

going to breed. There can be no reasonable doubt that this species breeds in northern New Jersey.—W. DEW. MILLER AND LUDLOW GRISCOM, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

**Hermit Thrush's Nest in Unusual Location.**—At Jefferson Highland N. H., the Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*) is a common summer resident. In the season of 1919, six singing males have been within hearing of my home, outnumbering the Robin two to one. And their disposition to sing freely at all hours of the day from an hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset, far surpasses that of our local Robins. One pair of Hermits has been located at the wood border below our garden and has been frequently seen in the garden and nearby orchard. When the season of ripe blackberries had come and I was gathering berries on August 9 in the plot of considerable size within our garden, I came upon a nest lodged on several of the canes within about a foot of their tips and *four feet* or so *above the ground*. One fledgling about ready to fly was in the nest, and I surmised that two or three others had probably already flown. The mother bird came and perched on the top of a bean pole standing, perhaps, thirty feet from her nest and showed no excited anxiety over my presence, continuing to hold her perch for some time and quietly giving her hissing call only. The next day when the blackberry plot was visited, the fledgling left the nest upon my approach. This nest rested firmly on several canes and was concealed from casual view by the leaves thickly surrounding it; while clusters of berries hung all about it, so it had not been discovered until on the day named the branches were drawn aside a little in gathering the fruit. The location in the plot of blackberries was on the outer edge southward, the plot having a width of about twenty feet, and was one hundred and fifty feet from the border of the woods, thus well up therefrom in the garden. The male bird continued singing up to August 16 inclusive; on that day I heard him sing a few times at 6 A. M. and again at 12 M., as he had done the preceding day. But this was the last voicing of his beautiful song for the season. Subsequently, an occasional call only was heard, and like his brother Hermits in the neighborhood he was for the most part silent, without even expressing himself in either of his four distinctly different call-notes.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *107 Pinckney St., Boston, Mass.*

**Peculiar Nesting of Hermit Thrushes.**—How far the nesting of birds may be influenced by friendly contact with man is worthy of careful study and observation by all bird lovers. The peculiar nesting plan of a pair of Hermit Thrushes, near the shore of Asquam Lake, Holderness, N. H., is of especial interest and may lead to other observations of a like peculiarity. In all our previous observations of their nesting, the nests were found among low bushes on damp ground. Mr. F. Schuyler Matthews writes that he has found them on low bushes near the ground. How far the following facts may have been influenced by association with man, can only be conjectured.

About the middle of June 1919, a pair of Hermit Thrushes took up their abode near a cottage on the shore of Asquam Lake, Holderness, N. H. The two ladies occupying the cottage are both musical and bird lovers. To the song of the thrush, when near the piazza, they responded by cheery word, song, or whistle in imitation of its song. Often times the piano and singing brought the bird near, and when the music ceased the male burst forth into song. The female was called "Mother" from the first, always in endearing tones, and, when addressed thus, would follow along beside the foot path, often within six feet of the ladies. In spite of the fact that near the cottage was a camp of over fifty boys and young men, some of whom were almost constantly passing along this path, the birds showed no fear.

The Thrushes soon began to alight on the rail of the piazza, or on the backs of the chairs, always giving forth their call for that attention which they were sure to get. Late in July, while sitting on the piazza, the writer saw the mother bird come with a leaf, alight on a chair, then fly up into the place where the Phoebe usually nests, and deposit the leaf. Careful inspection showed that she was building two nests, about two feet apart, separated by a timber, and sometimes deposited her leaf in one nest, and then again in the other. Suddenly she ceased to build, and we were expecting her to deposit her eggs and raise her young, as she still kept up her social relations with the family.

One day while the writer was watching for results, he saw her with a leaf pass up over the piazza, but she did not appear under it or near the nests partly or wholly built. This called for a change in the place of observation, and she was discovered building another nest in the tin gutter under the eaves of the second story and under the tip of an overhanging oak branch. Here she completed her nest, laid her eggs and hatched her young, only one of which she raised as a deluge of water in a heavy shower drowned the others.

This peculiar nesting seems worthy of note and may call out similar efforts by bird lovers to study the influence which kind treatment and attention may have on the habits of birds, and especially any change in the habits of their nesting.

Another instance of that familiarity which kindly attention brings into bird life happened in August of the same summer and on the same piazza.

A large bouquet of wild flowers was always kept in a jar on a table on the piazza. This attracted the attention of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird which at first made occasional visits, and later several visits a day to this bouquet, regardless of the number of people on the piazza. On its arrival all became quiet to watch its method of probing the flowers for food except for a light note, in imitation of its own, made by one of the ladies. When the false foxglove was in bloom and the jar was filled with them, the Hummingbird often visited them.

One day, when more than a dozen people were on the piazza, the Hummingbird came. One of the boys picked one of the blossoms and held it out in his fingers and the bird buried head and beak in the flower. Then

he dropped the flower and straightened out his finger, holding it steady and the bird perched upon it.

By similar treatment the Chipmunks in a few weeks eat from one's hand and often perched on the knee or shoulder. By kindness one learns the value of his bird and animal neighbors and is able to study the habits and photograph birds while nesting and feeding their young. This comradeship between man and bird friends should be more carefully practiced by all who live or camp in the woods in the summertime.

This would be more often the case if people would realize that a bird killed or frightened away is a permanent loss, but the bird who trusts brings to one a daily joy and gives a pleasant memory which cheers during the winter season and fills one with the joyous anticipation of meeting his bird friends the following summer.—EDWIN DEMERITTE, 210 *Drummond Place, Norfolk, Va.*

**The Bluebird in Cuba.**—On February 24, 1917, while riding by train through the suburbs of Havana, one of the first species we saw in Cuba was the familiar Bluebird (*Sialia s. sialis*). About seven birds, including several adult males, were perched on the telegraph wires near one of the local stations, and were, of course, absolutely unmistakable. As the Bluebird has been considered accidental in Cuba, this observation seems worthy of record.—W. DEW. MILLER AND LUDLOW GRISCOM, *American Museum of Natural History*.

**Rare or Uncommon Birds at Rochester, N. Y.**—At the request of Superintendent of Parks, C. C. Laney, the writers have for the past seven years kept careful record, both by chart showing daily records, and by card index of dates and other pertinent notes, of birds at Highland Park with frequent trips to Lake Ontario and nearby marshes. As the regular work of both takes us into the field from one to ten hours every day in the year an unusual opportunity is given for this study.

The following notes from our records seem worthy of publication.

**Larus leucopterus.** ICELAND GULL.—March 26, 1915, two birds flying low, near Virginia Ave., Rochester by Wm. L. G. Edson; December 15, 1918, one bird, Port of Rochester, Wm. L. G. Edson; December 23, 1918, one bird, Port of Rochester, on the Genesee River, near its mouth, in company with Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, in flight and at rest on the water within a minimum distance of twenty-five feet by Wm. L. G. Edson and R. E. Horsey. (This report was published in Bird-Lore's Christmas Census for 1918); January 26, 1919, one bird, Lake Ontario at Summerville, by R. E. Horsey.

**Bartramia longicauda.** UPLAND PLOVER.—Becoming rare. June 14, 1914, eight birds, near Rochester, N. Y., by Wm. L. G. Edson; July 14, 1915, three birds, near Rochester, N. Y., by Wm. L. G. Edson; June 14, 1917, two birds, near Rochester, N. Y., by Wm. L. G. Edson; May 8, 1918, one bird, near Rochester, N. Y., by Wm. L. G. Edson and R. E. Horsey.