

quenting the same places, coming down with them to drink and bathe and trying to make their feeble song heard when the Goldfinches made pauses. Goldfinches, also, came ten days later than in other years. The bulk of males was first noticed May 1st and the height of migration occurred May 13th to 19th, when flocks of a hundred or more, both sexes, were at their old stands. Smaller numbers, mostly females, were left at these places until the 23rd, after which summer residents only were seen.

Purple Finches, usually present in troops from March 10th to April 20th made a change this year by coming only on April 20th and staying in flocks till May 1st and in smaller numbers, brown birds, till May 19th.

As a counterpart of the unexplained reappearance of the Song Sparrows in May must be mentioned the still more remarkable presence of a Brown Creeper in song May 19th in a remnant of native timber within the city limits of St. Louis. None had been seen since April 20th.

NOTES ON THE BROAD-WINGED HAWK.

(*Buteo platypterus*.)

BY R. W. SHUFELDT, F. A. O. U.

Upon looking over, the other day, some old unpublished ornithological notes and negatives of mine I came across some that referred to the Broad-winged Hawk, and as the account includes the keeping in captivity three subadult specimens of this species, taken by myself, I thought perhaps that the material might be worthy of preservation.

The pair had nested within about a mile of my then residence at Takoma Park, Maryland, and both my son and myself were acquainted with the fact, having often noticed the birds circling overhead in the vicinity. They had selected a tall, ill-shapen oak with short, crooked limbs, and the nest was

in a crotch of it near the top, some fifty feet from the ground. This tree stood in a rather open piece of woods of some extent, and grew near the hilly bank of a small stream. During the latter part of June, 1897, my son had climbed to the nest and inspected the eggs, of which there were four, with nothing peculiar about them, except that he reported that the dark markings on them were rather strong and pronounced.

For some reason or other this nest was not visited again by us, and it appears that the clutch was duly hatched out. One morning toward the middle of the following month a negro brought to my house three young Broad-wings, which he said he had taken from a tall oak tree about a mile away, and that there were in it four of them, but one had escaped him and flown off. Upon questioning him there was no doubt but that the specimens had come from the nest we had discovered, as he knew the locality well. One of these birds was considerably larger than the other two, and all were able to fly a short distance at a time, but their recapture was not a matter of much difficulty. All of them, when received, were ravenously hungry, but this was soon appeased by feeding them with a generous supply of raw beef cut into small bits. They were very noisy, and resented being handled very much, though among themselves good nature prevailed.

On the 16th of July (1897) I made, late one evening, a photograph of the largest individual of the three, but the resulting negative was not quite as good as I should have liked, owing to the insufficiency of light (see figure). However, the print from it proved to be an interesting picture of the species, taken at an age not usually seen in illustrations, and for this fact I hope it may prove more or less instructive.

In a few days after the above date these birds all escaped, and I was not altogether sorry to part with them, as at that time I had a good many different kinds of living animals about my premises, with my hands correspondingly full in making photographs of them all,—everything from a tree-toad to a Turkey Vulture.

As to the nest that these birds constructed, provided it was

of their building. I was not quite certain in my own mind that they had not taken an old deserted crow's nest and repaired it a little to their liking. Crows were in the habit of building



in that piece of woods every spring in those days, and it is quite possible that these hawks had chosen one of their

abandoned structures. Bendire says in his "Life Histories of North American Birds" that, "occasionally they make use of an old crow's nest, or one abandoned by some other hawk" (p. 244). This one, as is usually the case, was rather a bulky affair, somewhat loosely put together, and composed of oak twigs, and lined with strips of pine bark, but then there were some other unlooked-for materials sparingly mixed up in it, not used, as a rule, by this hawk, that more closely resembled a crow's work of the year previous. The hawks may have pulled out the old lining, however, and made other additions to suit themselves.

OUR BIRD-BATH.

BY CARRIE FLAGLER SCHANTZ.

In June last year (1906) we laid cement walks, and from the "remainders" Mr. S—— built a bird-bath in the corner of our yard.

He marked out a circle about three feet in diameter. He then excavated to a depth of twenty inches, and filled the space within eight inches of the top with cinders, packing the cinders well; on top of the cinders he put a mixture of gravel and cement and then finished with a mixture of sand and cement, making the center of the bath about six inches below the sod and sloping from the center to the rim of the bath, which was left a little lower than the sod. The bath is located within four feet of a high wire fence in the northeast corner of the yard. It was finished too late for the spring migration, but how the birds enjoyed it through the rest of the summer and until it froze over in the fall! We fill the bath with water from the garden hose and sweep it out with a broom to keep it fresh and clean.

You would be surprised at the number of times it needed cleaning and re-filling on certain warm days. We are in a