

**Additions to the 'Birds of Liberty County, Ga.'**—Owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding several species were omitted at the end of Mr. W. J. Erichson's list in the July 'Auk.' These are given below and follow in regular order at the end of the published list (p. 393).—(EDITOR).

38. **Sitta pusilla.** BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH.— This confiding little bird inhabits open pine barrens where there is an abundance of dead trees and stubs. They generally select for a nesting site a pine stub from which the bark has not fallen, although, when handy, fence posts are not infrequently used. Four nests of this bird were located, one containing two eggs which were subsequently destroyed, the other three containing five eggs each. The heights varied from twelve inches to seven feet. These nests were almost wholly composed of pine seed-wings, with the exception of a small amount of the silky fiber from the exterior of cocoons and some inner bark of different species of trees, particularly of the cypress. A large amount of the seed-wings is deposited in the nesting hole, and an enormous amount of energy is expended by the birds in the construction of their nests, as, from repeated observations, I have noted that these seed-wings are carried to the hole one at a time. The Brown-headed Nuthatch breeds early, although but a single brood is raised. They are close sitters, and it is necessary at times to remove the sitting bird with the hand. Nesting dates for the county are March 19, March 27 (two nests), and April 3.

39. **Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis.** CAROLINA CHICKADEE.— Simultaneous with the appearance of the down on the stalk of the cinnamon and royal ferns, which occurs during the middle of March, the Chickadee begins nest-building, for this material is used largely by the birds in lining their nests. As far as my observations go, the birds, in gathering the down, always begin at the top of the stalk and work downward. The green moss that collects on the trunks of certain species of hardwoods is also used to a considerable extent, being always placed in the nesting hole first, and upon it the down is deposited. Fur of the rabbit is frequently interwoven with the down, making a snug and warm home. In all of the nests examined there was a noticeable difference in the height of the wall on one side, the difference being in some instances an inch and a half. On leaving the nest the birds cover the eggs with this flap by bending it down. I have yet to find a nest of this species containing eggs which was not covered during the owner's absence.

The Carolina Chickadee's choice of nesting sites is a small, rotten hardwood stump in low, swampy land, although fence posts near dwellings are not infrequently selected. According to my observations this species does not always excavate a hole for itself, deserted holes of the Downy and other woodpeckers and natural cavities in trees being often used.

Nesting dates for the county are: April 3, five eggs; April 5, six eggs; April 12, four eggs; April 17, five eggs. Heights varied from four to twenty-two feet, the nest noted April 17 being at the latter height. All of

these nests were typical, and were located in low land in the immediate vicinity of Allenhurst.

40. *Poliophtila cærulea cærulea*. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.— The nest of the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher is among the handsomest specimens of bird architecture. No other species of bird nesting in the south, not even excepting the Hummingbird, constructs a home of such exquisite proportions and beautiful workmanship. This species is locally distributed in the county, being confined principally to heavily timbered swamps, and as a rule nests at considerable heights. On May 3, after long search, I located a nest in a large gum growing in water and in the center of a dense swamp near Allenhurst. It was placed at a height of thirty-two feet, and contained five fresh eggs. Another nest, noted June 22, twenty-three feet high in an ash tree on the edge of the same swamp, contained four apparently heavily incubated eggs. Both nests were saddled on horizontal limbs, and were composed of fine, hair-like rootlets and dried grasses interwoven with plant down, lined with small feathers. They were deeply cupped, shaped like a high cone, and had the entire exterior ornamented with lichens.

41. *Sialia sialis sialis*. BLUEBIRD.— The Bluebird is decidedly a woodland species throughout the county, and is only occasionally seen about populated places, at least during the breeding season. The many burnt-out districts and cut-over lands, in which are numerous stumps and dead trees, afford the bird ideal nesting sites. As a result of these favorable conditions, Bluebirds are abundant in the county. The birds begin nesting early, as I have noted full sets of eggs on April 2. Other dates are April 17, four fresh eggs; April 25, four well-feathered young; May 1, four fresh eggs, and May 18, five eggs. Four eggs comprise the usual clutch, although sets of five are not rare. I have found the nest of this species placed in a slight depression on top of a low stump, although it is rare that deviations from the birds' habit of nesting in holes in stumps excavated by woodpeckers are noted. The nests examined by me were constructed entirely of grasses and rootlets, lined with a few feathers, the material evidently having been hurriedly placed in the hole selected. These nests were in deserted woodpecker holes at heights varying from three to ten feet.—W. J. ERICHSON, *Savannah, Ga.*

**Data on the Age of Birds.** November 8, 1919, will mark the twentieth anniversary of the formal opening of the New York Zoological Park. In an article in the 'Zoological Society Bulletin' for May, 1919, on 'Our Oldest Specimens,' Raymond L. Ditmars states (p. 61), "No specimen of the bird collection has survived the Park's opening day, although there is a Griffon Vulture living in the collection that has been on exhibition nearly seventeen years, and several of our pelicans have been with us for a period slightly over sixteen years." In this connection it is interesting to recall an article 'On the Comparative Ages to which Birds Live,' by J. H. Gurney,