

the female bird clawed me before the young were replaced in the nest. Our earliest previous record for the nesting of the Great Horned Owl is February 11.—WILLIAM H. ELDER, 217 Clifford Court, Madison, Wisconsin.

Snowy Owl Migration—1934-1935.—There has been another marked migration of Snowy Owls (*Nyctea nyctea*) into Quebec, the Maritime Provinces and New England during the past winter 1934-1935. Each year Snowy Owls are reported in this region but periodically there appear an unusual number, constituting great flights which have been found to correspond with the fluctuations in the numbers of other forms of life especially with the rodents such as the Lemming of the far north.

These flights, according to the records that have been compiled in the past, occur about every four years. The cycle has been noted to have a correspondence to the periods of the maximum numbers of Arctic Foxes and other fur bearing animals which also depend on Lemmings as one of their chief sources of food.²

Judging from the reports that I have received, the migration this year has been concentrated in the region of the Province of Quebec and New England. Correspondence reveals that few Snowy Owls, compared with the numbers of the two previous migrations of 1926-1927¹ and 1930-1931,² were seen along the Atlantic seaboard south of New York.

Dr. D. A. Dery of Quebec, P. Q. states that in addition to the very large numbers of Snowy Owls there was also an unusual number of Gray Owls, Hawk Owls and Long-eared Owls observed in the Province of Quebec this year.

The greater number of Snowy Owls reported in New England were seen during the latter part of October and November, 1934, but not infrequent records have been received throughout the winter. One individual has been seen in the vicinity of Back Bay, Portland until March, 1935.

It is of importance, especially to those interested in the study of animal cycles and periodic migrations, to have on record the present migration of 1934-1935. Therefore additional records especially of Snowy Owls observed south of New England and New York during the past winter will be greatly appreciated.—ALFRED O. GROSS, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird as Commensals.—The interesting observation recorded under a similar title in the April 'Auk' by Mr. Freer and Dr. Murray is not unique. An account of this habit of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) of feeding from holes drilled by Sapsuckers was given by Frank Bolles in 'The Auk' (July, 1891, pp. 256-270), under the title of 'Yellow-bellied Woodpeckers and their Uninvited Guests.' The paper was reprinted as 'Sapsuckers and their Guests' in Bolles's book 'From Blomidon to Smoky' (1894), which also contains further notes on the subject in a chapter entitled 'The Humming-birds of Chocorua,' reprinted from the 'Popular Science Monthly.' Frank Bolles's three books of nature essays are all too little known today. They are delightful reading, besides containing much good ornithology.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, West Roxbury, Mass.

Migrational Dates of Purple Martins.—At Harrisburg, Pa., a 28-compartment Martin house was erected in 1922 on one of the main streets in front of the E. Z. Gross Drugstore at 110 Market St. Daily observations are made of this bird house

¹ Gross, A. O. 1927. The Snowy Owl Migration of 1926-27, Auk, vol. 44, No. 4, p. 479-493.

² Gross, A. O. 1931. Snowy Owl Migration 1930-1931, Auk, vol. 48, No. 4, p. 501-511.