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The Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophlæus pileatus*) in Minnesota. — The accompanying photographs (Plate X) were taken in deep woods along the Le Sueur River about four miles southeast of Mankato, Minnesota, in the early spring of 1897, and show clearly the work of the Pileated Woodpecker or 'Logcock.' This woodpecker is now seldom seen in the southern part of the State and is little known to most people.

Both stumps were dead maples. That shown in Fig. 1 was broken off about six feet from the ground and at the fracture was fourteen inches in diameter. Three openings were originally made in the stump by the birds but these do not show in the photograph, since the camera did not directly face them. When examined, a groove had been dug away along the exterior so that the two upper openings converged into one; but there was still a narrow constriction which indicated that they had, most likely, once been separated. The upper portion of this hole was 10 inches long by 6 inches wide and the lower was 15 inches long by $4\frac{1}{2}$ wide. Below these was another hole 6 inches long by 3 wide. The two lower holes did not expand after entering but the upper, where the stump had broken before the photograph was taken, extended slightly upward and a much greater distance downward, the latter extension being enlarged to make room for the nest. At the base of the stump were many chips some of which were half an inch in diameter and 3 inches long. The wood had decayed some but it was still too firm to be broken easily with the hand or by an ordinary blow, which showed that the bird must have exerted great force in order to remove the chips. The broken end of the piece of the stump that had fallen faced the camera directly and the large, nearly central excavation is plainly visible.

Fig. 2 shows another maple stub which stood within a few feet of the one just described. The top had long since fallen off and what remained was 18 feet high and a foot in diameter. There were three holes near the top, in fact the uppermost one ran entirely to the top and was $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet long by 4 inches wide. Just below this was a second which was a foot long and 5 inches wide. A third just below the second was $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet long and 4 inches wide. At the base this stump had been pecked all around so that it was almost ready to fall. The holes at the top of the stump were evidently made for nesting purposes but the work at the base was probably done in search of grubs or insects which were lodged in the decaying wood.

A few specimens of this retiring bird are still seen in the region of Mankato but the rapid disappearance of the forests marks its speedy withdrawal. In the early spring of 1900 a specimen was brought to my laboratory from a region six miles south of Mankato, and at about the same time in 1901 a specimen was taken twelve miles south of Mankato. One or two other specimens were reported from the same region at the time the latter specimen was taken.

While on a three months' collecting trip in northern Minnesota in the region of Lake Vermillion last summer about eight of these birds were



FIG. 1



WORK OF THE PILEATED WOODPECKER.

FIG. 2.

either seen or heard. This region is densely wooded and uninhabited except by an occasional lumber camp. So far as noticed the birds were always in pairs.—ULYSSES O. COX, *Mankato, Minn.*

The Song of the Alder Flycatcher.—I have studied the notes of the Alder Flycatcher for two years, very closely, in Maine where it nested near the house, and I heard its song and various other utterances nearly all day. The ordinary song, as I know it, consists of two notes much like the Chebec's. It is in the hoarse tone of the Phoebe, and is jerked out with a backward jerk of the head, after the manner of the Least Flycatcher, and to my ear, it sounds like *red-dy*, sometimes — but not by any means generally. He gives in addition to this, another two-note utterance, much lower, and of a clear musical quality, very different from the hoarse common song, without tossing the head, or jerking.

Besides these he has several other utterances, a loud clear *queoe*, several times repeated, as if to command attention, and a low plaintive *qu?—qu-eh*. In addition to these he gives many different notes in an undertone, which can neither be described nor imitated by the human voice. In fact, the bird is extremely versatile. My studies have always been made where I could see as well as hear the bird, so that there is no possibility of mistake. I have never been able to make Dr. Dwight's, Mrs. Wright's or Mr. Chapman's characterization of the song fit my bird, but I learned long ago that no two persons hear a bird note alike, or, rather, that no two birds have exactly the same utterances.—OLIVE THORN MILLER, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

The Occurrence of the Prairie Horned Lark at Southern Pines, N. C.—The past winter at Southern Pines, N. C., was called one of unusual severity. After passing through weeks of weather hardly to be equalled in the north by stormy March or April, it was hardly a surprise to awake one morning in February and find the sand covered with nearly a foot of snow. The snow melted rather slowly and as I picked my way along the street on Feb. 19 I was surprised to hear the familiar call of the Horned Lark. I followed the flock, which consisted of eight birds, for some time, satisfying myself as to their identity, though the call was sufficient. The next day they were about the streets, which were bare only in places, the snow mixed with sand by the passing teams melting faster than where undisturbed. They were less shy the second day and I got quite near to them. They were very dull colored and probably more or less stained with the soot which is everywhere about in that country. Their small size and dull colors leave little doubt they were the common form (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*). They were not seen after the 20th. I judge records of the Horned Lark this far south are not frequent.—C. H. MORRELL, *Pittsfield, Me.*

The Boat-tailed Grackle as a Stow-away.—On the afternoon of June 7, 1898, the ocean steamship 'Tallahassee' left her dock in Savannah,