

the remainder of October and throughout November and December. When in early January ice was forming on the pond, one of the two left on the third or fourth day; the other remained to January 17, when ice had covered all but a few small areas of the pond. These young males showed little or nothing of the creamy buff crown upon their arrival, but they gradually developed this feature. So at first their true identification was difficult, but the two-note call and chestnut color of the head clearly differentiated them from Baldpates. By December the plumage of the adult male European Widgeon was quite fully developed, and at the time they left they lacked little of its completeness. One gained the adult plumage somewhat earlier than the other, so they could readily be distinguished. A female Baldpate joined them about December 1 and left on January 16, one day earlier than the later remaining Widgeon. A cold wave had brought the temperature at the pond down to 13° below zero on the thirteenth.

In early December their companions on the pond were 400 to 500 Black Ducks, the number varying from day to day, several Mallards, a few Scaup Ducks, 90 to 100 Lesser Scaup, a young male Bufflehead, 3 Ruddy Ducks, 25 to 60 Mergansers, 8 Coot, and a few Herring Gulls, a collection of water fowl, the numbers of which had been steadily increasing during November and were decreasing in late December.

This occurrence of European Widgeon on Jamaica Pond was the first in Boston and its immediate vicinity, if I am not in error. Like other wild ducks which visit protected waters, these Widgeons soon become unsuspecting and allowed near approach. They were objects of interest and pleasure to many observers throughout their long visit.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

An Egret on Long Island.—In connection with Mr. R. Heber Howe, Jr.'s note on the American Egret, in the April 'Auk,' and the one by Mr. G. Kingsley Noble to which he refers, I would like to report a single bird of this species which I observed at Mastie, Long Island, where it is very rare, on August 9, 1913. It was identified with certainty.—JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS, *New York, N. Y.*

The Woodcock Carrying its Young.—It has been the good fortune of the writer to see recently two successive flights of our native Woodcock carrying its young nearly as large as itself, sitting upright, grasped and suspended by the claws of the mother bird. I am told that the sight is an unusual one, and that a brief account of it may interest your readers.

I was on a little botanizing trip near a river bottom, looking especially for Golden seal plants and flowers which were somewhat plenty in that vicinity; the season being late for the flowers, late May or early June. I have no record of the exact date.

Startled by a loud whirring of wings near by, very like, yet perceptibly different from that of the Partridge, I saw the slow flight of the bird with its

burden over the brushwood, but did not then in the brief and surprised view, distinctly make out the object carried. A few minutes later a second flight occurred close by, which I plainly observed and noted in its full particulars. After a time I indistinctly remembered having seen years before, an engraving of a like scene, which I later found in Chapman's Farm Encyclopedia. The print is very lifelike, except that the young which I saw was relatively larger than here shown.—C. C. McDERMID, *Battle Creek, Mich.*

A Feeding Habit of the Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*).—September 7, 1913, at Lincoln Park, Chicago, Ill., I saw about a dozen of these birds busily engaged in feeding about a large flat-topped pile of fertilizer to be used on newly-made land. Most of them were digging in the pile near the edges, a few were perched on the top, while one or two others were turning over sticks in the usual fashion on the barren ground a few feet away. Those on top were alert and not feeding; the others seemed much more oblivious to possible dangers. The feeding birds reminded one very much of chickens, minus the scratching. When they were scared away a few alighted on the beach, but the rest, after circling, came back to the pile. They were unusually numerous compared to the numbers seen in previous years. They were associated with numerous small sandpipers, and two or three small plovers. The pile stood some distance from the beach, so that the birds could not have reached it in running about their usual habitat, and it seems reasonable that this new habit was formed through imitation of the other shore birds, which are not so much restricted to beaches.—EDWIN D. HULL, *Chicago, Ill.*

Willow Ptarmigan in Montana.—I recently mounted three Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus lagopus*) received February 21, 1914, from Mr. L. W. Hill of St. Paul, Minn., who secured them near Midvale, Montana, in the New Glacier Park. As I have never before seen any ptarmigan except the White-tailed species from this region, the occurrence seems worthy of record.—HARRY P. STANFORD, *Kalispell, Mont.*

Choucalcyon versus Sauromarptis.—In my "Revision of the Classification of the Kingfishers" (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXI, 1912, p. 241), I stated that the name *Choucalcyon* Lesson, *Traité D'Orn.*, 1831, 248, "type by subsequent designation (Gray, 1855), *Alcedo gardichard* Quoy and Gaim." would have to replace *Sauromarptis* Cab. & Heine, proposed on grounds of purism.

Dr. Gregory Mathews has kindly called my attention to the fact that Lesson himself in 1837 designated as the type of *Choucalcyon* the bird now known as *Dacelo gigas* (Bodd.). In the *Complément des œuvres de Buffon*, Oiseaux, 1837, p. 355 (a work which was not available when my paper was prepared) Lesson writes: "Le type de ce groupe est le grand alcyon de la Nouvelle-Hollande, que Buffon croyoit provenir de la Nouvelle-Guinée, et qu'il a figuré enl. 663." As Buffon's plate represents *Dacelo gigas*,