

No more was seen of the owls and I had almost forgotten them when about six p. m. on the night of May 28 I was astonished to observe one fly close by our residence, uttering its peculiar call. The next morning I tramped over several miles of suitable fields but could not flush any and none have been observed since.

The bird is so rare about Philadelphia after April 15 that this record seems to demand attention.—RICHARD C. HARLOW, *Edge Hill, Pa.*

The Breeding of the Short-eared Owl (*Asio accipitrinus*) near Ann Arbor, Michigan.—The Short-eared Owl is a common migrant in this locality, but although a hunter once told me of finding a nest here I have had no positive proof that it breeds in this vicinity until this summer. On June 26, 1907, there was brought to me three immature specimens of this species, which had been taken in a grassy marsh seven miles south of Ann Arbor. On these birds the down was still present in places, and the wing and tail feathers were only partly out of the sheaths so that only short flights could be made. The collector did not look for the nest, which was no doubt near by. The skin of one of these birds is preserved in the University Museum.—NORMAN A. WOOD, *University Museum, University of Michigan.*

Mortality among Kingfishers.—While digging out some Kingfishers' nests this season I was surprised to find a dead bird in about every fourth or fifth hole. This I was at loss to account for, as the birds showed no signs of combat or disease, while the plumage was not even disarranged. The bodies, though, seemed to be dried up, with no signs of blood in them, so I presumed that something had crawled into the holes and sucked the blood from them, leaving the carcass intact. This surmise proved correct, as the last hole I dug out contained a large black snake, and a dead kingfisher still warm. The snake measured about four and a half feet long and had evidently gone in for the eggs, any kind of eggs being readily devoured by this snake in this section. The holes were generally from two to three feet below the top of the bank, so it was an easy matter for them to get down from the top. I found no less than six dead birds within a mile, and if all of the river bank gave the same average, the loss of life must have been great. I am at loss, however, to account for their molesting the kingfishers and not the Rough-winged Swallows, which also nested abundantly in the same bank. Snakes are more numerous this year than ever before.—H. H. BAILEY, *Newport News, Va.*

The American Crossbill in Camden County, Ga.—On November 12, 1906, I noticed American Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) here (Camden County) for the first time. While riding through a pine forest with hardwood underbrush I flushed 15 or 20 from a small open pond where I presume they were getting water. They flew to the tops of the tall pines,

and I watched them for some time feeding on the pine cones. Never having seen the bird in life before, I had some trouble in making out what they were, but at last decided that they were Crossbills. After that I often saw them, and in fact they became quite common, and remained here until the middle of May. I only killed one (an old male) and now have the skin in my collection. Whenever seen they were invariably in the pine trees and never still long at a time.—I. F. ARNOW, *St. Marys, Ga.*

Nesting of Crossbills in Colorado.—The paper by Rev. P. B. Peabody in the July number of 'The Auk,' on the nesting of the Bendire Crossbill in Wyoming led me to look through the notes of Denis Gale, who spent the years from 1883 to 1893 inclusive in the mountains of Boulder County closely observing our mountain birds. These notes are now owned by the University of Colorado, and have been transcribed, annotated and indexed for convenient reference, forming 278 pages, exclusive of index. I find few references to Crossbills, and only in 1893 are there definite notes of their nesting habits, though under date May 21, 1890, he does say that he saw that day a family of these birds with "young fully grown nearly." All of his references are to the American Crossbill, but doubtless those he saw were *Loxia curvirostra bendirei*, a subspecies likely unknown to him. He was well along in years at that time, and had learned his ornithology at a much earlier period. I extract the following from his notes:

"March 28, [1893] 172 [= Smithsonian Check List No., Bull. 21, U. S. Nat. Mus., 1881]. In this locality saw crossbills to all appearances looking for exact site or having already begun to build, but not in earnest, as I watched them a long time without results."

"March 31. 172. The pair of crossbills noted on the 28th inst. were evidently resting from their labors, having completed their nest building. Now I come to think of it their demeanor said as much. I regret not witnessing the building operation which I believe was wholly undertaken by the female. Locality, a sheltered hillside east of Buckhorn Mountain, on north side of clump of scattered coniferous trees, in pine tree about 18 feet from the ground, saddled on horizontal branch 5 feet from main stem and 4 feet from end of branch, the nest shielded on the weather side by part of another branch from below, and yet immediately underneath the nest could be easily seen, although the site would be easily overlooked, if indeed it would be examined at all, it being in a general way the least likely tree to be selected for nesting, a number of others more sheltered and offering better hiding being at hand. Upon approaching the belt of scattered timber I stood several minutes looking to the center of further edge to see if I could discover the bird carrying building material, in which direction I had supposed the nest site selected from the manner of the birds I had previously watched, instead of which I was within a few feet of the tree the nest was located in. The male suddenly lit upon the top of a tree. At a greater distance no doubt he had seen my intrusion and become alarmed. I saw at once by his anxious manner that he was to be watched,