

Snowy Owls were quite abundant during November and December, 1896, and four were taken in a steel trap set on the top of a long pole in an open field. Goshawks were also unusually abundant during the winter, and what is more unusual, were nearly all in adult plumage, and mostly males. Of twenty-one captured, nineteen were in adult plumage, and eighteen were males. We usually have the young birds in far greater numbers than the adult. Pine and Evening Grosbeak were present but not in great numbers. Lesser Redpolls and Snowflakes were also represented in small numbers.

J. N. CLARK, *Meridian, Wis.*

PINE SISKIN, *Spinus pinus*.—Further notes upon the unprecedented southward movement of this species have been received; this time from the extreme south. Writing of his visit in Louisiana, Mr. Widmann says: "I found it first March 2, a flock of fifty, near Mandeville, La., north of Lake Pontchartrain, and again March 5, at Madisonville, La., also a good sized flock in company with Goldfinches. Then again March 13, in the woods on the right bank of the Mississippi opposite New Orleans, a few, of which Mr. Kopman, a local ornithologist, took a specimen, the first he had ever seen. Prof. Beyer and Mr. Allison, the other ornithologists of New Orleans, confirm his statement, and consider it a rare find."

The species was fairly common at Oberlin, May 22.

AMERICAN CROW, *Corvus americanus*.—While out collecting Crow eggs on April 22, 1897, with Mr. F. L. Burns, I found a nest containing two young Crows several days old, and Mr. Burns took a set of six eggs from a nest lined with human hair. This is rather an early date for young.

RUSSELL GRAY, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Is it generally known that early in the season the Towhee has a lengthy, fragmentary, soliloquizing song? The general effect of it is like the song of Brown Thrasher when heard in the distance. The Towhee utters this song as he works about the brush-piles, his scratching not interfering with the song. In scratching for food he hops forward and then kicks back with both feet simultaneously, alighting at his starting point. Beetles and other articles of food are thoroughly masticated before being swallowed.

J. C. GALLOWAY, *Montgomery, Ohio.*

WARBLING VIREO, *Vireo gilvus*.—During the collecting season of 1896, having occasion to collect a few sets of eggs and nests of three birds, eight sets were taken as follows:

May 28, three sets of 4 eggs each. Incubated. Fresh.  
 " 29, four " " 4 " " 2 " 2 (slightly)  
 " 30, one " " 3 " " " "

June 8th I again visited this locality and found and examined seven nests of these birds that had built and completed second sets, and nests, on the same tree, or in the immediate vicinity. Not any were over twenty-five yards from the site of the first nest. Six contained four eggs each, and one, three; three sets appeared to be slightly incubated and four were fresh. Time between taking the first sets and the building of new nests and completion of second sets, is as follows: In three (first) eleven days; in three (second) ten days; in one (third) nine days. The latter being the nest taken May 30 and containing but three eggs might not have been completed, although the first set of this pair contained but three. These second nests appeared to be more hastily built and contained less material than the first nests, and were generally built nearer the ground than the first nests.

J. N. CLARK, *Meridian, Wis.*

## THE WORK FOR 1897.

Members should bear in mind that there are three committees at work upon the warblers, each one desiring material from all sources for their final report: The "Migrations" are under the direction of Mr. J. E. Dickinson, 1122 S. Winnebago street, Rockford, Ill. "Nesting" is under the direction of Mr. H. C. Higgins, Cincinnati, N. Y. "Food" and "Song" under the direction of Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio. Besides these committees there are others. Mr. Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Pa., asks for notes on the *Plicker*; Mr. Howard P. Mitchell, Mt. Sterling, Wis., for notes about *Nestling Down*; Mr. Stephen J. Adams, Cornish, Me., for notes relating to the habits of the *Swallows*; and Mr. W. L. Dawson, Oberlin, Ohio, outlines the proposed work on *Geographical Distribution* in another place in this BULLETIN. Let these committees have your hearty cooperation in all of their proposed investigations.

## COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF BIRDS.

The study of geography, like charity, should begin at home. Hence what I shall have to say by way of suggestion in outlining methods and