trains. We did not see any birds but were told by several people the Grosbeaks had been there that morning, were there almost daily and had been there all the previous winter.

August 24, while at breakfast a male Evening Grosbeak came in to one of my feeding boxes. The next day there were three males, two females, and one young in immature plumage and hardly able to fly. August 26 I saw two very young birds. There are ten or a dozen birds in the flock and they are still here September 10.—M. J. MAGEE, *Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.*

Albinism in the Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Passerherbulus cauda-*