

GENERAL NOTES.

NOTES FROM PHILADELPHIA.—Mr. Davie, in his "Nests and Eggs" says concerning the Robin, that the eggs are "usually four, rarely five." This spring there were under my observation, near home, ten nests of the Robin. Of these, two never contained eggs; of the other eight, two contained when the set was completed, two eggs; three had three eggs; three four eggs and one, five. Therefore it would seem to me that it should be said that the number of eggs in a complete set is from two to five. The nests were all, except the one of five eggs, undisturbed and the broods reared. I am also positive that the nests were not disturbed in any way and it is too early for second sets.

I should like to withdraw a statement that I made in the last number of the BULLETIN about the curious Sparrow's nest. Since then I have found that all the newly built nests have the hole in the side and not the top. There are some thirty or forty nests about the home and are all, without exception, built in this manner.

While on a collecting trip to the Delaware River marshes, on Feb. 25, I shot a Fish Crow, *C. ossifragus*, which had a white feather in the greater coverts of each wing.

On May 29, a Wilson's Phalarope was presented to the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. It was shot on the marshes back of Ocean City. This is the only specimen of this bird that has ever been shot by any member of the club.

APPROPRIATION OF THE YELLOW-BILLED MAGPIE'S NEST BY THE DESERT SPARROW HAWK.—In San Benito County, California, the Desert Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius deserticolus*, has adopted a mode of nesting which differs somewhat from the traditional habit of taking up an abode in the cavity of some tree. Here a majority of these little Falcons appropriate old nests of the Yellow-billed Magpie, and it is quite probable that they take forcible possession of some of the nests after they have been repaired by the Magpies, as many of the nests I have seen are lined with roots and mud, which was undoubtedly the work of the latter birds. On April 10, on visiting a live oak tree on a little hillside, I saw a new Magpie's nest, from which the bird flew in its quiet, undulating fashion, when I was half way up the tree. The nest was round in shape and one and one-half feet in diameter, with an entrance half way up. The interior of the nest was six inches across and deeply cupped, being about five inches deep, and lined neatly with roots. The nest held five

handsome fresh eggs. In the same tree I noticed another nest, from which flew a Sparrow Hawk from her set of five eggs. The nest was a Magpie's in good condition and about the size of the one mentioned. Both nests were about forty feet from the ground. On May 7 another visit to the tree found that the Sparrow Hawk had laid again, this time selecting the other nest, perhaps with hopes of better success in her undertaking. The eggs were well commenced in incubation, and the nest held also one egg of the Yellow-billed Magpie. This I accounted for on the supposition that when I took the five eggs of the Magpie from this nest, the set was not complete and the bird returned and deposited the last egg and deserted the nest, which was subsequently used by the Sparrow Hawks. Another nest of Sparrow Hawks was found on this date (May 7) containing four small young, which were covered with white down. The Magpies and Sparrow Hawks seem to each rear their broods peaceably, neither molesting the other.

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LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO, NOTES.—At the close of every season of migration it is interesting and instructive to run over the note-book with a view to counting up the strangers that have been met, and the hitherto quiet species which have performed for our benefit. The list of strangers, which should include such as I have never seen in this county before, tho they may have been seen elsewhere previously, is more than usually long this time, I am happy to say. I will give them in the order in which they were recorded, with the dates for each.

AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: January 4, one flying over Chance Creek at Vermillion River; May 9, one flying over a field half a mile south of Oberlin.

GOLDEN EAGLE: February 12, one on the ice on the lake shore near Lorain, Ohio.

RED-HEADED DUCK: March 12, one on the lake near Oak Point.

SHOVELLER: March 12, fourteen on the lake near Oak Point.

SHORT-EARED OWL: March 12, two on the lake shore near Oak Point.

PINE WARBLER: April 29, one singing in the woods at Oak Point. In full plumage and but little wary. This is the first one I have ever seen alive.

BEWICK'S WREN: May 7, one in the woods two miles south of Oberlin. The first one I have ever seen.

GREATER YELLOW-LEGS: May 11, one at the brick-yard ponds, making a great outcry.