

far as it could and then swimming five or six feet until it reached a submerged log. It lay within a few inches of the log, with its neck and head resting flat upon the surface, in the shadow. A more effective concealment could not have been found. I crept up easily to take a picture, but, sensing its detection, it swam off in a wide circle, then made rapid strokes for shore. While I was maneuvering with the Graflex it gained the shore and when I looked around it was nowhere in sight. I never saw it again.

The young of the Least Terns that were old enough to leave the nests were found hiding under the small green weeds, on the sand-bar, which afforded them shade and concealment.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Fla.*

Some New Bird Records for North Dakota.—Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*).—On April 25, 1928, a pair of Trumpeter Swans were seen on Slades Lake, a few miles southeast of Dawson, North Dakota, by Lee Pettibone. These swans were in company with a flock of 125 Whistling Swans, but kept off to themselves. Their large size, in comparison with the Whistling Swan, was very noticeable. The difference in their call notes was also observed. Mr. Pettibone is an old and well known bird student, and his observations can be relied upon. Trumpeter Swans are now so scarce that any note of them is of sufficient importance to record.

Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*).—The North Dakota Historical Society now has a mounted specimen of an immature Little Blue Heron, which was taken near Sims, North Dakota, about forty miles west of Bismarck, in the fall of 1914. The bird was taken by Mr. August Timmerman of Mandan, North Dakota, and was thought to be a White Egret. I do not believe that there is a published record of this species for the state.

White Gryfalcon (*Falco islandus*).—While visiting the taxidermist shop of J. D. Allen of Mandan, North Dakota, I was attracted by a large white hawk. Upon closer examination the bird proved to be a White Gyrfalcon. Mr. Allen stated that the bird had been sent and later sold to him by Zepphon M. Smith of Buffalo, North Dakota. By correspondence with Mr. Smith, I found that the bird had been taken at his farm six miles northeast of Buffalo, on or about the first of December, 1922. Noticing his Belgium pigeons very much excited over something, he went outside to investigate. He found the gryfalcon making repeated dashes to catch them. It was not at all shy and he had no difficulty in shooting it. Unfortunately the sex of the bird was not noted, but judging from its size and coloration it is probably a young female. The mounted specimen is now preserved in the collection of the North Dakota State Historical Society. As far as I am aware this is the first record for the state.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*).—On May 28, 1928, while on a visit to the Bad Lands about eighteen miles south of Marmarth, North Dakota, I was attracted by a small sparrow singing from the sage brush. It was a new song to me, so after some difficulty, due to the approaching darkness, I was able to secure a specimen. Upon examination it proved to be a Brewer's Sparrow. On the following day I saw and heard several of these birds a few miles west of Marmarth. As far as I am aware this species is not given in any of the state lists.

Blue-headed Vireo (*Lanius solitarius solitarius*).—On May 24, 1927, the writer secured a fine male specimen of the Blue-headed Vireo at Bismarck, North

Dakota. As this species is rare in the extreme eastern part of the state, and none have been reported for the central west portion, this capture seems to be worth recording. The specimen is now in the collection of the North Dakota State Historical Society at Bismarck.—RUSSELL REID, *North Dakota State Historical Society, Bismarck, N. Dak.*

Ring-necked Pheasant vs. Bull Snake.—Recently, while passing the farm of John Welke, located eight miles southeast of Redfield, I saw a female Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus torquatus*) giving battle over its nest with a three-foot Bull Snake (*Pituophis sayi*). The male pheasant was near by, watching the conflict but not participating in it. The hen pheasant would strike at the snake, and then the snake would strike back at the pheasant. After watching this battle for a time, I approached to get closer to the contestants, when both of the pheasants flew away. I then examined the Bull Snake, and found it to be very weak. I think the pheasant would have had no trouble in eventually killing it. I finished killing the snake before I left. On other occasions I have witnessed other fights between Ring-necked Pheasants and different kinds of birds and animals.—CLAUDE McCURDY, *Redfield, S. D.*

A Brown Thrasher Feeds a Snake to Its Young.—On the afternoon of May 24, 1928, from my window I saw a Brown Thrasher with a snake ten to twelve inches long in its beak. The snake was very much alive, and was twisting about trying to escape. The thrasher held on to it, beating it against the ground, and then striking it with its beak, until the snake ceased to struggle. A young bird was close by, watching and begging for food. After the snake was apparently dead the thrasher flew with it to a bare spot of ground a few feet farther from the window, where there were small stones, and beat the snake against these. The young bird followed, eager for a bite, and was fed several bits. Then for a moment both birds appeared to be pulling on the snake. The parent let go and the young bird began swallowing the remainder of the snake, a piece five or six inches long. It was hard work, especially the last inch, which protruded from its mouth for several minutes, but that also finally disappeared and the young bird once more started tagging its parent.—BERYL T. MOUNTS, *Macon, Ga.*

English Sparrows Nesting in the Homes of Cliff Swallows.—In the March number of the WILSON BULLETIN (p. 50), Dr. F. L. R. and Mary Roberts mentioned the Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*) nesting along a gorge of the Big Sioux River, near Dell Rapids, South Dakota. A party from this institution visited the colony in the hope of securing motion pictures of the nesting birds, but it was found that most of the nests were inaccessible. The site referred to by Dr. Roberts as being accessible for photographs was not being used, and the old nests were occupied by the English Sparrows. Many sparrows were seen entering with nesting material.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Ill.*

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—Following the receipt of the preceding note from Mr. Bailey, the Editor communicated with Dr. Roberts and both made a trip to the "De'ls" in South Dakota on July 14-15. We found conditions just as described by Mr. Bailey, although we estimated that about 200 Cliff Swallows were flying over the river. An attempt was made to count the nests occupied by the swallows; by using a boat on the river we counted well over a hundred nests. Some nests were being used by English Sparrows, but we could not ascertain whether the swallows had abandoned them or had been driven out.—T. C. S.]