

Early Record for the Piping Plover (*Ægialitis meloda*) in Rhode Island.— I have just obtained a Piping Plover which was taken on March 24 last by Mr. C. B. Clarke, a local taxidermist. The bird, which is a male in spring plumage, was shot on the Middletown marshes about three miles east of Newport. I believe this is the earliest spring record for the State.— LEROY KING, *Newport, R. I.*

Richardson's Owl (*Nyctala tengmalmi richardsoni*) in Illinois.— The only previous capture of this owl in the State was recorded in the 'Ornithologist and Oölogist,'¹ one having been taken October 15, 1884, at Rockford. I am indebted to Mr. Robert H. Van Schaack for the following information: "The Richardson's Owl was shot by my son, Louis F. Van Schaack, December 26, 1902, in Kenilworth, Ill. He found the bird along a small ditch that drains from the Skokie Swamp; he shot the owl with a toy air gun." I examined the specimen while in the possession of the taxidermist who mounted it, who informed me that he had mounted another specimen of this species about the same time, which was said to have been shot not far from Chicago, but I have been unable to get any definite locality or date.— RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Nesting of the Red-bellied Woodpecker in Harford County, Maryland.— Until within the last few years, I have found the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) to be quite a rare bird within a radius of twenty miles of Baltimore, and, until very lately, most of my records were made during the winter months.

For the past twenty years it has been common in the vicinity of Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland, but all my dates were made in the months of November, December, and January, the only time I was there. Still, from all I can find out, I am sure it is a resident there the year round, and my friends on the farm tell me they find it very destructive to the cherries.

On April 21, 1891, I made what I called my first spring note on the species, a bird being seen in a piece of heavy timber at Grace's Quarter Ducking Shore on the Gunpowder River, Baltimore County. This made me think perhaps they might nest here, but I saw no more birds within the breeding season until April, 1899, although, on July 28, 1898, in this same piece of woods Mr. F. C. Kirkwood and I saw an immature bird busily dodging the fierce attacks of a Red-headed Woodpecker.

Again, August 13, 1899, about one half mile from where the former young bird was seen, I saw two young, so small that the down was still clinging to their heads. These were apparently hunting for grubs and when one would fly it was immediately followed by the other, they seldom keeping more than ten feet apart.

Finally, after a little over twelve years' search for the nest I was

¹ Ornithologist and Oölogist, Vol. X, March, 1885.