

that of the Alder Flycatcher rather better than with the Acadian.—ARTHUR H. HOWELL, *Washington, D. C.*

An Open Nest of the Prothonotary Warbler in Ohio.—Early in the spring of 1926, I had an argument with an ornithologist who claimed that the Prothonotary Warbler did not nest in Ottawa County, Ohio. I claimed that I had heard and seen the bird while on a fishing trip the year before, and promised to make it my business to find its nest. During the second half of June I observed a pair of Prothonotaries foraging along Sugar Creek, near Elmore, and carrying insects into a small thicket of shrubbery and weeds, as though feeding young. A group of Boy Scout bird students watched these birds on various days and tried hard to locate the nest without frightening the parent birds. I had become acquainted with this warbler and his nesting habits in Shelby County, Ohio, where the nest was made in a cleft in a decaying post, at the edge of Loramie Reservoir. Therefore we looked for a nest in a cavity, and were foiled, as we could find neither a cavity nor a tree or post big enough to contain a cavity, in the vicinity in which the birds appeared to be feeding their young.

The matter was reported to Prof. Mosely of Bowling Green, Ohio, who came to observe the birds on June 25th. He verified my identification, and together we watched the birds for some time. At length we found them feeding fledglings—not in a nest located in a cavity, but in an open nest placed in the crotch of a young ash tree.

Prof. Lynds Jones, to whom the observation was reported, and who is now in possession of the nest, observes: "Audubon stated that the Prothonotary Warbler built its nest in a bush, but it is now agreed that he was either mistaken or, not having seen a nest, assumed that it nested as the other warblers do." The undersigned is merely reporting an observation. Whether the pair of warblers under observation had built, found, or stolen this nest, we do not know, nor do we presume to offer a solution of the problem. But a pair of Prothonotary Warblers was observed feeding young birds in an open nest placed in the crotch of a sapling.—H. S. v. RAGUE, *Elmore, Ohio.*

An Unusual Flight of Cormorants.—On seeing in the Chicago Tribune for April 24, 1926, that a tremendous flight of loons had passed over La Crosse, Wisconsin, going up the Mississippi River during a gale and rain, I wrote to the postmaster at La Crosse, who turned my inquiry over to Mr. Mark Byers, Editor of the La Crosse Tribune, who writes me as follows:

"The flight first appeared over the river bottoms south of La Crosse about 3 p. m. It continued for two and one-half hours, more or less intermittently, although there were always from a dozen to hundreds of large flocks in the air. The birds were flying more or less directly north up the main channel of the Mississippi, and a great many of them circled and alighted in Target Lake, an arm of the river about three miles below the city. Others kept on going. They were evidently weary, frequently flying low to the water although no heavy north wind was blowing, such as usually forces wildfowl to fly low.

"The flight was so large that at times it was impossible to see the sunset sky through the mass. At other times they would be strung out in long irregular lines and groups—'like blackbirds'—says one witness. The number of birds is variously estimated, as from 100,000 to 1,000,000 birds. No sign of the birds was seen the next day."