

issue of 'The Auk,' with the title "Short-eared Owl Breeding in Illinois," suggests a record which perhaps has not found its way into print.

In the early part of May, 1910, when calling at the home of Mr. Benjamin T. Gault, at Glen Ellyn, Illinois, I was shown a skin of a newly hatched Short-eared Owl which he had just prepared. It was taken from a nest of seven or eight eggs which, when found a few days before, were on the point of hatching. It is my recollection that Mr. Gault said that it was his first breeding record for the species and that the nest had been found not far from his home. It is upon this and doubtless other records that Mr. Gault lists the species as a breeder in northern Illinois in his list of the birds of the state.—EDWARD H. FORD, *Washington St., Grand Rapids, Mich.*

**Pileated Woodpeckers Wintering in Cleveland County, Oklahoma.**—The most exciting find of our 1925 Christmas census was a Pileated Woodpecker; it was the first time we had seen this fine bird in central Oklahoma. On January 1, 1926, the female *Phloeotomus pileatus pileatus* was found in the same deep woods near the South Canadian River and I was fortunate enough to be able to watch her for over an hour. I heard her loud cry and saw her hammering at a bare place on the side of a cottonwood branch; she would pound for a while and then insert her beak and appear to bore. All at once I noticed a Flicker creeping quietly up the limb; when within a foot of the great stranger it stopped and waited. The Pileated soon changed her position to the top of the branch, whereupon the Flicker unobtrusively slipped into her place and inserted its bill into some of the holes. All at once Pileated discovered the interloper and made several dabs with her beak; the Flicker made a few dabs in return, then dropped to a lower limb. The Pileated flew with a cry to another cottonwood, while the Flicker hurried back to the interrupted feast.

Later the Pileated Woodpecker, taking no notice of me, flew to small trees and alighted on a fallen log; she was incautious and noisy. In the distance I heard a loud *Wick-up wick-up wick-up*; she answered *pup-pup-pup-pup-pup*.

On February 1, I caught only a glimpse of this same bird although we sometimes heard them and saw evidences of their recent work when we visited these woods. It was not until April 6 that we saw one again; this time it was the male. April 21, was the last date on which I recorded one of these Woodpeckers.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Norman, Oklahoma.*

**Say's Phoebe at Brooklyn, N. Y.**—It has been my good fortune to add to the already long list of birds of Dyker Heights Park, Brooklyn, a sight record, under very favorable circumstances of Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis sayus*).

The bird was observed at close range, feeding on insects of some sort quite near the ground in a patch of weeds near the two ponds, a quarter

of a mile from Gravesend Bay. It was not shy but perched first on the weed stalks and later on the ground, making short sallies into the air.

This is the first record for the New York region and one of a few east of the Mississippi. The date of first observation was September 25, 1926, and the bird was seen again on the 28th which is remarkably close to the date for a specimen taken at North Truro, Mass., September 30, 1889 (Howe and Allen, 'Birds of Massachusetts,' p. 80).—WARREN F. EATON, 65 Wurtle St., New York, N. Y.

**Habits of Blue Jays and Doves in Central Kansas.**—Apropos of the remarks of Mr. J. A. Farley and Dr. Witmer Stone in 'The Auk' for April, 1926, page 239, regarding the changed habits of Blue Jays it is interesting to note that a similar condition prevails in this neighborhood. Jays instead of shunning civilization while breeding actually seem to seek it. The military reservation of some 30,000 acres of very varied country, constitutes a large sanctuary where birds abound. In the abundance of birds scattered over this differing terrain there is a notable concentration in the immediate vicinity of the buildings of the established post.

Blue Jays which are common in this region are especially to be found around the houses and lawns and breeding in the trees. Many nests were found in conspicuous positions around buildings; one in particular in the branches of an elm tree about 15 feet directly above the walk in front of my house. Four young were hatched about June 4, 1926 and remained in the immediate vicinity until late in August during which time the parents continued to feed them. They were very noisy and almost every morning were to be heard clamoring for food in the trees about the house. On one occasion a parent was observed hammering lustily on a limb at some object held between the feet. On frightening the Jay away it dropped a freshly killed and nearly full grown nestling English Sparrow.

It was further of interest to note that Mourning Doves preferred the vicinity of buildings to the wooded and secluded canyons of the back country by a ratio of at least ten to one. Most of the trees along the main walk contained a nest apiece some of which were used at least twice, several hundred young being raised. One nest in particular was of interest in that a family of Yellow-billed Cuckoos occupied it first in early June after which three families of Doves were raised in it in succession. The last hatching occurred as late as September 17.—LEON L. GARDNER, Fort Riley, Kansas.

**Starling Nesting in Wisconsin.**—On June 13, 1926, I discovered two adult Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) on a barn on the farm of John Geiger, about three miles south of Waukesha, Wisconsin. Mr. James Crookston was with me and for some time, with 9x binoculars, we observed the birds coming and going. I had seen Starlings in England during the war and was certain of the identification. Mr. Geiger had told me in early spring