

Blue Jays Gathering Twigs for Nests.—For three years I have observed Blue Jays gathering twigs for their nest which each season was built in a triple fork at the top of a catalpa tree so that it was completely hidden from the ground. The dead twig ends were taken from two locust trees and a quince shrub. The bird would select a twig and seizing it well back in the bill and about three inches from the tip would pull and twist it until it broke off. It was then critically inspected and in the great majority of cases dropped to the ground sometimes even after flying with it to the nest tree. Both birds gathered twigs in 1931 when building was begun April 7, but one took more interest in the work than the other. In other nestings less material was gathered and less rejected, the old nests being probably repaired and not entirely rebuilt.—MYRA KATIE ROADS, *Hillsboro, Ohio*.

Northern Raven in New Jersey.—The Check-List, Fourth Edition, describes *Corvus corax principalis* as "formerly" occurring in the coast region of New Jersey. The species has never been completely extirpated. My first record from Barnegat was April 13, 1924 and my last, two birds which were well seen January 17, 1932 by several observers. Between those dates I have 27 excellent sight records, the maximum being five on November 10, 1929. These are divided as follows: January two records; February three; March two; April two; May one; June two; July none; August five; September two; October three; November three; December three. The birds stick rather closely to one section of wooded swamp, open salt marsh, bay and beach. It is possible that the remnant surviving receives occasional additions from the Pennsylvania haunts of the species since there have been two recent records of Ravens about Boonton, N. J., half way between the two areas of permanent residence.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

Carolina Wrens Roosting in Abandoned Hornets Nests.—Some time during the fall of 1927 my father found, and carried to the house, a very large nest built by white-faced hornets (*Vespa maculata*). This nest was hung up in an out-building, and no attention was paid to it until late in the winter when we found, to our surprise, that a pair of Carolina Wrens had enlarged the opening, and were using it as a nightly roosting place.

The birds continued to roost there until spring; when they carefully constructed a nest of their own, in the top of the hornets' nest, away from the opening. For some reason, they later abandoned this home in favor of one in a near-by bird box.

When fall came we waited with interest to see if they would again take up their old abode. Going out to look one frosty morning before daylight, we heard them stirring in the nest, and they used it regularly from then on. This they have repeated every year until the present winter.

Another nest was placed in the same building last fall, and the resident pair, whether or not the original 1927 individuals we do not know, immedi-

ately took up quarters in the enlarged opening of the new nest. In their new home they are plainly visible, and they have allowed us to study them with flashlights. They do not seem in the least disturbed when we suddenly turn a light upon them. The outer bird roosts with one wing spread across the opening, and this, perhaps, shuts out most of the light.

One morning, just at daybreak, I went out to the building where the nests are hung, lighted a small gas stove, and placed before it a bucket of water over which a layer of ice had frozen. Returning in a few minutes, I found both birds perched on the rim of the bucket, as near to the fire as they could get. Whether the heat or the light was the attraction I cannot say, but they presented as charming a bird picture as I have ever seen.

An account of this new use for old nests of hornets was given my high school class in biology, and it happened that one of the students, French Page, had had for three or four years a pair of Carolina Wrens nesting behind a picture in his sleeping room. In the fall of 1930 he found a hornet's nest and placed it in his room. In the spring of 1931 the birds adopted it, built their own home in it, and successfully raised a brood of young there.

The readiness with which they have taken up such homes has led us to wonder how freely birds may utilize these abandoned nests outdoors. It might be of interest to bird students to investigate such nests as they find.—MAURICE BROOKS, *French Creek, W. Va.*

A Hornet-Wren Nest.—The note by Mr. Louis B. Kalter (Auk, XLIX, p. 90) on a Carolina Wren roosting in an old hornets' nest recalls a somewhat similar incident. On June 11, 1916, Mr. W. A. Goelitz and I were hunting in the low dune and pine region along Lake Michigan at Beach, Lake County, northeastern Illinois. Under the outside eaves of an old barn we found a hornets' nest and a House Wren singing on the roof above it. After searching the barn for the Wren's nest Mr. Goelitz climbed up to investigate the hornets' nest. He found that a well thrown rock had made a large hole in it and the House Wrens had used this for a home in which they had laid eight eggs. The nearest houses were about a mile and a half from here.—COLIN CAMPBELL SANBORN, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois.*

A Late Fall Occurrence of the Wood Thrush, in Cheshire County, New Hampshire.—On November 14, 1931, while I was crossing through a piece of young-growth hardwoods, a thrush calling *pip pip* was heard a short distance back of me on a coniferous knoll. It soon came into view and was instantly recognized as *Hylocichla mustelina*. By easy stages it worked nearer, passing close by me and affording an excellent view, continuing its course through the small piece of woodland. It spent fully as much time on the ground as it did on low perches to which it frequently mounted, but did not make any attempt to feed. Its *quit quit* was followed by the scold note *pip pip* when a hound appeared. Whereon the thrush crossed the main highway into another hardwood growth and was lost to