

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.

by the proprietor and his employees, and migrational records have been preserved by them. From 1925 to 1935, inclusive, the spring arrival dates of the Purple Martins (*Progne subis subis*) at this bird house were, in order, April 6, 3, 12, 5, 4, 6, March 26, April 1, 7, 19. Some personal observations approximately confirm these drugstore dates. Also, although I saw Purple Martins forty miles further north several days before, I know they had not arrived at the city house by April 17, in 1935. The dates of fall departure have been kept for the past four years only. They were July 25, 1931, August 4, 1932, August 1, 1933 and August 30, 1934. The times for beginning of migration may depend upon local conditions at the point of departure but these few fall dates bear no relation whatever to the local variations in temperature or rainfall. None of these Martins was banded.—HAROLD B. WOOD, *Harrisburg, Pa.*

Ravens in the Kittatinny Ridge of Pennsylvania.—I was much interested in R. S. Freer's notes in the last issue of 'The Auk,' relating to the unsuspected population of Ravens (*Corvus corax principalis*) in a portion of the Virginia Blue Ridge. The numerous ranges of the Blue Ridge may harbor more of these birds than we are wont to suppose.

Running to the northeastward, the Blue Ridge merges into the Kittatinny Ridge. "Hawk Mountain," near Dreher'sville, is roughly two hundred miles from the area mentioned by Freer. In the course of my duties protecting the Hawks at the mountain during the fall of 1934, I saw two Ravens. It is possible that they may have been the same individual. The first bird occurred on October 14, at 4.37 P. M.; the next on November 2, at 4 P. M. On both occasions the birds passed close to the observation rocks, and on a level with my position. They followed the mountain as did the southward bound Hawks. Earle L. Poole of the Reading Public Museum informed me that Ravens are rare in this region, the last seen in Berks County being some forty years ago.—MAURICE BROWN, *Orleans, Cape Cod, Mass.*

Eastern Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata faxoni*) in Song in Florida.—On three memorable occasions in New England I have heard migrating Hermit Thrushes in song. That members of this species should exercise their vocal powers in the South, however, in violation of all known precepts of Turdine behavior, nearly borders on the incredible. (Howell, in his 'Florida Bird Life' says of the Hermit Thrush ". . . this charming songster is never heard in the South.")

About one P. M. on March 6, 1935, I was taken by surprise to hear the clear cadences of a Hermit Thrush, at the southern end of Apopka Lake, in Citrus County. Although the bird sang for about five minutes, its notes were never so full as when heard in the North. Three days later, in the early forenoon, I again had the good fortune to hear, and to see, this unusual songster. This time the song was even richer, and continued for more than ten minutes. On four more occasions, up to March 21, I was regaled with this bird's music. I have assumed that one bird was responsible for this unprecedented behavior, inasmuch as I saw a single Hermit Thrush about our cottage during this period.

On April 1, while botanizing in the woods adjacent to Buzzard's Roost, seven miles west of Gainesville, I paused to hear once again, a Hermit Thrush singing with marvelous fullness and clarity.—MAURICE BROWN, *Orleans, Cape Cod, Mass.*

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Cambridge, Mass.—On May 14 a Mrs. Sampson directed me to a bird she could not identify in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass., which bird turned out to be a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila c. caerulea*). It allowed an approach to within five feet, and even without my 12x glasses the blue