

about 20 miles beyond the limits of our territory, and it therefore seems probable that this bird occurs here oftener than the records indicate. Several writers refer to its fondness for the topmost branches of high trees. By the first week of May, in this latitude, the trees are usually nearly in full leaf, and the identification of a warbler in the tops is very difficult. In this connection, it is interesting to note that in 1904 and 1907 late frosts and continued cold greatly retarded the development of the foliage, and in each of these years, the Cerulean Warbler was twice noted in this vicinity.—M. T. COOKE, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D C.*

Defense Note of the Chickadee.—The article on this subject, by Mr. A. W. Schorger, in the July 'Auk' was of interest to me because of having had a similar experience the same spring. My nest was in a low decayed stub, the cavity leading straight down from the top. The locality a swampy woods; the ground at foot of stub being exceedingly spongy and full of water.

I had tapped on the nest site with no results, so thought I would look into the entrance. Bending over I peered in with one eye and was greeted with a sort of gasping hiss not unlike the noise made when the last of the water disappears from a wash bowl. I really thought that standing near the stub had forced water up into it, and that when I moved back a little to bend over it had sucked out again. So I tried treading around the stub and stepping back, but heard no noise. Again putting my eye to the hole I got hissed, and at last determined it was a parent Chickadee. After several experiments I could see part of the operation, the bird rising up a little in the cavity suddenly, and opening its mouth wide to make the noise. Withdrawing some distance the male bird finally alit on top of the stub, and though making no call audible to me the female almost instantly popped out of the entrance and he took her place. The hissing noise, together with the bird's open mouth dimly seen down in the cavity certainly would make the uninitiated think of snakes.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio.*

Peculiar Note of Carolina Chickadee.—Having read with interest Mr. A. W. Schorger's article in the last number of 'The Auk' entitled, "Defense note of Chickadee (*Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*)," I might set forth a similar experience that I had with a Carolina Chickadee (*Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis*).

On March 15, 1920, a Chickadee with a bill-full of feathers was seen in my yard; it soon went into a hole in a dead peach stub about seven feet up. On April 1, two eggs, covered with down, were found in the cavity; six eggs were laid in all.

Late in the afternoon of March 28, I tapped on the tree; one of the birds was inside and gave a peculiar note, not a hiss such as Mr. Schorger heard, but more like a little sneeze. This was repeated every time I tapped. Several times the bird tapped on the inside of the cavity. Finally it put its head out of the hole and calmly looked at me as I stood about three

feet away. I withdrew and it went back into the hollow. No eggs had yet been laid.

Five out of the six eggs hatched and the young were successfully reared; they left the nest on the morning of May 5.—E. VON S. DINGLE, *Summer-ton, S. C.*

Bird Interference on High Tension Electric Transmission Lines.

—While changing a live, 3-phase, 13,000 volt line it was observed that the insulators and metal cross-arms were favorite resting places for the Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*), The Florida Crow (*Corvus b. pascuus*), and the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). The Vultures and Crows will perch upon the insulators, metal cross-arms, or the static ground bayonets and the expanse of their wings is sufficient to produce a short-circuit between the conductors or a ground connection between the conductors and the static ground system. In the case of 13,000 volts, the current will arc 7/10 of an inch through the air to connect with the bird's wing and the arc will follow several inches, often burning up the bird and melting the line fuses. In a slightly different way the Shrikes meet their death and suspend industries which depend on the high tension line for power. The Shrike flies with its grasshopper or lizard to the pole and decides that the sharp end of the tie wire is an excellent place to impale its victim. When the Shrike comes within striking distance of the voltage on the live conductor a flash-over occurs and a bird and a fuse are gone. It is doubtful whether the birds will ever appreciate the danger of this silent, unseen power. These observations were made in South Jacksonville during the summer of 1921.—THOMAS HALLINAN, *Jacksonville, Florida.*

Scarcity of Breeding Birds in Duval County, Florida.—While making a survey of the cold-blooded vertebrates in Duval County during December, 1920; February, March, May, June, September, October, 1921; and January, February, March, April, May, June, July, 1922, our parties of from two to nine observers covered in the aggregate about 925 miles through the different types of woods—pines, palmettoes, cypress, oaks, bays, magnolias, and regions of thick undergrowths as well as fresh and brackish water swamps. After covering all this territory and making a special effort to note the existance of nesting birds, only two observations were made. One was the abandoned nest of a Fish Hawk (*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*) on a high tree near New Berlin, noted June 4, 1922, and the other was a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) with a nest containing four eggs in a thick shrub about three feet from the ground near Orange Park, noted April 23, 1922. In this region, at certain seasons, the migrants were numerous but the resident birds, during this period of observation were relatively few in numbers and in species. This negative evidence concerning the existance of occupied or abandoned bird's nests may be due to this region's position in the zone of abrupt transition from the