

A sand bank is chosen as a breeding place, and a hole, 6 or 8 feet in depth is excavated, the end of which is enlarged. Little or no attempt at nest building is made. Sometimes a few fish bones are found at the end.

The eggs are usually six in number ; white, spheroidal in shape and measure about 1.25x1.05.

A nest was observed five or six years ago in a sand bank, within fifteen feet of a much traveled highway. The parent birds were frequently seen perched on the telegraph wires or the peak of a barn just across the road.

C. C. M.

WINTER BIRDS OF RALEIGH, N. C.

BY C. S. BRIMLEY.

131. *Lophodytes cucullatus*. Hooded Merganser.—Rather rare.
 132. *Anas boschas*. Mallard.—Common.
 139. *Anas carolinensis*. Green-winged Teal.—Have observed them several times in February.
 144. *Aix sponsa*. Wood Duck.—Rather rare.
 146. *Aythya americana*. Redhead.—Rather rare.
 190. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. American Bittern.—Casual ; one killed here Dec. 6, 1886.
 194. *Ardea herodias*. Great Blue Heron.—Occasional all winter.
 208. *Rallus elegans*. King Rail.—Occasional.
 221. *Fulica americana*. American Coot.—Occasional.
 228. *Philohela minor*. American Woodcock.—Rather rare ; sometimes abundant in the migrations in December and February.
 230. *Gallinago delicata*. Wilson's Snipe.—Occasional all winter.
 273. *Ægialitis vocifera*. Killdeer.—Tolerably common.
 289. *Colinus virginianus*. Bob-white.—Common.
 310. *Meleagris gallopavo*. Wild Turkey.—Rare.
 316. *Zenaidura macroura*. Mourning Dove.—Common.
 325. *Cathartes aura*. Turkey Vulture.—Abundant.
 326. *Catharista atrata*. Black Vulture.—Common ; usually seen in flocks, seldom singly.

331. *Circus hudsonius*. Marsh Hawk.—Tolerably common.
332. *Accipiter velox*. Sharp-shinned Hawk.—Tolerably common.
333. *Accipiter cooperi*. Cooper's Hawk.—Tolerably common.
337. *Buteo borealis*. Red-tailed Hawk.—Rather rare. This and the preceding are the only Hawks I have detected eating chickens.
339. *Buteo lineatus*. Red-shouldered Hawk.—Rather common, apparently quite harmless to birds and chickens.
360. *Falco sparverius*. Sparrow Hawk.—Common.
367. *Asio accipitrinus*. Short-eared Owl.—Occasional in winter.
368. *Syrnium nebulosum*. Barred Owl.—Common. This is the common large Owl of this region.
373. *Megascops asio*. Screech Owl.—Common.
375. *Bubo virginianus*. Great Horned Owl.—Quite rare.
390. *Ceryle alcyon*. Belted Kingfisher.—Rather rare in winter.
- 393b. *Dryobates villosus audubonii*. Southern Hairy Woodpecker.—Not common; usually one of the shyest and most difficult to approach of the Woodpeckers.
394. *Dryobates pubescens*. Downy Woodpecker.—Common.
402. *Sphyrapicus varius*. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.—Commonest of our Woodpeckers, except the Flicker, and the easiest to collect. Feeds almost entirely on berries.
405. *Cophlæus pileatus*. Pileated Woodpecker.—The Logcock is quite rare here; but they seem to linger on and I have seen them within half a mile of the city within a year.
406. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Red-headed Woodpecker.—Rare in this immediate locality in winter.
409. *Melanerpes carolinus*. Red-bellied Woodpecker.—Rare.
412. *Colaptes auratus*. Flicker.—Our commonest Woodpecker.
456. *Sayornis phæbe*. Phæbe.—Rather common here in winter.
474. *Otocoris alpestris*. Horned Lark.—Irregular winter visitor; usually rather rare, sometimes very common as in winter of 1886-7.
477. *Cyanocitta cristata*. Blue Jay.—Common. Its distribution here depends on the crop of acorns, beech-nuts, etc.
488. *Corvus americanus*. American Crow.—Common.
495. *Molothrus ater*. Cowbird.—Common transient; rare in winter.
498. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. Red-winged Blackbird.—Usually

