

full of young ones, crying lustily for food. Judging from their voices I should think they were nearly a week old. This is pretty good evidence the Downy don't always finish one job before beginning another, and must have still been at work enlarging the nesting cavity until the time the eggs were nearly ready to hatch—or it is *possible* just at that particular moment it may have been after some insect boring in the trunk of the tree. In either case I was neatly fooled out of a set of eggs.

VIRGINIUS H. CHASE, *Wady Petra, Illinois.*

THE EFFECT OF A STORM UPON THE BIRDS.

The following letter is of so much interest that the editor takes the liberty of reproducing it in print, altho it comes in the form of a personal letter giving information about the migrations.

The first appearance of both Robins and Bluebirds occurred March 15. One Robin and two Bluebirds were seen on that date. A heavy snow-storm came next day and everything was covered with ice for ten days. All birds suffered severely during this period. Crows came into people's yards; an Acadian Owl was found exhausted in the high-way, taken in and an effort made to save its life, but in vain. An examination of its body showed clearly that it died of starvation. The Robins and Bluebirds either died or went south, and nothing was seen of them again until April 1st, when they suddenly became common. The tide of returning birds had evidently been increasing along the southern limit of snow, and when the snow began to disappear during two or three warm days, the birds came in unusual numbers, for the first real flight. Both robins and Bluebirds were here in maximum numbers April 5th, and on April 11th the Bluebird flight was over, only summer residents remaining. Robins remain abundant.

NED DEARBORN, *Durham, N. H.*

JUNE CENSUSES.

EDITOR BULLETIN.—On the 13th of June, 1899, I find the following occupied birds' nests on and around my farm buildings, which consist of one dwelling, two barns, and other out buildings, encompassed in a space fourteen by sixteen rods. Said space contains forty-six trees: Maple, Cottonwood, Elm, Oak and Balm of Gilead, from forty to sixty

feet in height, with smaller trees of Pine, Cedar and Hemlock intermixed. On the barns were thirty-nine nests of Cliff Swallows and one nest of Barn Swallows. In the currant brush, one Chipping Sparrow. In the trees, one Warbling Vireo, two Baltimore Orioles, two Orchard Orioles, one Robin, one Blue Jay, one Mourning Dove, one Bronzed Grackle, one Flicker, one Redheaded Woodpecker and one Kingbird ; in all thirteen species, fifty-three nests. Can any of the readers of the BULLETIN make a better showing of Peaceful Neighbors.

J. N. CLARK, *Meridian, Wis.*

Other work so occupied my time during the whole of June that the plan to make a census of some unusually good piece of woods had to give place to a much less pretentious and far more restricted plan. Two town lots were selected, one situated well within the residence part of the village, a quarter acre of land, with the house and oil shed, a dozen old apple trees and two small peach trees, an osage orange hedge along the whole west end of the lot about fifteen feet tall, and a considerable potato patch. Passing over the two English Sparrow's nests that were destroyed after incubation had begun, there was just one nest of House Wren on the lot. A Flicker had tried to dig a hole in one of the old apple trees, and a Hairy Woodpecker in another one, but found the small boy a too interested spectator. However, Song Sparrows, Robins, Mourning Doves, Flickers, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Bronzed Grackles, Chimney Swifts and Barn Swallows were regular and frequent visitors to the lawn and trees.

The other lot lies on the north-western outskirts of the village a half mile from the business center, with all outdoors to the north, a twenty rod open space in which lies a corn field, to the west, an open field to the south with an orchard beyond, and houses continuously to the east. The premises comprise the house and large barn with other outbuildings, an orchard containing about forty trees of ten years' growth, besides grape vines and small fruit, ten maple trees and several ornamental trees and shrubs in the yard, evergreen trees making two wind breaks north and west along the whole side of the lot : all together an acre of ground. A most careful search of these premises revealed just one Robin's nest ! At this writing it would not be profitable to give a list of the species which frequent this place. That can better wait.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*