

low farming land, bordered on one side by the Thames River and by Lake St. Clair on the other, was flooded. The area is now covered by a dense growth of aquatic vegetation, and it supports a large population of muskrats.

On finding the nests on the muskrat houses, the writer took them to be those of the Forster's Tern, *Sterna forsteri*, which had been reported from that region by various authors. Examination of the fledglings and closer scrutiny of the adults disclosed that the colony was composed probably entirely of Common Terns. One downy young and one female were collected from a nest. No individuals of the related species were found.

Approximately three-thousand muskrat houses were on the marsh and it was estimated that of these, 100 to 150 were used as nesting sites by the terns. The nests were not confined to one spot, but were distributed well over the area of the marsh. Seventy-five nests were examined, and several were kept under continuous observation. The terns did not choose between used and abandoned houses, but no nests were constructed on houses which were so worn down with age as to extend less than a foot above the surface of the water. One nest was located on top of a 'push-up' which had been built by muskrats on top of an old barrel, so that the nest was about four feet above the water. While the nests were sometimes found on adjacent houses, there was no house that supported more than one nest. Roberts (1932) reports that Forster's Tern will sometimes build four or five nests on the same house.

It is interesting to note that the nests of the terns were restricted to the comparatively new marsh, which indicates that the age of the colony was probably less than seven or eight years. The lake front, adjacent to the area described and separated from it by a narrow strip of land, was also marshy and supported a good number of muskrat houses. The houses of this marsh lacked nests, however, even though they were located nearer the lake, which was used by the terns as a feeding ground. Since the terns did not use the old marsh, it is possible that they had not used muskrat houses for their nests in that region until the flood in 1929.—OLIVER H. HEWITT, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

An egg of the Marbled Murrelet.—On May 23, 1934, near Mittelnach (an islet in the Strait of Georgia, just east of Campbell River, Vancouver Island), the senior author shot a female Marbled Murrelet, *Brachyramphus marmoratus*, from the oviduct of which was subsequently taken an unbroken, perfectly formed, well-marked egg. Though ledges, turf, and shrubbery on Mittelnach were thoroughly searched that day, no murrelet was flushed anywhere on the island itself.

The egg measures 58.5×39.5 mm. It is *pale glass green* spotted with *lavender gray* (light), *deep madder blue*, *sepia*, *bone brown*, and *black* (italicized words from Ridgway's 'Color Standards and Nomenclature,' 1912). From the photograph, herewith reproduced (Plate 19), it will be seen that the spots, rather than being evenly distributed, tend to encircle the larger end.

The senior author has published ('Birds in the Wilderness,' 1936: 167) an informal account of the taking of this specimen; but since descriptions of the Marbled Murrelet's egg continue to be based primarily upon the famous, though imperfect, George G. Cantwell specimen taken in the Prince of Wales Archipelago almost half a century ago (and figured on Plate 48 in Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Diving Birds,' 1919) it seems advisable to publish the present description with a natural-size photographic illustration.

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von Fuehrer and Mrs. Ruby Taylor Ruettinger, of the Carnegie Museum (where the egg now is) for their assistance in measuring, photographing, and describing the specimen.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON AND JOHN B. SEMPLE, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Possible homosexual mating of the Rock Dove.—Although it is known that captive Domestic Pigeons sometimes mate homosexually, a search of available literature yields no record of feral ones doing so. One phenomenon of some such unions, however, is the assumption by each bird of both rôles in copulation ('The Posthumous Works of C. O. Whitman,' Carnegie Institution of Washington, 3: 34-35, 1919). The following two instances of reciprocal treading by feral birds may indicate, therefore, that these matings do occur in the Rock Dove state; it was impossible to collect the birds for positive interpretation of their behavior. The pigeons were members of a small flock that has lived wild, in a city neighborhood of detached homes, for seven years to the writer's knowledge; whether the individuals were the same on each occasion is not known.

April 21, 1938: Bird A walked around bird B for a turn or two, crouched, and was trod. That was repeated. Then B crouched and was mounted by A; however, A stepped right down again and itself crouched and was trod for a third time. B then crouched again, and A mounted and now performed, to every appearance, normal copulation.

August 24, 1940: A was treading B when the birds were first noticed. Upon dismounting, A walked a few steps and crouched, and B walked to it, mounted, and trod. B, after dismounting, in turn moved several steps away and crouched, and A again mounted and trod. There was no billing or wheeling between-times; the birds walked directly to each other. The second and third treadings seen appeared to be somewhat briefer than normal.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 3201 *Carlisle Ave., Baltimore, Maryland.*

Chimney Swift having benign lymphangioma.—On May 15, 1939, while trapping Chimney Swifts, *Chaetura pelagica*, with Mr. John B. Calhoun in Charlottesville, Virginia, I removed a bird from the gathering cage, that had a large prominence evident under the left side of its neck. The bird was taken to the laboratory, etherized and the tissue removed. The mass was approximately 2×1.5 cm. in diameter, attached to the skin at one small point, and moved about quite freely under the skin when manipulated. The specimen was preserved in Bouin's fixative and sent to Herbert R. Mills, M.D., Clinical Pathologist, in Tampa, Florida, for gross and microscopical examination. His report follows: "The tissue which we received from you a few days ago from the neck of a Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*, is an ovoid solid encapsulated nodule, measuring 2×1.5 cm. Microscopical sections show no evidence of malignancy. The sections are characterized by many small vascular-like spaces separated by a loose fibrous stroma. These spaces are lined with endothelial cells and are practically empty. Opinion: Benign lymphangioma."—J. C. DICKINSON, JR., *University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.*

Boreal Flicker in Kansas.—The author became interested in the Boreal Flicker, *Colaptes auratus borealis* Ridgway (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 24: 31, 1911; type locality, Nulato, lower Yukon River, Alaska), after reading a note by Alexander Wetmore (Auk, 57: 113, 1940), in which he states, "Recent studies 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