

**Birds Attracted to Small-flowered Leaf Cup.**—During the autumn of 1931 the writer noticed that a number of birds, chiefly Carolina Chickadees were being attracted to many patches of small-flowered leaf-cup (*Polymnia canadensis* L.) growing in the wetter areas of Glen Helen, Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

The chickadees were observed pecking at the imperfectly formed flower-heads of this rank member of the Compositae while hanging head downward from the plant, or they would first remove the flowers and carry them to nearby tree or shrub branches where they picked at the blossoms which were held on the branch with one foot.

Investigation of the flower heads of this plant showed that most of them were infested with the small striped brown larvae of one of the Noctuid moths. The work of these insects seemed to cause the blossoms to rot and turn brown. Some of the flowers showed the opening of a burrow on their distal end. On an average plant 128 blossoms and flower-buds were counted of which the majority were infested with the larvae. One tiny golden pupa and three larvae were found in one flower but the majority of the flowers had only one larva.

The identification of the plant was made by Dr. Robert B. Gordon, Botany Department of Ohio State University, who remarked: "This species usually has defective flowering development in Ohio, and I wonder if it is always due to damage by the insect larvae which you found. I have never examined the flowers to see what was wrong, but I do not recall of ever having seen a perfect head of flowers in this state."—LOUIS B. KALTER, 535 Belmont Park, Dayton, Ohio.

**Some Avian Uses For Mistletoe.**—Mistletoe, has several uses from the viewpoint of birds, especially after it has reached the bushy stage of its growth and becomes a thick clump of from one to three or four feet in diameter.

One of these uses is to shelter nests, such species as the Nicasio Jay (*Aphelocoma californica ocleptica*), the White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus majusculus*) and others having been observed in this vicinity to build their nests among this growth.

Mistletoe berries are reported as eaten by several European species (see Mayaud and Heim de Balsac in 'La Revue Francaise d'Ornithologie,' Dec. 1928, and 'Alauda,' Dec. 1930). These authors have made a study of the spread of mistletoe from tree to tree by birds which feed upon the berries,—the Missel-thrush (*Arceuthornis visciivorus*), the Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) and quite a number of other birds being reported as consumers. Without doubt many berry-feeding birds in our country eat the viscid and mucilaginous fruit,—another use for mistletoe then being the furnishing of food to such birds as will feed upon the fruit.

Still another use for mistletoe is the furnishing of sheltered roosting places to birds during the night, such as evidenced by the observation which follows. Towards the end of a Sunday field trip near Benicia, California,

about dusk on February 14, 1932, as I passed through a small grove of buckeye trees (*Aesculus californica*), in most of which were clumps of mistletoe (*Phoradendron*), a flock of seven or eight Western Bluebirds (*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*) were disturbed by my approach after having settled for the night. Investigating several of the others of these growths of mistletoe in the neighboring buckeye trees I flushed other small flocks of seven to ten bluebirds. Apparently a large flock had split up into small groups, each occupying the centers of the clumps of mistletoe. Aside from the foliage of the mistletoe these buckeye trees were practically bare, the small leaf buds at the ends of each of the trees' limbs having not yet broken open, thus leaving no protection for the birds other than the mistletoe clumps during what proved to be a fairly cold night—slightly below freezing. One might think that the heavy foliage of the live oaks close by would have furnished better protection from the cold and the wind,—but mistletoe apparently serves satisfactorily in this capacity also.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California*.

**Deposition of Eggs in Time of Snow-storm.**—On June 18, 1931, the region of Churchill, Manitoba, was visited by a savage blizzard from the northeast. The temperature was not very low (about 34° F.); but the high wind was accompanied by a heavy fall of snow.

By this date, most of the summer resident species of the region were laying eggs. On June 17, the members of our expedition had many nests under observation, some with complete but most of them with incomplete sets of eggs. Near our camp at the mouth of the river were several nests of Lapland Longspurs, Horned Larks, and Semipalmated Plovers, most of them with incomplete sets.

On the morning of the 18th we awakened to find a deep drift in our tent where the wind had blown snow in through a crack in the door. The tundra was covered with six or eight inches of snow, and there were drifts many feet deep in the sheltered places.

We were greatly interested, during the following three days, in the behavior of incubating or laying birds at their nests. The snow was so deep that many birds had deserted, even in some cases where there were full sets of eggs. Semipalmated Plovers, Horned Larks, and some of the Lapland Longspurs had remained at their nests in spite of the storm, however, for we found the birds incubating in holes in the snow sometimes fully a foot deep.

Of special interest was the manner in which some of the birds deposited their eggs in the snow near their nests. A Lapland Longspur, whose nest was situated at the foot of a rocky ridge near our tent, in rather an exposed position, laid an egg on the snow almost directly above the nest at the nearest place she could reach. The egg was probably a foot from the nest. Another Longspur laid her egg in the shelter of our tent. We did not know the location of this bird's nest, but it could not have been very close by.

A Semipalmated Sandpiper laid an egg in the snow directly above her