

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.

Harold H. Bailey announces that the J. P. Bell Publishing Co. of Lynchburg, Va., have started work on the publication of this book, "Breeding Birds of Virginia," which they expect to have before the public on or about June 1, 1913. There will be fourteen full page color plates of birds, heretofore unfigured, which, with the one hundred and eight half-tones taken from nature, represents the greater part of the species figured in the text of over three hundred pages. Virginia being the overlapping boundary of many of the northern and southern forms, the field covered should be of special interest to the ornithologists. As this will be a limited edition, those desiring to secure a copy should notify the author at Newport News, Va., as early as possible. The publishers are noted for their high-class work, and both they and Mr. Bailey guarantee the whole work to be above the ordinary. The price will be \$3.00 (three dollars).

EARLY ROOSTING FLIGHTS OF THE TREE SWALLOW AT BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

During the latter part of May and the first ten days of June, 1912, there occurred at this place daily flights of the Tree Swallow. These flights commenced on the 25th of May and lasted until the 10th of June. The birds would appear from the west at about five-thirty each evening in immense numbers and the flight would continue until seven p. m. As the birds flew low, they could be readily observed, and each flock, so far as could be seen, were composed only of the adult birds of both sexes. Prior to this time these flights have never been observed before July 25, at which time they become a regular happening in the course of the day's events.

After the 10th of June, however, these flights discontinued and only a few stragglers were observed wending their way towards the meadows until the usual time for them to begin flying again in late July.

LOUIS S. KOHLER.

A RUNT CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) AT POMPTON LAKES, N. J.

While making investigations as to the summer food of the *Corvus brachyrhynchos* at this place during the summer of 1912, among a lot of twenty birds shot, was one which was very abnormal in many ways. This bird measured in length 13.75"; wing (right) 9.90, (left) 9.95; tail, 5.85; exposed culmen, 1.60; depth of bill, .70; tarsus (right) 2.00, (left) 2.15. The plumage was a dead black totally devoid of gloss or sheen and the tarsi were deep