

Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, Eaton's 'Birds of New York' and Knight's 'Birds of Maine,' there is no mention whatever of the bill. Barrows in 'Michigan Bird-Life,' describes the bill of *richardsoni* as white. During the last winter, when this Owl was so common in New England, this field mark was called to the attention of the Nuttall Club, and it certainly is evident in the field. So far as we know, there are few records of the Richardson's Owl in New England except in the winter months. Audubon took a specimen near Bangor in September, and the bird is supposed to breed in the vicinity of Montreal.—WARREN F. EATON, *Weston, Mass.*, and HASKELL B. CURRY, *Boston, Mass.*

Food Habits of Owls.—I find some old notes on Owls which indicate quite plainly the after-dark rapacity of these creatures—small as well as big—and the size of the prey which they are capable of killing.

The late Mr. Arthur Johnson of Malden who shot during one season (about 1914) at a goose-stand near Hyannis, this state, told me that they found one morning in December one of their decoy Geese dead on the beach where he had been tethered over night, "with a hole eaten in his back." They let the dead bird lie, and in the dusk of the evening waited "in the battery" for the marauder (which they supposed to be an animal of some sort) to return to his "kill." When daylight was almost gone, so that they could scarcely see beyond a few feet, they discerned something "apparently fluttering" where the body of the Goose could be seen dimly in the gathering darkness out on the beach. They shot in the direction of the moving thing, without in the least knowing what it was—and to their surprise, picked up a huge Horned Owl. The bird was strongly impregnated with the odor of a skunk.

The other Owl story has to do with what might be termed the "anti-podes" of *Bubo*—the little Saw-whet. Mr. E. Cutting of Lyme, New Hampshire, once told me that in the fall a few years ago he found that something was killing his Pigeons. He thought it might be a mink or a weasel or some other animal. He had 25 Pigeons that roosted nightly on sticks put up for perches in his barn. The dove-hole was close by in the barn door. Seven Pigeons lay dead one morning on the hay beneath their perches. The birds' heads were gone, some feathers were lying about and there was some blood on their bodies; otherwise there was no sign. The following evening Mr. Cutting went by stealth into his barn. By the light of his lantern he found two more headless Pigeons on the hay. Looking up he saw the "killer" perched on a beam. He despatched it with a long stick. It was a Saw-whet Owl.—J. A. FARLEY, 52 Cedar St., Malden, Mass.

Lewis's Woodpecker Visits Chicago.—On May 24, 1923, Mrs. T. E. Telfer, 1514 Estes Avenue, Roger's Park, Chicago, reported to the Field Museum that a strange-looking Woodpecker had been called to her attention by Mr. Earl E. Adcock, who resides two houses west of her.

On the afternoon of May 26, I visited the home of Mrs Telfer, who informed me that the bird had been seen by her at 9 o'clock that morning and also at 2:30 that afternoon. We then went to the garden and had not long to wait until the rare visitor made its appearance. It perched on the top of a large bird-house in the center of Mr. Adcock's garden. I had an exceptionally good view of the bird, because the bird-house stood by itself and because Mrs. Telfer kindly loaned me her field glasses. I noticed that the Woodpecker seemed quite contented among the many other species of birds making their homes there, such as Robins, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Orioles and Bronzed Blackbirds. There were many, very fine, large shade trees, which furnished ideal nesting sites for the just-mentioned birds.

This bird, *Asyndesmus lewisi*, strayed a considerable distance from its recorded range, as it nests from western Nebraska and the Black Hills in South Dakota to the inner coast ranges of California, and is casual in western Kansas.—ASHLEY HINE, *Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Chicago, Illinois.*

Pileated Woodpecker in Washington County, N. Y.—Cossayuna Lake is located in about the center of Washington County, N. Y., and has an elevation of 495 feet. On July 23, 1922, Prof. Barnard S. Bronson, of the State College for Teachers, Albany, N. Y., who was with me for a few days studying the birds, called my attention to a Northern Pileated Woodpecker (*Phloeotomus pileatus abieticola*) on a tree near the shore of the lake. I saw this bird several times during the next two weeks. During July of this year Fred F. Houghton of New York and I saw three of these Woodpeckers at one time on a dead tree in the same locality. In a woods about half a mile away, and probably 100 feet higher elevation, I saw one of these Woodpeckers drilling a large hole in a dead tree. One or two of these birds were seen every day for a period of two weeks. Last year in July a pair of Wood Ducks with nine young were seen at this lake, and this year a female with seven young and also four adults were seen. As E. E. Caduc of Boston reports seeing two Pileated Woodpeckers at Grafton, Rensselaer County, N. Y., elevation 1,500 feet, it would appear that these Woodpeckers are quite generally distributed throughout the central eastern part of New York State.—CLARENCE HOUGHTON, *533 Washington Avenue, Albany, N. Y.*

Chimney Swift Nesting in a Cistern—On July 4, 1923 I found a Chimney Swift's nest in an abandoned cistern about one mile east of the town of Magnolia, Putnam County, Ill. At the time of its discovery a bird was sitting on the nest while its mate flying out on expeditions and returning every few minutes to the cistern. The sitting bird preened itself and revealed at least one young, about two days old. It looked up at me but did not leave the nest. The mate attempted to fly out past my face twice but returned to cling to the cistern wall each time. It twittered occasionally but showed no great fright.

An abandoned nest occupied another part of the cistern wall.