

shank. It seems that this would further attest the correctness of our identification.

Owing to an error our names printed under the two items in the January 'Auk,' entitled the "Black Skimmer and Golden Plover, and the Wilson Phalarope, in Bronx County," were misspelled. They should read: JOHN AND RICHARD KUERZI and PHILIP KESSLER.

Notes on the Mating Habits of the Sparrow Hawk.—For several years, Sparrow Hawks (*Falco s. sparverius*) have been more or less constantly in evidence in the vicinity of the State Education Building at Albany, New York. In the spring of 1922, a pair established their hunting headquarters on the tops of some marble columns which are a few feet below and a hundred feet away from my office windows. On these columns and on the edge of the roof some thirty feet above, the activities here recorded were carried on. The notes were jotted down on a calendar pad when the observations were made and are given practically as then written.

April 6. A pair of Sparrow Hawks rested for several minutes on the top of the columns, within two feet of several pigeons.

April 7. Mated once on the edge of the roof.

April 14. On top of the columns and mating. Preliminary to mating, the birds faced one another and slowly bobbed their heads and tails, the female keeping up a continuous low call. Mated five times at intervals of five minutes and in each instance the male dropped his tail to the left of the up-turned tail of the female.

April 15. Mated three times in fifteen minutes, the female calling continuously while the male calls loudly only when approaching the female. The call of the female is a low pee-'ep, pee-'ep, pee-'ep. After mating, the female sometimes continues to call and flutter her wings while the male rests near by with drooping wings and head drawn down on the shoulders.

April 17. Raining. Female called most of the afternoon. After mating, the male sometimes mounts high in the air and performs some remarkable evolutions—spirals, short dashes and a rapid drop ending on the back of the female.

April 18. Raining. Female continues to call. Mated once at 10:34 A. M.

April 19. Female took a young squab from nest in stucco work near top of column and flew to roof. Pigeon attacked the Hawk and followed for a few yards until the Hawk turned and struck out two or three of the pigeon's feathers.

April 21. Mated once at 4:20 P. M.

During the last week in April, the Hawks moved to the opposite end of the Education Building and hunted Sparrows that were nesting behind the wire screen covering the window in a nearby church. The frightened Sparrows flew wildly up and down within the limits of the window frame, followed closely in every movement by the Hawks on the outside.

May 4. Mated at 7:30 P. M.

Judging from these few observations, the female takes the initiative in mating. Her calls are continuous for many minutes at a time and are often accompanied by fluttered wings and definite approach towards the male. The male was observed to call only when actually dropping down to the female.—SHERMAN C. BISHOP, *New York State Museum*.

Habits of the Marsh Hawk.—Mr. R. A. Turtle, Chicago taxidermist, recently showed me a Marsh Hawk in the gray plumage, which had been brought in to be mounted January 18 by Dr. Ray Morris Gibbs of Palatine, Illinois. This Hawk had killed seven of his flock of fourteen Hungarian Partridges on his place in the past two weeks. It would tear the back open and rip the flesh and skin off in strips.

Dr. Gibbs finally caught the Hawk in a steel trap by tying the body of one of the Partridges alongside, and covering the trap with straw.

The Marsh Hawk is rare here in winter, and does not usually kill game of this size.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

Tyto pratincola in Northeastern Illinois.—The Barn Owl is a rare bird in this region. I had never seen it alive, and until September 12, 1909, when one was brought in by Wm. Aldridge, had not handled a fresh one. Recently two fine specimens were secured by farmers near Highland Park—one, a female, was shot as it crouched in the grass on the edge of the Skokie Marsh, on December 20, 1924; the other, a male, was picked up frozen on the side of the road on January 12, 1925.

Both were presented to me and are now nos. 30022 and 30025 in my collection.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Illinois*.

Northern Pileated Woodpecker in Clayton Co., Iowa.—Although Anderson's 'Birds of Iowa' gives the Northern Pileated Woodpecker as rare in Iowa, observations in Clayton County do not tend to substantiate this. Records of eight years on my part, backed by the long experience of Miss Althea R. Sherman of National, Iowa, show that this Woodpecker is not as rare as is generally supposed. My home is six miles west of McGregor, Iowa, and there are still large belts of heavy timber close by. For seven years I have observed this bird at all seasons of the year in these timber belts and I had the idea that it was a case of a few pairs only to be found locally. This summer and fall, I made trips of from four to twenty miles from my place and I found this bird in the same degree of abundance. It is clear to me that this big Woodpecker can be found in all parts of Clayton County where heavy timber exists. Observers disagree as to the shyness of this bird, and I can only say that I have always found it exceedingly so. I took a female on November 12, 1924, after many attempts, which is now mounted and in my collection. Under date of December 10, 1924, Miss Sherman kindly gave me data desired and permission to use testimony which follows.

"That Dr. Anderson had no reporters from northeastern Iowa is most