

**Introduction of the Ruffed Grouse on Washington Island, Wis.—**

While visiting Washington Island, Wisconsin, in July, 1913, I learned that Ruffed Grouse had been introduced and had apparently become successfully established. As cases of the successful introduction of this bird are rare it may be of interest to place on record such facts as I was able to obtain. Washington Island, situated in Door County at the entrance of Green Bay, has an area of about 15,000 acres and is largely covered with deciduous trees and some spruce, hemlock and arborvitæ. Its present population is about 1200. A strait known as Death's Door, some five miles in width, separates the island from the peninsula on the east side of Green Bay. So far as known, the Ruffed Grouse was not formerly found on the island. In 1900 Mr. Wm. Barnhart of Sturgeon Bay, deputy warden of Door and Kewaunee counties, having undertaken to introduce the species from the main land, advertised for live 'partridges' and secured several specimens. In September a female which had been captured in a house was brought to him, and a month later a male caught in a granary and a female caught in an enclosure of chicken wire, were secured. These birds were all liberated on the south side of the island near the post office at Detroit Harbor. During the following year similar efforts resulted in the acquisition of two more birds, a male and a female, which were liberated at the same place. These birds were kept in captivity only two or three days and were fed on mountain ash berries or thorn apples. Recently Ruffed Grouse have been reported at various points on the island even on the north shore, and last year fifteen were seen at one place, indicating that the species had bred and was increasing in numbers.— T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

**Actions of Nesting Red-shouldered Hawks.—** The Red-shoulder has endured persecution here in Wells County, Indiana, better than the Red-tail which has almost disappeared, and every year I am able to locate a few nests. To take the eggs and cause the birds to nest a second time when leaves are on the trees and nests less readily discovered gives the birds and their offspring a better chance of escaping the constant warfare waged on them. Birds once robbed of their eggs are more wary and have a better chance of escaping the guns of irate chicken owners.

On April 6 I climbed to a nest forty-six feet high in a beech. One of the parents remained in the top of the tree calling fiercely but not moving. No attention was paid to it or to the other parent which was not noticed at the time. Just as I stood up on tiptoes to look in the nest this other parent gave me a hard blow on the side of my head, fortunately striking the heavy felt hat I wore in which three sharp cuts about half an inch long were made. My scalp was slightly cut by the unexpected attack, which resulted in a decided headache. Being thus put on my guard, I watched this parent, which soon returned to the attack, flying from the top of a tall tree about one hundred and fifty feet from me, straight at my head. I struck at it, but missed and the bird swerved, missing my face by about a foot. A third similar attack was made, but in this case the bird missed me by about three

feet. All this time the other parent remained possibly fifteen feet directly over me, calling shrilly. In discovering this nest, as I entered the woods, I saw one parent sitting about twenty feet from the nest. The other bird left the nest when I rapped the tree with a small club. I did not climb at once, but walked on through the woods, both birds following, approaching closely, and calling frequently.

Later on in the day in another woods I saw a nest at some distance. As I approached, when possibly two hundred feet away, the parent slipped from the nest and flew silently and swiftly away. While climbing to this nest neither parent bird was seen or heard. After I returned to the ground they returned flying at a distance, at a great height and calling frequently.

The behavior of these birds was in striking contrast to that of the first pair, and it was the owners of the fresh eggs which were more aggressive.

The owners of five other nests found later showed none of the aggressiveness exhibited by the first pair usually remaining at quite a distance.

The aggressive pair built again and April 29 had a nest in a beech, one hundred feet from the former site. One parent left the nest as I approached and the other flew away when I was possibly fifty feet from the tree. The former bird remained near and several times flew within a few feet of me with angry cries but did not attack me.—E. B. WILLIAMSON, *Bluffton, Indiana*.

**Metallura vs. Laticauda.**— In 'The Auk' for January, 1902, page 92, Dr. Charles W. Richmond proposed to replace *Metallura* Gould 1847, by the earlier name *Laticauda* Lesson 1843, and the latter has been adopted in the recently published 'Birds of South America' by Brabourne and Chubb (Vol. I, page 137).

Fortunately, however, this change is unnecessary as there is an earlier *Laticauda* published by Laurenti in 1768 for a genus of serpents. Dr. Stejneger writes me that this is a perfectly valid name, diagnosed and with species. The genus of South American Hummingbirds will therefore retain its long established name, *Metallura*.—W. DEW. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City*.

**Hummingbirds' Eyelashes.**— An interesting fact was brought to light while my friend Mr. H. Muller Pierce was examining some Hummingbirds in my collection. We were using a powerful magnifying glass and looking at the brilliant metallic feathers on the throat, and the difference in the shade of colors, as they appeared with and without the glass. Mr. Pierce remarked "look at the eye lashes on this one!" With the naked eye we could see only the tiny black rim of the eyelid about the size of a pin head, but with the glass we found both upper and lower lids adorned with a row of minute round feathers set at regular intervals, about twenty in all. Upon further examination of over one hundred species from North, Central and South America, we found these feathers were of two colors—the majority being black, the others pale grayish brown. One exception