

the slogan, "Down with the House Wren Boxes." The stand we take on this question will affect more than present interests, and each one should so act that a kind Providence need not protect his memory from the just execrations of future generations.

NATIONAL, VIA MCGREGOR, IOWA.

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## OWL NOTES FROM OHIO

BY CHAS. R. WALLACE

Nesting records of the Long-eared Owl in Ohio seem to be scarce enough to justify reporting our observations on this species in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. About eight miles south of Uhrichsville the Stillwater and Laurel valleys join, and between these valleys, for several miles, a rather flat topped ridge, from 150 to 250 feet high, forms the divide. This ridge has numerous sharp spurs and the slopes are rather steep and rocky and mostly covered with brushy timber. The drainage has cut many deep ravines and rocky gulches, where brooks flow down to the valleys, making ideal environments for the Louisiana Water Thrush, the Kentucky Warbler, and the Blue-winged Warbler. On June 13, 1921, a pair of Worm-eating Warblers (*Helminthos vermivorus*), was noted in one of the ravines. The thick bushy woods and rocky gulches make good nesting associations for the Owl family and the Turkey Vultures. May 6, 1921, on a visit to two nests of the latter, we discovered the Long-eared Owls. When near the bottom of a wide ravine, one side covered with a rather open growth of timber, we saw an owl sitting on a fallen tree that had lodged several feet from the ground. A glance through the binocular proved it to be a young one. Cautiously stalking it we were able to get within a few feet without being discovered. Its immaturity showed that it could fly but little, so we stepped out in front. The transformation from a sleepy owlet to a scrapper on the defensive, was sudden and complete. With feathers fluffed and mandibles snapping he bid defiance to all intruders.

But no sooner had it assumed the belligerent attitude than a feathery ball struck the ground near our feet and started down the slope with a broken wing. A moment later another one dropped near and the same performance repeated. Their distressing cries were much like the Cooper Hawks, when their nest is disturbed, but with a much accelerated tempo. This was something new in our experience with owls.

Finding their ruse did not work, they soon returned and flew back and forth in the trees above, while we were posing the owlet for a picture. The next move was to discover the youngster's home. Walking a short distance from the owlet one of the parent birds flew to a nest, about 20 feet up in a beech tree. From all appearances it seemed to be an old crow's nest, and contained three more owlets, and as usual with most species of owls, in different stages of development. As we climbed to the nest the parent birds tried the broken wing stunt again. And in grace of movement I must say they are not comparable to the Killdeer. We visited the nest again June 13, but they had all left the vicinity. We visited the nest May 5, 1922, and found the mother bird brooding three young and one egg. Judging by the development of the young they had been somewhat later in nesting than the previous year. By climbing a neighboring tree fifty feet from the nest, we succeeded in getting a snap-shot of the mother bird before she left the nest, and from the nest tree the nestlings and egg.

Another visit to the nest April 29, 1923, found the nest deserted, and no sign of owls in the vicinity. A large number of pellets found under the nest tree in 1921 showed that most of their food had been field mice (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), and a few skulls of the Shrew and Deer mouse were found.

Our apology for reporting a nest of Old Bubo from this section of Ohio was its unusual position and the dinner menu. On April 29, 1923, about a half mile from the Long-eared Owl's nest, in a rocky gulch, we discovered two well-developed young owls sitting on a ledge, or rather a water pocket. When about fifty feet from them, they flew across the gulch, about one hundred feet, to another rock. Our first impression was that they had come from a nest in some nearby tree. But the evidence showed from a close inspection at the base of the rock, that this was their home. The pocket was about twelve feet up, and with some difficulty we succeeded in climbing up to it. A few leaves and lichens on the bottom of the pocket were the only apology for a nest. They evidently had breakfasted, and part of the menu was left over for dinner—a decapitated American Bittern, and half of a full grown rabbit. The head and part of the neck of the Bittern had been eaten but the body was intact, and it probably had been carried from the valley a half mile below. Old Bubo must have strong wing-power to navigate the air with such heavy ballast. A number of pellets were examined at this nest and in the major part were made up of rabbit bones and fur. And we find the rabbit pellets at all the nest-

and day-trees in Tuscarawas County. They also prey to a considerable extent on the young skunks in the latter part of June and July.

Ninety-eight percent of the nests we have found in this county have been in hollow trees, and ninety-eight percent of nests in Delaware County have been in old Crow and hawk nests.

DELAWARE, OHIO.

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## BIRD BANDING AT THE IOWA LAKESIDE LABORATORY DURING THE SUMMERS OF 1923 AND 1924

BY DAYTON STONER

The present paper is here presented with two principal objects in view: first, to announce the establishment of a summer bird banding and trapping station at The Iowa Lakeside Laboratory on West Lake Okoboji in northwestern Iowa, and, second, to indicate in brief tabular form a summary of the bird banding activities which my wife and I have carried on at this place between June 19 and July 15, 1923, and June 16 and July 15, 1924.

Since the region offers an abundance of food and other fairly equable breeding conditions for both water and land birds a goodly number of summer residents provides material for the bander. Therefore, it was felt that the natural advantages would warrant the expenditure of some time and effort in bird banding and other kindred work not only on the five-acre plot comprising the grounds of the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory but at other suitable places in the contiguous territory.

For the most part only adult and well fledged young have been banded. However, from the results obtained or rather the lack of results obtained, I feel fairly well convinced that the banding of nestling birds is not a highly profitable part of the work. The mortality among them is high and the likelihood of their destruction by an agency outside the ordinary scope of human affairs reduces the chances for recovery to a minimum. This is particularly true of the smaller land birds. A large number of records which can not but which undoubtedly should be "closed" will, in time, greatly hamper the future work. Elimination of this feature is highly desirable. Adult birds are much more likely to survive and to furnish the information that is sought.

The appended table gives in summarized form the results of our banding activities during the approximately eight weeks under con-