

Redheads would perhaps roost in their nesting holes. A rap on the tree after sunset will start them out.

J. C. GALLOWAY, *Montgomery, Ohio.*

SOME COMMON BIRDS OF NEW MEXICO.—The following were a few of the commoner birds of south-western New Mexico this last summer :

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER, *Harporhynchus curvirostris*.—This bird was the commonest Thrasher, although the Crissal Thrasher was seen occasionally. It is rather a quiet bird, but has a sweet voice when it wishes to use it, and it is sometimes kept as a cage-bird. It is fond of building in the cactus bushes, and in nearly every bush one of the nests or one of the House Finch may be found. One day, while lying in the hammock on the porch, I saw a young Curve-billed Thrasher fly down to the steps and then up to the railing; from there it hopped along and onto the hammock, when I reached out and caught it. After examining it for a while I let it loose, but it was in no hurry, and the next day it repeated the performance. I did not see it afterward, and I am afraid if it did not get over its curiosity that the cat had a nice meal some day.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus vociferans*.—This was one of the most common birds, replacing the Kingbird which it resembles in habits, and it is commonly called the Kingbird. It has a shrill, rasping cry, which it utters constantly, especially just before alighting. They will attack birds of prey, and I have several times seen them drive away hawks, but they are not as brave in the defense of their nests as is the Kingbird. There was a row of large cottonwood trees in front of our house, and in the evening these birds would gather there in large numbers to roost, and for about an hour there would be constant fighting and shrieking.

ROADRUNNER, *Geococcyx californianus*.—It was quite a common occurrence, when out driving, to see one of these queer looking birds appear in the road a little way in front of us and dart on ahead of the horses, and after running a little way turn off into the bushes, usually going off on the up-hill side. The ones I shot all had stomachs full of insects. While collecting a set of eggs the bird allowed me to approach within a few feet of the tree before hopping off on the opposite side and running away.

HOUSE FINCH, *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*.—This bird replaces the English Sparrow (of which there were none where I was). They live principally around the houses, building in holes in the porches and are also very fond of the cactus bushes. They lay four to six bluish eggs, marked on the larger end with black; and raise several broods a year.

The nest is made of dried grass. Their song was very sweet and was kept up the entire summer, except for a short time when they were molting. In November they began gathering in flocks preparatory to migrating.

SIDNEY S. WILSON, *St. Joseph, Mo.*

NOTES ON SOME MINNESOTA BIRDS.—I made a trip of two weeks last June, 200 miles south-west of St. Paul, to Jackson county—noted for its many water birds, where the many small lakes and sloughs afford splendid opportunities for nesting.

Among the commonest breeding birds of the county are the Black Terns, which nest by the hundreds in nearly every slough which has water deep enough. In some places the water was not over ten inches deep, while in the neighborhood of St. Paul the depth is never less than two feet. In every instance where a barb-wire fence ran through the slough, as often happens in submerged meadows, a colony of Black Terns would be found nesting along the fence.

A single colony of four pairs of Forster's Terns was found nesting in the center of a large slough a mile or more across, in the water but four feet deep. The nests were as large as the average Coot's nest and very compactly built of dead rushes, eight inches high. On June 7th, the nests all contained three eggs very well incubated. In the same slough was an immense colony of Black-crowned Night Herons in a patch of wild rice 500 feet from shore. The nests all contained from one to four fresh eggs. Near by a nest containing nine eggs of the Ruddy Duck was found on the top of a Grebe's nest which had been built on an old muskrat run—a common situation in this locality—in the midst of a colony of fifteen or twenty nests of the Horned Grebe. The nests of the Horned Grebe contained from four to seven eggs each, five being the average number.

The only nest of the Mallard I found while there was in a clump of rushes about forty feet from the shore, and was very substantially built of grass and rushes with very little down, and containing eleven fresh eggs.

The Blue-wing Teal and Shovelers nest abundantly in the tall grass about the shores of the slough, and many deserted nests as well as those with incubated eggs were found. This region used to be a great breeding place for the Sandhill Crane some twenty years ago, but it is a novelty to see a bird now.

The Long- and Short-billed Marsh Wrens also nest in the wild rice