

## FIELD NOTES

## A TWO-STORY YELLOW WARBLER'S NEST.

We have found a yellow warbler's nest with a cowbird's egg in the bottom, over which the warbler had built a second floor on which to lay her own eggs.

E. A. FIELDS.

Sioux City, Iowa.

## PARTICULAR WRENS.

A pair of wrens had reared a brood in a box on our back porch and were preparing to raise a second brood, when the cover of the box was loosened by the wind and was tied down with a white string. This aroused suspicion on the part of Mrs. Wren, who immediately removed the six eggs and part of the nest. I removed the rest of the nest, but the wrens did not use the box again. What became of the eggs I do not know, as there was no trace of them either in the box or on the porch.

Sioux City, Iowa.

E. A. FIELDS.

## COWBIRDS MONOPOLIZING A RED-EYED VIREO'S NEST.

In the woods bordering Lake Okoboji, Iowa, in July, 1912, some bird lovers discovered a daintily constructed red-eyed vireo's nest, covered with a pure white, web-like substance, making it the most beautiful nest we had ever seen. Evidently we were not the only ones attracted to it, as it contained four cowbird's eggs and no vireo's eggs. While we examined the nest the vireos, much disturbed, sat on a branch near by. We removed the eggs and returned a week later, hoping to find that the proper owners had used it, but the nest was empty and another vireo's nest was being built near by, presumably by the same birds.

Sioux City, Iowa.

E. A. FIELDS.

## THE RED PHALAROPE IN IOWA.

Through the kindness of Mr. A. J. Anderson I was permitted to see a specimen of *Phalaropus fulicarius*, which had been shot on a sandbar in the Missouri river below Sioux City. It was presented to Mr. Anderson on November 28, 1912, and had been taken a day or two before. The bird was in the white winter plumage. It was mounted and is now in Mr. Anderson's collection. It seems that this species has never heretofore been reported for either Iowa or Nebraska.

T. C. STEPHENS.

## FALL RECORD OF THE GOLDEN PLOVER.

On October 15, 1913, my friend, Mr. Fred C. Smith, learned of large flocks of strange birds along the Missouri river bottoms near the villages of Owego and Holly Springs. Word came to the Sioux City sportsmen of the abundance of these birds, and several went down. Mr. William

Anderson shot several and one of these was taken to the Stag Cigar Store, and there identified as a Golden Plover. Mr. Anderson described the birds as having a short bill and a "black back speckled with greenish yellow." Dr. B. H. Bailey, with whom I interviewed Mr. Anderson, was satisfied of the correctness of the identification.

A Dr. Flageau, of Holly Springs, reported that large flocks of these birds, which were locally called "Prairie Pigeons," had been seen in the vicinity for the past ten days "feeding on the winter wheat." Mr. Anderson thought they were feeding on the crickets and grasshoppers rather than the wheat.

A Mr. Williams, of Owego, was also quoted as having seen these birds in large numbers about the same time. Mr. Anderson says he was able to obtain very few birds because of their shyness. When disturbed they would fly up very high in the air, circle around, and finally fly away.

T. C. STEPHENS.

#### SOME WINTER RECORDS FROM MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA.

During the winter of 1913-1914 several records of unusual interest to me were made in this locality.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). In the fall long after the other individuals had left three of this species were to be seen about the cemetery. Every time I passed thru that region I expected to discover that they were gone, but they remained thru the winter. The cemetery contains large numbers of oaks of different species and the Red-heads used the acorns, particularly those of the white oak, for food. These three birds were to be seen at any time either feeding or fighting with the Blue Jays. They had one particular tree which they seemed to use as a sleeping place, and they allowed no Jays to remain in that vicinity.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*). This species was another form which I was surprised to find here during the winter. I have regarded this as a rather rare bird in this locality, as the only other specimen noted in two years' field work was one taken April 4, 1913. This second specimen remained all winter in the cemetery and is still here at the present writing (May 5). This bird was much more shy than the Red-heads and not so noisy, but we managed to see him on nearly every trip during the winter.

Tufted Titmouse (*Bæolophus bicolor*). On the 25th of January, as I was walking thru a small willow thicket, a small bird flew into a bush not ten feet in front of me. It was snowing hard at the time and this made any observation work difficult. However, I recognized the bird as one of this species and after considerable maneuvering managed to secure him. A short time later another was secured. This is another form which I have considered rare, the only other record being a pair noted on two different dates in April, 1913.

IRA N. GABRIELSON.