

tinguishing ear tufts rising like sentries on duty. She was apparently undaunted by the severe cold and I did not disturb her.

I shall be interested to learn if other nestings of the Great Horned Owl have been recorded, in this latitude, in January.—C. HUBER WATSON, *Andover, N. Y.*

**Great Crested Flycatcher in New Jersey in November.**—On November 25, 1932, Mr. Warren F. Eaton and I saw a Great Crested Flycatcher at Barnegat Light, N. J. It was under observation for half an hour and the olive colored head, dark gray breast, light wing-bars and rufous inner webs of the tail feathers were all noted, and its characteristic call was heard.

The bird was not an Arkansas Flycatcher, as might be supposed from the date, for I am quite familiar with that species.

Mr. Joseph W. Tatum of Haddonfield, N. J., I am informed, also saw the bird at the same place at about the same time.—MARC C. RICH, 120 *Broadway, New York.*

**Lead-colored Bush-Tit near San Antonio, Texas.**—On January 22, 1932, I saw three small birds in the woods at my station, about six miles southwest of Lytle, Atascosa Co., Texas. They were feeding in the outer tops of small oak trees and when first seen were in company with Sennett's Titmice. Their notes which were uttered regularly were short and fairly clear. I collected one of them which proved to be a female Lead-colored Bush-Tit (*Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus*). This is far east of the regular known range of the bird in Texas.

The skin is now in the collection of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History as is a skin of a female Audubon's Oriole (*Icterus melanocephalus auduboni*) also taken near my station from a flock of four or more, on March 4, 1932; another species which is rare in this vicinity although recorded from near San Antonio by Attwater, years ago.—ALBERT J. B. KIRN, *Somerset, Texas.*

**Eastern Robin Laying White Eggs.**—I note in 'The Auk' for January, 1933, Mr. Hersey's question regarding the laying of white eggs by Robins.

In the Museum of Comparative Zoology there is an extraordinary clutch of eight eggs of the Eastern Robin collected at Arlington Heights, Mass., on June 11, 1924, by Arthur Loveridge, Assistant Curator of Herpetology.

Two of the eggs are of normal size and color and were nearly hatching. The remaining five eggs are white; two of them runts, and all showed faint traces of blood upon being blown.—W. SPRAGUE BROOKS, *Museum Comp. Zool., Cambridge, Mass.*

**First Record of Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) for Nebraska.**—Early in May, 1932, a pair of Starlings nested in a barn on the farm of C. R. Wiegiers, Western, Nebraska. After the young had hatched and feathers

were formed, one of the birds fell from the nest and was killed by a cat. Mr. Wieggers sent this to Lincoln where it was identified by G. E. Hudson, Department of Zoology, University of Nebraska.

On June 7, an adult male Starling (now in possession of Dr. M. H. Swenk) was shot at the same location, and was identified by Dr. R. H. Wolcott.—CLAUDE R. WIEGERS, GEORGE E. HUDSON, JOHN L. MORRISON, *Lincoln, Neb.*

**Cape May Warblers Destructive to Grapes.**—To most ornithologists the idea of too many Cape May Warblers would seem fantastic, but during a number of seasons they have made themselves almost unwelcome fall visitors here in central West Virginia. Our first note of them as grape destroyers was made in 1909. We had at that time a small commercial vineyard, and during the first week in September, when the crop was just ripening, we were surprised to find in the vineyard swarms of Cape May Warblers. We were not long in doubt as to their purpose there, for within a week they had destroyed practically every grape we had. This habit has frequently been noted elsewhere (see Auk 1915, etc. and p. 233, beyond).

Their method was to puncture the skin of the berry at one point, extract a little juice, and move on to the next. They would systematically work over every berry in the cluster, if undisturbed, and they soon became exceedingly tame. It is no exaggeration to say that there were hundreds of the birds in the locality.

After the birds had made one puncture, swarms of bees and wasps soon finished the work of destruction. There was no way of frightening so many birds away, and we were driven to sacking our grapes in the future. The next year, 1910, they returned in numbers again, destroying practically all unsacked clusters, and completely cleaning out the vines of our neighbors, who raised just a few grapes for their home use.

From 1910 until 1931 their visits here were only occasional, and never in large numbers. In early September, 1931, however, they returned in droves. There was an unusually heavy grape crop in this region, but our crop lasted just two days after the invasion. Just as in previous years, they made one puncture, and the insects did the rest.

I received reports of their destructiveness from many points in this territory, several in Upshur, Lewis, Harrison, Randolph, Barbour, and Monongalia Counties. Everywhere it was the same story; one or two days and the vines were stripped. Some of the points at which they were reported are approximately one hundred miles from French Creek, Upshur County, where they were first reported in 1909.

Placing paper sacks on the clusters before ripening is, of course, a safeguard against both birds and insects, but it entails much labor and expense. Nevertheless, it is the only expedient that we have found at all satisfactory. We sacked our crop this last season, and when the birds came this fall they found only the smaller clusters available, so their damage was nominal.

I have observed Black-throated Green, Yellow, and Nashville Warblers