

were formed, one of the birds fell from the nest and was killed by a cat. Mr. Wieggers sent this to Lincoln where it was identified by G. E. Hudson, Department of Zoology, University of Nebraska.

On June 7, an adult male Starling (now in possession of Dr. M. H. Swenk) was shot at the same location, and was identified by Dr. R. H. Wolcott.—CLAUDE R. WIEGERS, GEORGE E. HUDSON, JOHN L. MORRISON, *Lincoln, Neb.*

Cape May Warblers Destructive to Grapes.—To most ornithologists the idea of too many Cape May Warblers would seem fantastic, but during a number of seasons they have made themselves almost unwelcome fall visitors here in central West Virginia. Our first note of them as grape destroyers was made in 1909. We had at that time a small commercial vineyard, and during the first week in September, when the crop was just ripening, we were surprised to find in the vineyard swarms of Cape May Warblers. We were not long in doubt as to their purpose there, for within a week they had destroyed practically every grape we had. This habit has frequently been noted elsewhere (see Auk 1915, etc. and p. 233, beyond).

Their method was to puncture the skin of the berry at one point, extract a little juice, and move on to the next. They would systematically work over every berry in the cluster, if undisturbed, and they soon became exceedingly tame. It is no exaggeration to say that there were hundreds of the birds in the locality.

After the birds had made one puncture, swarms of bees and wasps soon finished the work of destruction. There was no way of frightening so many birds away, and we were driven to sacking our grapes in the future. The next year, 1910, they returned in numbers again, destroying practically all unsacked clusters, and completely cleaning out the vines of our neighbors, who raised just a few grapes for their home use.

From 1910 until 1931 their visits here were only occasional, and never in large numbers. In early September, 1931, however, they returned in droves. There was an unusually heavy grape crop in this region, but our crop lasted just two days after the invasion. Just as in previous years, they made one puncture, and the insects did the rest.

I received reports of their destructiveness from many points in this territory, several in Upshur, Lewis, Harrison, Randolph, Barbour, and Monongalia Counties. Everywhere it was the same story; one or two days and the vines were stripped. Some of the points at which they were reported are approximately one hundred miles from French Creek, Upshur County, where they were first reported in 1909.

Placing paper sacks on the clusters before ripening is, of course, a safeguard against both birds and insects, but it entails much labor and expense. Nevertheless, it is the only expedient that we have found at all satisfactory. We sacked our crop this last season, and when the birds came this fall they found only the smaller clusters available, so their damage was nominal.

I have observed Black-throated Green, Yellow, and Nashville Warblers

picking an occasional grape, and once I saw Black-throated Blue Warblers strip a large vine of Isabella grapes, but at no time has the damage from these species become serious. We have been forced to prepare each season for Cape Mays, however, and we have now learned how to have both birds and grapes.—MAURICE BROOKS, *French Creek, W. Va.*

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) on the coast of South Carolina.—On the morning of November 8, 1932, my attention was attracted by a small bird, which proved to be a female or immature Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*). It was in some dense bushes in our yard at Mount Pleasant. Although extremely active and restless, it allowed me to approach within eight feet and study its color and markings. It remained in the yard all that day and also the next (November 9), but was gone on the 10th.

This is the first specimen of *pusilla* to be seen in lower South Carolina. There are three previous records for the upper part of the state which have been recorded in 'The Auk.'—E. VON S. DINGLE, *Huger, S. C.*

English Sparrows Apparently Feeding on Larvae of Hornets.—On November 5, 1931, I noticed in a maple tree a short distance from my garage, a large hornet's nest. Upon closer examination I found that the entrance at the bottom was torn out and that the hole extended up on one side, leaving an opening about two and one half by three inches. The next afternoon I was surprised to see that the hole was considerably larger and as I was working in the yard I kept the nest under observation. About thirty minutes later there were eight English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) all females, in the branches directly under the nest. By concealing myself around the corner of the garage I was within thirty feet of them and could see very clearly what they were doing.

A bird would fly up and enter the hole disappearing completely, a moment later another would follow. When both were inside the nest they would invariably start fighting, and would come tumbling out, whereupon another bird would immediately enter the hole, this performance continued for about an hour. I observed these birds at this nest every day, sometimes in the morning and sometimes in the afternoon, for ten days, at the end of which time they had torn off the lower two thirds of the nest leaving only a very ragged third still hanging to the branches. The birds were evidently feeding on something they found in the nest but just what it was I have been unable to determine.

The only solution which occurs to me is that there might have been a late brood of hornets, the larvae of which did not have time to develop before the cold weather set in, or that some other insects were making the hornet's nest their winter quarters.

I am very certain the birds found something to eat in this nest from the way they acted and also from the fact that another nest of the same hornet in an apple tree about five hundred feet farther back on my lot was not