

are primarily directed, rarely are seen by the ordinary observer while the larger, more slowly moving, and more beneficial Buteos are comparatively easy victims. Thus the result of a Hawk campaign is the maximum destruction of the more beneficial species, and minimum destruction of, and subsequent freedom of the field, for the more injurious types. It may be added that although the Virginia campaign was carried on primarily for the benefit of game, Quail are not perceptibly more numerous than formerly in areas near Washington, D. C. where Hawks have been nearly exterminated.—W. L. McATEE, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Findings in Pellets of Barn Owl.—In the attic of an old rice mill near Charleston, S. C., on March 25, 1926, with Mr. E. B. Chamberlain and Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., I found numerous pellets of the Barn Owl (*Tyto pratincola*) together with the evidence of the nesting of the bird. As the Barn Owl is universally known to be such a beneficial bird, very rarely killing anything but undesirable rodents, it seems worthwhile to record this rare exception where birds have formed part of the prey. As the rice mill has not been used for many years and as the plantation has reverted to the jungle, it is probable that rats and mice are far less common than when these Owls or their ancestors took up residence here.

The findings in the fifty-six pellets by Mr. Remington Kellogg of the Biological Survey are as follows: Small shrew (*Cryptotis parva*), 2, Rice rat (*Oryzomys palustris*), 65, Cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*), 1, Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), 7, Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*), 12, Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans*), 4.

Dr. A. K. Fisher, in communicating this report to me, writes: "Although the matter can not be proved, I am wondering whether Rails and other birds which in a way simulate the movements of rats and mice in the thick foliage might not be taken by accident rather than intentionally by the Owls. This theory would seem to have some weight because they do not molest pigeons that are breeding in adjoining apartments or any species that are not found on the ground around marshes or fields."—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Ipswich, Mass.*

Richardson's Owl (*Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni*) in Cook County, Minnesota.—Late spring and summer records for Minnesota are not common. On the cloudy afternoon of May 20, 1926, I was fishing for trout along the southern shore of Rose Lake, which is intersected by the international boundary. Down from the high, forested shore came the bell-like *ting, ting, ting* of Richardson's Owl, notes which have been so charmingly described by Seton in 'The Arctic Prairies.' The guide, scenting the cause of my distraction, volunteered the information that the sound came from "a small owl" and that "it also sings at night."—A. W. SCHORGER, 2021 *Kendall Ave., Madison, Wis.*

Red-headed Woodpecker Nesting in Maine.—On July 4, 1926, at Cumberland Center, a village just outside of Portland, Me., I had the

peculiar pleasure of studying the nest of the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), a bird with which I am familiar in the southern states but had never before found in Maine.

The nest was discovered by the Misses Margaret and Mildred Wyman of Cumberland Center. It is located in the town on the Drown Farm, Tuttle Road, in an American elm beside the roadway. At the very first fork one main limb is partly dead, evidently broken off by lightning or wind. The hole is 20 feet from the ground. One week previous to this date it was noted that both male and female became very active, indicating a hatch. There was quite a company of us viewing the nest and watching the pair this morning. Rev. Burton A. Lucas, Walter Blanchard, Donald B. Ames, Arthur H. Norton, Herbert M. W. Haven.

Both male and female brought food, and one was seen evidently bearing droppings from the interior. Not a sound could be heard from the young, and this together with the fact that the parent would be inside the nest hole for a long time made us believe that the young were but a few days old.

Not once did I hear the parents utter a note in all their goings and comings. This was in decided contrast to their noisy behavior in the South.

Mr. Norton sends me the following summary of the occurrence of the species in Maine. "The Red-headed Woodpecker is of frequent, though not common occurrence in southwestern Maine, with less frequency east to the Penobscot, and up the Kennebec Valley to the vicinity of Farmington. It is of casual occurrence through the northern and eastern sections. Records at hand show it to have been observed from April 3 to June 9 in spring, with more occurrences in May than any other month. It has also been observed in July and August (one record each) and in fall from September 2 to October 16. In 1881 one was observed in Portland from November to December 25. (Brown, Proc. Portland Soc. N. H., 11, 20.)

According to Everett Smith, it was "not uncommon in Cumberland County in the Fall of 1877." (1882, Smith, Forest and Stream, XVIII, 208.) Concerning its breeding in the State we have no satisfactory evidence. S. J. Adams reported it as "breeding sparingly" in York County: (1897, Bull. 3, U. of Me., 74). In 1908, Miss Sara C. Eastman reported seeing two adults and two young, September 2-6, 1908. Unfortunately we are not certain about locality, but either the vicinity of Paris, (probably) or Portland. But this of course, is not a veritable breeding record, since the young, well described, (1908, Jour. Me. Orn. Soc. X, 114) were flying and may have come from a long distance away, and may have been many weeks or several months out of the nest.

The observation of these birds nesting here made a notable celebration of the day for me. A red, white and blue bird on the "Fourth of July!" —HAROLD W. COPELAND, 112 Park Ave., Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker in Winchendon, Mass.—On June 11 it was my good fortune to find a female Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker in a hemlock tree bordering the golf links. I hoped that I might find the