

species seems to be a permanent resident in this (Johnson) county. A number of persons living near the edge of town have reported its presence at feeding stations during the past winter.

DAYTON STONER.

State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

CITY NESTING OF NIGHTHAWK.

In the September Bulletin Mr. N. B. Townsend calls attention to a matter that may be worth discussion.

He theorizes that the adoption of flat roofs as a nesting ground by the nighthawk is a change that is favorable to the bird, and this attitude interests me considerably, because I had formed the contrary opinion from a consideration of the comparative abundance of nighthawks during the last thirty years.

At the beginning of that period the nighthawk was a common summer resident in this district, but since then it has decreased steadily as the bird took up its abode in the city; and it has always seemed to me that immigration was the only thing that kept up the city population, and now that the bird is very rare in the country, with the probability of no further movement citywards, the city residents are becoming much less numerous.

It may easily be, as Mr. Townsend says, that the nighthawk nesting on a roof is safe from all predatory creatures, but what of the young after the first flight? Repeatedly I have had young nighthawks brought to me, both living and dead, which had been picked up on the ground in the morning, doubtless after making their first flight during the previous night and coming down to spend the day on the ground in accordance with what might easily be supposed to be the hereditary custom. But what chance of survival is there for a young nighthawk on a city street or vacant lot? And it is because of the overwhelming dangers of the ground in the city that these birds have been so seriously depleted in numbers.

Yours truly,

W. E. SAUNDERS.

London, Ontario.

SPARROW HAWK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, Urbana, Ill.

On January 27, 1917, while taking an examination in the Stock Pavilion I was attracted by a shower of small feathers which were falling into the arena. I traced the stream of feathers to its source and there, on a steel girder, near the roof, sat a sparrow hawk steadily plucking an English sparrow.

The Stock Pavilion is a large building, with a tan-bark arena in

the center and tiers of bleacher-like seats surrounding on all sides. It is used for the various stock-judging courses and there are large classes held there most of the day. English sparrows can be found at all times in the Pavilion. Several places in the arena were scattered with feathers, testifying to the good work of the hawk.

One of the caretakers at the Pavilion stated that the hawk had been staying there for about three weeks.

WALTER A. GOELITZ.

Ravinia, Ill.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER AT ATLANTIC, IOWA.

A few days ago a male Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Centurus carolinus*, was observed for the first time in this locality. While it may be possible, of course, that an occasional individual of the species visits western Iowa, careful observation of both summer and winter birds has never revealed one before, and the occurrence may be of interest to other readers. Since first observed, he has appeared every day at our suet bags, affording us ample opportunity to confirm identification, as well as the pleasure of studying his beautiful plumage.

T. H. WHITNEY.

Atlantic, Iowa, April 20th, 1917.

PILEATED WOODPECKER.

A number of articles have appeared within the last year or so regarding this rare bird, all of which relate to counties near us, Ash-tabula in particular, but I never have seen a note giving report of an instance of its having been seen in Geauga. I have therefore thought it proper to speak a word for our little county.

My own satisfactory views of the birds have been only two, but both of these unmistakable. Both occurred within the limits of Chardon Village, and at the same edge of the same piece of woodland. The first, on March 15th, 1905, was of a mature male, while the second I took to be a young bird, form, size and action being true to the species, but the areas that would be black in the mature bird, though quite dark, were not black. Two others were with me for this observation. It was made May 5th, 1907.

Nearly every year some member of our Bird Club reports seeing one at some point near, and we are coming to consider them not very uncommon.

F. E. Ford and Arthur Fowler, of this place, followed one to a swampy piece of timber about two and a half miles from town, in the township of Claridon, last year, where they saw indications that a pair were getting ready for housekeeping.