

the warbler I was joined by two other parties of bird-students who offered to bear witness, as we all had an excellent view of the bird.— MRS. GEORGE H. MELLEEN, *Newton Highlands, Mass.*

A Remarkable Case of Bird-feeding.— This year, 1916, the House Wrens appeared on April 30, and presently a pair of them took possession of a bird box nailed to a disused poultry house at the rear of the lot. May 27, there was one egg in the nest. June 3, there were seven eggs, neatly concealed by feathers fastened upright in the rim of the nest and curving inward. June 14, there were four young, looking like wine-colored grub-worms, and three eggs. Later all the eggs hatched. June 23, when the older ones were nine days old, the parents fed them 34 times between 6.30 and 7.30 A. M. and at least half the hour was spent in trying to drive away six or eight English Sparrows that hung over the edge of the poultry house peering down at the nest, alighting on the lid and ledge of it, and manifesting the most excessive and persistent curiosity concerning the young which were keeping up a constant clamoring for food.

At first while the nest was being built and before the young were hatched, the parents made little fuss when another bird or a person approached, bestowing most of their scolding upon two cats that prowled around. But their anxiety grew with the development of their young and they protested more and more at every disturbance, both of them nipping the sparrows and following me and the cats with their angry chatter.

On June 24, the parents fed 21 times between 6.30 and 7 A. M. and again spent much of the time in fighting the sparrows which were even more impudent than before, peering into the opening of the box and remaining stubbornly upon the ledge in spite of the peckings they received.

On the afternoon of June 25, the young were fed 86 times between 4.40 and 5.40, and I discovered that the feeding was now done by one bird, the male, who no longer had time either to scold or to sing. Only five times in the hour did he utter a brief twitter, and from the twenty-fifth to the seventieth trip the feeding was incessant. He had discovered a rich feeding ground close by and neither sparrows nor cats interrupted him. Moreover, he did his best to keep the nest clean; but this, as we afterward ascertained was too much for him. He had to neglect his housekeeping to fill the seven hungry mouths.

That evening and the next day, by going near, we made sure that the female bird was missing, probably caught by the cats. But the work of the male so far surpassed that of other birds we had been watching that the matter was reported to Mr. Sperry, Assistant in the Nature Study Department of the Western Illinois Normal, and on June 28, the last day the birds would be in the nest, he and members of his class watched by turns. He himself came at 3.45 A. M. to begin the tally on a large sheet spaced for each hour and each hour space divided into quarters. A clock stood beside the watchers.

At 4.15 the Wren came out of a small elm where he had spent the night

and began his last day of service which must have been an arduous one after his previous three days of unaided toil. The record for the first hour ending at 5.15 was 85. In the last quarter before 8 P. M. there were but four trips with food. Toward the close of the day the young sometimes came out of the box in their eagerness to get their morsel. This is the tally by hour for the fifteen hours and forty-five minutes: 85, 99, 88, 79, 93, 111, 78, 70, 98, 74, 56, 59, 44, 72, 80, 31,—a total of 1217 for one bird. This must be a world record. Nowhere can we find more than 750 feedings accredited to both parent wrens working together.

Early one morning during the incubation, I tallied the male wren's twitters, and this is the record per minute: 9, 7, 9, 9, 8, 2-, 7, 6,—10, 5, 8, 2-, 8, 7, 7,—10, 10, 7,—6. Sometimes the pause was for the fraction of a minute; sometimes longer for flight.—CLARA KERN BAYLISS, *Macomb, Ill.*

A Mockingbird in New Hampshire.—A Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) appeared near my home on the outskirts of Manchester, N. H., November 5, 1916, apparently accompanying a flock of Robins; and stayed in the neighborhood two days. It was seen by Mr. Lewis Dexter, and by a number of other bird lovers whom I was able to notify. It did not act like an escaped cage bird, as it did not care to have me approach closer than thirty or forty feet, although we could not rule out the possibility.

I have not seen a caged Mockingbird in this region for years.

Allen's 'List of the Birds of New Hampshire' mentions one record for New Hampshire and that is the only one I have been able to find.—WILLIAM R. VARICK, *Manchester, N. H.*

Acadian Chickadee at Rhinebeck, N. Y.—On November 6, 1916, I observed an Acadian Chickadee (*Penthestes hudsonicus littoralis*) for several minutes feeding within seven feet of me among dead aster-tops. It was accompanied by several Black-capped Chickadees, but appeared tamer and entirely at ease.

This is the first visit from the species since the winter of 1913-14, when several were observed in Dutchess County. The earliest noted in 1913 appeared on November 27 and, so far as I know, this year's visitor establishes an early record for this latitude, barely ninety miles north of New York City.—MAUNSELL S. CROSBY, *Rhinebeck, N. Y.*

The Acadian Chickadee on Long Island.—On November 13, 1916, an Acadian Chickadee (*Penthestes hudsonicus littoralis*) was seen at Hewlett, Long Island. I do not report the occurrence on my own personal observation but on that of my daughter, thirteen years of age, who did not know the bird; nevertheless I make myself responsible for the record which, as will be seen, is quite free from the possibility of error. It rests primarily on the account of a competent observer who is alive to the moral necessity of accuracy in bird matters and apprehends perfectly the impassable difference between *might be* and *is* in the determination of a bird's identity.