

Wilson's Snipe Wintering in Nova Scotia.—Mr. R. W. Tufts of Wolfville, Kings County, Nova Scotia sent me a Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) which he shot at Wolfville, February 17, 1915. He said this bird (which proved to be a male) was discovered in a sheltered spring swamp or bog, which never wholly freezes and where the grass shows green even in the severest winter weather. The bird was in fine condition, being well protected with fat.—JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

Spotted Sandpiper and Water.—In 'The Auk' for April, 1915, p. 227, Mr. L. L. Jewel speaks of a crippled Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) diving and swimming under water. I have found this to be a regular habit in young of the species at Mastic, Long Island. I remember distinctly the last one I banded at this place, a bird not yet able to fly, which, when pursued took to the water. I reached down and grabbed it below the surface where it was swimming with its wings.

In this connection I would like to relate a boyhood experience which I do not remember ever to have published. While crossing a small bay at Far Rockaway, Long Island, a Spotted Sandpiper was observed flying excitedly about close to the surface. Its actions were inexplicable until suddenly a hawk swooped to it from out of the sky somewhere. The Sandpiper dropped upon the surface where it lay limp as though dead. After making one or two more unsuccessful swoops the hawk departed. When approached the Sandpiper first sat up like a little duck, then rose and flew ashore.—J. T. NICHOLS, *New York City.*

Gray Sea Eagle off Nantucket.—I should like to record what appears to be the "farthest south" record for the Gray Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*). This bird, which is in immature plumage, flew aboard the Dutch steamer 'Arundo,' as she was passing Nantucket light ship, on November 14, 1914. It was secured alive by the captain, and is now living in the New York Zoölogical Park.—LEE S. CRANDALL, *Assistant Curator of Birds, N. Y. Zoöl. Park.*

Young Kingbirds on a Cherry and Dragon-fly Diet.—I was watching a pair of Kingbirds feeding their young in a nest built in a pine about fifteen feet from the ground. A telephone wire passing nearby furnished a temporary resting place for the parent birds, and at the same time gave me an excellent opportunity of noting the various kinds of insects which were dropped into the gaping mouths of the young birds about ten or twelve days old. The exact species of insects could not be identified, but among various kinds of flies, moths and butterflies, to my amazement a large green dragon-fly with great head and eyes, measuring across the wings at least four inches, was jammed wings and all, into the mouth of one of the little ones. After a few moments, as if for dessert, a large red cherry fully one-half inch in diameter was rammed home in the same manner, and

in another minute or two another cherry met a similar fate. I watched these birds with some curiosity, and saw them about four days later leaving the nest apparently all well, and none the worse for the strenuous ordeal.—
WM. L. BAILY, *Ardmore, Pa.*

The Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula*) at Ithaca, N. Y.—

While walking over the campus of Cornell University at noon on November 28, 1914, we observed a flock of about a dozen Cedar Waxwings in a group of trees that included a berry-laden mountain ash (*Pyrus americana*). An hour later we had stopped to watch the birds again, and were discussing the points of difference between the notes of our two species of Waxwings. At that moment the characteristic notes of *Bombycilla garrula* most opportunely caught our attention, and their author was presently distinguished among the rest of the Waxwings by means of its larger size and its white wing markings. In order that others might share in the pleasure of seeing such an unusual visitor, we summoned by 'phone Messrs. A. A. Allen, L. A. Fuertes, and A. H. Wright, and all were enabled to make observations on the bird under very favorable conditions.

Its actions accorded with the proverbial gentleness and amicability of the Waxwings. It allowed a Cedar Waxwing to perch beside it and feed upon the same cluster of mountain-ash berries; and twice a berry seemed to be passed from one to the other. It was somewhat restless, and once it circled swiftly around a nearby house, swerving from side to side in an erratic course suggesting that of a Teal.

The following prominent characters served to distinguish the Bohemian Waxwing from the other species in the field: its larger size; the white markings in the wing, conspicuous whether the bird is flying or at rest; the larger patch of black on its chin; its generally grayer coloration; and its chestnut-rufous under tail coverts.

Furthermore, its notes are very diagnostic. Though similar in general form to the "beady notes" of *B. cedrorum*, they are less shrill, are more leisurely uttered, and have a more noticeable rolling sound. They are also more distinct, there being a comparatively greater interval between each syllable in the series. The call has been represented by Seebohm as *cir-ir-ir-ir-re* (quoted in Sharpe's 'Hand-book to the Birds of Great Britain,' Vol. I, p. 177) and by Cameron as *zir-r-r-r* ('The Auk,' Vol. XXV, 1908, p. 47), but neither rendering seems to express exactly the decidedly sibilant quality of each syllable.

The bird was collected by Dr. Allen, and sketched in the flesh by Mr. Fuertes. It proved to be an adult male in full plumage. The skin has been placed in the collection of the Cornell University Museum. This is the first specimen recorded from the Cayuga Lake Basin.

On the following morning another Bohemian Waxwing was reported in the same place by Mr. H. H. Knight.—LUDLOW GRISCOM AND FRANCIS HARPER, *Ithaca, N. Y.*