

In speaking of young turkeys, he says: "They roll themselves in deserted ants' nests to clear their growing feathers of loose scales, and to prevent ticks and other vermin from attacking them, these insects being unable to bear the odor of earth in which ants have been."

Here seems to be ground for my theory, only that the purpose of the Indigo Bunting was to put earth, not ants, among its feathers to rid itself of vermin. I remember that the bird, in filling its beak, seemed not to be particular as to where it struck the ground, only so that it got a mouthful.

Others may have seen birds do the same thing. If so, I have failed to see any record of it.

L. B. CUSHMAN.

*North East, Pa.*

#### NORTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER IN ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO.

THIS year I spent a few days in October in Wayne Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio. On the morning of the twenty-seventh I heard a great commotion among the birds—Robins, Grackles, Red-wings, Bluebirds, Cowbirds, and Sparrows—at one side of a clearing in the woods, and made my way there to see what caused the uproar. An Owl, I thought most likely. But lo! at the edge of the woods, flying from tree to tree and only a few feet above the ground, a pair of *Northern Pileated Woodpeckers*. But the dead leaves' rustle betrayed me. The birds went deeper and deeper into the woods and higher into the trees, till at last I abandoned pursuit. I have spent many hours in the woods of this locality in the past ten years, but have never before seen nor heard these Woodpeckers, though they have been reported from Jefferson a few miles away.

It was while listening to the calls of the Woodpeckers, as I leaned over the fence by the "sugar-house," that I became aware of a fine female Grouse in a small apple tree near by. It seemed such a friendly bird, though the fence crashed down as I went over, not twenty feet away. A faint, rather hen-like clucking of protest and I stood right under her perch. It was the buds of the tree she sought, clambering through the smaller branches, and I left her undisturbed.

In September a Sandhill Crane was seen in the pasture by the creek.

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