

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