

On the outside were small pieces of cocoons and here and there small bits of white spiders' webs, such as are found beneath the bark of trees. Several bits of paper hung from the bottom of the nest. The nest was about five feet from the ground. I left it and on returning shortly after found the bird again on, and although I approached very closely she exhibited no fear, merely eyeing me curiously. Quite a distance further up this same creek another of these Vireos was noted in a sycamore. It was shot and proved to be a male and had some downy building material in its beak.—C. BARLOW, *Santa Clara, Cal.*

NOTES FROM MISSOURI. —When notes on the range of Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow were asked for, I said that I had never found the two last named around here, but this spring I have seen three of the Grasshopper Sparrows. I also saw a Baird's Sparrow. This kind is rather rare here, but each spring I have seen a few of them. They seem to pass through just ahead of the common Savanna Sparrows, which pass through here in large numbers. On April 25, I secured a specimen of the Water Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*). Its being here must have been merely accidental, as this place is outside its range as given in the new Checklist, and it is the first one I have seen, although the Louisiana Water Thrush has been quite common.

One morning last November, I noticed a fight between a Screech Owl and five or six Blue Jays. The Owl was not very anxious to escape, apparently, but fought the Jays bravely and at length succeeded in killing one; but the fight was brought to a close by one of the Jays giving the Owl a peck in the head, which stunned it so that they were able to kill it. It was so little injured that I made a good skin out of it.

In BULLETIN 7 it is asked if catching insects in the air is a common habit of the Red-headed Woodpecker. I have often seen them do it, principally in the fall however, and I have never seen them catch more than one at a time.—SIDNEY S. WILSON, *St. Joseph, Mo.*

THE WORK OF OUR COMMITTEES.

The migration period has now passed, and the nesting season is well under way. In a few weeks the Warblers will cease singing and almost entirely disappear. Let us not forget that we are studying the habits of these birds, nor that the notes we have are to be sent to persons who are work-

ing on special phases of the habits. Migration notes should be sent to Mr. J. E. Dickinson, 1122 S. Winnebago St., Rockford, Ill., as soon as they can be prepared for him. Do not make the mistake of thinking that your notes are too few or too fragmentary to be of any use. The most fragmentary ones may furnish the missing link in the scheme of migration.

There is yet ample time in which to study the nesting of many of the Warblers. The time occupied in building the nest, the order of deposition of the eggs, the period of incubation, the part played by the different sexes in incubation, the length of time after hatching before the mother ceases to brood over the young in the nest, the time when the young leave the nest, and many other not less interesting facts about the nesting of the Warblers need more light thrown upon them. Mr. H. C. Higgins, Cincinnati, N. Y., will be greatly pleased to receive your notes relating to nesting.

The subjects of food and song may not seem related, and yet they may be profitably studied at the same time. The manner and duration of song can be studied and described by anyone. An intelligent description of a Warbler song is not so simple. Not only should the diurnal period of song be studied, but during the season as well. The beginning, duration and end of the song during the day as well as during the season, it is important to record. Food habits and manner of feeding are not difficult to study: and a record of the contents of stomachs can be made by those who may be working with fresh specimens. Indeed it should be the sacred duty of everyone to carefully record the contents of the stomach of every bird which he may secure. By never neglecting this duty he will never uselessly sacrifice the life of any bird, and at the same time be of service to science. Notes relating to song and food should be sent to Mr. Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio.

While studying the Warblers, we must not forget that there is much yet to be learned about the Flicker. It is not so much the curious and exceptional things that we want to know about our commoner birds, as it is the things of every day occurrence which we may suppose everybody already knows all about. Whatever you may know about the habits of the Flicker, even to the commonest details, will be gladly received by Mr. Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Penn.

But there is a field of entirely new and original investigation, in which anything you may learn will be new both to yourself and to others. I refer to Nestling Down, a subject which has been taken up by Mr. Howard P. Mitchell, Mt. Sterling, Wis., to whom any and all notes should be sent. It is a subject well worth your time and attention.

Mr. Stephen J. Adams, Cornish, Me., has consented to take charge of the study of the Swallows, A. O. U. Nos. 611-617 inclusive. He is ready to receive general notes relating to any and all species. Let every member contribute something to this report, which will be ready about July, 1897.

Other special subjects will be announced as they can be arranged for. It is hoped that a number of members who have not yet decided to attempt some special work will consider the matter favorably, and consult with the General Chairman about it.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. Sidney S. Wilson, 420 S. 10th St., St. Joseph, Mo., and Mr. G. M. Burdick, Milton Junction, Wis., apply for active membership. Only adverse votes need to be sent to the Secretary.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Oologist. Vol. XIII., No. 5. May, 1896. The present number consists of fourteen pages of reading matter, exclusive of the ten pages of advertisements, etc. The excellent character of this paper is too well known to require mention here.

The Museum. Vol. II., Nos. 6 and 7. April and May, 1896. The present numbers consist of about twenty-eight pages each, sixteen of which are devoted to interesting articles on general natural science. Special mention need not be made here of a paper so widely known.

The Iowa Ornithologist. Vol. II., Nos. 2 and 3. January and April, 1896. This "Quarterly Magazine, devoted to Ornithology and Oology, published for The Iowa Ornithological Association," presents a pleasing appearance externally, and contains much matter of interest and value to ornithologists over the entire country as well as in its own state. It is published by David L. Savage, at Salem, Iowa.

The Observer. Vol. VII., No. 4. April, 1896. The official organ of the Agassiz Association. "For People who See and Think." Pleasing in appearance, containing matter in all branches of natural science