

The male assists in incubation, and also in taking care of the young. Palmer's Thrasher is very bold when you are at the nest, and will often come within a few feet, while Bendire's Thrasher will slip off the nest and you may not see it even if you remain by the nest for a half hour or more. — JOSIAH H. CLARK, *Tucson, Arizona*.

Carolina Wren at Lyme, Conn., in December. — On the morning of December 17, 1897, I was surprised to see and hear a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) at this place. As it is the first one I have ever seen in New England, it may be of interest to record the occurrence. — ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, *Lyme, Conn.*

Nesting Habits of the Robin. — In Mr. Howe's interesting paper on the 'Breeding Habits of the Robin' I notice (Auk, XV, April, 1898, p. 167) that he has not observed an instance of a second brood being raised in the same nest. So it may be of interest to note that here a slightly different record can be made.

I have under observation at this writing three nests in which second clutches of eggs have been laid and are now being incubated. One is in a window corner of my office, — and in this case the lining was not even changed. The first egg was laid just one week after the young of the first brood left the nest.

Another nest is in the cornice of a stable building, and in this instance the lining was torn out and replaced by fresh material. The third nest is in a young linden tree, and I did not notice the house cleaning after the first brood left.

Last year a Robin built her nest and raised a brood in the transom over the door of the Glen Island Museum. She returned about a week after the flight of the first brood, and laid three eggs, but deserted them, when about half incubated. I think I recognize her as the same one that has built in my office window this year. — S. M. McCORMICK, *Glen Island Museum, Westchester Co., New York*.

Notes From Ontario. — The American Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonica*) is recorded as occurring on rare occasions in Algoma, northwestern Ontario. This season several specimens have wandered far east and south. On March 12, 1898, Chas. M. Clarke of Kingston, observed a Magpie near Odessa, and since that date two specimens have been shot and sent to the taxidermist. This is believed to be the first time Magpies have been recorded in Eastern Ontario.

Horned Larks breed regularly in this district. Last year the Rev. C. Young, of Lansdowne, found a nest (eggs slightly incubated) on April 5. This year I found a nest on April 3. The eggs were four in number, incubation almost completed. There is some doubt about the variety of the Horned Lark which breeds here, although I have little hesitation in classifying the eggs found this season as those of *Otocoris alpestris prati*

cola, the pale color and small size of the birds, both of which were closely observed for fully twenty minutes, making identification practically certain. Snow is nearly always on the ground at this time of the year, and the birds search for hillocks of bare earth. The nests are beautifully cupped and carefully built of roots of grass.—C. K. CLARKE, M. D., *Kingston, Ontario*.

An Addition and a Correction to the List of North Carolina Birds.—**BAY-BREASTED WARBLER** (*Dendroica castanea*).—A female *D. castanea* was taken by myself at Chapel Hill, Oct. 2, 1897, and a male was secured on the 8th of the same month. Both specimens were in the immature plumage. They were identified by Prof. Robert Ridgway. I believe this to be the first record of this bird in North Carolina.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*).—In part second of the 'Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society,' for 1887, published at Chapel Hill, Prof. Geo. F. Atkinson gives a 'Preliminary Catalogue of the Birds of North Carolina.' Under the name of *S. pallida* he says: "Accidental. One taken at Chapel Hill, March 8th, 1886 (Univ. Coll.)" The specimen to which he refers is No. 1050 in the University collection.

In two or more publications since, references have been made to this as the one record of this Sparrow's occurrence in the State. Upon examining the specimen I became convinced that an error had been committed in the identification, and at once sent it to the Smithsonian Institution. Prof. Richmond identified it as being simply *Melospiza georgiana*.—T. GILBERT PEARSON, *Chapel Hill, N. C.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Two New Popular Bird Books.—Two more popular bird books have just been added to the long series of hand-books for beginners. Though both are prepared with the same object in view, they differ radically from each other in style of treatment of the subject, and also are quite unlike any of their predecessors. One is the work of an enthusiastic ornithologist of wide experience with birds in life, the other by a schoolmaster and an amateur, who has his subject well in hand, and who knows from practical experience the needs of beginners in attempting nature studies. With points of view and previous experience so unlike, it is not surprising that the method of treating the subject here in hand—the birds of eastern North America—should also widely differ.