

THE FOOD OF NESTLING GOLDFINCHES.

On page 21 of the Wilson Bulletin for March, 1913, there appears the following reference to the food of nestling Goldfinches:

"Then comes a busy time, for the parents must hurry around and catch enough insects, mainly plant-lice and flies, for their insatiable little charges."

In the year 1897 we had occasion to ascertain the food of nestling Goldfinches. We had become interested in moult and feather development and desired to rear a few young from the nest by hand. We easily located two nests in a piece of bushy pasture land within sight of a considerable area covered with American thistles and each contained five newly hatched young on August 25. We waited one week and then conducted an investigation of three hours' duration. In brief, we many times saw the parents gather thistle seed and fly directly to the nest, and after regurgitation the seeds could be felt in the crops of the young. We killed one while in this condition and its crop contained nothing but thistle seed, in a softened state, caused by a fluid that may have come from the parent. We took two of the young and succeeded in rearing one on a diet of boiled thistle seed, to which bread was added in a week and gradually replaced by crushed hemp seed soaked in water, and at the age of four weeks the bird was on a diet of the ordinary mixed seed for canaries and did not receive any food of an animal nature from the time it was taken from the nest until the first moult. In conclusion, the Goldfinches we observed did not look for insects, nor were there any in the crops examined, while the rearing of the nestling without insect food indicates that such food is not essential if used at all.

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

HAROLD BAILEY WILL PUBLISH BOOK ON BIRDS.

James E. Abbe, formerly of this city, but now representing the publishing firm of J. P. Bell Company of Lynchburg, arrived here Friday and yesterday closed a deal with Harold Bailey, the well known ornithologist of this city, for the publication of Mr. Bailey's new work on "Virginia Breeding Birds."

This book, with its many beautiful color plates and half-tone cuts, Mr. Abbe says, when published, will be equal to anything ever gotten out in the nature book line.

Virginia has up to now been without a publication of this nature, such as has been published in many other states, and the reputation for high-class publishing that Mr. Abbe's company enjoys, is an assurance that the book is to be a finished product.