

We are in receipt of a paper entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Audubon Society of North Carolina and to Provide for the Preservation of the Song and Game Birds of the State," which means that the birds of that state are to be looked after carefully and intelligently. It is always a pleasure to note the rapid advance which protective measures are making over the entire country. Not the least encouraging is the evident intelligent interest manifested by large numbers of persons where few or none seemed to care anything about the birds a few years ago.

A new magazine, "The Atlantic Slope Naturalist," calls for our attention. It is edited and published by Dr. W. E. Rotzell, at Narberth, Penn.; subscription price 30 cents a year. "The object of this little journal is to afford those interested in nature studies a medium through which observations may be recorded, opinions may be expressed, questions may be asked and specimens announced for exchange." It is devoted to natural history in general, and therefore appeals to a large constituency. The first number is full of interesting matter, which promises well for the future of the journal. Dr. Rotzell will make an able editor.

The reorganized Michigan Ornithological Club, in the first number of the fourth volume of its Bulletin, has proved that it is a force to be reckoned with in that state. The immediate work outlined for members of the club is of the right character to produce results. It goes without saying that the members mean business, and that Michigan ornithology will make rapid strides in the next few years. Geographically considered there is hardly a state in the Union in which a larger list of birds might be expected to occur. We look for some interesting things from this rejuvenated club.

GENERAL NOTES.

NOTES FROM RHINEBECK, DUTCHESS COUNTY, N. Y.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*).—A pair nested in 1899 in a large hole in an apple-tree, about six feet up. The tree was about ten yards from an inhabited house, and not far from a creek. The female, as she sat on her thirteen eggs, was so tame that she could be touched before flying off. When suddenly approached she would utter a hissing sound, resembling that of a swan. She and all her eggs were stolen. In 1901 a pair was shot near the same spot.

Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus*).—A nest of fourteen Bob-white's eggs was uncovered by a mowing machine on June 25, 1902, and after being all night in the rain, thirteen were put under a hen. One was broken, but the twelve others all hatched, and the chicks were kept in a shady walk. All disappeared finally, except two, a male and a female. They are now quite tame and spend a large part of their time in the chicken-yard. The male is quite pugnacious, and does not hesitate to attack a rooster much larger than himself.

American Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).—A young Bald Eagle, in black plumage, was seen flying over my chicken-yard in 1898, and was at first thought to be a buzzard. The next day a neighbor winged it and put it in a cage. When the wound healed it was liberated, as it was rightly thought to be too rare a bird to kill. I did not hear that it stole a single chicken while in the neighborhood. On May 11th, 1901, a bird, which I feel justified in calling an eagle on account of its great size and white head, flapped rapidly over my chicken yard and the surrounding fields, apparently with a fish in its claws. It was chased away by a Red-shouldered Hawk and a couple of crows.

Barred Owl (*Syrnium nebulosum*).—In May, 1902, a workman, on entering an old hay loft over a much-used cow stable, discovered a Barred Owl and three young ones in a nest in the hay. He brutally killed the mother with a pitchfork, and handed the young over to the care of my superintendent. One of them died, but the other two lived and flourished. One, which I supposed was a male, was much tamer than the other, although both came when called, even when no reward was offered. The male day and night kept up a peculiar hissing sound, with a rising inflection at the end, swaying his head from side to side in an absent manner. He thus drew the attention of other birds and was frequently mobbed. The other was silent and retiring. "Owly" is contemplating nesting in a swamp filled with large oaks. I have heard him hoot in broad daylight, which shows that by the loss of his mother his education was incomplete.

American Crow (*Corvus americanus*).—The crow is, in my opinion, a much greater pest than ever a hawk could presume to be. (Indeed I try to protect the latter and owls as well as I can.) In about three weeks, a family of crows disposed of nearly one hundred out of 150 chicks, although they were kept within a few yards of my house. I shot one, and hung it upon a tree close by, and thus kept off the rest for some time. Since I have been here—eight years—I have also seen crows carry off ducks, and chickens' eggs, and ears of corn.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*).—The male Red-wing arrives several weeks before the female. Like the Bluebird, he is

very loath to abandon his old home. A marsh where several nested was burned over last April without driving them away. Although there were two or three females nesting there at the same time, there was only one male—in fact, there never has been more than one.

American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*).—In 1901 two rows of sunflower seeds were sown in my orchard. In consequence, that summer I found five inhabited Goldfinches' nests there, and several empty ones that had been used that season, while flocks of Goldfinches were to be seen everywhere. Last year no sunflowers were planted, and the result was that I found only one Goldfinch's nest; nor do I believe that there were any others in the neighborhood.

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*).—On June 3rd, 1901, I was attracted to the nest of a Warbling Vireo by the singing of its owner, which was at that moment sitting on its eggs. I do not know of any other bird which sings while incubating.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Helminthopila chrysoptera*).—Rhinebeck, N. Y., is one of the places which is graced with the presence of this beautiful little bird, which apparently is uncommon except in certain restricted localities. Every year it comes to two small wooded swamps on my place, during the first ten days in May, and remains till about the middle of August. I have only succeeded so far in finding one nest, which was on the ground and contained two young warblers and a young Cowbird. They were all ready to fly, so I could not try to photograph their parents, which were very shy, and would not lead me to the nest for a long time. The nest was built of grape-vine bark, and dead oak leaves, and lined with finer grass, all of a uniform dark brown.

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MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD INCREASING IN BOULDER, COLO.

It may interest the readers of the Bulletin to learn that the Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia arctica*) is increasing in numbers each year in this locality. This spring they are so numerous as to attract the attention of many people who had apparently never noticed them before, and during heavy snowstorms from March 12 to March 23, they congregated in enormous flocks, dispersing as soon as the snow began to melt away after each storm. I believe the flocking was due partly to the fact that the storms drove many birds from the foothills, partly to the fact that unusually deep snow in the mountains prevented the birds from entering as early as usual, but chiefly to the fact that they were forced to favored localities for food during the storms. Certain large trees were filled with the birds, which seemed to be busily feeding among the burst-