

feet away. I withdrew and it went back into the hollow. No eggs had yet been laid.

Five out of the six eggs hatched and the young were successfully reared; they left the nest on the morning of May 5.—E. VON S. DINGLE, *Summer-ton, S. C.*

Bird Interference on High Tension Electric Transmission Lines.

—While changing a live, 3-phase, 13,000 volt line it was observed that the insulators and metal cross-arms were favorite resting places for the Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*), The Florida Crow (*Corvus b. pascuus*), and the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). The Vultures and Crows will perch upon the insulators, metal cross-arms, or the static ground bayonets and the expanse of their wings is sufficient to produce a short-circuit between the conductors or a ground connection between the conductors and the static ground system. In the case of 13,000 volts, the current will arc 7/10 of an inch through the air to connect with the bird's wing and the arc will follow several inches, often burning up the bird and melting the line fuses. In a slightly different way the Shrikes meet their death and suspend industries which depend on the high tension line for power. The Shrike flies with its grasshopper or lizard to the pole and decides that the sharp end of the tie wire is an excellent place to impale its victim. When the Shrike comes within striking distance of the voltage on the live conductor a flash-over occurs and a bird and a fuse are gone. It is doubtful whether the birds will ever appreciate the danger of this silent, unseen power. These observations were made in South Jacksonville during the summer of 1921.—THOMAS HALLINAN, *Jacksonville, Florida.*

Scarcity of Breeding Birds in Duval County, Florida.—While making a survey of the cold-blooded vertebrates in Duval County during December, 1920; February, March, May, June, September, October, 1921; and January, February, March, April, May, June, July, 1922, our parties of from two to nine observers covered in the aggregate about 925 miles through the different types of woods—pines, palmettoes, cypress, oaks, bays, magnolias, and regions of thick undergrowths as well as fresh and brackish water swamps. After covering all this territory and making a special effort to note the existance of nesting birds, only two observations were made. One was the abandoned nest of a Fish Hawk (*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*) on a high tree near New Berlin, noted June 4, 1922, and the other was a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) with a nest containing four eggs in a thick shrub about three feet from the ground near Orange Park, noted April 23, 1922. In this region, at certain seasons, the migrants were numerous but the resident birds, during this period of observation were relatively few in numbers and in species. This negative evidence concerning the existance of occupied or abandoned bird's nests may be due to this region's position in the zone of abrupt transition from the

near-tropical climate of Central and South Florida to the temperate latitudes to the north.—THOMAS HALLINAN, *Jacksonville, Florida.*

Notes on Birds of Madison, Wisconsin, and Vicinity.

Phalacrocorax a. auritus. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—During the last few years there has been a striking increase in the numbers of this species during migration. On May 1, 1921, a flock of at least 500 was seen to leave the "Widespread" and start northward, the front of the column being about half a mile wide. On April 29, 1922, three flocks numbering about 200, 200, and 50 individuals, were seen flying a short distance apart over Lake Mendota. On the following day there were about 1,000 birds on the lower lakes.

On April 12, 1922, a flock of 14 Double-crested Cormorants was seen over the waters of Lake Monona. They flew in ascending circles, now soaring, now flapping their wings, until they had attained a great height; then suddenly swinging into V-formation, they started southward and were soon lost to view. Their behaviour corresponded exactly with that reported for a Loon (*Gavia immer*) by Barnes (Bent—Life Histories of North American Diving Birds, p. 55); this observation, coupled with the fact that the Loon is rarely if ever known to sail, renders it highly probable that there was an error in identification.

Passerherbulus n. nelsoni. NELSON'S SPARROW.—A fine male was collected near De Forest, Sept. 24, 1921. Although listed by Kumlien and Hollister as abundant at Lake Koshkonong in the fall, this is the only specimen that the writer has seen in this vicinity during a period of ten years.

Nyctea nyctea. SNOWY OWL.—I was informed by Mr. George Williamson that a Snowy Owl spent about ten days in February of this year on his farm on Lake Waubesa.

Bombycilla garrula. BOHEMIAN WAXWING.—This species was present in small numbers during the past winter, from Dec. 24, to March 22, 1922.

Pinicola enucleator leucura. PINE GROSBEAK.—A flock of six was seen on Jan. 1, and another of eight on Feb. 22, 1922, all in female or immature plumage. In both cases the birds were feeding on the buds of the European larch (*Larix decidua*).

The Bohemian Waxwing and Pine Grosbeak, contrary to what might be expected, are by no means common winter visitors.

Buteo platypterus. BROAD-WINGED HAWK.—This appears to be an uncommon breeding species in southern Wisconsin. A set of three eggs—incubation about ten days—was taken near Madison on May 27, 1922, and turned over to Prof. George Wagner of the University of Wisconsin. The nest, situated about 37 feet from the ground in the forks of an oak in the midst of a thick woods, was lined with bark scales, a few chicken feathers, and dry but green oak leaves; outside dimensions 24 x