

THE NORTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER AND PINE GROS-
BEAK IN NORTHWESTERN OHIO.

The Pileated Woodpecker is quite common in Ashtabula County, Ohio. I have also found it in the adjoining counties of Lake and Trumbull. In Ashtabula County I have found it nesting in the townships of Harpersfield, Morgan and Austinburg. In the heavily timbered portions of the county the bird is more plentiful. I have never known of one using the same nesting site in two successive years. The nests I have found have all been near the top of tall stubs. This season there is one in an old beach about thirty-five feet high. At least three weeks were required to excavate the site. On still mornings I have heard them drumming at a distance of over half a mile.

On April 21, in the woods in Austinburg, I saw a flock of twelve Pine Grosbeaks. They seemed to be feeding on the seeds of a tulip tree. On the 23 I again saw five more. This is the first time I have seen this bird in the county.

Austinburg, O.

S V. WARREN.

RED PHALAROPE IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

(A Correction.)

In the Wilson Bulletin, XXVI, June, 1914, page 103, the Red Phalarope (*P. fulicarius*) was reported as having been taken on a sandbar in the Missouri river a short distance below Sioux City, thus making the first record for Iowa. This was the first statement given to me by Mr. Anderson, and although he had corrected it before I sent the note for publication, the mistake was made through an error on my part. The fact is, the specimen was taken near McCook Lake, a few miles in the opposite direction, but across the line, in South Dakota. The record, then, belongs to the latter state. So far as I have been able to examine the literature relating to the birds of South Dakota, I find but one instance of the Red Phalarope having been taken; and this is recorded by Visher (1909) as having been taken near Rapid City, May 27, 1904, by Henry Behrens, in whose collection the specimen probably still remains.

Sioux City, Iowa.

T. C. STEPHENS.

WREN NOTES.

The first item which I wish to record has to do with a peculiar assortment of nest material used by a pair of Western House Wrens; or rather, which was offered by the male to the female.

Miss Mabel Hoyt of Sioux City, made the observation, and has been kind enough to give me the facts.

In 1913 the wrens reared a brood in wren houses without any unusual incident. In 1914 a pair of wrens came to the same place and reared the first brood. At about this time the people put up a new swinging wren house, and a bluebird house in the back yard. The female selected the swinging house and began to carry nest material into it, which the male as promptly removed. The male also, in the meantime, had chosen the bluebird house, which he speedily filled to the door.

Finally the female gave up her efforts with the swinging box and departed, declining to accept the nest built by the male in the bluebird box. Late in August the owner cleaned out the bluebird house and found a strange assortment of hardware among the usual twigs of the nest. Such a curious assemblage of material in a nest was considered worthy of being photographed. Following is a list of material as sorted out:

- 1 hat pin, six and a half inches long.
- 1 buckle.
- 10 bits of chicken wire fence.
- 2 stays.
- 3 fasteners.
- 1 unidentified.
- 3 paper clips.
- 1 staple.
- 1 brass ring.
- 2 toilet wires.
- 6 collar stays.
- 2 oyster bucket handles.
- 1 part of mouse trap.
- 67 hair pins.
- 38 bits of wire.
- 5 safety pins.
- 3 steel pins.
- 22 nails.
- 3 brads.

Thus making a total of 172 pieces of metal used in the construction of this nest.

Another series of observations on the Western House Wren (*T. ae. narkmani*) was made by Miss Maude Merritt, of Ottumwa, Iowa, and may contain some points of interest. The account which follows is largely in her own words.

Two broods of wrens were raised in a bird house we had placed

on our house a short distance from a window. The first brood never appeared again after leaving the nest. A few days before the second brood left, something happened to the male parent, for he disappeared; and the female worked incessantly feeding the young ones.

On the second evening after their departure from the nest we were greatly surprised at the return of the mother bird with her brood of four young ones. Very near to the wren house there is a Syringa bush, which contained an empty catbird's nest, vacated earlier in the summer. So this evening, about sundown, when the wren family returned the little birds got into the catbird's nest and there spent the night. The next evening, much to our delight, they returned and spent the night in the catbird's nest as before. The entire family of four young ones returned with the mother each evening for fourteen days. On the fifteenth evening one of the young wrens was missing; on the next evening two did not return. And on the evening of the seventeenth day, after leaving the nest, the mother wren brought her one remaining young one back to the Syringa bush, and induced it to get into the catbird's nest. But the young bird seemed restless, and in a few minutes hopped out into the bush and flew away. The mother called repeatedly, hopping about in the bush and into the nest. Finally she seemed to realize the futility of her efforts and she left the bush not to return again.

The catbird's nest was not much over four feet from the window, so that it was possible for us to see very clearly what went on.

During the day nothing was seen of the brood. Back of the house there is a wooded ravine, and we believe that they followed this and flew some distance away. When they returned in the evening the mother bird would fly ahead from tree to tree, constantly calling to the young ones as they followed her. When they arrived at the bush, she would get down into the nest, and as soon as the young birds reached it, she would leave. Sometimes she would return to feed the young ones, but we never learned where she roosted.

MISS MAUDE MERRITT.

Ottumwa, Ia.

A PECULIAR HABIT OF THE HOUSE WREN.

That important discoveries in the sciences and eminent inventive ideas have occurred simultaneously in widely separated portions of the world is a well known fact. If a certain habit of