

northern Ohio before late December or early January. This seems to presage an unusual southward movement of northern birds for this winter, not only in Ohio, but the country over, since Ohio is the key state in this respect as well as in politics. We feel confident that activity in the field during this winter will result in the finding of many unusual birds. Let us have your winter experiences in time for the March BULLETIN.

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It has been a constant regret to the editor that the department of General Notes has been so lacking for the last two years. In every observer's experience in the field there must be many things of interest which cannot well be worked into an article. These minor matters, as far as length of exposition is concerned, are therefore lost to others because they do not find their way into print. This ought not so to be. Send them in without waiting for the time for making up the copy for the next BULLETIN to come. Fresh experiences from your field work are what enliven the pages of the BULLETIN.

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For the sake of getting this number of the BULLETIN out promptly the result of the election of officers for 1907 will not be announced in it, as has been the custom, but will be deferred until the March number. It is always necessary to hold the BULLETIN over for a week or more in order to receive the result of the balloting.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

CUPOLA, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. In the early morning of July 11, it was rather foggy. Insect life was evidently not very high minded that morning, as the Barn Swallows were skimming low over the fields and apparently had to hustle for what food they secured. I was bringing the cows in from pasture, and was a little surprised to see a Barn Swallow fly up to one of them, snatch a fly from her back, and then skim over the fields.

One morning I was attracted by a great commotion among some Robins, and going to ascertain the cause I found a nest of this species, which was placed upon a horizontal branch of a willow. It was evident that there was something wrong about this nest, since the pair of Robins were flying about it and making a great noise. As I could see nothing from the ground below I climbed to the level of the nest and there came upon the offender. A red squirrel sat upon an adjoining branch holding a Robin's egg in his paws, coolly sucking it. I had long known this mammal to be called a nest robber, but here he was caught in the act.

Pensauken Creek, New Jersey, May 28, 1905. I found a Yellow Warbler's nest to-day which contained four young birds. The nest was placed in the crotch of a willow bush five feet from the ground. In another crotch of the same bush, on almost the same level—about four feet and six inches up—and only forty-six inches in actual measurement away was a Cardinal's nest, also containing four young birds of about the same age as the Yellow Warbler's. They were very close neighbors and apparently were living in harmony with each other. Would the warblers have nested as close to any other species? According to my observations the Cardinal seems to be a very peaceable bird. I once caged a male Cardinal with a female Red-winged Blackbird, and although he had a good weapon in his thick beak he, from the first, let her have her way, even to the extent of taking food away from him, and sex seemed to have nothing to do with it.

CHRISWELL J. HUNT.

[Here at Oberlin a Robin had built her nest in a cozy nook in an evergreen tree and had brought the three eggs almost to the hatching point when a pair of English Sparrows decided that they must have that spot. War was declared and waged fiercely for three days, one or the other Robin remaining on the nest during the battle. A truce must have been agreed upon, for the sparrows proceeded to build their trashy nest upon the same branch, so close to the Robin's nest that they actually used one side of the Robin's nest for theirs. In due course the young sparrows appeared, and both families lived on peaceable terms during the week which the young Robins remained after the hatching of the sparrows. The impudence of the sparrows was certainly typical.—Ed.]

DECREASE OF ICTERIDAE IN NORTH-EASTERN IOWA. In the Upper Mississippi Valley the influence which the Landshark has upon the migration of man into the Dakotas and Manitoba is apparent to all. There may be a close connection between this great migration of mankind and the paucity of blackbird life seen this autumn. In this locality, where flocks of blackbirds numbering at least thousands of individuals were seen no longer than three years ago, this fall there was seen one small flock containing ten Rusty Blackbirds, and another company of about 300. And of Bronzed Grackles one was seen at one time and four at another. During migration a year ago these species were not numerous at this place.

ALTHEA R. SHERMAN.

A VENTURESOME NUTHATCH. For several days past, just at 1 o'clock p. m., a White-breasted Nuthatch has flown into my yard, perched on the sill of my neighbor's pantry window, crawled in through the slit in the bottom of the double window, and helped himself to the butter and cheese. It usually brings out a small piece of butter or cheese, but one day made off with a piece of cheese as