

flown into a 22,000-volt high-tension line supplying power to the Nemacolin Mine, in Greene County, Pennsylvania. The short circuit resulted in blowing out the transformer and throwing one thousand miners out of work for the day. The facts are vouched for by Mr. Jacobs. An item in the 'Boston Sunday Herald' of November 28, 1937, reports the death within a week of a number of 'American Eagles' through alighting on power poles near St. Anthony, Idaho. These reports, if trustworthy, indicate a new menace for large hawks and eagles, that might perhaps be overcome by proper insulating devices.—Ed.]

Milk snakes vs. birds.—That snakes are notorious bird eaters is well known. It is also rather strange what extraordinary places they ascend, and their manner of obtaining knowledge that a nest exists in these places. In rose bushes and low shrubs where Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella p. passerina*) nest, it might not be so unusual, and surely not with ground-nesting species. At my nextdoor neighbor's house, on the east side, a rambler rose climbs a trellis up some twenty feet, and stands fully twelve inches away from the building. Here, about six feet up, a Chipping Sparrow had her nest; and she was heard and seen feigning wing injury three times before we realized the snake's presence. This milk adder lived under the porch piazza. On our visits to the nest the snake would drop directly to the ground and flee. It would climb, as we saw later, directly up the clapboards of the house, in a wide spiral way, then reach over into the rambler at its nearest branch. In the end it had to be shot, using craft to get it.

In a large stone cattle pass under the railroad, a spot infrequently visited, Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*) have nested for years. The young or eggs have sometimes mysteriously disappeared. The pass is built six feet high, the walls of large stone blocks, sloping on an inward incline from halfway up, to the top, where the tops of the stones extend back about six inches, forming a shelf. On this the Phoebes nest. I would make my visits after dark, to catch the adult bird and band her. For three years I happened to pick the same night a milk snake did. Each one was killed. But the marvel is that the snake could locate the nest, and, after discovering it, climb up the outward slant of the rock to the nest, thence lie along the shelf and eat the young at its leisure. There was no other access, as the top is solid. And each time the female Phoebe would be quietly perched on the pasture fence just outside one end of the culvert, to fly only at our approach.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, New Hampshire*.

Noteworthy records for Nova Scotia.—During the last ten years or so, several interesting occurrences of accidental or locally rare birds for this province have come to my attention. I am indebted to Mr. Robie W. Tufts, of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, for his information on several of the following records.

MAN-O'-WAR-BIRD, *Fregata magnificens*.—An adult female was shot at Pennant Bay, Halifax County, on December 5, 1932, by George Little. This is the third known record of this species for Nova Scotia.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*.—An adult male was found dead in an emaciated condition near Port Williams, Kings County, on April 30, 1926. On April 1, 1928, one was picked up dead in Yarmouth County.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, *Nyctanassa violacea violacea*.—An immature of this species was collected by Earl Godfrey at North Grand Pré, Kings County, on September 13, 1932. Mr. Godfrey also collected one in juvenal plumage on July 28, 1937, and two more in juvenal plumage on August 12, 1937.

LEAST BITTERN, *Ixobrychus exilis exilis*.—One was killed at Little Hope Light, Queens County, on September 1, 1935.

GREATER SNOW GOOSE, *Chen hyperborea atlantica*.—One was shot at Lower Wedgeport, Yarmouth County, by Israel Pothier of that place on March 11, 1932. Another was seen on the same day at the same locality. The specimen that was killed was a fine adult bird. I received the skin of it and mounted it for the Provincial Museum at Halifax.

GADWALL, *Chaulelasmus streperus*.—One was shot near Wolfville, Kings County, on November 14, 1931.

VIRGINIA RAIL, *Rallus limicola limicola*.—I collected a female of this species on October 27, 1937, at Wolfville.

YELLOW RAIL, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*.—On May 12, 1929, one was picked up dead at Meadowville, Pictou County, by Mrs. G. W. Murray and sent to Robie W. Tufts of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, for identification. This specimen is now in the Provincial Museum. One was collected near Wolfville by Earl Godfrey on October 9, 1933.

PURPLE GALLINULE, *Ionornis martinica*.—About the first of May, 1927, one was found dead near Canard, Kings County.

RUFF, *Philomachus pugnax*.—On October 1, 1928, one was collected near the Cornwallis River at New Minas, Kings County, by the late V. E. Gould of Wolfville, Nova Scotia. It was feeding in a brackish pool with a lone Greater Yellow-legs when shot. This specimen was a ruffless bird of indeterminate sex. Dr. H. C. Oberholser of the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., verified the identification of this specimen. It is now in the Provincial Museum at Halifax.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.—An immature specimen was collected at Windsor, Hants County, on December 3, 1928.

ARKANSAS KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus verticalis*.—One was killed by a cat at Lower Wedgeport, Yarmouth County, on October 26, 1935. This specimen is now in the Provincial Museum at Halifax.

