

shore line, seeking additional ones. However, I did not find any in the direction that I followed. Retracing my steps to the first point of contact, I found the original Nelson's Sparrow and another one identical with it. Further observation firmly established the identity of both of these sparrows; flushing them eventually, they flew down the river in erratic flight. Clarence Houghton, of Albany, New York, a distinguished authority in this part of the State, has recorded the only other appearance of the Nelson's Sparrow in this part of New York. His record discloses that on August 28, 1920, nearly eighteen years ago, at Lake Cassayuna, approximately sixty miles from here, he established the first Nelson's Sparrow record. Investigation leads me to the thought that possibly some of these birds use the Mohawk Valley of New York State as a channel of migration for their annual flight from the Mississippi Valley to the Atlantic coast each fall.—JOSEPH JANIEC, 663 Crane St., Schenectady, New York.

**Eastern Snow Bunting in South Carolina in summer.**—Late in the afternoon of June 21, 1937, my wife and I were watching a colony of Wilson's Plovers (*Pagolla wilsonia wilsonia*) on the eastern end of Sullivan's Island, when our attention was attracted by a small black and white bird which I recognized as a fine male Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*). We observed it for several minutes at close range until it made a long flight into the Fort Moultrie rifle-range reservation. The next morning, Messrs. E. Milby Burton and E. Burnham Chamberlain, of the Charleston Museum, and I hunted unsuccessfully for it; but on June 24, Mrs. E. H. McIver notified the Museum that the bird had been in the backyard of her Sullivan's Island cottage for several days and that she was feeding it. On the morning of June 25, Messrs. Chamberlain, G. Robert Lunz, E. B. Chamberlain, Jr., and I observed the bird for an hour in Mrs. McIver's yard. Mr. Lunz took a dozen photographs and I made several pencil sketches. The bird sang frequently from its favorite perch on an electric wire. We agreed that the song reminded us somewhat of that of the Nonpareil (*Passerina ciris*). Mrs. McIver's house is nearly a mile from the spot where the bunting was first seen; later it disappeared and has not been reported again.—E. VON S. DINGLE, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

**A modern bird fatality.**—While in La Mesa, California, June 1937, with Mr. Archbold, preparing for our 1938 New Guinea Expedition, a curious bird fatality in connection with the experimental radio was called to my attention. I was not there at the time and am indebted to Mr. Harold G. Ramm, the radio operator, for the following details. A bird, apparently a Mockingbird from the description, alit on the single insulated wire of the transmitting antenna. When the power was turned on the bird dropped dead, killed by the high radio frequency. The antenna was carrying 500 watts with a radio frequency of 7000 kilocycles at the time. The bird alighted on or near a current node where the current was lowest and the voltage highest, the only place dangerous for it.

A number of men working about powerful broadcasting stations have been reported killed by radio frequency but this is the first instance of a bird's death in such a manner which has come to my attention. It is unlikely that this new hazard to bird life is of great enough extent to be important, but it is possible for birds alighting on the transmitting antenna of any radio station to be killed.—A. L. RAND, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Deaths from electricity have been reported from time to time. Mr. J. Warren Jacobs sends a clipping from the 'Morning Observer,' Washington, Pennsylvania, of October 29, 1937, concerning a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) which had

flown into a 22,000-volt high-tension line supplying power to the Nemacolin Mine, in Greene County, Pennsylvania. The short circuit resulted in blowing out the transformer and throwing one thousand miners out of work for the day. The facts are vouched for by Mr. Jacobs. An item in the 'Boston Sunday Herald' of November 28, 1937, reports the death within a week of a number of 'American Eagles' through alighting on power poles near St. Anthony, Idaho. These reports, if trustworthy, indicate a new menace for large hawks and eagles, that might perhaps be overcome by proper insulating devices.—Ed.]

**Milk snakes vs. birds.**—That snakes are notorious bird eaters is well known. It is also rather strange what extraordinary places they ascend, and their manner of obtaining knowledge that a nest exists in these places. In rose bushes and low shrubs where Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella p. passerina*) nest, it might not be so unusual, and surely not with ground-nesting species. At my nextdoor neighbor's house, on the east side, a rambler rose climbs a trellis up some twenty feet, and stands fully twelve inches away from the building. Here, about six feet up, a Chipping Sparrow had her nest; and she was heard and seen feigning wing injury three times before we realized the snake's presence. This milk adder lived under the porch piazza. On our visits to the nest the snake would drop directly to the ground and flee. It would climb, as we saw later, directly up the clapboards of the house, in a wide spiral way, then reach over into the rambler at its nearest branch. In the end it had to be shot, using craft to get it.

In a large stone cattle pass under the railroad, a spot infrequently visited, Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*) have nested for years. The young or eggs have sometimes mysteriously disappeared. The pass is built six feet high, the walls of large stone blocks, sloping on an inward incline from halfway up, to the top, where the tops of the stones extend back about six inches, forming a shelf. On this the Phoebes nest. I would make my visits after dark, to catch the adult bird and band her. For three years I happened to pick the same night a milk snake did. Each one was killed. But the marvel is that the snake could locate the nest, and, after discovering it, climb up the outward slant of the rock to the nest, thence lie along the shelf and eat the young at its leisure. There was no other access, as the top is solid. And each time the female Phoebe would be quietly perched on the pasture fence just outside one end of the culvert, to fly only at our approach.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, New Hampshire*.

**Noteworthy records for Nova Scotia.**—During the last ten years or so, several interesting occurrences of accidental or locally rare birds for this province have come to my attention. I am indebted to Mr. Robie W. Tufts, of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, for his information on several of the following records.

**MAN-O'-WAR-BIRD, *Fregata magnificens*.**—An adult female was shot at Pennant Bay, Halifax County, on December 5, 1932, by George Little. This is the third known record of this species for Nova Scotia.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*.**—An adult male was found dead in an emaciated condition near Port Williams, Kings County, on April 30, 1926. On April 1, 1928, one was picked up dead in Yarmouth County.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, *Nyctanassa violacea violacea*.**—An immature of this species was collected by Earl Godfrey at North Grand Pré, Kings County, on September 13, 1932. Mr. Godfrey also collected one in juvenal plumage on July 28, 1937, and two more in juvenal plumage on August 12, 1937.