

and probably nest, I learned of an unusual method employed by pigeons in evading their dreaded foe, the Duck Hawk. The pigeons, upon seeing the hawk towering above them, preparatory to striking, fly with terrific haste down toward the main highway. As the Duck Hawk poises before his plunge the pigeons arrange themselves under the telegraph wires, and fly along one after the other, just beneath the wires. The hawk swoops, but always veers off when it sees the wires. Goshawks have been known to kill themselves by flying into mesh wire while making their attack upon poultry; evidently the Duck Hawk does not commit such folly. I understand from local residents that the pigeons which pass the cliffs now regularly fly near the road, ready to dart to cover under the wires at the first sight of their enemy. How different are these tactics from those of the flocks of shore-birds in the North Country which swarm into the sky and mill about in a confused mass, awaiting the dreaded plunge of their pursuer.

Robins, Flickers, Meadowlarks, and Blue Jays which fly by the cliffs are struck down with comparative ease. These smaller birds apparently have not learned of the protection the telegraph wires might afford.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

Some Cowbird Experiences in Columbus, Ohio.—On May 22, 1928, at about 9:15 A. M., a male Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*) alighted on an old shed near our house, giving his high pitched call—"seeee." Soon a female Cowbird arrived near by, whereupon a Field Sparrow and a male Indigo Bunting also appeared, and scolded. The female Cowbird then disappeared, but shortly afterwards returned with an egg in her bill, which she ate at leisure, contents and shell, while an unfortunate Song Sparrow protested. With a satisfied air she hopped on to the fence, wiped her bill and flew away.

On June 8, 1928, I discovered a nest of the Maryland Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas trichas*) in a patch of weeds in the same vicinity. In it were two warbler eggs and no less than four Cowbird's eggs. All were warm. The warblers did not show themselves at all. I unwisely removed all of the eggs of the parasite, without thinking until later of the shock it would be to the warbler to find such a radical change in her household. The unappreciative warbler promptly deserted her own eggs. The Cowbird eggs remained in the house for five hours at a temperature of 68°F. Then I cracked one, and the horrid little reptilian creature inside waved its fore paw and opened its bill! The egg that closely resembled this one in its markings was also nearly ready to hatch, but the others, which were like each other but slightly different from the first two, were fresh.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio.*

The Hudsonian Chickadee in Michigan.—On July 28, 1928, in spruce forest on a sandy plain south of the Huron Mountains, about fifteen miles from the shore of Lake Superior and at an elevation of about 900 feet above the lake, I came on a band of chickadees and kinglets which included both the familiar Black-capped Chickadee (*Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*) and the Hudsonian Chickadee (*Penethestes hudsonicus*) and both the Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa satrapa*) and the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula calendula*). Walking in the clear and rather open stand of spruces, and hearing chickadee notes which seemed not wholly familiar, I squeaked, and presently the little coterie was all about me. There were two or three Black-caps, but the majority of the chickadees, a half dozen, more or less, were Hud-

sonian. And the latter were the more confiding, for they flitted within a few inches of my head. I noted each distinctive detail—the dusky chestnut crown, the duller underparts and the wing feathers with no more than a suggestion of white edgings. The kinglets were silent; there were only a few of them, but the crown patch of one, the absence of crown patch of others, and the intermittent fluttering of the wings as the birds hopped from twig to twig, made identification sure. The occurrence of these two rare birds in July is, in the case of the Hudsonian Chickadee at least (a species scarcely migratory at all), little less than demonstration of nesting. Of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Barrows wrote (1912) that it probably was not to be found nesting within the state of Michigan.—BAYARD H. CHRISTY, *Sewickley, Pa.*

Some Interesting Ohio Records.—Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*).—Westerville, May 16, 1928. Also, a specimen of this species was found dead near the Huron Marshes south of Willard, on July 16, 1928.

Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis*).—Bumgardner's Pond, Franklin County, April 4, 1927, and Alum Creek Swamp, Westerville, April 3, 1927. Probably a considerable number of both of these species breed in favorable localities of the state but are easily missed because of their small size and secretive habits.

Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinicus*).—On May 17, 1928, I collected a perfect specimen of this gorgeously painted species at the Alum Creek Swamp, Westerville. There are about a half dozen published Ohio records for this casual migrant, and this seems to be the first specimen taken in the state since 1917. The skin is now in the Wheaton Club Collection of the Ohio State Museum at Columbus.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*).—Richard E. Durst and the writer observed seven individuals on April 27 and 28, 1928, in company with a flock of sixty-eight Golden Plovers, feeding in a surface pond in western Madison County. Spring records of this sandpiper are much rarer than records made in the fall.

Prairie Hen (*Tympanuchus americanus*).—Richard E. Durst and myself recorded a female of this species at Bay Point, May 26, 1928. It was discovered while sunning itself in the clearing of an old wagon road, and ran slowly ahead of us for about 200 yards at a distance of from thirty to sixty feet, following the deep rut formed by the wagon wheels. The bird seemed little frightened by our presence and we did not succeed in flushing it until the distance between us was cut to less than twenty feet. The head and neck, the barring of the heavy plump body, the short feathered legs and the very short tail with prominent black bars were all clearly observed, both with the naked eye and by the aid of 8x binoculars, removing all possibility of confusion with any other species. This bird was thought by many to have become extinct in Ohio a number of years ago, as there have been no recent records. Evidently a few scattered individuals have been able to survive in unusually favorable habitats, as it is unlikely that the species would ever be able to reestablish itself in the state once it had been completely wiped out. Several rumors of birds resembling Prairie Hens have come from the Huron Marshes region and it is altogether possible that they may sometime be found there, or somewhere in the Oak Openings region west of Toledo.

Lawrence's Warbler.—On May 27, 1928, I studied for some time a peculiar hybrid warbler that I discovered along the northern edge of the Huron Marshes