

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.]