

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.

It is possible that the diet of moths alone may have been wholly or mainly responsible, but it seems more probable that the continuous feeding had the effect of upsetting the normal daily digestion, with fatal results. As the adult birds probably continued their own feeding while engaged in caring for the wants of the young, it must be assumed either that the quantity of food consumed by them was governed wholly by appetite or that the mature functions were more readily adjusted to the increased hours of activity.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Nesting of the Starling, (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in Michigan.—A nest of the Starling with five, nearly grown young, able to fly from the nest was found by me and members of my zoölogy class on June 5, 1926. It was in a partly dead hickory tree isolated from other trees in a farm lane some four miles northeast of Ypsilanti, Michigan. The nest was in a cavity evidently made by a Woodpecker and about twenty feet up. It was a bulky mass principally of straw, strips of bark and feathers and cemented internally, probably by the excrement of the birds, to form the bowl. A thick, dust with many insect fragments from dried droppings formed a deposit in the nest. Parts of June beetles (*Phyllophaga*) were recognized and an entire living white grub, that probably escaped the young, was found in the material. Streaks of excrement extended from the nest entrance down the tree trunk and the whole situation was foul.

The nest was first located May 7, 1926 by our seeing the bird leave the hole, but it was not examined until June 5. Seven feet below the Starling's nest was a hole occupied by a pair of Northern Flickers (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) with their young.

One of the young Starlings was brought to my house and placed temporarily in a box. This was in the evening. The next morning an adult was trying to feed the bird. No Starlings had heretofore been noted by me within a mile of my home, and the nest from which the bird was taken was about five miles away.—T. L. HANKINSON, *Ypsilanti, Michigan.*

***Idiopsar brachyurus* in Argentina.**—In a small collection of birds lately received from a collector in Argentina there is a specimen of *Idiopsar brachyurus*. This bird, a male, was secured in July, 1924, at Laguna Eslocada, in the Sierra de Zenta at 4500 meters, Departamento de Humahuaca, Jujuy, Argentina. This appears to be the first record for the species in Argentina; the specimen is now number 264,526 U.S.N.M. The label gives the iris as coffee colored, bill dull brown, and tarsus clear brown. The measurements are as follows: Wing 97 mm.; tail 67 mm.; culmen from base 20 mm.; and tarsus 26.5 mm.

Idiopsar has an interesting history. It was long known only by the type in the United States National Museum, secured at "La Paz," Bolivia, and described by Cassin (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1866, 414). It now appears that the type has a deformed bill, since it is worn and elongated, measuring 25 mm. This type, No. 32,664, U.S.N.M., was one