

deer, whose nest was found May 20th, and the eggs thereof hatched June 15th, making a period of twenty-six days in which the eggs were known to have been incubated. The author concludes with this question: "Can anyone add more accurate data as to the period of incubation?"

The Killdeer, one of the breeding birds of my neighborhood, has furnished in years past many interesting notes for its family history. Its nest has frequently been found, but always some time after it had received its full complement of eggs. For about fifteen years I have maintained a standing offer of a dollar to any child, who would tell me of a nest in which the set of eggs had not been completed. Since the initial offer some of the boys have grown to manhood, always forgetful of the name of the species, but referring to it as "the dollar bird."

It was on our own home lot about one hundred feet beyond the fence of the house yard, in the afternoon of April 19, 1916, that my sister, Dr. E. Amelia Sherman, found a Killdeer's nest with only three eggs in it, the fourth being added the next day. On the morning of May 17th two eggs were hatched, and by six o'clock in the evening three birds were out of the shell. Early the next morning there was nothing in the nest but a newly hatched Killdeer, to the brooding of which the mother returned as soon as the intruder withdrew. A cold wind blew all that day, the nest was not visited again until 5 p. m., when it was found empty, but not more than two feet from it lay a velvety little Killdeer, dead, but not yet stiff. So closely did its concealing colors harmonize with its surroundings it was found only after most careful searching. That the incubation period for this nest of eggs was twenty-eight days there can be no doubt.

It is not certain that all of the other three young ones grew to maturity, but it is believed that they did. So protective was their coloration, so adroit was parental management, that they were not seen after leaving the nest until they had attained the size of the adult House Sparrow. This has been the experience with other broods studied in previous years, and it offers grounds for hope that the Nebraska birds evaded the snake as successfully as they did the ornithologists.

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NOTES FROM LAKE COUNTY, OHIO.

Holboell's Grebe: The autumn 1916 flight of the Holboells Grebe must have been halted a short time along our southern lake shore for on Oct. 8th I counted no less than eleven in a half mile walk

along the beach. They were fishing a few rods off shore and offered unusual opportunities for observation. This is the first time since spring of 1913 that I have noted them.

E. A. DOOLITTLE.

Painesville, O.

Purple Sandpiper in Lake County, Ohio: While out on the stones of a breakwater that extends some distance out into the lake, on Oct. 29, 1916, I met with a Sandpiper that looked unfamiliar, and as he seemed very unafraid I took out my note book and began to write as detailed a description as possible. The bird was within 15 feet of where I sat and sized me up as closely while I wrote as I did him. Before I was through observing with the glass, I had made up my mind I had found a Purple Sandpiper, and later book descriptions and plates confirmed this. In case any reader may doubt, here are the field notes which we can see apply to no other Sandpiper.

"Legs and feet pure *deep* yellow. Bill about one and one-fourth inches and slightly decurved at tip. Yellow at base and black or nearly so at tip. Head without streaks, plain dull gray on crown. Back without streaks, like head, but feathers edged lightly with darker color. Most of wing feather edged with *white*.

"Upper breast dull grayish, but lighter than back. Lower breast somewhat mottled gray and white but not streaked. Sides and under tail coverts lightly streaked. Eye lids white. A small triangular shaped area in front of eye darkest spot on head.

"Size of bird about that of Pectoral and similar in build but legs seem shorter. Later: Flushed bird. Central tail feathers blackish, outer ones lighter—grayish. White edges to wing feathers making bars. 'Krieked' not unlike Pectoral."

Might add here that on the 18th I found two Red-backed Sandpipers in this same place. The lower stones of the breakwater are moss covered and the birds in feeding would put the tips of the rather long decurved bills close to the stones feeling about in the mossy growth. The wash of the water would come up and bury their heads and shoulders, but they would not even look up, the receding water leaving them with tip of bills close to the rock, moving about in the mossy growth.

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Black-throated Green Warbler as a Summer Resident: I have found this Warbler in summer the past three years, and this season found evidence enough to establish them as breeding birds.

The locality is a mixed woods crowning a high bluff on Grand River. It is much intersected by hemlock grown ravines, and in places thick with undergrowth. I first found a singing male in 1914, on July 19th.

In 1915 I visited the place earlier—on June 20th—and again found a singing male.

This year I was there again on July 2nd and while a male bird was singing in the hemlocks behind me, I watched a female gather her bill full of insect food from the trees and then suddenly dart away across a ravine. Lack of time and the deep ravines prevented a serious search for the nest.

Late Bobolinks: I thought I had made a late record for Bobolinks in 1915 when on the 29th of August I discovered a flock of 15 or 20 in "Reed Bird" plumage feeding in a low corn field much overgrown with fox tail grass; but I went the record several better this fall by flushing a single bird on Sept. 12, from the edge of a sedge-grown marsh. As he came up out of the tangle and flew away he gave a few fragmentary notes of his summer song intermingled with the numerous "chinks" of alarm.

Redpolls: Two friends and myself had the pleasure of watching a flock of 25 or 30 of these birds on April 15th of this year feeding along the edge of a sheltered shrub-grown swamp. A number of them were full plumaged males.

Caspian Tern: After looking in vain for a number of years to find this bird about Fairport Harbor I was rewarded this fall on Aug. 23 by seeing two suspects wing by. A few days later several were seen under more favorable circumstances and their identity easily proven. On Sept. 8, while I sat by the lighthouse at the end of the pier, several were fishing at the mouth of the river and many more were flying about higher up, and uttering their hoarse squawks.

I watched them until tired of it and started up the beach when, as I raised my head over a stone breakwater, there stood eighteen of them not a hundred feet away on the sand. They were all pointed in one direction and reminded me of a company of soldiers, the big red bills seemingly a mark of distinction for services rendered. Herring and Bonaparte Gulls and Common Tern are present every fall but this is the first time I have found the Caspians.

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