

Kentucky. Observations in Bath, Alleghany, Craig, and Giles Counties, Virginia; throughout southern West Virginia, and in central Kentucky,—regions left unoccupied on the map,—have shown the presence of the birds, often in abundance.

I imagine that Mr. Lowery's difficulty has arisen from the scarcity of specimens in any collections from this region. Much of the territory has been (in some cases still is) *terra incognita*, ornithologically speaking. I do not have a sufficient series of specimens from the region to make subspecific determination possible; that must await more extensive collecting. That Carolina Wrens do occur throughout this part of the region, however, there can be no doubt.—MAURICE BROOKS, *Division of Forestry, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.*

White-tailed Kite in Florida.—During the Christmas holidays while making a two weeks' tour of Florida with David L. Emerson of Providence, Rhode Island, we spent December 27 birding around the northwest shore of Lake Okechobee. While making the final check of the day along a region where the everglades come nearest to route no. 29, some twenty-five to thirty miles west of Okechobee City, we observed a White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus majusculus*. At the time, it was nearly 4.30 o'clock and the sun was directly at our backs. At first glance the bird looked like a small, pale, male Marsh Hawk as it sat on the branch of a large, dead tree no more than twenty-five yards from the road along which we were driving. Yet when we focussed our telescopes on it, we could clearly see the finer, kite-like bill, a darker region like a line from the bill to the eye, dark shoulder-patches flecked slightly with white, pastel-gray breast with the faintest of streakings, pale-pearly wings, and a slightly lighter, unmarked tail that appeared notched when folded. When the bird finally flew, after a period of more than ten minutes, although it unfortunately went straight away, the nervous, falcon-like flight was noticed by us all.

Shortly afterward, upon consulting Howell's 'Florida Bird Life,' kindly loaned to us by Mr. M. L. Stimson, Secretary of the Florida Audubon Society, we found that the plate therein agreed in all important features with a field sketch of the bird made on the spot. We decided that the bird must be an immature individual, very nearly in adult plumage. Howell regarded the species as on the verge of extinction in Florida, giving the last previous record as 1925.—WILLIAM H. DRURY, JR., and HENRY M. PARKER, *Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Long incubation by a Carolina Chickadee.—During the spring of 1941 an interesting case of a prolongation of the incubation behavior beyond the normal time limits occurred on the Horticultural Farm of the University of Georgia. On April 8 a female Carolina Chickadee (*Penthestes carolinensis*) was observed carrying nesting material into a cavity in a fence post. The male was present and sometimes accompanied her to the nest but he did not carry any material. The first egg was laid on April 12 and the set of six completed on April 17; the eggs were covered during the day and the female slept in the cavity at night. The pair was observed together throughout the egg-laying period. Apparently, normal incubation by the female followed with the male accompanying and feeding her during the inattentive periods, but the eggs failed to hatch. On May 11, twenty-four days after the laying of the last egg and nearly twice the length of the average twelve- to thirteen-day normal incubation period, the female was still incubating faithfully. On May 13 the nest was found to be abandoned. The cavity was partly torn open although the eggs were undisturbed, so that it was not clear whether the female had abandoned of her own accord or had possibly been attacked by a predator.