

the bank building. The bird repeated this performance until it was too dark to see her. In the meantime, the expectation of hearing the male's famous mountain song was not realized. Early the next morning, I posted myself on the bank at the sharp turn in the stream, where a view was had down under the bridge and up back of the lean-to. Soon the bird, which was presumed to be the female, as no song was heard, flew upstream as before, under the bridge, made the sharp turn so near me that her white nictitating membrane was plainly visible, and alighted on a stone directly back of the bank building. After a few seconds, she flew up under the eaves of the lean-to, whereat many cries could be heard from her hungry family, the bird returning downstream for additional supplies. As close inspection as possible revealed the bird's somewhat bulky nest placed on a horizontal timber near where it joined a rafter and close against the end of the shed. The nest was placed directly over and some eight feet above the water, a site frequently chosen by Phoebe's. The light was very poor, so that the material of which the nest was composed could not easily be determined in the time at my disposal. At all times the bird appeared totally oblivious to my presence and to her urban surroundings, and was as much at home in the heart of the village as in her customary haunts along remote mountain torrents.

The object of this note is not alone to call attention to the occurrence of the Water Ouzels living under such civilized conditions, but also to place on record this radical departure from their ordinary nesting habits. There is perhaps a discoverable explanation for this departure. As far as my observations go, the Water Ouzel is a remarkably solitary bird, each pair exacting a widely spaced nesting area in which they reign supreme; and nesting conditions such as the bird usually selects, while confined to mountain water courses and their immediate vicinity, occur in great abundance throughout their chosen range. The theory that pressure on the food supply forced the birds to an uncongenial environment at this season of the year can scarcely be seriously advanced. It may well be, however, that an unusually severe season in the neighboring mountains froze up and rendered inaccessible their customary winter feeding ground, and that they moved downstream to the first open rapids, affording the necessary food supplies, which happened to be in the village, with the result that they nested here as well.

I did not have the good fortune to see or to hear the male, and his whereabouts were unknown to me, but business men nearby told me that he sang daily in the vicinity of the bridge.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, 50 Congress St., Boston, Mass.

Hudsonian Chickadee (*Penthestes hudsonicus*) at East Lansing, Mich.—Two Hudsonian Chickadees, always in company, spent a large part of the winter of 1919–1920 on the Agricultural College campus at East Lansing, Michigan. I first heard and saw them on December 16, 1919, but owing to a driving snowstorm was not sure of the identification.

On January 5, 1920, both birds were feeding about my feet in a little thicket of Japanese quince and allowed me to study them carefully at a distance of three or four feet. To the best of my knowledge and belief they were typical *hudsonicus*.

After that the pair was seen almost daily through January and February, the last positive record being on March 14, 1920. Their husky, wheezy notes, of course, were quite distinctive, but occasionally their "chick-a-dee-dee" seemed identical with that of the common Black-cap. They did not seem to care for the society of the common Chickadee, although once or twice they formed part of a mixed company of Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Brown Creepers and Nuthatches which visited my house several times daily. However, they were never seen at my feeding station where the suet and cracked nuts brought the other birds.

This appears to be the first positive record of this species in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.—WALTER B. BARROWS, *East Lansing, Michigan*.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher in Massachusetts.—In the July issue of 'The Auk,' the late Mr. Horace W. Wright of Boston recorded finding a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on Boston Common on May 18. I can report having found one three days earlier, i. e., the 15th, in West Roxbury, in company with a flock of warblers consisting of Parula, Myrtle, Magnolia and Black and White, in a rather thick growth of hemlocks. This bird fed in the tops of the hemlocks with the warblers and I watched it while in the company of several members of the Brookline Bird Club, for some time. When last seen, it was moving along with the warblers.

The fact that the bird was found in Massachusetts in the Spring is especially worthy of record, as it is found more or less frequently in the Fall.—CHARLES B. FLOYD, *Auburndale, Mass.*

Unusual Visitors at Elizabeth, N. J.—The following records may be worth noting:

Aix sponsa. WOOD DUCK.—A rare bird in this vicinity for many years, until 1916. Now a regular summer resident and a prolific breeder. Earliest appearance of young broods on the water during past three years: 1918, May 12, seven young; 1919, May 11, seven young; 1920, May 23, twelve young. Judging from size and actions the last had been on the water several days. All the pairs nesting near here are not equally early breeders.

Chen hyperborea hyperborea. LESSER SNOW GOOSE.—One bird out of three taken on salt meadows October 29, 1917. Wing measured 14.75 inches.

Olor columbianus. WHISTLING SWAN. An immature bird taken alive, exhausted, October 29, 1916.

Casmerodius egretta. AMERICAN EGRET.—A flock seen on the salt meadows August 4, 1917. Previous local record about ten years earlier when a large flock spent all of August and part of September.