

catch the birds on the nest, and so they have not been banded, therefore it is not possible to be certain that the nest has been occupied by the same birds each year, although the birds have seemed to be the same, judged by appearance and actions and habits. The only thing done to the nest each year is a renewal of some of the lining. No new mud has ever been put on it. When the Barn Swallows first come to this region this nest is visited and inspected, and two birds come and go occasionally until nesting time arrives, when they take possession and resent intrusion in the barn. Even though the barn is in constant use they never seem to become accustomed to the presence of people, stock, dogs or cats. After the young have left the nest the parents remain in the vicinity, and make frequent visits into the barn and to the nest; but by the middle of August they are gone from the immediate vicinity. During the past summer, 1927, four young were raised, and there was one infertile egg, or at least one did not hatch. Never before has there been an unhatched egg. It will be interesting to see how long this nest will last. It must have been fashioned by master builders. I would like to have the recipe for the glue that holds it to the beam.—LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio*.

**Some Bird Notes from the Badlands of North Dakota.**—During part of the summer of 1918 I was doing field work in North Dakota. I was much interested in the region north of Dickinson, in the badlands of the Little Missouri Valley.

The Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawks were quite common, and sat around on rocks and fence posts near a gopher burrow or a prairie dog town, waiting for an opportunity to catch one of the small animals. Marsh Hawks were also common, and behaved in the same way as they do in Iowa. Sparrow Hawks were the most common of the hawks, and fed almost exclusively upon grasshoppers, which were quite abundant. I saw only one Short-eared Owl, but hundreds of Burrowing Owls. The latter have the curious habit of sitting up on a mound in such a posture that they closely resemble the prairie dogs at a distance.

Among the smaller birds McCown's Longspur and Sprague's Pipit were very interesting to me. I saw an occasional Baird's Sparrow that I could identify, and probably dozens that I could not. The Lark Bunting was very common, and the flocks of young and old were a familiar sight. There were a good many Magpies along the rivers, and I shot at several, but seemed to be unable to get one without blowing all his tail feathers out. The Sharp-tailed Grouse was another interesting bird, and it was still quite common in the badlands. Coyotes were also common. The badlands country is most interesting, but is hard on the temper to try to drive a car through it. Roads are practically non-existent, and one wanders about jumping creeks and climbing hills at random. These badlands are quite heavily timbered, in places, with such trees as ash, elm, cottonwood, burr oak, birch and aspen; while the buffalo berry (*Shepherdia*) fills the river bottoms with a dense tangle of brush, or low trees. The only bush growing on the hill is the "buck bush" (*Symphoricarpos*). Some of the "coulees" are filled with the Red Cedar, but it seems to be rather local.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Portland, Ore*.

**The Last Days of a Certain Great Horned Owl.**—Many great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*) that have been shot or trapped near my home reach my hands. On October 22, 1925, a live female of this species was brought to me. The last days of this bird are interesting, as they show the fierce

courage displayed by this species. A friend, living near Beulah, Iowa, keeps many chickens of the Leghorn breeds, and has a regular loss of the hens that persist in roosting in the trees. This owl entered a No. 1½ steel trap and succeeded in carrying the same away on the night of October 14. My friend informed me that the same owl came on the nights of October 16, 17 and 18, and each time carried away a chicken. Roused by the barking of his dog, he said that he heard the rattle of the trap chain each time. The owl was recaptured during the night of the 21st by getting the trap on the left foot into a larger one, such as is used for foxes. The owl was blind in the left eye. On dissection I found a shot within the eye-cup, the pellet having entered from above. It is fair to assume that *Bubo* can maintain itself, at least for a time, even with one foot out of commission and only one head-light —OSCAR P. ALLERT, *McGregor, Iowa*.

**Notes on Birds of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, Florida.**—These notes, acquired during the first half of 1927, are supplementary to the writer's paper bearing the above title in the WILSON BULLETIN, XXXVIII, pp. 140-155. The following four species are added to the writer's list for these counties:

Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*).—A small flock was observed on a fresh water pond in southern Pasco County, on March 17, 1927, and a female collected.

American Oyster Catcher (*Haematopus palliatus*).—One individual of this now rare species was seen at Pass-a-Grille on April 13, 1927.

Pigeon Hawk (*Falco c. columbarius*).—One adult was seen bathing at the margin of a small salt water pool near Pass-a-Grille on April 3, 1927.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus n. nelsoni*).—An immature specimen, much resembling *P. caudacutus*, taken by the writer at Indian Pass on March 25, 1925, has been identified as *P. n. nelsoni* by Dr. H. C. Oberholser. Two typical adult Nelson's Sparrows were collected in that vicinity in 1927; one on January 29, the other on February 28. All of these birds were in salt marshes along the gulf coast, associated with Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

The following three species, uncommon in this region, credited in my previous paper to these counties, by the observations of others, were in 1927 collected there by the writer:

Cabot's Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis acuflavida*).—Previously reported by courtesy of Mr. A. C. Bent, who "saw several and collected one" in this territory in the spring of 1925. In 1927 these birds were seen by the writer at various times between March 10 and April 16. On March 21, on Mullet Key in a flock of about 175 terns, mostly Royal Terns (*Sterna maxima*), were sixty or seventy Cabot's Terns and eight or ten Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*). Four Cabot's Terns collected on that date were all adult males. A flock of sixty or more Cabot's Terns was seen among these keys up to the time the writer came north on April 16; so an arrangement was made with Mr. H. P. Bennett, warden in charge of the Tampa Bay Refuges, to visit possible nesting sites to see if they remained to nest. Therefore, in June, 1927, Mr. Bennett visited all likely nesting beaches between Mullet Key and Pass-a-Grille without, however, seeing any Cabot's Terns. The old breeding places ten miles farther north, near John's Pass, where thousands of terns of several species nested a half century ago, are now places of public resort, connected by long causeways and bridges with the mainland.