

apparently been severely injured and is still able to survive and to carry on its normal pattern of activities despite a serious handicap.

In early April of 1941, a male Robin, *Turdus migratorius*, appeared in the yard at the home of Dr. M. E. Wigham in Saddle River, N. J., and it was at once noted that the body of this bird was pierced by a stick. The Robin established himself there and was almost continually in view at close range so that a detailed study with binoculars was an easy matter.

The stick appeared to enter the back at the left of the backbone and behind the heart and the lungs, penetrating the body in the area of the stomach and kidneys, but just enough to one side to miss them. It would seem that the stick must lie against the left peritoneal wall, as it could hardly go anywhere else without damaging a vital organ. The stick described approximately a right angle with the backbone, and came out of the breast probably through the lower ribs. The projection from the breast seemed to be about a quarter inch closer to the median line than at its point of entry in the back.

About two inches of the stick projected from the back of the bird and about an inch protruded from the breast. The stick was a straight twig about three-eighths of an inch in diameter and had a slightly roughened bark attached.

The Robin conducted himself as a normal bird would. He mated and in early May a family of four young was hatched. At this time he seemed to be a bit awkward in his movements on the ground; in the air his flight was rather deliberate and quite heavy but otherwise normal. He frequently took long flights deep into a nearby field in search of food for the young, returning every few minutes to feed them or perhaps to drive another bird from the vicinity of the nest with all of the energy of a normal Robin.

When the young of the first brood were able to take care of themselves, another nest was built in an adjoining tree and, in early July, a second brood was hatched. The bird still showed no serious restriction in his actions—feeding young, singing, driving intruding birds from the territory.

In late July, Dr. Wigham left on a long vacation, the house was closed, and no further observations were made. At that time, however, the Robin was as active as ever.

There was no surprise felt when the Robin did not reappear in the spring of 1942, for it was almost unthinkable that he could have either undertaken a long migration or could have survived a winter in the north. It was with amazement, therefore, that, in April, 1943, the Robin was again seen on Dr. Wigham's lawn, still carrying the stick. The stick seemed to be a bit shorter where it protruded from the back and both ends of it were rather frayed and brushed out, but otherwise conditions were the same. It was seen at irregular intervals for two or three weeks and then disappeared and was not again found although a search was made in the vicinity.

Through the kindness of Mr. Edward B. Lang, the accompanying photograph (Plate 18, lower figure) was taken which shows the size and position of the twig. CHARLES K. NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

**Bald Eagles nesting in Illinois.**—There are no recently published records of the Bald Eagle nesting in Illinois. According to C. T. Black (letter, January 8, 1942), the last nesting record of this species in the state was in 1915, when a nest was found in Piatt County. However, these birds formerly nested in the early 1900's and earlier in Cook, Lake, Marshall, and Putnam counties.

In late August, 1934, Benjamin T. Gault and the writer saw an immature Bald Eagle and a large nest along the Illinois River above Henry, Illinois. Thinking that perhaps this nest, in the top of a tall cottonwood and estimated at six feet in diameter, was an eagle's, the writer revisited the site in April, 1935. No evidence of occupancy was found at that time; nor was the nest used by any avian species up to the time the tree fell in 1940. However, in late August of 1936 and 1937, I again saw two young Bald Eagles along the Illinois River near Henry. Thus, there seems to be a strong possibility that this species nested in the Henry region during those years. This is further strengthened by the fact that Mr. Joe B. Davidson, of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, reported a Bald Eagle's nest on the farm of George Mathis, near Henry, in 1935. Mr. Mathis said that the nest was used by the eagles each year until 1940.

For a number of years there has been a Bald Eagle's nest on the Horseshoe Lake state game preserve in Alexander County, Illinois, north of Cairo. Arthur S. Hawkins, of the Illinois Natural History Survey, told me about the nest on February 12, 1941. The next day Robert E. Hesselschwerdt and the writer visited the tree and Hesselschwerdt filmed the male excitedly flying back and forth over the nest. Pounding on the base of the tree failed to dislodge the female from the nest even though she could be seen on it.

Bald Eagles nested there again in 1942 and 1943, according to Dr. William H. Elder of the Illinois Natural History Survey. In 1943, Dr. Elder reported that an eagle was first seen carrying a stick to the nest on January 2. On February 4, the female incubated throughout the day up to 4 P. M. By April 9, there were two young, almost fully grown, in the nest.

A Bald Eagle's nest was reported by Monroe and Mengel directly across the Mississippi River from Cairo, Illinois, in Ballard County, Kentucky (Wilson Bulletin, 53, no. 3: 196, 1941). This is only about 25 miles from the Horseshoe Lake nest.—FRANK C. BELLROSE, JR., *Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois.*

**American Avocet in Illinois.**—There are only three previous records of the American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) in Illinois. Stoddard reported (Auk, vol. 38, no. 1: 110, 1921) that two were taken at Chicago, May 5, 1889. Bent (Life Histories of North American Shore Birds, Part I) states that two were killed in St. Clair County, October 28, 1878. Musselman recorded (Auk, 53, no. 3: 328, 1936) that two were taken near Quincy on October 28, 1935. On September 18, 1943, Leo Borgelt, U. S. Game Agent, and the writer saw an American Avocet in the West Matanzas drainage district, two miles south of Havana. Although we pursued the bird for several hours, we were unable to collect it. During that time, the Avocet was seen at close range many times with 8 x 40 binoculars. It was again seen at the same place on September 20, with a 27-power spotting 'scope.—FRANK C. BELLROSE, JR., *Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois.*

**Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) in Illinois.**—Records of this straggler from the west are almost unknown in Illinois. One definite record was of a bird at Swan Lake, Putnam County, on December 27, 1921, recorded by S. S. Gregory (Auk, 40: 526, 1923). On October 21, 1941, the writers saw a Western Grebe swimming in Beebe Lake, near Banner, Fulton County, Illinois. This grebe was under observation for a half hour with 8 x 10 binoculars and a 27-power Bausch & Lomb spotting 'scope. All markings were clearly visible, and its size could readily be compared with nearby Coots. The junior author is well acquainted