

Bald Eagle. This Eagle caller, when departing, was chased by a Marsh Hawk, and the immense spread of its wings could thus be compared with that of the Hawk. Their proportional sizes were to each other about as those of Crow to Kingbird, and their behavior was decidedly similar.

Seeing and hearing daily within hailing distance of ones doorstep an average of twenty-three species of birds is a privilege not to be despised, neither are the thrills that come when rare visitors appear quite unexpectedly: to step outside to find a non-reporting Chipping Sparrow and see a Great Blue Heron flying overhead, or to go a little farther in search of a Short-billed Marsh Wren and find instead a Bald Eagle gives zest to the roll calling. But the best part is to see the recruited numbers of some species that have been sadly missed of late. This is especially true of the Bobolink, that joyous rollicking songster which had almost disappeared from fields and orchards for a few years. The Dickcissel, entirely wanting last year, has been present in moderate numbers, and the Grasshopper Sparrow, always scarce, has been with us again. The Mourning Dove seems to be prospering as never before. Perhaps prosperity has made it more generous in revealing its nest secrets, at all events some unsuspected features have been displayed. The seventh nest of this species that has been found on our place in 1917 is now in progress. The Maryland Yellowthroat apparently was driven away by House Wrens, whose numbers have increased unduly. When such an increase happened among the Flickers a few years ago some very curious things took place by which further increase was checked and the species has now been reduced to normal numbers. It will be a matter of interest to note, if anything of like nature occurs among the Wrens, though it seems extremely unlikely.

Species whose summer residence with us is short are staying in more than usual numbers; since they came late in the spring it is possible they do not intend to cut short their northern sojourn. No Warblers from the north have been seen, though it is now time for first arrivals.

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#### WEIGHT OF AN EAGLE'S BRAIN.

Recently Mr. Wirt W. Hallam, Secretary of the Chicago Vigilance Association, desired to secure information showing the relative brain capacity of a domestic fowl and of an eagle. Inquiry of various ornithologists failed to bring him the information, and he was compelled to secure the data himself. He secured a male

Golden Eagle through a taxidermist in Chicago, and made similar measurements upon it and a Plymouth Rock hen.

The facts obtained are as follows: :

<i>Eagle.</i>	<i>Chicken.</i>
10 pounds—Weight of entire bird.....	7½ pounds
7 ft. 1 in.—Extent, tip to tip of wings.....	28 inches
39 inches—Length of each wing.....	12 inches
16 inches—Width of each wing.....	8 inches
36 inches—Length of entire bird.....	24 inches
185 grains—Weight of brain.....	55 grains

#### PRAIRIE HORNED LARKS FROZEN IN ICE.

In February, 1914, near Westfield, Iowa, I found seven Prairie Horned Larks frozen in the ice in the ruts of a country road. The ice was thin and easily broken, and as the birds were still alive they were quickly released and allowed to fly away, apparently not seriously injured. Most of the birds were held by both feet, but one or two were fastened by only one foot. Feathers could also be seen frozen in the ice. These feathers may have been whipped out in the efforts of the birds to escape, or some may have been frozen in at the same time the feet were frozen in.

We cannot be altogether certain how the birds came to be thus imprisoned in this peculiar manner. But it seems to me most likely that the birds found the deep ruts a good shelter and roosted there through the night. It is not easy to believe, however, that they would deliberately stand in water, and we may have to suppose that some thawing occurred during the forepart of the night, and that the temperature later fell to the freezing point.

CLAUDIUS PIKE.

#### SOME NOTES FROM ST. MARKS, FLORIDA.

*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*—Cliff Swallow. May 10, 1917, five flew over the river, feeding for some minutes. This is the only spring record I find.

*Porzana carolina*—Sora. May 8, 1917, four were seen feeding on an open marsh. All showed the bright yellow coloring to bill, indicative of approaching breeding season. May 14, 1916, a single bird was seen. These dates seem late, but I have no idea they remained here for nesting.

*Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus*—Bald Eagle. December 11, 1916, a single egg, that proved incubation almost finished, was taken from a nest. This egg was probably deposited about November 20.

*Compephilus principalis*—Ivory-billed Woodpecker. I recently saw a female of this rare bird in the flesh that had been taken