CRESTED FLYCATCHER, *Mniotilta crinitus boreus*.—An adult male, with enlarged testes, was collected for me by a friend at New Minas, Kings County, on May 30, 1931. This bird had been seen for several days and during that time had been very active in bullying Yellow Warblers and Chipping Sparrows.

HOUSE WREN, *Troglodytes aëdon*.—One came to the premises of Mr. John W. Piggott, Bridgetown, Annapolis County, on July 2, 1932. This bird remained about his nesting boxes for two days and then disappeared. On June 4, 1933, I collected an adult male at my home in Wolfville. This wren was first seen on June 2, and during the two days following, spent most of its time carrying small twigs into nesting boxes. An adult male was taken by Cyril Coldwell on July 6, 1935, at Gaspereaux, Kings County. Again on November 7, 1936, another House Wren was collected at Gaspereaux by Mr. Coldwell.

SUMMER TANAGER, *Piranga rubra*.—An adult male was found at Annapolis Royal, Annapolis County, in an emaciated and injured condition, on October 10, 1929. It was kept in captivity until October 23, 1929, when it was liberated. A few days later it was picked up dead.

INDIGO BUNTING, *Passerina cyanea*.—On April 17, 1934, one was found dead near Halifax. One was picked up dead at East River Point, Lunenburg County, on April 18, 1934. Another specimen was also found dead, by Mr. J. W. Willis, at Port Mouton, Queens County, on April 28, 1934.

DICKCISSEL, *Spiza americana*.—A specimen of this species was killed at North

Sydney on December 3, 1929. It had been feeding with some English Sparrows in the center of a road and was hit by a passing car as it flew. This specimen is now in the Provincial Museum at Halifax.

IPSWICH SPARROW, *Passerculus princeps*.—Earl Godfrey of Wolfville, collected one on February 2, 1929, and another on November 28, 1936. Both of these specimens were taken near Wolfville, Kings County.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*.—May 15, 1933, one was seen by Robie W. Tufts on his premises at Wolfville. May 16, 1933, one was shot at Bridgetown, Annapolis County, by John W. Piggott. Another specimen was killed at Windsor, Hants County, on May 16, 1934. On October 14, 1934, Dr. Harrison F. Lewis saw one at the Chebogue River, Yarmouth County.—RONALD W. SMITH, *Wolfville, Nova Scotia*.

Observations at Muscongus Bay, Maine.—During the last two summers at the Audubon Nature Camp on Muscongus Bay, Maine, the writer has had the unusual opportunity of putting in six full months of intensive daily field observations. During this period, 175 species of birds have been recorded; some of these observations are of sufficient significance to be put on record. Of even greater interest, however, than unusual species and birds out of season is the noted increase in the numbers of nesting seabirds. In 1931, R. P. Allen and A. H. Norton, surveying the entire Maine coast, were delighted to discover Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) breeding as far south as Northern White Island off Pemaquid Point. They were just as pleased to find four pairs of Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*) nesting as far south as Muscongus Bay. In 1937, there were 93 pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls and 721 pairs of Double-crested Cormorants nesting in Muscongus Bay alone, a truly remarkable increase.

LEACH'S PETREL, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa*.—Occasionally seen flying in the bay after storms. As far as we are able to determine, the nearest breeding colony is on Little Green Island at the mouth of Penobscot Bay.

WILSON'S PETREL, *Oceanites oceanicus*.—None was observed during 1936. After stormy weather in late June 1937, a few of these birds appeared in the bay and were seen on most of our boat trips for the next two weeks.

EUROPEAN CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*.—As many as five were seen on June 17, 1936, by R. T. Peterson. Two of these birds remained for the entire summer and were seen on numerous occasions. One adult and two young of this species passed the summer of 1937 in Muscongus Bay. At present we have no reason to believe that this species has established itself as a breeding bird.

LITTLE BLUE HERON, *Florida caerulea caerulea*.—One adult was seen along the banks of the Medomak River by Joseph Cadbury and his class on August 22, 1937.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, *Nyctanassa violacea*.—A beautiful adult was seen by the entire camp along the Medomak River on July 25, 1937.

AMERICAN BRANT, *Branta bernicla hrota*.—A single bird flew over Hog Island on June 13, 1937.

AMERICAN EIDER, *Somateria mollissima dresseri*.—We have not found this species nesting farther south than Penobscot Bay, but it is a common bird in Muscongus Bay all summer. Flocks of over one hundred birds are by no means unusual.

PIPING PLOVER, *Charadrius melodus*.—A single individual was observed by R. T. Peterson on Muscongus Island, August 24, 1936.

WILLET, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* (subsp.?).—A single bird was carefully studied on July 30, 1937. Possibly the same bird was heard flying over Hog Island on the evening of July 28 by Alexander Sprunt, Jr.