

ground, on a small limb and against the trunk of a scrub pine. The situation was open and exposed and with no concealment except the blending of color with bark on the tree. It seemed very tame and permitted me to approach within a few feet before flying. The stomach contained the nearly digested remains of three mice. These skulls were identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser as the Deer Mouse (*Peromyscus leocopus noveboracensis*). The thick feathers of this bird were well populated with fleas. I am no authority on insects but these seemed to me to be the same as the fleas commonly found on the Red Squirrel.—LIEUT. L. R. WOLFE, 26th U. S. Infantry, Plattsburg, N. Y.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Philadelphia in August.—The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius varius*) is a common transient in Philadelphia, and arrives in the fall normally about September 22, according to my experience, consequently I was astonished to see one here on August 21, 1922, at Frankford. It was a female and perched for over a minute in plain sight on the trunk of a tulip tree, about fifteen feet up, and twenty feet distant, in the edge of a wood, by a road. There was a "wave" of Redstarts migrating at the time and I believe the Sapsucker came south with these Warblers as it followed them through the wood. It was the first Sapsucker I have ever seen here in August and exceeds my next record by almost a month.—RICHARD F. MILLER, Philadelphia, Pa.

Gray Kingbird in New Jersey.—The date of observation of the Gray Kingbird, at Cape May, N. J., was inadvertently omitted in the note published in the July 'Auk.' It was on the annual Memorial Day field trip of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, May 30, 1923. Dr. Witmer Stone informs me that he visited the spot on June 1, and frequently during July and August but saw no trace of the bird.—JULIAN K. POTTER, Camden, N. J.

Further Notes on the breeding of the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at Hatley, Que.—In my previous note 'Auk,' Vol. XL, 1923, p. 539, the pair of birds there recorded were still feeding their young on the last of the dates mentioned, viz.: May 31, 1923. This they continued to do until June 4, when the young left the nest. Two days later I was surprised to see the parents again taking building material to the old nest and by the 28th they were busy feeding their second brood. This brood left the nest early in the morning of July 16, the parents gathering food off my lawn and feeding their offspring, which were in the trees opposite the house. Early in June, I was told by Mr. G. P. Hitchcock of Massawippi, that he had seen six birds during the spring and that a pair had nested in his barn. On the 6th of the month, I myself saw a pair of birds near this same village (which is three miles from Hatley), carrying food to their young, the nest being situated in the hole of a large poplar tree, standing on the road side near a farm house. From five to seven pale blue eggs are laid, and a case

similar to that of the Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) is on record, where a bird laid as many as forty eggs, the recorder persistently removing one egg a day from the nest. The Starling is not regularly double brooded, but often a second brood is reared, and eggs dropped by the impetuous bird are not uncommon as well as cases of its breeding out of season. In England the status of the Starling is complicated, some of the birds being residents, but others leave in the autumn to return in the spring as summer visitants, whilst numbers from the north and east of Europe winter there, and some travelling further south (to northern Africa probably) are birds of passage only. What the exact status of the Starling in Canada will be is still doubtful. Will it become a resident in those parts where the winters are comparatively mild, and a migrant in those such as Hatley where the winters as a rule are vigorous, with the thermometer often dropping to 30°, or more, below zero? Time alone will tell, but personally I should not be at all surprised to find that, like the English Sparrow, it becomes acclimatized to withstand even the coldest winters, in which case we shall have it always with us. As I conclude this note, I see from 'Bird-Lore,' Vol. XXV, 1923, No. 4, p. 249, which has just come to hand (Aug. 3), that a pair of Starlings have bred this year at Port Dover, Ontario, making their nest in a hole in the side of a flour mill, and had two young, according to Mr. F. A. Barwick of Toronto, Ont.—HENRY MOUSLEY, *Hatley, Que.*

Yellow-headed Blackbird in Vermont.—Some time ago a friend of mine, Mr. Henry S. Wardner of Windsor, Vermont, told me of his having seen a Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) several years before at that place. At the time, he could not remember the exact date, but promised to send it to me. The following is quoted from letters recently received from him regarding this occurrence:

"At Windsor, Vermont, on Sunday, August 27, 1916, I was confined to my bed-room by illness. Between the hours of eight A. M. and noon of that day I heard through the open windows what I believed was the call of a bird. The note was unfamiliar to me. It was repeated several times, and seemed to proceed from a clump of trees below and to the easterly of my house, and about one hundred yards distant. I looked in that direction but saw nothing strange. As a matter of fact the view was pretty well blocked by the leaves of a large sugar maple which stands near the northeast corner of my house.

"Some minutes later I heard the same cry near my room. I got out of bed, looked from my north window, and saw within about twenty feet from where I stood or sat, and about on a level with my eyes, a Yellow-headed Blackbird. He was moving restlessly from branch to branch in an English mountain ash. He seemed nervous and irritated because of the presence of other birds. These last—I do not recall whether they were Song Sparrows or some other common birds—to the number of four or five, seemed to regard the Yellow-headed Blackbird as a curiosity or possibly as a menace. They did not attack him while I was looking on.