

Hawks took possession for breeding purposes, of an apartment in a dove-cote at my farm in Tatham in West Springfield, driving out a pair of Doves that were there in possession and destroying their nest. Their first egg was laid April 17, the second after an interval of two days, and three others, each, after an interval of one day. Incubation commenced after the fourth was laid. The male was at this time killed, but the female remained devoted to her work and on the 27th of May three Hawks were hatched, and the following day, another. One of the eggs proved not to be fertile. Incubation lasted thirty-four days, a period much longer than heretofore reported. During the whole of the time of incubation and the rearing of the young, the mother Hawk did not interfere with the wild birds that had adopted the territory in the vicinity of the dove-cote for their home.

A pair of Bluebirds nested in a bird-house within thirty feet, and Robins, Phœbes, Vesper Sparrows and other kinds all remained undisturbed in the immediate neighborhood, and the pair of Doves that were first made to give way for the Hawks, were permitted to rebuild in a place adjacent to their first home. The young of the Hawks were all successfully raised and are now well and happy in confinement.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

**Xema sabinii** and **Chordeiles virginianus sennetti**—Two Additions to the Iowa Avifauna. — My collection of Iowa birds contains two immature specimens of Sabine's Gull, both of which were taken on the sandbar immediately above Burlington, Iowa. No. 50, (S. U. I. No. 15981) ♂, was shot Oct. 15, 1891; No. 51, (S. U. I. No. 15982) ♀, Oct. 12, 1894. These I believe are the first records of this species for Iowa. The specimens are deposited at the State University of Iowa at Iowa City.

The Smithsonian Institution recently received a specimen of Sennett's Night Hawk from Mr. C. F. Henning of Boone, Iowa, shot four miles southeast of that place. This variety seems so far to have escaped Iowa observers and it gives me pleasure to add it to our list.—P. BARTSCH, *Washington, D. C.*

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

Torrey's 'A World of Green Hills.'<sup>1</sup>—The subtitle of Mr. Torrey's

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<sup>1</sup>A World of Green | Hills | Observations of Nature | and Human Nature | in the Blue Ridge | By | Bradford Torrey | . . . [Motto, = 2 lines and Seal] Boston and New York | Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1898—16mo, pp. 285. Price, \$1.25.

little book — ‘Observations of Nature and Human Nature’ — is eminently descriptive of the character of this new collection of charming essays, devoted about equally to the birds, the flowers, and the people of that portion of the Blue Ridge where the States of West Virginia and North Carolina meet. While the reader is given delightful reminiscences of the scenery and natural products of the region as seen by a lover of nature in the closing month of spring, perhaps not less entertaining are his ‘observations of human nature’ which so delightfully flavor the book and break the tendency to monotony that a purely natural history relation by any writer, however gifted, is apt to present. The six essays here brought together are entitled ‘A Day’s Drive in Three States,’ ‘In Quest of Ravens,’ ‘A Mountain Pond,’ ‘Birds, Flowers, and People,’ ‘A Nook in the Alleghanies,’ and ‘At Natural Bridge.’ The ‘Quest for Ravens’ was not a great success so far as finding Ravens was concerned; the anticipated “little store of ‘first-hand knowledge’” was “a brace of interrogation points.” The Ravens evaded acquaintanceship, but the reader of Mr. Torrey’s book will not regret the length of this chapter that tells of the Raven hunt. In this, as in the other chapters, ‘anthropology and ornithology,’ and botany, are entertainingly blended. His successes and his disappointments in the ornithological line are narrated with an enthusiasm and a humor that appeals to the general reader as well as to the bird lover. He records, in the course of the book, much that is of permanent value from the standpoint of the naturalist, which an excellent index renders readily available. — J. A. A.

**Mrs. Maynard’s Birds of Washington.**<sup>1</sup> — This little manual, prepared at the suggestion of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, is a credit to everyone concerned with its preparation. It gives untechnical descriptions of about 100 species of the birds most likely to be seen in the vicinity of Washington, with something about the habits of those that nest there, about a page being devoted to each species, many of the species being illustrated. There are also brief descriptions of the “migrants and winter residents,” and a tabular ‘List of All Birds found in the District of Columbia,’ the latter by Dr. C. W. Richmond, and so arranged as to indicate the season of occurrence. Other supplementary lists follow of ‘birds that may be seen in winter,’ ‘birds that nest within the city limits,’ and lists of birds seen on certain days at particular points, based on the observations of several of the best known Washington ornithologists. The ‘Introduction’ (pp. 11–16), by Miss Florence A. Merriam, is filled with excellent advice as to how, where and when to

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<sup>1</sup> Birds of Washington | and Vicinity | including parts of Maryland and Virginia | By | Mrs. L. W. Maynard | with | Introduction by Florence A. Merriam | . . . [= motto, 3 lines] | Washington, D. C. | 1898. — 8vo, pp. 204, with numerous illustrations.