

were observed on twenty-two days, and sixty was the greatest number seen in any one day during the month. During October (1924) they were less in numbers and seen on fewer days, the greatest number seen being seventeen and the bird having been seen on only thirteen days. November was about the same, they having been seen on thirteen different dates; but they were somewhat more abundant, thirty-eight being seen on November 30. During December they were seen on more days, but rather decreased in numbers, being seen on seventeen different days while the greatest number seen in any one day was twenty-seven. During January, 1925, they were seen in much smaller numbers, and on only a few days, for they were seen on only eight different days and four was the greatest number seen. In February (1925) their numbers were still less, they being seen on only four days and one being the greatest number seen. March (1925) was the same as February, only the species was seen on but three days. April (1925) brought them back to about normal numbers, they being seen on thirteen days and thirteen being seen in a single day (April 11). In May, up to the time I left that locality (on May 19), they were seen on fourteen different days and ten was the greatest number seen on any one day (May 18).

After leaving McMillan, Luce County, I did not see any Evening Grosbeaks until December 30, 1925, when I saw one at Vicksburg. One individual was also seen on each of the following dates: December 31, 1925, and January 2, 3, 5, 7, 12 and 30, 1926. It came to feed on the seeds of the Boxelder. In Luce County, where I saw them they fed to a great extent on the wild cherries, and I saw some in winter feeding on such seeds of these cherries as were yet on the tree, but their favorite food in winter in that locality appears to be the seeds of Ironwood.—O. M. BRYENS, *Three Rivers, Mich.*

**An Unusual Nest of the White-breasted Nuthatch.**—Last year my father and I made and put up a variety of nesting boxes for the birds, as well as a few for the squirrels, which were on the sixteen acres near Atlanta that we were making into a bird sanctuary.

One box we had fixed for squirrels was a large soap box and we placed it high up in the large white oak tree, on the crest of a hill. During the spring we kept checking up on the boxes occupied and were pleased to find three pairs of Tufted Titmice, two pairs of Chickadees, a pair of Great-crested Flycatchers and a pair of Bluebirds.

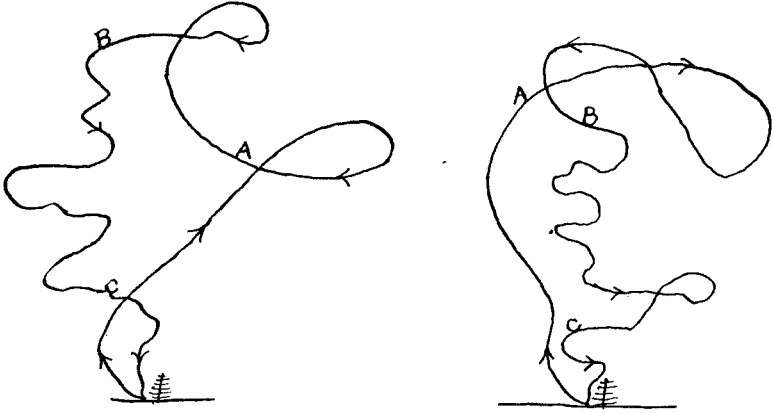
One day, standing near the crest of the hill, I saw a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches carrying strips of bark into the soap box. Often they would carry strips larger than themselves. They were very industrious and paid no attention to us. The birds used the bark to cover the entire floor of the box and the layer was about half an inch in thickness. They then proceeded to collect little pellets of dried earth and lumps of mud which was scattered thinly over the bark.

After this preliminary they started on the nest proper, which they placed in a back corner of the box. The nest was saucer-shaped and constructed of small twigs, grasses and rootlets.

Then, as if not quite satisfied, this unique pair discovered a dead rabbit—one that had been dead for some time—and proceeded to line the nest proper, as well as the rest of the box, with rabbit fur, so that when completed the box smelled more like a buzzard's domicile than a nuthatch's home. Brer' Rabbit's fluffy tail held a conspicuous place in the middle of the box.

In due course of time five eggs were laid, incubated and hatched, the little ones raised, and soon all were a familiar sight about the sanctuary.—LUCIEN HARRIS, *Atlanta, Ga.*

**The Flight-Song of the Woodcock.**—This is the second year that I have observed the remarkable flight-song of the Woodcock (*Philohela minor*). On March 10, 1926, he had returned and started his flight-song, the same as last year,



in a high, dry, open field with small, scattering coniferous trees. I have seen two other Woodcocks, performing in similar places for two years, so I know that they return year after year to the same spot. Above are two diagrams of his maneuvers. As nearly as I can tell the highest point was about 250 feet. There are five notes, at least, which he utters and I will describe them in order.

When he first flies to the spot of performance he sometimes utters a grating "cra-ra-ra-ra." Then he remains on the ground a few minutes and repeats his call, an insect-like note, somewhat resembling the note of a Nighthawk (*Chordeiles virginianus*), but very hard to describe. Soon he flies up, making a loud steady whistling which is probably produced by the wings, although I have flushed many Woodcocks in the daytime and they did not make a sound as they flew off. When he has proceeded to the point marked A on the diagrams the steady whistle changes to a twittering whistle, which continues until he starts to descend (B). As he comes down, in swift zig-zag motions, he commences a loud chirping and twittering which is his real song. This is continued to point C, where all noises cease and he flutters down silently on half-drooped wings to the spot from where he flew, and the calling is again repeated.

Before uttering his call, and sometimes three or four times in succession, he utters a low "p-u-r-r" which resembles a mother cat calling her kittens, but this can only be heard when you are within ten or fifteen feet of him. The time spent in the air at each flight is one minute or less, and the time on the ground is from one and one-half to three minutes. He calls from sixteen to forty times while on the ground and flies about twelve or fifteen times each evening except when there is a full moon. I once stayed out until after twelve o'clock on a full-moon light night watching him, and he was still performing when I left, but the stay on the ground was prolonged greatly. On cloudy nights he begins