

treating of this Coast, that you may know this by the great quantities of Fowls upon the Bank, viz. *Sheer-waters*, *Willocks*, *Noddies*, *Gulls* and *Pengwins*, &c without making any Exceptions; which is a Mistake, for I have seen all those Fowls 100 Leagues off this Bank, the *Pengwins* expected. It's true, that all these Fowls are seen there in great Quantities, but none are to be minded so much as the *Pengwins*, for these never go without the Bank as the others do; for they are always on it, or within it, several of them together, sometimes more, other times less, but never less than 2 together." The figure and account are referred to in a footnote in Grieve's work on the Great Auk, but seem worth reproducing in full. Unfortunately both birds in the picture are facing in such a way that only their right sides are visible, so that the reader cannot verify for himself the curious statement that they have "a Milk white Spot under one of their Eyes, which Nature has ordered to be under the right Eye, and Extraordinary remarkable: (for my part I never saw any with such a spot under their left Eye)." However, by turning to the front cover of 'The Auk,' one can readily see that the A. O. U. does not agree with this statement!—H. S. SHAW, *Exeter, New Hampshire*.

A detail in the ecology of the Mourning Dove.—During corn-cutting in September 1937, I noted an interesting and at times fatal habit of the Eastern Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*). The birds occasionally roosted at night on cornstalks which had become bent over in such a manner as to allow them to perch with comfort. Being thus close to the ground, they were easily available to predators walking between the corn rows. In the eighteen-acre field I found that four of the birds had met their deaths as evidenced by the sufficiently conclusive amount of feathers in such locations. Near one of these spots were found the tracks of a fox.—GORDON W. JONES, *Wilderness, Virginia*.

Notes on Woodpeckers from West Virginia.—During field work for the U. S. National Museum in Kentucky in 1938, Mr. W. M. Perrygo, at my request, secured certain additional specimens from southwestern West Virginia. Notes on certain woodpeckers thus obtained, with observations on some specimens collected earlier, in 1936, follow.

BOREAL FLICKER, *Colaptes auratus borealis*.—Recent studies (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 86: 191, 1939) have indicated to me that this race of flicker, though not recognized in the fourth edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list,' is valid, with a breeding range extending from Labrador to Alaska, south to northern Minnesota and eastern Montana, and in migration to the States to the south. The wing in this race measures from 161 to 170 mm., a size considerably above that of *C. a. luteus*. In the collection made by Perrygo in West Virginia in 1936 there is one female taken at an elevation of 3000 feet on Flat Top Mountain, near Flat Top, on October 20, that is definitely this far-northern bird, present as a migrant, as it shows the following dimensions: wing, 163.0; tail, 103.0; culmen from base, 37.0; tarsus, 30.3 mm.

EASTERN HAIRY WOODPECKER, *Dryobates villosus villosus*.—A specimen collected at Crum, July 7, 1938, has a wing measurement of 117.8 mm., which is rather small for the typical race but still within its limits.

NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER, *Dryobates pubescens medianus*.—Females taken in Wayne County, one mile north of Wayne, July 5, 1938, and three miles north of Crum, July 7, 1938, have the wing 91.9 and 93.1 mm. respectively, thus agreeing with *medianus*, and adding further corroboration that this is the resident form in the southwestern part of the State.

In the original paper on the West Virginia collection of 1936 (Proc. U. S. Nat.

Mus., 84: 412, 1937) I listed one female with a wing measuring 99.0 mm., this being a bird taken at 3500 feet elevation on Williams River, October 5, 1936. My attention drawn to this again, I have checked this dimension more carefully to find that it should be corrected to 97.9 mm. The large wing might suggest that this is a migrant individual of *Dryobates p. nelsoni* but the dull white of the breast is quite different from the clear color of the more northern bird so that the specimen represents merely an individual of *medianus* of maximum dimensions.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

An odd nest of the Carolina Wren.—On April 18, 1938, I saw an unusual nest of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus l. ludovicianus*) in the foothills twelve miles west of Lexington, Virginia. It was located in a small cedar in a ravine at the edge of open woods. The nest was saddled across several small branches near the trunk of the cedar, five feet from the ground. It was a round, flattened mass, six inches deep by nine inches across, completely domed over and with the opening in the side. The lower part of the mass was made of roots and grass, the upper part of green moss. It contained young birds, about one-third grown.—J. J. MURRAY, Lexington, Virginia.

Wood Thrush nesting in Montreal.—Subsequent to the publication of observations and notes by Dr. F. R. Terroux and myself, on the occurrence of the Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) in the Laurentian region, north of Montreal (Canadian Field-Nat., 51: 46, 1937) there has been a gradual extension of the range of this species in the Province of Quebec, and in view of its hitherto accepted distribution, additional data concerning this thrush are of interest. Since our discovery in May 1935, that Wood Thrushes were breeding in small numbers in the Laurentians, they have been found nesting, in succeeding years, on the Monteregian Hills, heavily wooded oases, rising above what is otherwise flat agricultural land east of Montreal. Early in June 1939, several were heard and seen on the Island of Montreal. On June 13, a pair was located on the eastern slope of Westmount facing Mount Royal Park, and on the next day I found the nest occupied by the female. It was built in a flowering hawthorn, approximately fifteen feet above the ground, and on June 20, another nest was discovered in the same locality by Mr. L. M. Terrill. Five days later both nests contained three young, thus establishing, as far as I know, the first breeding records of this species in Montreal.—J. D. CLEGHORN, Redpath Museum, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec.

Red-eyed Vireo captures food under water.—On July 16, 1934, the writer, while engaged in making a survey of the bird population of a tract of beech and sugar-maple forest near Cleveland, Ohio, noticed a Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) plunging into a shallow pool of water at the edge of a woodland brook. This unusual behavior was repeated several times. The bird would work down a small branch overhanging the pool until it was about eight inches above the water. Here attention was fixed at a certain spot in the water below, and shortly the bird would dive in head first as a kingfisher does. It would then fly to a perch in a tree about twenty-five feet away and eat something apparently captured from the water. Once the bird was nearly submerged and had to stop to shake the water off its plumage before eating the morsel. I had always considered the Red-eyed Vireo as among the more resourceful and adaptable of woodland birds, and the foregoing incident served to confirm this impression of the bird's character.—ARTHUR B. WILLIAMS, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio.