

1923 in a small marsh four miles southeast of Ann Arbor. The nest of grass and mud was lodged in a clump of bulrushes about a foot above the water. Both parents hovered and scolded over head while the four half-grown young were being banded.

Dendroica coronata. MYRTLE WARBLER.—June 20, 1919 a nest was found near Hessel, Mackinac County, Michigan which contained a Cowbird egg and a Warbler egg. Two Warbler eggs were added on subsequent days but the nest was finally deserted. June 23, 1919 near the same place a female Cowbird was frightened from the edge of a Myrtle Warbler nest containing five eggs about to hatch. Neither Bendire nor Chapman include this bird in their lists of Warblers victimized by the Cowbird.

Chlidonias nigra surinamensis. BLACK TERN.—N. A. Wood and Tinker wrote in 1910 ('Auk,' XXVII, 129) that this Tern was a migrant but "may possibly breed" in the county. The writer found a nest in a small marsh four miles southeast of Ann Arbor on June 7, 1922. Another nest was found nearby by A. S. Warthin, Jr. The Black Tern is now quite numerous on a number of lakes in the county during the breeding season.—J. VAN TYNE, *Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

Notes from Madison, Wisconsin.

Sialia sialis sialis. BLUEBIRD.—The wintering of this species is sufficiently unusual to be worthy of mention; from one to three individuals were seen in the vicinity of Lake Wingra on various occasions from January 7 to March 10, 1923.

Bubo virginianus virginianus. GREAT HORNED OWL.—An early nesting record for this region was obtained on Feb. 11, in zero weather. The sitting bird on leaving the nest was immediately mobbed by a flock of Crows. After descending from the nest, that contained one egg, I waited 20 minutes at a distance from the tree for the parent to return, but to no purpose. On March 25 the nest was found abandoned. The interval was marked by several blizzards and much subzero weather.

Baeolophus bicolor. TUFTED TITMOUSE.—Supplementing the recent records by Mr. Warner Taylor, the writer took a male at Lake Wingra, Feb. 25.

Loxia curvirostra minor. CROSSBILL.—There was an unusual influx of Crossbills from April 5 to 14. Boys in the neighborhood picked up two birds and fed them; they ate voraciously but died in a short time.

Spinus pinus. PINE SISKIN.—This species was exceptionally abundant during the period just given. On April 14 a flock of 250 Pine Siskins and 22 Crossbills were found feeding industriously on the ground under a clump of conifers just as a heavy snowstorm set in.—A. W. SCHORGER, *Madison, Wisconsin*.

Argentine Birds.—Mrs. W. S. Harrison of Tiverton, Devon, England, who lived for many years in the Argentine Republic, tells me that in 1889 there were a great many birds on the Pampas. At this time people were

still comparatively few in her section. One of the familiar birds was the "Guira Cuckoo," *Guira piririgua* (Vieill.), a species famed for its tameness and intelligence. There was a pet Guira Cuckoo in the Harrison household. They called the bird "Impudent Barney"—something of a misnomer as it appeared later when the pet turned out to be a hen. When bought in the Buenos Ayres market, this bird was fairly tame and would eat out of one's hand. In the Buenos Ayres vernacular the species is called "Uracca" (Maggie).

"Our 'Uracca' was a striking and beautiful bird," says Mrs. Harrison, "being considerably over a foot in length, with red eyes and orange bill, rufous crown, with loose lengthened crest, dark brown upper parts and white rump and breast. But most conspicuous was the long, parti-colored tail—brown, yellow, black and white—spread out fan-like as the bird flew."

Mrs. Harrison tells me that "Impudent Barney" had a most extraordinary egg-laying propensity. The bird was prodigal with her eggs; seemed, in short, to have an egg-laying gift. She would lay an egg rather frequently and almost anywhere she happened to be—in one's lap, or in a child's cradle or on a lady's shoulder from which it would drop to the ground.

"'Impudent Barney' was never shut up," says Mrs. Harrison. "He (or rather she) used to fly out to meet us when we were driving home. Generally we would see her flying toward us from a long way off. She met us once when we were still three miles from the house. She would jump on the back of dogs, and would run up and down the table as if desirous of seeing what each one had to eat. You could pick her up at any time. We had other pet birds of the same species, and often they all would wait for food on the roof of a shed. We used to cut up meat and throw it up in the air as high as we could, and they would fly out and catch it on the wing. They never missed."

W. H. Hudson, speaking of the egg of the Guira Cuckoo, says it is "beautiful beyond compare," being of an "exquisite turquoise blue," spattered over with white calcareous spots like snowflakes which were "so extremely delicate that their purity is lost on the egg being taken in hand." Mrs. Harrison corroborates this: "The light blue egg had a white deposit of a beautiful lacy pattern which would rub off if care was not taken."

Another of Mrs. Harrison's pets was the singular Crested Screamer, *Chauna chavaria* (Linn.)—"Chaja" in the Argentine vernacular. This bird, although armed with spurs on its wings, is well-known as a most sociable fowl, although, according to Hudson, it is "often unfriendly toward dogs and cats." But Mrs. Harrison's three young Screamers used to sleep in a box, in a squirming mass with three puppies which were forever trying to snuggle in under the wings of the birds. These for their part would press their wings down hard against their sides so as to avoid the meddlesome intrusion of the little dogs.—J. A. FARLEY, 52 Cedar St., Malden, Mass.