

**Leghorn cockerels eat baby Quail and Wrens.**—A setting of thirteen Quail eggs under a bantam hen produced a covey of eleven sturdy young birds. About the fifth day the Quails were allowed to run at large while the bantam mother was kept within the cage. On the tenth day, three of the little birds disappeared. Two days later, all but two baby birds had disappeared. The killing of three white-leghorn cockerels which had been feeding irregularly about the yard, solved the problem. Two of the young roosters had swallowed a baby Quail apiece, and the third bird had swallowed two, all of which were found in the craws of the "spring fries." No doubt over the period of four or five days these three chickens had accounted for all of the nine fatalities. The two other young Quail are now banded and are big enough to run and fly, and will be placed on a game farm in the near future. Formerly I had known of turkeys eating young Quail, but never before have I known of chickens killing and eating them.

Similarly, north of town a farmer erected a wren box on the fence of his chicken yard. When the young birds half fell and half flew from the nest-box, four of seven alighted in the pen. Most of the chickens paid little attention to the baby birds but again a white-leghorn cockerel struck the little Wrens and swallowed them whole.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Ill.*

**Specific relationships of the Golden and Yellow Warblers.**—Recently I had the privilege of identifying specimens of a pair of Cuban Golden Warblers found breeding on the Florida Keys by Mr. Earle R. Greene, manager of the Federal Great White Heron Refuge. While engaged in the necessary comparison of specimens I was impressed by the overlapping of the supposed specific differences between the West Indian Golden Warblers, *Dendroica petechia*, and the Yellow Warblers, *Dendroica aestiva* of the North American continent. This discovery stimulated me to make a further study of the morphological characters of these birds, with the result that I am now convinced that, on the basis of the criterion of intergradation, the West Indian and continental birds are one and the same species. I am, however, not yet convinced that the Mangrove Warblers, *Dendroica erithachorides*, of the coasts of Central America, are also of this same species, as Hellmayr (Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ. Zool., 13: pt. 8, 374 and 383, footnotes, 1935) considers to be the case, although admittedly it is a likely possibility.

Let us review for a moment what this group of birds comprises. First, we have the comparatively pointed-winged and yellow-headed birds of continental North America, breeding from Alaska and Newfoundland to south-central Mexico, that we have called *aestiva*. Then there are the relatively rounded-winged, more or less chestnut-capped birds of the West Indies, the coast of Ecuador, Peru, and the Galapagos Islands, that have been considered as *petechia*. Thirdly, there are the chestnut-hooded birds of the coasts of Mexico, Central America, and northwestern South America, that represent the *erithachorides* group. The supposed specific difference between *erithachorides* and *petechia* is the presence or absence in males of a complete chestnut hood covering the entire head and throat. There is some indication of intergradation in this character in chestnut-hooded birds from the Pacific coasts of Costa Rica and Colombia, that are marked male and have the chestnut hood rather indistinct and broken into streaks on the throat. However, the chances are that these individuals are incorrectly sexed females. The fact that a completely hooded form, *ruficapilla*, occurs on Martinique in the heart of the range of the chestnut-capped group without mingling with them is, to my way of thinking, not evidence of conspecific relationship as Hellmayr suggests. The fact