

## GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

**A Second Record for the Red Phalarope in Kansas.**—On October 25, 1926, a male Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) was taken in Franklin County, Kansas, by one of my students, Mr. Wesley Clanton. This is the second record of this species from the state. The first, as reported by Bunker (1913, Kansas Univ. Sci. Bul. 7:137-158), was a female secured at Lake View, Douglas County, November 5, 1905 by E. E. Brown. The measurements in millimeters of the Franklin County specimen follow: Length, 215; wing, 129; tail, 62; head, 28; bill, 23; tarsus, 21; and middle toe, 21.—HOWARD K. GLOYD, *Ottawa, Kans.*

**A Note on a Habit of the Tufted Titmouse.**—While walking through the woods looking for Crows' nests about the first of last May, I came upon an unusual sight. On a branch of a tree a few feet from the ground sat a Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*), while bobbing up and down above it a tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) was engaged in plucking hair from its back. On a near-by twig the bird's mate was perched, with its mouth already full of hair, and in a few minutes they flew away together. Since the use of cattle hair for nest lining by the Tufted Titmouse has been observed and recorded (Davie, 1889; Goss, 1891) it is probable that this was to be used for the same purpose.—WARD REED, *Princeton, Kans.*

**The Orchard Oriole in Clayton County, Iowa.**—The Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) is listed in Anderson's "Birds of Iowa" as a common summer resident in all parts of Iowa. That is hardly the case in this (the northeastern) corner of the state. While uncommon enough even in migration, I had the pleasure of finding a nesting pair in 1926, at Giard, that I believe to be the first definite nesting record for Clayton County. The male was in the plumage of the second year, which was highly developed, with a large black throat patch and faint traces of chestnut. The nest was cleverly hidden, thirty-two feet up in a pine, and was woven entirely of grass, with no other lining. It was discovered on June 27, the two young left it on July 6, and I collected it a few days later.—OSCAR P. ALLERT, *McGregor, Iowa.*

**The Baltimore Oriole Wintering in Ohio.**—On January 3, 1927, a male Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) appeared in my garden, feeding upon frozen grapes and berries of the Deadly Purple Nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*). He was a rather disconsolate looking bird, seemingly very weak and lame, yet withall a beautiful sight in his bright orange and black garb, against the beautifully white back-ground of freshly fallen snow. I am of the opinion that it is the same bird that was rescued from the claws of a large Persian cat on November 1, 1926. This bird was slightly injured and lame. I attempted to get him, if possible, and doctor his injury, but he would always hop just beyond my reach. He was terribly frightened at the time, and kept close to the ground, hiding in the grape vine. After a while, he flew away. I saw him again on November 2, 1926.—MRS. HOWARD SMITH BENEDICT, *Lakewood, Ohio.*

**The Evening Bath of a Flock of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers.**—One of the prettiest sights I have ever witnessed in bird life was the evening bath of a

flock of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (*Muscivora forficata*). On a day in mid-September a dozen or more of these lovely birds had gathered in the little willows growing in a small pond, and for some time had been sitting quietly. Suddenly one swooped down to the water, but came up without quite touching it; another did the same, and then another. Finally, one brave bird splashed its breast into the water and flew up to a twig, where it shook itself and began to preen its feathers. Whereupon they all followed suit, sometimes singly, sometimes two or three at a time, darting down quickly—a sudden dip into the water and then up again. The colors on their sides and under their wings shone pink and salmon and ruby in the late afternoon light. It was a rarely beautiful sight—the exquisite birds in their fairy-like evolutions.—MARGARET MORSE NICE, *Norman, Okla.*

**On the Nesting of the Blue Jay.**—In April, 1925, a pair of Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*) build a nest in a small evergreen tree about five feet from a garage window. To observe the nest the window was covered on the inside, excepting for a one inch space which was cut out of the pane. The tree was about twenty feet from the highway. The Jays were first observed feeding each other on March 16. Nest building was started on April 7, and was completed on April 12. It was a typical Blue Jay nest, composed of interwoven rootlets in a crotch and plastered with mud in the bottom. The upper part was built of twigs. The first egg was laid April 16, the second at 10:30 A. M. on April 19, the third on April 20, the fourth on April 21, and the fifth on April 23. Four of the eggs hatched on May 7, and the remaining egg hatched on May 8. The first evidence of feathers was on May 14. The young birds first called for food in a very faint and high-pitched tone just audible five feet from the nest, on May 14. The nest was destroyed shortly thereafter by cats, assisted by Sparrow Hawks. The female Jay was not seen afterwards. The male Jays remained in the locality for several days and then disappeared.—E. C. HOFFMAN, 1041 *Forest-cliff Drive, Lakewood, Ohio.*

**Birds Excited by a Snake.**—While out on a bird tramp, on September 12, 1926, as often happens, we walked for a long distance through what was good territory without seeing a single bird. Then not one, but eight appeared almost at once. First we heard the low call note of the Brown Thrasher and discovered one on a low branch a few feet above the ground, moving slowly down the branch. Just below it was a brilliant red Cardinal. On a plant a foot or so away and a few inches above the ground sat a Catbird. On the ground was a second Brown Thrasher, her feathers more or less ruffled and her wings outspread. She moved backward and forward, beating the ground now and then with her wings somewhat as the Mockingbird does in its courting dance. In a moment her mate joined her on the ground, his wings also outspread. Meanwhile a pair of Hooded Warblers were flying back and forth over the ground near the Catbird and Thrashers. At least one Wood Thrush was watching proceedings from a low limb close by. Then from somewhere on the ground near the Thrashers a Carolina Wren appeared, its plumage so ruffled that the eye-line scarcely showed, and only its tail-tilt proclaimed it to be a Wren. Except for the call notes of the Brown Thrashers that were first heard, none of the birds uttered a sound.