

by the proprietor and his employees, and migrational records have been preserved by them. From 1925 to 1935, inclusive, the spring arrival dates of the Purple Martins (*Progne subis subis*) at this bird house were, in order, April 6, 3, 12, 5, 4, 6, March 26, April 1, 7, 19. Some personal observations approximately confirm these drugstore dates. Also, although I saw Purple Martins forty miles further north several days before, I know they had not arrived at the city house by April 17, in 1935. The dates of fall departure have been kept for the past four years only. They were July 25, 1931, August 4, 1932, August 1, 1933 and August 30, 1934. The times for beginning of migration may depend upon local conditions at the point of departure but these few fall dates bear no relation whatever to the local variations in temperature or rainfall. None of these Martins was banded.—HAROLD B. WOOD, *Harrisburg, Pa.*

Ravens in the Kittatinny Ridge of Pennsylvania.—I was much interested in R. S. Freer's notes in the last issue of 'The Auk,' relating to the unsuspected population of Ravens (*Corvus corax principalis*) in a portion of the Virginia Blue Ridge. The numerous ranges of the Blue Ridge may harbor more of these birds than we are wont to suppose.

Running to the northeastward, the Blue Ridge merges into the Kittatinny Ridge. "Hawk Mountain," near Dreherstown, is roughly two hundred miles from the area mentioned by Freer. In the course of my duties protecting the Hawks at the mountain during the fall of 1934, I saw two Ravens. It is possible that they may have been the same individual. The first bird occurred on October 14, at 4.37 P. M.; the next on November 2, at 4 P. M. On both occasions the birds passed close to the observation rocks, and on a level with my position. They followed the mountain as did the southward bound Hawks. Earle L. Poole of the Reading Public Museum informed me that Ravens are rare in this region, the last seen in Berks County being some forty years ago.—MAURICE BROWN, *Orleans, Cape Cod, Mass.*

Eastern Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata faxoni*) in Song in Florida.—On three memorable occasions in New England I have heard migrating Hermit Thrushes in song. That members of this species should exercise their vocal powers in the South, however, in violation of all known precepts of Turdine behavior, nearly borders on the incredible. (Howell, in his 'Florida Bird Life' says of the Hermit Thrush ". . . this charming songster is never heard in the South.")

About one P. M. on March 6, 1935, I was taken by surprise to hear the clear cadences of a Hermit Thrush, at the southern end of Apopka Lake, in Citrus County. Although the bird sang for about five minutes, its notes were never so full as when heard in the North. Three days later, in the early forenoon, I again had the good fortune to hear, and to see, this unusual songster. This time the song was even richer, and continued for more than ten minutes. On four more occasions, up to March 21, I was regaled with this bird's music. I have assumed that one bird was responsible for this unprecedented behavior, inasmuch as I saw a single Hermit Thrush about our cottage during this period.

On April 1, while botanizing in the woods adjacent to Buzzard's Roost, seven miles west of Gainesville, I paused to hear once again, a Hermit Thrush singing with marvelous fullness and clarity.—MAURICE BROWN, *Orleans, Cape Cod, Mass.*

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Cambridge, Mass.—On May 14 a Mrs. Sampson directed me to a bird she could not identify in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass., which bird turned out to be a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila c. caerulea*). It allowed an approach to within five feet, and even without my 12x glasses the blue

upper parts, dark tail with white outer feathers, gray lores, black line over the eye, and gray-edged wing feathers showed plainly. It sang its full song once, and continually called with its characteristic notes. On the 15th many members of the Harvard Ornithological Club and the Nuttall Club saw the bird, which appears to be staying.—FRED M. PACKARD, *Kirkland House, Cambridge, Mass.*

A New Bird for Idaho.—On October 7, 1932, I took an immature female Western Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea amoenissima*) at 6000 feet elevation near the mouth of Sheep Creek, about eight miles southwest of Raymond, Bear Lake County, Idaho. The specimen is now in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. This is a new bird for the Idaho list and seems to be quite an extension northward in the range of the subspecies.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Mich.*

Notes on Breeding Success of Starlings.—During May and June of 1933 and 1934 a number of Starling (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*) nests located in an old barn on an abandoned farm near Oneonta, N. Y., were observed with the idea of recording the result of their attempt to produce a crop of young. Records were made of the number of eggs produced, the number of young hatched, and the number of young fledged in those nests accessible during the time allotted to the study.

There were two nesting periods each year: the first during the month of May, and the second during June. The second nests appeared all within ten days of the same date which was from one to two weeks after the first broods had left the nests. Since none of the adult birds were banded there is no proof that these late nests were the work of the same adults as those which produced the early nests, but, since they were in most cases created by relining the earlier nest, I believe that the same adults were nesting a second time. Plenty of new nest sites were available for any late nesting adults.

Notes were recorded on the success of seventeen nests. Six of these were early or May nests of 1933 and 1934. Eleven were second or June nests of 1933. All of these second nests came at the time of the beginning of the drought of 1933.

The seventeen nests produced seventy-nine eggs, hatched fifty young, forty of which were reared. It is very interesting however to compare the success of the early or May nests with the late or June nests. The six early nests produced twenty-nine eggs, hatched twenty-six young and fledged twenty-six young. The eleven late or June nests produced fifty eggs, hatched twenty-four young, of which only fourteen were fledged. During the incubation period for the June nests the severe drought of that summer set in, which was, in my opinion, the main factor in causing the low percentage of success for the second nests.

With fifteen pairs of adult nesting birds known to be located in this building, and two others in tree cavities nearby, a total of thirty-four adults were competing for food in the same area. Old meadows of timothy, reedtop, and hawkweed with a few roadside and orchard trees form the vegetative cover. When the June drought became noticeable in the drying up of the meadows the result on the nesting birds appeared in the loss of eggs as well as of young after hatching.

Careful examination was made of the nests and young for blood sucking parasites. None was found.

It may possibly appear that for central New York the May nesting date is well adapted to the peak of food supply. This meagre report however does help show the need for extensive data from many workers in different parts of the country if we are to record something regarding the manner in which this new species is becoming adapted.—R. A. JOHNSON, *State Normal School, Oneonta, N. Y.*