

County, Upper Peninsula ('Michigan Bird Life,' W. B. Barrows, 1912, p. 255).

While trout fishing at Lovells, Crawford County, on the north branch of the Au Sable River, on May 10, 1921, Mr. W. B. Mershon saw a Buzzard flying over at such close range that the crimson of the head and neck could readily be seen. This is a sufficiently northern portion of the State to make this record of interest.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Short-eared Owl Nesting at Elizabeth, N. J.—On May 14 the writer found on the salt marsh near Elizabeth, N. J., a nest containing eight young Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*). The birds showed considerable difference in size. Four had the eyes open and measured $4\frac{3}{4}$ – $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length as they squatted in the nest, and besides a coat of light cream or buff down they showed some feathering on the back with primary quills about an inch long. The other four measured $2\frac{3}{4}$ –3 inches, the eyes were shut and they showed only the downy coat. The four larger young were on one side of the nest, the smaller ones on the other.

The nest was at the edge of a scald or bare spot in a stretch of salt hay meadow. It was composed of but a handful or two of matted hay, in fact there seemed to be only a little more dead vegetation under the young birds than was to be found covering all the ground thereabouts. The place was foul with droppings and littered with feathers of various small birds but I found no pellets.

Two adult owls were in the vicinity, one of which I flushed ten yards from the nest and the other directly from the nest. No difference in marking to distinguish sexes was noticeable. The first bird flushed strove vainly by imitating injury and distress to draw me away, these exhibitions including sheer drops or tumbles from the air and flutterings and cries with wings outspread while on the ground. When not thus engaged the bird maintained a position directly overhead facing the wind. The second adult, when flushed from the nest, joined the vigil overhead. A third, attracted by the cries, appeared in the vicinity, but did not approach closely.

On my return on May 21 only four young, evidently the smaller ones of the previous week, remained in or near the nest. They had grown to a squatting length of about $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Three adults were again in evidence, two near at hand, the third appearing later at a distance. Returning on May 28 and June 4 the nest was empty except for one dead young owl and one large Pellet. One adult was flushed and its repeated simulations of injury indicated that the young were hiding in the grass nearby.

That the eight young represented two broods seems probable, but the eggs might not have been hatched in the same nest. On May 4 and 5 a heavy storm and an unusual tide flooded the greater part of this marsh. The spot where the young were found was not inundated and possibly

one or both broods, or young birds or as eggs, were carried from the flooded area by the parents to this haven of safety. This, of course, is mere conjecture.

So far as I have been able to determine this is the first nesting of the Short-eared Owl definitely recorded from northern New Jersey.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) in Maine.—Mrs. C. W. Alexander of Hallowell, Maine, wrote one of the members of the Stanton Bird Club of Lewiston, Maine, giving a description of a strange bird that she had seen, remarking that it looked like the picture of the Arkansas Kingbird. When I read in a recent 'Auk' of the appearance of this species in Massachusetts, I was able to help her identify the bird.

Following is Mrs. Alexander's account. "I got wonderful studies of the Arkansas Kingbird as it visited the yard of a friend on the next street and I saw it at close range several times, about four feet, through a window, and ten feet in the open. Head grey; back brownish grey, yellow feathers on rump but not conspicuous; wings brown, feathers edged with white making lines lengthwise on wing; tail dark brown, two outer feathers white; bill rather long, black or very dark, lower mandible reddish next to throat; throat very light gray almost white; breast buffy; belly decidedly yellow; feet and legs black. Length about nine inches. It changed plumage somewhat after its arrival. The olive tinge of the back became quite brown and the breast much duller. I could see with my glasses tiny fluffy grey feathers that obscured it and gave it a buffy appearance. It was tempted with all sorts of grain, raisins, apple, suet, and crumbs but the only food it was seen to take was the dried berries of the woodbine which it took on the wing in true flycatcher fashion. It seemed to regurgitate, for as it sat on the clothes reel, its favorite perch, it would throw something out that I was unable to find in the snow. It was reported to me about one week before I saw it on November 12, 1920. I saw it the last time January 15, 1921. On the latter occasion sleet was frozen on its tail and back and it was so benumbed that apparently it did not notice me. It disappeared that day and never returned".—CARRIE ELLA MILLER, *Lewiston, Maine.*

Blue Jay Feeding on Pecans.—During the past fall and winter, I have been very much interested in observing the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata florincola*), feeding on pecans in the yard of my residence. Within the enclosure of my back yard, is a large pecan tree, on which remain during the winter, a few pecans hardly worth gathering on account of their size, which drop off the tree during the winter months, and which form food for the Blue Jays.

I have often noted a Jay fly down into the yard, take a pecan in his claw, alight on the top of the fence, hold on to the fence with one