

about 20 miles beyond the limits of our territory, and it therefore seems probable that this bird occurs here oftener than the records indicate. Several writers refer to its fondness for the topmost branches of high trees. By the first week of May, in this latitude, the trees are usually nearly in full leaf, and the identification of a warbler in the tops is very difficult. In this connection, it is interesting to note that in 1904 and 1907 late frosts and continued cold greatly retarded the development of the foliage, and in each of these years, the Cerulean Warbler was twice noted in this vicinity.—M. T. COOKE, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D C.*

Defense Note of the Chickadee.—The article on this subject, by Mr. A. W. Schorger, in the July 'Auk' was of interest to me because of having had a similar experience the same spring. My nest was in a low decayed stub, the cavity leading straight down from the top. The locality a swampy woods; the ground at foot of stub being exceedingly spongy and full of water.

I had tapped on the nest site with no results, so thought I would look into the entrance. Bending over I peered in with one eye and was greeted with a sort of gasping hiss not unlike the noise made when the last of the water disappears from a wash bowl. I really thought that standing near the stub had forced water up into it, and that when I moved back a little to bend over it had sucked out again. So I tried treading around the stub and stepping back, but heard no noise. Again putting my eye to the hole I got hissed, and at last determined it was a parent Chickadee. After several experiments I could see part of the operation, the bird rising up a little in the cavity suddenly, and opening its mouth wide to make the noise. Withdrawing some distance the male bird finally alit on top of the stub, and though making no call audible to me the female almost instantly popped out of the entrance and he took her place. The hissing noise, together with the bird's open mouth dimly seen down in the cavity certainly would make the uninitiated think of snakes.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio.*

Peculiar Note of Carolina Chickadee.—Having read with interest Mr. A. W. Schorger's article in the last number of 'The Auk' entitled, "Defense note of Chickadee (*Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*)," I might set forth a similar experience that I had with a Carolina Chickadee (*Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis*).

On March 15, 1920, a Chickadee with a bill-full of feathers was seen in my yard; it soon went into a hole in a dead peach stub about seven feet up. On April 1, two eggs, covered with down, were found in the cavity; six eggs were laid in all.

Late in the afternoon of March 28, I tapped on the tree; one of the birds was inside and gave a peculiar note, not a hiss such as Mr. Schorger heard, but more like a little sneeze. This was repeated every time I tapped. Several times the bird tapped on the inside of the cavity. Finally it put its head out of the hole and calmly looked at me as I stood about three