- common; sometimes quite abundant in winter.
501. *Sturnella magna*. Meadowlark.—Abundant.
509. *Scolecophagus carolinus*. Rusty Blackbird.—This species and the next are usually rather common fall transients, leaving us early in December and occurring occasionally during the rest of winter; both usually begin to return again late in February.
511. *Quiscalus quiscula*. Purple Grackle.—Has the same status as the preceding species.
517. *Carpodacus purpureus*. Purple Finch.—Usually rather common.
529. *Spinus tristis*. American Goldfinch.—Common.
533. *Spinus pinus*. Pine Siskin.—Irregular winter visitor. Common in winters of 84-5; 86-7; 87-8. None in winters of 85-6 and 88-9.
540. *Pooecetes gramineus*. Vesper Sparrow.—Abundant.
- 542a. *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*. Savannah Sparrow.—Common.
558. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. White-throated Sparrow.—Abundant.
560. *Spizella socialis*. Chipping Sparrow.—Not a winter bird with us; but stays till the first week in December and then leaves us to return in March.
563. *Spizella pusilla*. Field Sparrow.—Abundant; one of our commonest birds.
- *Passer domesticus*. English Sparrow.—Abundant.
567. *Junco hyemalis*. Slate-colored Junco.—Abundant.
581. *Melospiza fasciata*. Song Sparrow. Abundant.
574. *Melospiza georgiana*. Swamp Sparrow. Common in meadows and damp thickets.
585. *Passerella iliaca*. Fox Sparrow.—Abundant, but not so generally distributed as most of the other sparrows.
587. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. Towhee.—A few usually stay with us in sheltered thickets during the winter.
593. *Cardinalis cardinalis*. Cardinal. Common.
619. *Ampelis cedrorum*. Cedar Waxwing.—Not uncommon, but very irregular and uncertain in its occurrence.
622. *Lanius ludovicianus*. Loggerhead Shrike.—Rather rare.
629. *Vireo solitarius*. Blue-h'd'd Vireo.—One taken Dec. 15'85.

655. *Dendroica coronata*. Myrtle Warbler.—Tolerably common.
 671. *Dendroica vigorsii*. Pine Warbler.—Common.
 672a. *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*. Yellow Palm Warbler.—Occasional.
 681. *Geothlypis trichas*. Maryland Yellow-throat.—One taken Feb. 7, 1889.
 697. *Anthus pensilvanicus*. American Pipit.—Common.
 703. *Mimus polyglottos*. Mockingbird.—Tolerably common.
 704. *Catcoptes carolinensis*. Catbird.—Occasional.
 705. *Harporhynchus rufus*.—Brown Thrasher.—Rather rare; a few stay the winter in sheltered localities.
 718. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. Carolina Wren.—Common.
 719. *Thryothorus bewickii*. Bewick's Wren.—Rare.
 722. *Troglodytes hiemalis*. Winter Wren.—Common.
 726. *Certhia familiaris americana*. Brown Creeper.—Common.
 727. *Sitta carolinensis*. White-breasted Nuthatch.—Tolerably common.
 728. *Sitta canadensis*. Red-breasted Nuthatch.—Usually a not uncommon bird here in winter; but rather irregular in its occurrence; none seen in winter of 1887-8.
 729. *Sitta pusilla*. Brown-headed Nuthatch.—Common; a little bird of gregarious habits; to my mind, the most interesting of the three Nuthatches.
 731. *Parus bicolor*. Tufted Titmouse.—Common.
 736. *Parus carolinensis*. Carolina Chickadee.—Common.
 748. *Regulus satrapa*. Golden-crowned Kinglet.—Abundant.
 749. *Regulus calendula*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet.—Tolerably common; sometimes abundant. We occasionally take specimens with the crown patch orange or yellow, instead of red.
 759b. *Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii*. Hermit Thrush.—Common; often sings while with us in the winter.
 761. *Merula migratoria*. American Robin.—Occurs irregularly in winter; sometimes common and sometimes scarce.
 766. *Sialia sialis*. Bluebird.—Common.

The above list of 84 species is a tolerably complete list of the winter birds of this section. A few more species of ducks doubtless occur here and perhaps some other birds such as the American Crossbill, which has been taken here in March, or the White-crowned Sparrow, which is given by Prof. Atkinson as accidental at Raleigh; but I have given all the birds which have come under my observation as occurring in December, January and February.