

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

bird breeding here, but it was never again positively identified. June 11 is an extremely late date for *Picoides arcticus* in this region, but I have since learned that one was recorded this year at Concord, Mass. (about fifty miles southeast of here) on June 17.—FREDERICK M. CAPEN, *Winchendon, Mass.*

**The Nest of *Automolus ochrolaemus pallidigularis* Lawrence.—**

While studying at the Barro Colorado Biological Station in the Panama Canal Zone I recently had the opportunity of observing the nest of this Furnarid. On March 23, 1926 my companion, Mr. F. M. Gaige, found the nest in a hole near the top of a perpendicular cut bank in hard clay, four feet above a small stream running through heavy jungle. He discovered it by watching the parent bird bringing small lizards to the young. The next day I accompanied him to the nest and collected the female as she came to the hole carrying in her bill a small lizard (of the species known at present as *Anolis limifrons*). The nest, which contained two half grown young, was situated at the end of a horizontal tunnel over sixty cm. deep and was composed almost entirely of a single kind of slender leaf stalk about ten cm. in length. The nest was quite bulky with a shallow cavity some ten cm. across and a thickened rim or approach on the side toward the entrance hole. The birds and nest are now in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan.

Dr. Witmer Stone (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil., 70, p. 262, 1918) has recorded a nest of this species collected by L. L. Jewel at Gatun in 1911. This nest is described as "situated in a tree fork, seven feet up." In answer to a query of mine Dr. Stone writes "no doubt there was some error" for Jewel "referred to the specimens by number in his notebook and such a method always opens up a way to error."—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

**Death of Young Phoebes due to Over-feeding?**—I am indebted to S. Harkness McCrea, of Darien, Connecticut, for the data here presented, which seem sufficiently unusual to warrant permanent record.

According to Mr. McCrea, a pair of Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*) built their nest in April, 1925, on a shelf in the recessed entrance to his studio at Darien. The nest was located but five feet from an electric light that apparently was frequently burned to a late hour. Two sets of eggs were laid. A Cowbird's egg was deposited with the first and was removed, but only one of the Phoebe eggs hatched. The electric light naturally attracted many night-flying moths, which the adult Phoebe would catch throughout the evening to feed her single offspring. This bird soon died and the second set of eggs was laid. All five of these were successfully hatched and the same procedure was again followed. The young were kept literally stuffed with moths, the parents frequently continuing feeding as late as midnight. All of these young died when they were about half fledged.