

fork. All five cavities were contained in a radius of ten feet, and four were within six feet of each other. All the nests held young birds with the exception of one Flicker, and the eggs therein were on the point of hatching.

This constitutes, by far, the most condensed instance of community nesting of which the writer is aware. One finds such things sometimes in a Heron rookery or among a colony of sea-birds, but for such species as the above it is highly unusual to say the least. All the dwellers of this avian apartment house were living in perfect harmony, and a later trip by Mr. Rutledge showed the young to be progressing satisfactorily in all the nests.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.

Use of Former Nest Sites.—For thirty-five years a Wood Pewee's (*Myiochanes virens*) nest has been placed in the same fork of an elm tree about forty feet from the ground. The Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewicki bewicki*) also chooses the same location year after year. At Delaware, Ohio, early in the season of 1903, two old Robins' nests in a cedar tree were used by Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*) and at New Vienna this same thing has been observed. One pair has used the same Robin's nest in the cornice of a house for three successive seasons. A little lining is always added to the nest. In two instances old Brown Thrashers' nests were used and in one instance a Robin's nest was appropriated soon after the young left the nest.

In three instances I have observed Brown Thrashers completely renovating old last year's nests.

Two pairs of Robins (*Planesticus migratorius migratorius*) have used the same nest in cornices of the houses for several seasons. Both put in new mud and lining each time the nest was used.

A Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) built on its old last year's nest.—MYRA KATIE ROADS, 463 Vine St., Hillsboro, Ohio.

Protective Calls of Two Species of Birds.—In 'The Auk' for July, 1928, p. 302, Mr. A. L. Pickens' interesting article on the subject of warning noises by the Carolina Chickadee (*P. carolinensis*) exactly covers my own experience with the Black-capped Chickadee (*Penthestes a. atricapillus*) in both voice and actions. It was while examining a Chickadee in the gathering cage preceding banding that a new aspect of this habit was learned. The bird kept up a continual hissing, more prolonged and louder than that of any snake of my experience. With this, it gave utterance to a distinct explosive and throaty *huff, huff*, after the serious hissing. It differed from the explosive note given by these birds when disturbed on the nest. The bird's actions in preparing for the *huff* note was to crouch, spread the wings and tail, nervously shaking the head from side to side, suddenly jerking both head and neck to the left and at a sharp right angle.

On June 1, 1931, I came upon a Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa u. umbellus*) brooding her young. Immediately following her first outcries I heard her give a rasping hiss, sibilant and unlike the notes I have come to know in

connection with the species. Before I could mark down the hiding place of one of the small fleeing forms, the anxious mother was at my feet with the characteristic heart-pitying maneuvers. Twice she struck my moccasins as I attempted to walk, each time holding the bill against the moccasin perhaps five seconds and giving the deep throaty cry: *hurr-hurr-hs-s-s-s-s*, deliberately repeated again at a distance of four feet from me when the young were safely hidden. This time the bird pressed her bill against the earth, and the sides of the throat could be seen to expand and contract a little. The note had not the escaping steam quality of the Chickadee note but more nearly represented a coughing grunt.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY,
East Westmoreland, N. H.