

The Courtship Flight of the Red-breasted Nuthatch.—I am prompted by the note in 'The Auk' for October, 1932, by Mr. Francis H. Allen on 'The Song of the Red-breasted Nuthatch' to record the courtship (?) flight of *Sitta canadensis* which I witnessed on April 6, 1932, in the garden of the Wayside Inn, Sudbury, Massachusetts. Mrs. Wellman and I were approaching the end of the garden, when a bird flew out of a red cedar and, with incredible speed, zigzagged through the bare limbs of a large old apple tree. After two or three circular turns in this erratic manner through the branches, it dived back into the cedar. Neither of us, although we stood just in front of the tree, had the slightest idea what the bird was; immediately the flight was repeated, leaving us as much mystified as before. No eye could follow the tremendous speed and sharp turns; it seemed impossible that any bird could do it a second time and avoid striking the irregular branches of the apple tree. A third flight followed in three or four seconds and consisted of a shorter performance: this time the bird stopped suddenly on a small branch of the apple tree and we saw that it was a Red-breasted Nuthatch. Almost at once a second *Sitta canadensis*, a female, joined the first and the two began investigating holes in the old apple trees of the garden. During the flight there were no notes from the male; later, when the two birds were together, the usual call notes were given intermittently.—GORDON BOIT WELLMAN, Wellesley College, Massachusetts.

Singing of the Red-breasted Nuthatch.—With regard to the singing of this species I heard the tin trumpet call as I was walking along the main street of Glastonbury, Conn., on October 8, 1932, which was followed by a long song *y-a-a-a-a-a-* at the rate of at least 95 "a"s to the minute. I finally located the bird on the very topmost branch of a tall elm. Every leaf had fallen and he was outlined against the sky with wings partly open and head in the air. The lazy *hank, hank*, of his white-breasted cousin on a lower branch served to emphasize the tempo and higher pitch of his song. An occasional tin trumpet note seemed to introduce his *y-a's* at intervals. The song was repeated with hardly a breath between for at least half a dozen times and because of his commanding position he could be heard for quite a distance.—(MRS.) EDITH M. CLARK, 350 Main St., Glastonbury, Conn.

The Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris dissaepus*) in Maine.—In November 1923, the late Frederick O. Conant, of Portland brought me a nest of a Marsh Wren (undoubtedly of this species), which he had just found in narrow leaved cat-tails (*Typha angustifolia*) at Great Pond, Cape Elizabeth, Maine. The nest was very fresh in appearance, and apparently built late that season. Mr. Conant was accustomed to spend considerable time at Great Pond during the shooting season, and was unusually well acquainted with the geography, and the animal life of the pond; when asked if other similar nests were seen, he replied in the negative.