

within a hundred feet with the sun at our backs we saw that the birds were really "Gold-backs;" one male in full nuptial plumage with two females. Collection would have been not only sacrilege but unnecessary for identification as the birds were later approached to within fifty feet, being as tame as the numbers the writer found on the golf course at Galveston, Texas, early in March. We believe that this is the first authentic record of this species along the Westchester-Fairfield shore of Long Island Sound, and, to our knowledge, the only spring record for the New York City region since May 10, 1885.—RUTGERS R. COLES, *Mamaroneck, N. Y.*

Another Late Nesting of Bob-white.—In the "General Notes" of 'The Auk,' January, 1926, I mentioned having found a Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus virginianus*) incubating eggs on September 11, 1924. An even later nesting date occurred this year (1926). On September 21 young hatched from nine eggs in a nest observed by Mr. Allen A. Green in Des Moines County, Iowa, who states that some twelve days before, while mowing alfalfa, the female Bob-white was flushed from the nest, and the eggs were left so generally exposed it was a surprise they were not abandoned.—HAROLD M. HOLLAND, *Galesburg, Ill.*

Monetary Value of Marsh Hawks.—The appraisal of the value of birds and its estimation in dollars and cents has given rise to a varied assortment of figures. From the very complexity of the problem and the many intangible factors that may enter into it, not to mention the variable degree of personal zeal displayed by the appraiser himself, such figures fall largely in the category of mere guesses. Few of them can be looked upon as products of truly scientific deduction. With any one of our common birds feeding on hundreds of specifically different items, each one of which in turn may have a greater or less effect for good or harm, what chance is there in our present state of knowledge to interpret this work in terms of the coin of the realm?

It is with a bit of hesitation, therefore, that I submit this contribution on the Marsh Hawk. The fact that the appraisal given is an estimate of the value of only one activity of this bird, exhibited under peculiar conditions where its worth could be readily compared with factors upon which a more or less definite monetary value could be placed, affords the necessary excuse.

During September, 1926, I was engaged in working out measures of crop protection against the depredations of Red-winged Blackbirds and Bobolinks on the Oaks Plantation, ten miles south of Wilmington, N. C. With the exception of a few acres on one other plantation a few miles to the south, the Oaks Plantation supports the only cultivated rice now being grown in North Carolina. Here Bobolinks on their southward migration meet the first of the few remaining ricefields in the South Atlantic States. These birds aided by resident and migratory Redwings are still important hindrances to the successful production of rice. Bird minding must be