

Birds Attracted to Small-flowered Leaf Cup.—During the autumn of 1931 the writer noticed that a number of birds, chiefly Carolina Chickadees were being attracted to many patches of small-flowered leaf-cup (*Polymnia canadensis* L.) growing in the wetter areas of Glen Helen, Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

The chickadees were observed pecking at the imperfectly formed flower-heads of this rank member of the Compositae while hanging head downward from the plant, or they would first remove the flowers and carry them to nearby tree or shrub branches where they picked at the blossoms which were held on the branch with one foot.

Investigation of the flower heads of this plant showed that most of them were infested with the small striped brown larvae of one of the Noctuid moths. The work of these insects seemed to cause the blossoms to rot and turn brown. Some of the flowers showed the opening of a burrow on their distal end. On an average plant 128 blossoms and flower-buds were counted of which the majority were infested with the larvae. One tiny golden pupa and three larvae were found in one flower but the majority of the flowers had only one larva.

The identification of the plant was made by Dr. Robert B. Gordon, Botany Department of Ohio State University, who remarked: "This species usually has defective flowering development in Ohio, and I wonder if it is always due to damage by the insect larvae which you found. I have never examined the flowers to see what was wrong, but I do not recall of ever having seen a perfect head of flowers in this state."—LOUIS B. KALTER, 535 Belmont Park, Dayton, Ohio.

Some Avian Uses For Mistletoe.—Mistletoe, has several uses from the viewpoint of birds, especially after it has reached the bushy stage of its growth and becomes a thick clump of from one to three or four feet in diameter.

One of these uses is to shelter nests, such species as the Nicasio Jay (*Aphelocoma californica ocleptica*), the White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus majusculus*) and others having been observed in this vicinity to build their nests among this growth.

Mistletoe berries are reported as eaten by several European species (see Mayaud and Heim de Balsac in 'La Revue Francaise d'Ornithologie,' Dec. 1928, and 'Alauda,' Dec. 1930). These authors have made a study of the spread of mistletoe from tree to tree by birds which feed upon the berries,—the Missel-thrush (*Arceuthornis visciivorus*), the Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) and quite a number of other birds being reported as consumers. Without doubt many berry-feeding birds in our country eat the viscid and mucilaginous fruit,—another use for mistletoe then being the furnishing of food to such birds as will feed upon the fruit.

Still another use for mistletoe is the furnishing of sheltered roosting places to birds during the night, such as evidenced by the observation which follows. Towards the end of a Sunday field trip near Benicia, California,