

*Asio wilsonianus*. LONG-EARED AMERICAN OWL.—Male and female, two nestlings taken from a Crow's old nest, Lulu Island, May 30, 1927.

*Archibuteo logopus sancti-johannis*. AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. Male, Pitt Meadows, November 20, 1927.

All collected by Mr. R. A. Cumming, South Vancouver, and now in his collection.

The Chat has been reported at Sumas by Allan Brooks and he has reported the other species at Chilliwack.—JAMES D. TURNBULL, Vancouver, B. C.

**Protective Mimicry of the Chickadee.**—Mr. A. L. Pickens' interesting article on this subject in 'The Auk' for July, 1928, p. 302, prompts me to point out that the European Titmice produce warning noises in apparently exactly the same manner as the American Chickadee. I have frequently noticed this habit in the case of the British Great Tit (*Parus major newtoni*), on at least one occasion in the British Coal Tit (*P. ater britannicus*), and it is also characteristic of the British Blue Tit (*P. caeruleus obscurus*). Mr. Pickens' description of the movements of the Chickadee in producing this explosive hiss applies exactly to those of the Great Tit; but though well known to field-workers, there is little on record in the numerous books on British birds on the subject beyond a few references to "hissing like a snake" on the part of the setting Blue Tit.—F. C. R. JOURDAIN, Southbourne, Bournemouth, England.

**A Spider (*Argiope aurantia*) and a Bird (*Astragalinus tristis tristis*).**—Mr. George H. Thacher has told me of an interesting episode which his son, Mr. Ira R. Thacher, of Yarmouth, Cape Cod, Mass., witnessed one morning in August, 1928.

Mr. Thacher, junior, at my request has written me an account of what he saw, which I quote.

In walking across the fields in Yarmouth and crossing a dyke around the edge of a cranberry bog, his attention was aroused by the disturbed calls of a small bird. He soon located the spot and found a small bird which he called a *wild canary* (probably an American Goldfinch?) completely immeshed in a spider's web, which appeared to be about twelve inches in diameter, and placed near the ground between two blueberry bushes.

This spider Mr. J. H. Emerton, the eminent authority on spiders, has identified from the description as being a female *Argiope aurantia*.

After watching a few moments, during which time the ensnared bird's mate was flitting around and chirping apparently much disturbed, he released the captive bird and removed what he could of the web which encircled it, and holding it in his open palm invited it to fly away, but either through fear or exhaustion it was unable to do so, and in making the attempt fell at his feet among the bushes and disappeared before he was able to recapture it. It is probable that some of the readers of this

article may question the possibility of any spider indigenous in the New England States constructing a web of sufficient strength to hold even a very small bird. I coincide in this view with the exception of this particular spider, *Argiope aurantia*.

Mr. Emerton has kindly shown me a specimen of a large female of this spider with a yellow and black body and long black legs, whose body is as large as the end of one's finger. It usually spins its web near the ground between two bushes where there is rather dense undergrowth, leaving only a contracted space between them, with a sort of lane or pocket behind.

Mr. Emerton showed me photographs of such webs in place, and made the suggestion that a small bird on becoming entangled might not have sufficient space to exert its full strength to liberate itself; he also thought it unlikely that the spider would have been able to kill the bird.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

**An Early Collection of Birds.**—My friend, Mr. Harrold E. Gillingham, has called my attention to an advertisement which he discovered in a copy of the 'Pennsylvania Packet' published in Philadelphia, on April 20, 1772, which reads as follows: "A Collection of preserved North American birds to be disposed of. Inquire of the Printer."

As this was over twenty years before Alexander Wilson arrived in America and thirteen years before Audubon was born, it would be interesting to know who the collector may have been.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*