

	A	B	C	D	Totals
Aug. 4, 1921 . . . . .	12	3	3	3	21
Aug. 3, 1922 . . . . .	8	9	1	4	22
Aug. 9, 1923 . . . . .	22-24	35-38	1	15-20	73-82
Aug. 8, 1925 . . . . .	1	3	0	1	5

The tracts are the same, in buildings and residents, as twenty-five years ago. There have been practically no Plover shot over them for ten years. Yet the species has dwindled lamentably and this year is at its vanishing point.—HERBERT H. BECK, *Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa.*

**Late Nesting of Bob-white.**—What constitutes an exceptionally late nesting record came to my attention on September 11, 1924, when a female Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus virginianus*) was flushed from her nest and nine eggs in the tall grass just off the fair green of a local golf course. The location was a rather open one and frequent passing within a few feet must have been an almost daily occurrence.—HAROLD M. HOLLAND, *Galesburg, Ill.*

**Nesting of Mourning Doves during September, 1925, in Norman, Oklahoma.**—Western Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*) were found to be nesting on the campus of the University of Oklahoma in greater numbers this fall than during any previous autumn in our experience; no less than 41 occupied nests were located during September, besides three broods of young that had left the nest during the month. (In 1919, our record for September was 31 nests, in 1920, 14, in 1921, 8, in 1922, 12, and in 1923, 8. Sixteen of the nests this year were in hackberries, 13 in elms, 4 in locusts, 4 in mulberries, one in osage orange, one in a black walnut, one in a willow and one in a silver maple—the first case we have found. Cottonwoods and young tulip trees are consistently avoided. The height of these nests varied from 7 to 30 feet, their average being 14.8 feet. Twenty-five nests were placed on branches and 14 in crotches, *i. e.* 64 per cent in the former position and 36 in the latter. Six nests—14.6 per cent—were built on top of other nests.

Despite two cold hard rains the Doves this fall had a remarkably successful season, for of the 39 broods whose outcome we knew, 32 raised young to maturity *i. e.* 82 per cent. We had no clue as to the cause of two of the seven failures; as to the others, in one case the eggs were deserted, in another the nine-day-old squab was found dead on the ground as if knocked out by accident by its parents, while in the remaining three instances scattered pin feathers and cat tracks in the mud revealed the culprit. Of the 32 successful broods, in 9 only one young bird grew to maturity, while the rest raised their full quota of two; this gives an average of 1.7 young for each successful nest. This is the same result we found in our study<sup>1</sup> of Mourning Doves from 1919 to 1922. In fact, the average

<sup>1</sup> 'The Auk,' XXXIX, 1922. 457-474, XL, 1923. 37-58.

height of the nests, the percentages built on branches and in crotches and also on other nests were very similar to those of the more extended investigation, despite the fact that, due partly no doubt to the severe pruning in 1923 of the older trees on the campus, most of the Doves have moved into a new grove of young trees. The one great difference between our former results and those of this fall lies in the unprecedented number of successful nests this September.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Norman, Okla.*

**Nesting Habits of the Barn Owl.**—It is a recognized fact that the Barn Owl utilizes the same nesting cavity for years. Excellent proof of this fact was furnished the writers this past summer (1925) upon finding the same pair (see 'The Auk' April, 1925) again occupying the identical cavity they used the preceding year. The adult female (No. 204477) was captured on the nest in order to make the identification positive. The adult male, while not captured, we are certain was the same mate of a year ago, judging from his general appearance and actions which corresponded with our previous observations.

While we were unable to make an intensive study of the birds this year, we made visits from time to time to witness the development of the seven young ones,—the same number as the previous year. One night, while we were watching the parent birds bring food to the young, the male entered the tower with a field mouse and perched four feet from us for a period of *twenty minutes*, obviously blinded by our electric flashlight! After many unsuccessful attempts, we then finally secured, with the assistance of Mr. Geo. H. Beatty, Jr., a flashlight picture of him carrying a fat field mouse in his beak.

It has been claimed that certain species of Owls perch with two toes forward and two behind. The photographs we have obtained prove this to be the case with both adult and immature Barn Owls.

The youngest Owl of last year's brood perished in the nest. Of this year's brood, the youngest (No. 233485) was shot, August 20, 1925, at Somers Point, N. J., approximately fifty miles southeast of the place where it was banded, while No. 233482 was shot on November 16, 1925, at Wilmington, N. C., about 400 miles south of the banding point. Both of these returns are from points on the Atlantic Coast, showing evidences of a southerly migration by immature birds of this species.

That the parent birds of this brood are permanent residents, was verified by observations made at the nesting site on October 31, 1925, when the pair was flushed from the tower. We had come prepared to repair the flooring of the nest cavity which had broken through on one side, but found the Owls had attended to this themselves, for the damaged portion was clogged with feathers, pellets, etc. To our amazement, the nest cavity contained five downy fledglings. Pin-feathers had appeared in the wings of the two largest. We judged their ages to be from ten to fifteen days. On a subsequent visit, November 14, they were still downy, excepting wing primaries and tail which were feathered in proportion to