

winter the hole was used by both squirrels and owls, as I found the signs of both on the ice beneath it.

In 1897 I lost the birds entirely, but think it possible that they raised a brood in the 1895 tree.

This year my brother found a grey bird roosting within 200 feet of this (1895) hole. He was sitting up in the mouth of the hollow limb so that his head and horns showed from below, but dropped back when the tree was thumped. On April 12 I visited all the old holes, first hammering the trunks, and then climbing, and repeated the experience of 1896 to the letter, finding a red bird which would not flush nor wake up at all, in the same shallow hole. I left her two fresh eggs till the 23d, but she again deserted.

The 1895 hole was the last one visited—at 7 P. M. Though we rowed up quietly the bird must have flown before we reached the tree, for none flushed. On climbing up I found the limb so rotten that I decided to destroy it. Imagine my surprise when on opening the hole I found six eggs, still warm. The embryos were well formed. (It had been an early season, with all the first nesters ahead of time.) No bird came about, though I was in the tree for ten minutes. She may have left the nest for a few minutes of exercise at twilight.

Is it the usual rule for an owl to desert her nest as promptly as one of these did?

HENRY R. BUCK, *Wethersfield, Conn.*

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## EDITORIAL.

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Our fellow member, Lieut. John W. Daniel, Jr., whose expected trip to Puerto Rico was interrupted by the peace protocol, now expects to be ordered to Cienfuegos, Cuba, and he promises to acquaint us with his experiences and researches while there. The present circumstances will give an added interest to any thing that the unfortunate island may give us.

We again find ourselves in the midst of a period of stagnation so far as field study of the birds is concerned. It is so for some of us, at least. The question naturally arises, What can be done until the birds return again? There is always one thing that can be done which should become our most pleasant and profitable duty; and that is to review the note-book of the past season, comparing it with previous ones with a

view to correlating the facts gathered by much hard work and inconvenience, as well as pleasure. I take it for granted that all of us have in mind, in all our study, the advancement of our favorite science by this field work. With that in our mind, it becomes our privilege to place the facts learned where they will do the most good. Just as we are able to come closer to the truth according to the material at our disposal, in the same measure will those who have begun the investigation of some special topic be able to give us the truth. If, then, your note-book is to accomplish the purpose for which it was kept, day after day and week after week, parts of it, at least, must find their way into the hands of our committee-men. Will you not, each one, make it your pleasure to send at once such facts as you may have learned, to the appropriate committee? Let it be your *immediate* pleasure.

But the winter season need not be a time for dullness in bird study to many of us. There is, in the winter months, almost as much that is interesting among the birds as at other times. How many of us are really acquainted with our local winter bird fauna, and with the winter habits of the birds? Is there not ample room here for a great deal that is new and of great interest? I sincerely hope that the good work that was begun last winter in the way of making censuses, censo-horizons and horizons of the winter birds may continue with renewed energy and interest. I firmly believe that it is a work worthy of our best efforts: a work that will yield greater results for the same effort than any other field work. Let us fill the January issue with December records, making the month a memorable one in our experience.

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### CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

It is of the utmost importance that all changes of address should be promptly reported to the editor. Otherwise we shall not be able to keep in touch with each other. Please do not belittle this matter.

Mr. Walton I. Mitchell changes his address to 1953 Stout St., Denver, Colorado.

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### ERRATA.

The article entitled "Some Belated Remarks Upon the Nesting of Junco," should read "Some Belated Remarks Upon the Roosting of Junco."