

House Wrens and Arsenate-dusted Currant Bushes.—For three successive years the House Wrens have abandoned their nests in the writer's yard when their young were partly grown. The dried remains of the nestlings were found when the nest boxes received a cleaning in the fall. At the time that the nests were abandoned the currant bushes had become infested with the small green currant worms and had been dusted with finely powdered arsenate of lead. It was shortly after the old birds were observed carrying the arsenate-covered worms to their nests that they disappeared and were not seen again. No other birds were seen feeding on these worms. As there is nothing conclusive in these notes, it would be interesting for those observers who note any sudden decrease in the House Wren population to also make a comparison with arsenate-dusted bushes, if any, to which the birds have access.

The writer has not observed any of the so-called bad habits of the House Wren, the only instance of nest robbing noted being when a Song Sparrow's egg was found on the sidewalk directly after a Cowbird had flown over the same spot. The Song Sparrow's nest was not found, but later a much harassed Song Sparrow was followed about the yard by a young Cowbird twice its size. (Banded with numbers 149536 and 262630).—E. C. HOFFMAN, *Lakewood, Ohio*.

A Marauding Blue Jay.—On the afternoon of May 11, 1925, while sitting out on the lawn of the Sioux City Boat Club, idly gazing up in the tree tops, I saw a Blue Jay harassing a Mourning Dove, eighteen or twenty feet up in a tree. He would pluck out a mouthful of feathers and then retreat for a moment. When the dove had settled down, back would come the jay to torment her again. On closer observation I discovered the nest, wonderfully well hidden for a Mourning Dove's nest. The jay kept up his attacks for several minutes and finally the dove left the nest and went to her mate sitting on a limb farther out. This was just the opportunity the jay was waiting for. He hopped to the nest, pecked a hole in the egg and carried it off. Excepting once or twice, the male dove did not come to the defense of his mate.—MRS. MARIE DALES, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

An Observation on the Behavior of the Chimney Swift Under Unusual Circumstances.—A large flock of the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), gathering for the fall migration, roosted in the brick stack of the Lincoln School in Atlantic, Iowa, from approximately September 12 to 22, 1925. The flock left the stack after the air warmed in the morning usually about 7:30 to 8:30 A. M., depending upon the temperature and sunshine, and began to re-assemble over the stack about 6:00 to 6:30 P. M., coming from all directions, by ones and twos and threes, until the air over the building was full of the twittering little birds. It would be difficult to estimate the exact number, but probably at least one thousand birds were present for several evenings. Owing to the fine fall weather, and also to repairs to the heating system, firing of the boilers was not begun until the afternoon of September 22. This was a cool, cloudy day, and the flock of swifts assembled earlier than usual. The procedure of going to roost was the formation of a great ellipse of birds, inclined at an angle of about 45 degrees, the lower edge being on a level with the top of the stack. A rapid rotation of the birds in the ellipse would go on for perhaps half an hour, when one or two would drop in, others following, and this would continue faster and faster, until the whole line of birds had passed into the stack. On the last evening, the whirl went on