

for *A. m. macgillivraii*. (Bulletin No. 7, Bailey Museum of Natural History, August, 1931).

Page 363. Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). The C. B. Cory record of this bird in Florida is of doubtful value, and should not have been used, unless in the Florida hypothetical list. This record was gone into thoroughly by the writer when working on the "Birds of Florida", and after all facts were known, it was thought best to eliminate it.—HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Miami, Florida*.

The Nesting Behavior of a Pair of Mockingbirds.—The Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) is locally an abundant migrant and fairly common summer resident, while a few males winter here. An increase in recent years in the number of migrants would indicate a northward extension of the species. One male individual that winters here is recognizable by his song, for he is a master artist in his imitations of other birds. Throughout the year at no time does he wander more than within a radius of a half mile. In the winter he skulks shyly through the bare trees in a weird manner, and at sight of another bird gives his warning note, which is the only one used throughout the winter.

On February 22, 1929, he commenced crooning, and this was kept up until the first week in March when his ecstatic joy was shown by his impassioned outbursts of song. About this time he began to investigate nesting sites. He devoted most of his time inspecting a neighbor's climbing rosebush. After the arrival of his mate, on April 3, they both continued the search, but did not come to a decision until the latter part of April, when they chose to place their home very near the street, in a rosebush in my own yard.

The nest was placed three feet from the ground. They did not notice the traffic while building, but while nesting the sitting bird flew off every time a vehicle passed. On April 28, a dark, cloudy day, I noticed the pair picking up twig ends of a last year's locust in the yard. These twig ends were about four inches long and were carried far back in the bill at about the middle of the twig. They flew first to the fence about a foot from the nest, and then to the nest, putting the twigs in place. Both seemed to be taking the same interest in building.

When first observed the nest was fairly well started. The nest was completed by April 30 and apparently was then deserted. The outer layer was composed entirely of the locust twigs, the inner layer was of small rootlets, and between these was a thin layer of moss. This mossy layer is in every Mockingbird's nest that I have ever examined in this vicinity.

But they returned on May 4. On May 5, 6, and 7 an egg was deposited each day. The squirrels kept bothering them, and finally destroyed two of the eggs. On May 15 the nest was deserted and on the same day another one was commenced in the neighbor's climbing rose. This nest was placed seven feet from the ground. The usual height in this vicinity is three feet.

When the female commenced incubation the male chose a walnut tree 350 feet away for a perching and singing tree. He stayed most of the time in the tree, skulking through its branches and frequently roaming through the neighborhood. When the eggs were hatched he commenced his irrepressible singing, keeping it up most of the day and for several hours at night. The song of day was mellowed by the heat and other noises into a fascinating silvery melody, while in the quiet hours of the night the bold, clear notes were strikingly intensified.

The young left the nest on June 19. They were joined by the male, and for three or four days the family stayed in the yard. They then left for a vacant lot, where they remained for three or four weeks. Then the female abandoned them, to return to her old nest and raise another family. The same family routine was repeated as in the first, until the brood left on August 18. The male again joined his family in the yard and then to the vacant lot, where they remained together until migration.—KATIE M. ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio*.

The Re-use of Nest Material.—Mr. John B. Lewis, in the June issue of the WILSON BULLETIN, notes the disappearance of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers' and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds' nests after the young had left and his observations suggest the re-use of the material either by the original builder or another bird of the same species. Another cause for the disappearance of such nests may be suggested by the occurrence in two instances of an old Wood Pewee's nest as an interior ornament of a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest. Description of a nest found in Jefferson Township, Cook County, Illinois, April 16, 1893, mentions this detail, and that of another found in Northfield Township, in the same county, April 10, 1898, also notes it. Perhaps an old lichen-covered nest attracts hawks as snake-skins do Crested Flycatchers. Incidentally, the circumstance that I have found onion skins and bits of waxed paper in the nests of the latter species, prompts the thought that it is not because it is a snake-skin but because of its glitter that the object is picked up.—EDWARD R. FORD, *Chicago, Ill.*

An Encounter Between a Cooper's Hawk and a Horned Owl.—On July 7, 1931, I was visiting a juvenile Great Horned Owl that had previously been tethered on the ground for a study of its food habits in a woodlot west of Pine Bluff, Wisconsin. The adult owl that was taking care of the youngster appeared at my approach, alighted in a tree near by, and started the usual hostile demonstration of hooting and bill snapping. As if in answer to the hoots, the cry of a Cooper's Hawk came from deeper in the woods, and an instant later a female hawk dashed at the adult owl with terrific speed. Like a skilled boxer, the owl ducked, barely evading the hawk's talons. Several times in very short order the owl had to dodge as the raging hawk struck from all sides.

During the first part of this performance, the owl had been nearly as much concerned on account of my proximity to the juvenile as it had been with the attacks of the Cooper's Hawk. Finally, things became sufficiently hot that the owl left the branch upon which it had perched, and launched forth in direct and purposeful chase of the Cooper's Hawk, which kept just ahead of her larger pursuer for several yards before doubling back, to wheel and strike again. The hawk behaved as though utterly maddened, but she never let herself get quite within reach of the owl's talons. Her safety was plainly dependent upon her superior agility and precision of movement. For a brief space the action became so fast that I could not see exactly what was happening, especially at close quarters when it seemed that neither bird could avoid being hit. However, it is improbable that damage was done, for not even a feather was noted to fall. The hawk soon went her way, cackling as she flew, and the owl was free once more to center upon me its earnest attention. The hawk gave no evidence of having seen me.

A search of a few minutes revealed the hawk's nest 110 yards away. Two juveniles, ready to fly, were perched on the rim.—PAUL L. ERRINGTON, *Ames, Iowa*.