

the skin, was preserved as described above. It was identified at the time by all who saw it as a Ruby-throat. Indeed, the question of its being anything else never entered anyone's mind. Since that time, it has lain in the Museum's study collection and has been seen by several ornithologists. When I joined the staff some years ago, I knew of the bird, of course, but that it was anything else than the label indicated, did not cross my mind. My experience with Hummingbirds other than the Ruby-throat is nil, and but for the sharp eyes of Mr. Riley, the bird would no doubt have remained for many more years under its wrong identification. This specimen has been twice recorded as a Ruby-throat, once in the Charleston Museum 'Bulletin,' vol. VI, 1910, p. 10, and once in Wayne's 'Birds of South Carolina,' as an editorial footnote on page 98.

When the correct details were ascertained I at once wrote Mr. Hyer, who is with the Kent Scientific Museum of Grand Rapids, Mich., telling him of it, and he has asked me to record the specimen.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird Wintering in Northern Florida.—January 17, 1929, I observed a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) feeding among the blooms of the single pink Japonica trees in our front yard in Tallahassee, Florida. The bird was seen again on the 19th and 26th, possibly the same individual. I am convinced that the species winters in northern Florida in small numbers. At this season several kinds of plants and shrubs are in full bloom, especially the Japonicas which furnish ample insect and other food for those of the Hummingbirds that are hardy enough to remain in a section visited occasionally in winter by sufficient cold to produce very substantial crusts of ice on exposed pools and the like. A Hummingbird is reported to have been seen in Pensacola, Florida, in the same latitude as Tallahassee, on February 20, 1927 (Weston—Bird-Lore, XXIX, 199). These two observations extend the winter range of the Hummingbird in Florida considerably farther north than any previous record.—ROBERT W. WILLIAMS, *Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

Possible Reasoning Power in a Phoebe.—The following occurrence is not a recent observation, but one that happened in my boyhood and has remained vividly in my memory. I regret that I had not formed the habit of recording notes at the time. I am not even sure of the year in which it occurred, though it was probably between 1900 and 1904, but memory of events in our youth is often clearer, stronger and more accurate than memory of much more recent events. About the time that this observation was made I read somewhere a warning against assuming too readily that birds and animals had reasoning power when they did things that seemed remarkable. This led me to note the event in this case carefully and ponder over it, so that I do not doubt that the facts as I remember them are essentially as they occurred.

Back of West Rock, at New Haven, Conn., a brook flows out of Wintergreen Lake. Beside this brook was a large rock of red sandstone. The face toward the stream was almost smooth and vertical, but the upper part jutted out and overhung the face by several inches. On the face of this rock, beneath the overhanging portion, a Phoebe built its nest for several years in succession. This nest was plastered against the face of the rock, with no support beneath, but held up by the adhesive power of the mud in its structure.

I was usually able to examine this nest from the opposite side of the stream, but one year the brook was swollen by heavy rains, and not being able to approach close enough to see the contents, I crossed the stream and reached around the edge of the rock to feel what the contents might be. As I did so I lost my balance and in regaining it, loosened the nest from its hold on the rock. I managed to catch it, though one of its five eggs was spilled into the stream. A foot or two below the nest site was a projection on the rock large enough to hold the nest, so I placed it on this projection. The bird returned to the nest and hatched out the young successfully, though whether the young grew to maturity and left the nest without mishap I do not know.

The following year a Phoebe returned and rebuilt the nest in the old location beneath the jutting rock. Underneath the center of the nest was a vertical column of mud and moss three or four inches long!

Now of course I cannot prove that this Phoebe was the same bird that had nested there previously, nor that the supporting column was anything but an accident. There is room for the skeptic to doubt if he wishes. But I have never seen another Phoebe's nest like this one. That the bird was the same one, and that it remembered the incident of the year before, and reasoned that a support beneath would prevent a similar accident may seem too much to assume, so I have recorded the incident for what it is worth, and will let the reader think what he pleases. Yet it is quite possible that many of our birds have stronger reasoning powers than we are inclined to credit them with.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS. *Fairfield, Conn.*

The American Three-toed Woodpecker in Luce County, Michigan.—On February 1, 1928, I saw one of these Woodpeckers (*Picoides americanus americanus*) in a large tamarack swamp near the East Branch of the Fox River about two and a quarter miles south and nearly seven miles west of McMillan, Luce County, Michigan. The bird was at work on a dead tamarack and the white bars on its back and other markings which distinguish the species were easily seen through a pocket field glass.

Another or possibly the same bird was seen near the same place on February 2 and on February 15 one was heard and located about four feet up on a dead tamarack about twenty-five feet from where I was peeling a post. It flew within arms reach above me to another tree and then to still another where it was caught by my father who went slowly up to it as it was busy digging for food.