

**The Courtship Flight of the Red-breasted Nuthatch.**—I am prompted by the note in 'The Auk' for October, 1932, by Mr. Francis H. Allen on 'The Song of the Red-breasted Nuthatch' to record the courtship (?) flight of *Sitta canadensis* which I witnessed on April 6, 1932, in the garden of the Wayside Inn, Sudbury, Massachusetts. Mrs. Wellman and I were approaching the end of the garden, when a bird flew out of a red cedar and, with incredible speed, zigzagged through the bare limbs of a large old apple tree. After two or three circular turns in this erratic manner through the branches, it dived back into the cedar. Neither of us, although we stood just in front of the tree, had the slightest idea what the bird was; immediately the flight was repeated, leaving us as much mystified as before. No eye could follow the tremendous speed and sharp turns; it seemed impossible that any bird could do it a second time and avoid striking the irregular branches of the apple tree. A third flight followed in three or four seconds and consisted of a shorter performance: this time the bird stopped suddenly on a small branch of the apple tree and we saw that it was a Red-breasted Nuthatch. Almost at once a second *Sitta canadensis*, a female, joined the first and the two began investigating holes in the old apple trees of the garden. During the flight there were no notes from the male; later, when the two birds were together, the usual call notes were given intermittently.—GORDON BOIT WELLMAN, Wellesley College, Massachusetts.

**Singing of the Red-breasted Nuthatch.**—With regard to the singing of this species I heard the tin trumpet call as I was walking along the main street of Glastonbury, Conn., on October 8, 1932, which was followed by a long song *y-a-a-a-a-a-* at the rate of at least 95 "a"s to the minute. I finally located the bird on the very topmost branch of a tall elm. Every leaf had fallen and he was outlined against the sky with wings partly open and head in the air. The lazy *hank, hank*, of his white-breasted cousin on a lower branch served to emphasize the tempo and higher pitch of his song. An occasional tin trumpet note seemed to introduce his *y-a's* at intervals. The song was repeated with hardly a breath between for at least half a dozen times and because of his commanding position he could be heard for quite a distance.—(MRS.) EDITH M. CLARK, 350 Main St., Glastonbury, Conn.

**The Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris dissaepus*) in Maine.**—In November 1923, the late Frederick O. Conant, of Portland brought me a nest of a Marsh Wren (undoubtedly of this species), which he had just found in narrow leaved cat-tails (*Typha angustifolia*) at Great Pond, Cape Elizabeth, Maine. The nest was very fresh in appearance, and apparently built late that season. Mr. Conant was accustomed to spend considerable time at Great Pond during the shooting season, and was unusually well acquainted with the geography, and the animal life of the pond; when asked if other similar nests were seen, he replied in the negative.

Visits to the shores of the pond, where the birds in question can now be heard, failed to reward my search for them in the early summers of 1924 and 1925.

Nests were again found at Great Pond in the autumn of 1930, and some brought in by Mrs. Frank Kittredge, and on May 18, 1932, she informed me that the birds were building. On May 22 I joined Mr. and Mrs. Kittredge in a visit to the place, with the result that we found not less than thirty nests in the process of building, and saw a dozen or more of the birds, flitting about them, singing or scolding as their moods dictated.

Several of these we were able to observe with great care at a distance of only a few feet, with, and without binoculars. These birds were well out among flag beds toward the north shore of the pond.

On June 6, 1932, with Mr. Jed F. Fanning of Portland I visited the pond again, finding the Wrens as before; they were equally obliging in revealing themselves, close at hand, and in excellent light. We found one of their nests containing two of their characteristic chocolate brown eggs.

A circuit of the shores of the pond revealed many more nests and birds in the marshes on the south side of the pond. We estimate the number of birds seen, in the two sections, as about forty pairs.

From the fact that this pond has been much visited, at all seasons for many years, and neither nests nor wrens have attracted attention, except as stated, I believe the bird to be a newcomer to this section.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum of Natural History, Portland Maine.*

**Does the Robin ever Lay White Eggs?**—On May 13, 1931, my friend, Henry I. Shaw, of Norton, Mass., told me he noticed five white eggs on his lawn that morning. They probably had been blown out of some nest, and he thought they were eggs of the Robin, although he had always supposed this bird's eggs were blue.

On my expressing interest he brought two of the eggs to me the following day,—the three remaining eggs being too badly broken to pick up. These two eggs appear to be typical Robin's eggs in size and shape,—in fact, in everything except color. The color is white with no indication of blue, and showed no noticeable differences before and after blowing. One was damaged and was not preserved but the remaining egg is in my collection.

Although the Bluebird sometimes lays a set of white eggs, I do not recall having seen any reference to white eggs of the Robin. None of the standard ornithological reference books at hand make any mention of it. It is unusual, also, in this locality to find sets of five eggs.—F. SEYMOUR HERSEY, *Easton, Massachusetts.*

**Willow Thrush, a New Bird for Alabama.**—On September 7, 1932, a dead Willow Thrush (*Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola*) was found at Fairhope, Alabama, and was brought to me for identification. The bird was skinned and sent to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser of the Biological Survey, who identified it as a Willow Thrush. The specimen, retained in the collection