

days old. Mr. Whittle also saw the young birds on that date and noticed that one of them was much smaller and weaker than the others.

On August 15, the weakling had vanished and the other three young birds were banded by Mr. Conover Fitch and Mr. Richard B. Harding. Their feathers had started to burst from the quills.

On August 18, Mr. Whittle reported that the young birds showed fear for the first time.

Mr. James MacKaye and Mr. Farley from the Division of Ornithology, State of Massachusetts, observed the family and nest on August 19. The next day the young left the nest under normal circumstances.

The adult Mockingbirds were last seen on September 6, near their nesting site. This appears to be the fifth nesting record and the second banding record for the state of Massachusetts (See Allen, 'Auk,' 1909, pp. 433 and Wright, 'Auk,' 1921, pp. 382).

The many observers who saw the nesting Mockingbirds are greatly indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Nickerson for welcoming them so cordially at "Briarfield" and also for their coöperation in keeping a record of the bird's activities.—KATHARINE C. HARDING, 94 Westbourne Terrace, Brookline, Mass.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Carolina Wren in Minneapolis.—

On April 18, 1924, I saw a male Blue-gray Gnatcatcher just south of the city limits in the lowlands of the Mississippi River at Fort Snelling.

Two days later one was seen on the banks of the Minnesota River at the Fort and on April 25, several members of the Audubon Society saw two which seemed to be a pair in the same locality.

About the beginning of the second week of May, 1923, Mrs. J. L. Wicks saw a Gnatcatcher well within the city limits on two successive days.

On April 29, 1924, I saw a Carolina Wren near Lake Calhoun in the city and a few days later Mrs. Wicks saw one within a mile of the same place.

No evidence could be found of the nesting of either of these birds, but their presence here together with that of the Cardinal Grosbeak, the Tufted Titmouse, and the Red-bellied Woodpecker, already reported this year, indicate the progress that is being made in the northerly extension of the austral fauna in Minnesota.—FRANCES S. DAVIDSON, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Notes on the Water Ouzel (*Cinclus mexicanus*) in the Mountains of Colorado.—During July and August, 1924, it was the pleasure of the writer and family to make a study of a plucky little inhabitant of the mountain regions of Colorado, the American Dipper or Water Ouzel. The particular family observed had built their nest on the banks of a swift stream which ran through Calcite, a mountain village at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Range of the Rockies.

Practically all their food is secured from mountain streams. The male

and female would fly close to the water, following the course of the stream. When they came to a favorable place, they would drop to a stone, and then wade into the water, soon disappearing under the surface. They swam with legs stretching as if for a race, and used their wings to propel them through the water. It made no difference how swift the current, for they can swim with and against the stream with equal ease. The tail is little more than half as long as the wings, and is used for steering purposes and seems to be an important factor in raising themselves into the air. The birds seldom make an excursion under water without finding some food, mainly grubs.

The nest of this family was located three feet from the surface of the water, right at a sudden fall of the stream where the spray would dash along the bank. It was a beautiful oven-shaped structure with its opening on the side, and was made of green mosses kept fresh by spray and placed among roots and moss so that it was effectually camouflaged.

The birds soon became friendly and I was able to get quite close for observations. The little birds were hatched July 1 and 2, and I succeeded in banding them on July 8. They became Nos. 64538, 64539, 64540 and 64541.

Both parents were kept busy feeding the young. The "cut, cut, cut" of the adults as they flew up and down stream for food, and the answering hungry call of the small birds, could be heard from dawn until dark. By actual count, on five different occasions, and at different hours of the day, the writer found that the male parent made ten and twelve feedings to each hour, and the female from ten to fourteen feedings. These observations were made at different hours on July 17, 18, and 20, and indicated that the small birds divided among them the food brought by the parents twenty to twenty-six times an hour. At first it seemed that the larger and stronger bird was getting all the food, but records showed that during the time of throwing excreta from the nest the young changed positions, and that the adults tried to divide the feedings by placing the grubs first in one mouth, and the next time in another. As the little birds were constantly removing refuse from the nest, the food was fairly well divided.

The birds grew rapidly. On July 19, one of the little ones (64539) was missing. On July 23, near 6 P. M. the others left the nest. The writer was only successful in finding two of these. The male parent took charge of one of them, and the mother took the other. The next three days were spent in teaching the young how to master the art of securing food, and overcoming their fear of the swift current, and in feeding them. They soon learned to travel along the banks and fly short distances. Several times the young birds got into the stream and I was ready to effect a rescue, but they always managed to reach a rock before I could get near them. The parent birds sometimes tried to draw our attention from the young, but usually they paid no attention to our presence.

They continued to encourage and sometimes to feed the young for almost three weeks. When we left the vicinity, about August 25, the adults

were still faithfully overseeing the young.—J. B. RISHEL, *Skinner Jr. High School, Denver, Colo.*

Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Summer in the Adirondack Mts., N. Y.—On June 16, 1922, on the upper slope of Mount Whiteface, just North of Wilmington, New York, at an elevation of about 3900 feet, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula calendula*) was noted in a dense growth of Balsam Fir. The bird was in full song and the lateness of the date suggested the probability that it might be nesting in the vicinity. The nest was not found, however, and only the one bird was observed.—JOSEPH KITTREDGE, JR., *St. Paul, Minn.*

Robin Feeds Young House Finch.—Hills' observation of a Wren feeding Black-headed Grosbeaks in the October number of 'The Auk,' (pages 615-616) reminds me of observations made at my home many years ago, which have not been published. A pair of Robins were nesting on one pillar of our front porch, and a pair of House Finches on another pillar. The Robins were repeatedly observed trying to poke angle-worms down the tiny throats of the young House Finches during the absence of the Finch parents. The difference in feeding habits between the two species naturally made trouble, and when the parent Finches occasionally caught the Robins at the job there was a fine row. The performance was repeated at frequent intervals for several days. The Robins were feeding their own young at the same time, so the explanation offered by Mr. Hills in case of the Wren and Grosbeak would not apply.—JUNIOUS HENDERSON, *Boulder, Colorado.*

Michigan Notes.—SPIZELLA PALLIDA. *Clay-colored Sparrow.*—One or two birds were noted on the Higgins Lake State Forest about four miles south of Roscommon on June 26, 29, and July 6, 1924. The male birds were giving their characteristic songs and were in the same location on the Jack pine and scrub oak plains on the three days. Four birds including one young which could not yet fly were noted on the Ogemaw State Forest, five miles northwest of West Branch, on July 11. Two males in song were heard at the same place July 12. One was heard on the Pigeon River State Forest, twelve miles east of Vanderbilt on July 28. Two were noted in the southwest corner of Presque Isle County on July 30, 1924. Four were seen at Vulcan near the Wisconsin boundary on August 11. Apparently the species is much more common, and particularly in the Lower Peninsula than is indicated in Barrows' 'Michigan Bird Life.'

PRAIRIE WARBLER. *Dendroica discolor.*—A lone bird was seen July 3, 1924, at Lovell's in the northeast corner of Crawford County.

UPLAND PLOVER. *Bartramia longicauda.*—One fifteen miles northwest of East Tawas on June 20 and 22, 1924. One just northeast of Grayling, July 3. One at Beaver Lake, July 10, 1924. In each case the birds were in openings on the dry sandy Jack pine plains where they were doubtless breeding.—JOSEPH KITTREDGE JR., *St. Paul, Minn.*