

of the wild goose at eventide very close to us during migrating time. The geese and ducks both spend the night in the tall rushes where sago pond weed and wild celery are found plentifully near by. This year in Back Bay the growth of feed has been ideal, owing to the remedial measures taken by both the Federal and State governments to reduce the salinity of the water, which condition was caused by the overflow of Chesapeake Bay in the storm of two years ago. As far back as the 1880's the hunting and fishing facilities of this county and adjacent waters have made this area a real sportsman's paradise, as is well known. Two years ago, after the Big Storm, quite a tragedy occurred here. Residents far up the river heard terrific shooting at midnight. Investigation found marauders in small boats shooting into the roosting places, killing both geese and ducks by the hundreds, getting a few but leaving most of them to die in the marshes. We had much trouble getting the game warden of the county, who lives at Back Bay, quite a distance. It was too late to make any arrests, but I am happy to say nothing of the kind has happened since and I believe our wild life is now being given good protection.—LUCY PENDLETON KEARNS, *Lynnhaven, Va.*

The Lazuli Bunting in Northeastern South Dakota.—During the first week of June, 1935, the writer was working on a waterfowl survey in the Waubay Lakes region in Day County, South Dakota, and it was here near Spring Lake that a male Lazuli Bunting was seen on several successive days. The strange thing, however, was the fact that the bird was consorting with two females. One female was an Indigo Bunting and the other a Lazuli Bunting. On every occasion when the male Lazuli Bunting was flushed the two females would also flush. The writer was sorry that he could not stay longer to determine whether both females started nest-building. The location of these birds was approximately thirty miles from the border lines of both Minnesota and North Dakota. The record is interesting in that it shows that previous reports of the Lazuli Bunting in Iowa and Minnesota were not accidental and that this bunting is actually extending its breeding range eastward. The question of hybrids between the Lazuli Bunting and the Indigo Bunting is again brought to mind and suggests that probably such hybrid specimens as taken by W. J. Breckenridge, in Warren County, Minnesota, on June 26, 1929, and by the writer in Cherry County, Nebraska, on June 1, 1932, will be found more frequently by ornithologists of the future.—WM. YOUNG WORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

Nests of Crows and Other Birds in the Same Evergreen Grove.—During the past three springs we have answered a number of calls from farmers in the vicinity of Ames, requesting help in driving away Crows that were molesting small chickens. All of these calls have been from farmsteads in which a few to several hundred evergreen trees have served as quite regular roosting places for Crows during the winter. Observations on our part and by the farm folks have shown that Crows will dispose of a few young chicks when these are accessible close to their roosting places. So far, in the limited number of cases contacted by us, from two to eight evenings of firing with shotguns into the small number of Crows at each roost have sufficed to drive them away until autumn, the larger number going elsewhere to roost, probably in the deciduous woodlands along the streams, since only a few Crows were killed at each grove.

While answering these calls we conjectured as to what would happen if the Crows were permitted to nest undisturbed in a grove of evergreens, and as to

how they would behave toward other birds. This past spring (1935) a closely planted evergreen grove at the north end of the Iowa State College campus, covering a nearly rectangular area of about one acre, and containing red, Austrian, and jack pines on the north half and Douglas fir, spruce, and white pine on the south half, was placed under observation. On April 27, two Crow's nests were observed in the grove, one about twenty-five feet up in a jack pine at the west end of the grove, and the other about thirty feet up in a jack pine a little north of the center of the grove. The adult birds were at the nests at nearly all of the ten visits made by us. The young left the west nest about May 15 and the other nest was vacated May 25. We saw no evidence of the Crows molesting other birds or their nests during about twelve hours of observation made while the adult Crows were at the grove. A Mourning Dove was nesting about fifteen feet up in a red pine about five rods east and three and a half rods south of the central Crow's nest. Another Mourning Dove's nest was built about twenty feet up in a white pine about six rods south and three rods east of the central Crow's nest. A Robin's nest was set fifteen feet up in a Douglas fir about six rods east and three and a half rods south of the central Crow's nest. No other nests were seen in the grove. The Mourning Doves' and Robins' nests were well protected from view in the more densely branched Douglas fir and pines, and, although the data are few, support is lent to a generalization that such good concealment is of value for nesting Mourning Doves and Robins. During the twenty hours of observations, chiefly during the afternoons in late April and May, 319 individuals of sixty-six species of birds were seen in this evergreen grove and in several rods of deciduous trees at its west end.—GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON and ROBERT TRENEMAN, *Dept. Zoology and Entomology, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.*

Observations on Nest Site Trials by the Eastern Robin.—The maneuvers of a male and female Eastern Robin (*Turdus migratorius migratorius*) in several large American elms, approximately eighty feet in height, were noticed on the morning of April 15, 1935, in St. Paul, Minnesota. The day was cloudy and cool and sufficiently early in the season that no foliage hampered observation of the birds in the trees.

They were seen to flit from one crotch to another, in a very random manner, until the entire tree was inspected. Occasionally one bird would fly to an adjoining tree and shortly return to be near its mate. The greatest interest lay in the procedure followed at each visited crotch. The bird would spread its legs in order to support itself with one foot on each of the conjuncting limbs and in this position it would crouch and shift its weight from side to side, and at the same time ruffle its feathers and slightly extend its wings. After several seconds it would reverse its position and repeat the process. In no case did this procedure consume more than a minute's time. The routine appeared to be so similar to the characteristic shifting and turning observed during actual nest building and after nest completion, that it was immediately believed that these birds were giving trials to various sites for their nest.

The Robins evidently preferred to start at the lower branches of the trees, which were twenty-five feet above the ground, and gradually work their way upward until they were approximately fifty feet from the surface of the ground. At this point, the limbs had a tendency to thin and branch out. This was apparently a characteristic without appeal to the birds, for at that height they left with a downward flight to begin over again in an adjoining elm.