

nesting there nearly two miles from the mainland. They are building on the ground itself and in very low salt-water myrtle bushes less than two feet high. The nests numbered 411, of which about 70 were those of the Snowy Heron. The young were just hatching.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

**A Flight of Common Terns at Harrisburg, Pa.**—Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo hirundo*) are only occasionally seen during migration on the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg, and then only in small numbers. Daily observations along the river revealed no Common Terns during 1935 until May 3. Upon that day within a half hour I saw four or five flocks of over fifty each, the next day only one, and none on subsequent days with frequent observation. Evidently the Terns made a concerted flight and were gone. The first flock of 67 was flying low up the river when suddenly the bird began to ascend and made three complete circles within a quarter of a mile, somewhat as Homing Pigeons circle, but always gaining altitude until at perhaps 500 feet they disappeared into the north. The other groups rested on the water or flew to and from a low grassy isle, making it somewhat difficult to count their exact number. With them on the sand spit were a few Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) and three Black Terns (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*). The Terns did not fly erratically up and down the river, or alight and drift, repeatedly, without getting anywhere, as I have seen Bonaparte Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) do here.—HAROLD B. WOOD, *Harrisburg, Pa.*

**The Noddy at Charleston, South Carolina.**—The Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) is of accidental occurrence in South Carolina, its two occurrences following West Indian storms. However, an appearance unconnected with any atmospheric abnormality has lately come to the writer's notice.

On June 16, 1929 three Noddies were seen on a piece of driftwood at the entrance of Charleston Harbor by Allan D. Cruickshank of New York City, as he was proceeding north by steamer, the weather being normal. The birds floated by at close range and were seen to advantage by unaided eye-sight and through 10x binoculars. The writer is indebted to Mr. Cruickshank for the above information.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

**Additional Dovekie Weights.**—When Murphey and Vogt published their article, "The Dovekie Influx of 1932" (*Auk*; Vol. L, No. 3) they had only one weight (see page 345) which was known to be from a bird in normal condition. I now wish to submit a record of the weights of seven additional birds taken under normal wintering conditions at Harrington Harbor, Sag Co. Quebec, during the winter of 1934-35. These weights were recorded by Mr. Donald Osborne who was trained as my assistant during the summer of 1934. The weights, recorded in grams, are as follows: 188; 180; 180; 162; 159; 158; 146. It appears from these that the individual birds normally vary considerably in weight, which, according to my experience, is true of the Alcidae. My Nova Scotia specimen taken in 1932, as reported, weighed 127 grams although it possessed a considerable layer of sub-cutaneous fat.—R. A. JOHNSON, *State Normal School, Oneonta, N. Y.*

**Early Nesting of the Great Horned Owl.**—On January 20, 1935, I found a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo v. virginianus*) incubating the first egg of its clutch. The nest was in the crotch of a red oak, fifty-five feet from the ground, in the University of Wisconsin arboretum at Madison. Later two more eggs were laid, the first egg hatching on February 27. I photographed the nest on this date and on March 25 and on April 1, the young were banded—662548-550. On the two latter occasions

the female bird clawed me before the young were replaced in the nest. Our earliest previous record for the nesting of the Great Horned Owl is February 11.—WILLIAM H. ELDER, 217 Clifford Court, Madison, Wisconsin.

**Snowy Owl Migration—1934-1935.**—There has been another marked migration of Snowy Owls (*Nyctea nyctea*) into Quebec, the Maritime Provinces and New England during the past winter 1934-1935. Each year Snowy Owls are reported in this region but periodically there appear an unusual number, constituting great flights which have been found to correspond with the fluctuations in the numbers of other forms of life especially with the rodents such as the Lemming of the far north.

These flights, according to the records that have been compiled in the past, occur about every four years. The cycle has been noted to have a correspondence to the periods of the maximum numbers of Arctic Foxes and other fur bearing animals which also depend on Lemmings as one of their chief sources of food.<sup>2</sup>

Judging from the reports that I have received, the migration this year has been concentrated in the region of the Province of Quebec and New England. Correspondence reveals that few Snowy Owls, compared with the numbers of the two previous migrations of 1926-1927<sup>1</sup> and 1930-1931,<sup>2</sup> were seen along the Atlantic seaboard south of New York.

Dr. D. A. Dery of Quebec, P. Q. states that in addition to the very large numbers of Snowy Owls there was also an unusual number of Gray Owls, Hawk Owls and Long-eared Owls observed in the Province of Quebec this year.

The greater number of Snowy Owls reported in New England were seen during the latter part of October and November, 1934, but not infrequent records have been received throughout the winter. One individual has been seen in the vicinity of Back Bay, Portland until March, 1935.

It is of importance, especially to those interested in the study of animal cycles and periodic migrations, to have on record the present migration of 1934-1935. Therefore additional records especially of Snowy Owls observed south of New England and New York during the past winter will be greatly appreciated.—ALFRED O. GROSS, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.

**The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird as Commensals.**—The interesting observation recorded under a similar title in the April 'Auk' by Mr. Freer and Dr. Murray is not unique. An account of this habit of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) of feeding from holes drilled by Sapsuckers was given by Frank Bolles in 'The Auk' (July, 1891, pp. 256-270), under the title of 'Yellow-bellied Woodpeckers and their Uninvited Guests.' The paper was reprinted as 'Sapsuckers and their Guests' in Bolles's book 'From Blomidon to Smoky' (1894), which also contains further notes on the subject in a chapter entitled 'The Humming-birds of Chocorua,' reprinted from the 'Popular Science Monthly.' Frank Bolles's three books of nature essays are all too little known today. They are delightful reading, besides containing much good ornithology.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, West Roxbury, Mass.

**Migrational Dates of Purple Martins.**—At Harrisburg, Pa., a 28-compartment Martin house was erected in 1922 on one of the main streets in front of the E. Z. Gross Drugstore at 110 Market St. Daily observations are made of this bird house

<sup>1</sup> Gross, A. O. 1927. The Snowy Owl Migration of 1926-27, Auk, vol. 44, No. 4, p. 479-493.

<sup>2</sup> Gross, A. O. 1931. Snowy Owl Migration 1930-1931, Auk, vol. 48, No. 4, p. 501-511.