

billed Marsh Wren differs materially from the Longbill's domicile, and still others have said that the Short-bill does not nest over water or in company with their erratic relative. Yet the nest I found could not be distinguished by any one from a Long-bill's, and it was, as I have mentioned, over deep water and in a marsh inhabited by a large colony of Long-billed Marsh Wrens. As I found only one nest, however, I can not base any important conclusion upon it.

Further investigations by ornithologists who are not afraid of marsh wading in the vicinity of Philadelphia will no doubt lead to the discovery of the Short-billed Marsh Wren at other localities as a rare breeder, for there are many marshes and swamps along the Delaware and its tide-water tributaries that are never invaded by an ornithologist during the summer. It is a bird of local distribution everywhere, and as erratic as the Long-bill in its habits, and it may be found in the most unlooked for localities. I may mention in conclusion that there are one or two doubtful records of the nesting of the Short-billed Marsh Wren in this vicinity.—
RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Breeding of the Tufted Titmouse in Washtenaw County, Michigan.—Of rare occurrence within Washtenaw County, Mich., the Tufted Titmouse (*Bæolophus bicolor*) has hitherto always been looked upon as a winter visitant. Some years, as in 1903, they have been fairly abundant, but generally speaking only an occasional one has been noted here during the months from late fall to early spring, but never as a breeding species. Mr. N. A. Wood of the University Museum has frequently stated that he believed the bird would eventually be found as a summer resident within the county.

On May 24, 1908, it was my good fortune to find a nest of this species in an extensive swamp of oak, ash, elm and maple with a tangled undergrowth of various shrubs, situated some seven or eight miles west of Ann Arbor. The discovery was one of those accidents, so to speak, that frequently occur in field-work and which lend an added charm to the study of bird-life. It came about in the following manner. While preparing to refresh the 'inner man' my ear caught the clear, whistled *peto, peto* of the Tufted Titmouse but the bird was not located until a few moments later. At that time my companion drew my attention rather suddenly to it on a rail-fence almost immediately in front of us where it appeared to be examining the half-decayed rails for insects. Presently it secured a large, white grub from one of them and with a whistle of exultation proceeded to beat and peck it about the head. Apparently becoming satisfied with its condition after that operation the bird flew off into the woods with its victim. Before its destination could be ascertained the titmouse was back again examining the trees, hanging onto the leaves and terminal twigs just like a Chickadee. Its sweet, plaintive note, *peto, peto* or *whe-o, whe-o*, was constantly in the air, coming from various parts of the wood-

land as an announcement of the whereabouts of the author. After ranging over the trees in the immediate neighborhood the titmouse returned to the rail-fence and there seemed to find much to its liking for in a short time its beak was crammed with moths and flies. Taking wing, it flew in the same direction as before, straight for the heavier part of the woods. Following rapidly after it, the nest was discovered in the dead and broken branch of a stately elm, some 50 or 60 feet from the ground. An old, abandoned woodpecker's cavity had been appropriated and filled, as far as could be ascertained through the glass, with dried grass, etc. It was utterly impossible to reach the nest without the aid of climbing-irons and of these none were at hand.

Although we waited about the vicinity of the nesting-tree for over half an hour the titmouse would not return but circled about among the surrounding trees, calling now in low whistles and then again in clear, defiant tones. Long after we had left the place we could still hear the notes. Only one bird was observed about the place and, judging from the clear coloration of the plumage and the frequent whistling, it would be safe to say that the one under observation was the male. Such being the case the female was either absent entirely from the nest or vicinity or was engaged with brooding and was being fed by her mate. The large size of the insects taken to the nest would point to the latter conclusion. Similar traits of character have been observed in the common Chickadee by Mr. N. A. Wood, and they would not be impossible in this species.—A. D. TINKER, *Ann Arbor, Mich.*

Massachusetts Records.—I have lately received for the Thoreau Museum of Natural History a female Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) taken by a farmer, Mr. Jacob Williams, ten miles northwest of Richmond, on November 28, 1906, and presented to this Museum by Messrs. D. P. & J. E. P. Morgan; a male American Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*), taken by Mr. William Francis in January, 1908, in the Hoar Woods, Concord, Mass.; and a male Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocorys alpestris praticola*), taken by Mr. F. MacDonald Barton on February 19, 1908, on the school grounds, out of a flock of eight or ten. It seems probable that the inland flocks of Shores Larks are for the most part of this species. Though no others out of this or other flocks common here have been shot, they appear through the glass to be *praticola*.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Concord, Mass.*

Early Nesting Records from Washington State.—The following personally taken records were made by me this spring in the vicinity of Tacoma, Pierce Co., Wash.

March 30th : Besides a large number of decoy nests, I found one nest of the Tule Wren containing two fresh eggs. On the same date I also found a nest of the Virginia Rail containing four eggs. The two nests were not fifty feet apart. When I went to collect these sets on April 6, I found two