

above the nest and from there descended until he reached the moth, which he ate himself.

On the afternoon of August 1 there was a hard rain for twenty-five minutes, but although the male brought two meals and the female three, there was no move on the part of the parents to shelter the young.

The next afternoon, one of the young climbed to the nest rim, and another to the branch, but both returned. August 3 at 7:30 A. M. the last fledgling was just leaving the nest, flying over a hundred feet at its first attempt. A week later the male was seen in the vicinity feeding a fully grown young bird.

The parents made no sound near the nest until August 1, when the female came toward the observer with a low "*tchip*." The following afternoon when the young were getting out of and back into the nest, both parents became quite vocal, "*tchipping*" in nearby trees. Only ten songs were given by the male during the nineteen and one-half hours of observation.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio*.

Some Unusual Spring Records from Bibb County, Georgia.—The spring of 1928 brought an unusual number of new or rare bird records. Especially was this true of the water and marsh birds. Two facts may account for this. The spring has been unusually wet (the two previous springs had been very dry). Secondly, the local Isaac Walton League has been responsible for the establishment of a duck and game preserve in an old clay pit area south of town and near the river. Here, on February 11, Mr. Mounts and I saw two Red-shouldered Hawks, our first record of them for this region.

On May 12 was our most exciting trip to the clay pits. From far away a white heron was visible along the margin of one of the ponds. We watched this bird, hoping it would prove to be a Snowy Heron, but had to be satisfied with a young Little Blue Heron. Two full plumaged Little Blue Herons were also present. Near the herons were two Lesser Yellow-legs, and several more were scattered over the pond, one bird standing on one leg, the other one evidently badly injured. There were other waders of whose identity we were not sure. Along with the larger birds were six Least Sandpipers and one Semipalmated Plover. A pair of Blue-winged Teals swam about on the pond, and several times flew up, giving us a splendid view of the blue wing patches.

Not all of our rare records are from the clay pit region, however. On April 29, a House Wren appeared in our back yard and was seen, or heard in full song, for several days. This is a late record, and our first of the bird in song.

Not far from our home is a meadow, separated from the river by a low ridge. Two tiny streams run through the meadow, and in wet seasons there are several reedy, marshy patches. This year the Bobolink appeared there on May 1 and remained until May 12. Many years we do not see it at all. Here also we secured records of the Green Heron, King Rail, Short-billed Marsh Wren, and Purple Gallinule. The Purple Gallinule displayed an interesting habit. When flushed it flew to a tall tree bordering the marshy ground, and climbed higher and higher, hiding near the top, and evidently slipping out when not closely observed.

The most exciting record of the year came May 13. We had taken a friend to see the Bobolinks, which the day before were abundant and in full song. They had disappeared over night. A bird which at first glance I thought was a bob-tailed Red-wing flew up from a marshy spot and dropped down to the

ground where vegetation was short, so that its head was visible at a distance of thirty yards or more. We watched it first with a pair of eight power prism binoculars, and approached nearer and nearer, until finally two of us were within three feet of where the bird rested on the ground. It remained quiet for over a minute before flying away and dropping into the tall grass. None of us knew it. It was about five inches long and we could see plainly the red iris, slaty head and neck, reddish brown nape, dark wings and back spotted with white, and stubby tail. Comparison with the plates in the "Birds of New York" left no doubt that the bird was the Little Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis*).—
BERYL T. MOUNTS, Macon, Ga.

Some Odd Nesting Sites of the House Wren.—Some years ago my family and I lived upon and operated a farm near Thornburg, Iowa. Among the customary farm buildings was one for the implements and machinery used upon the farm. This machine house was open at the south side, no door or wall having been placed on that side.

We had made no special provision for nesting places for the Western House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon parkmani*), but they looked up places for themselves and we always had at least one pair on the premises every summer. One fine May day I went into the implement house to prepare a machine for work in the field. While so engaged a House Wren came and alighted on my arm. In a moment the other of the pair alighted on my hat. Both were chattering at me vociferously, calling me all kinds of names and demanding to know what I meant by invading their premises in that manner. They were in no hurry to leave me and during most of the time I spent in the machine house that day they were on my clothing.

After this whenever I had occasion to go to the machine house, that summer, the wrens always came and perched on my clothing. This action of theirs struck me as somewhat peculiar, for although these little birds had been familiar to me all my life, I had never known them to do this before. But the reason for this familiarity became perfectly plain when I discovered their nest. I had hung up an old overcoat in this building the previous winter and left it there. The wrens had found one of the pockets of this coat to answer their purposes and made their nest therein. And since, as is well known, these birds scarcely ever make their nest for the second brood of the season in the same place, so they went "presto chango" into the other pocket for the second brood!

More recently I found a House Wren's nest in a joint of gas pipe twelve feet long, one and one-half inches in diameter and slightly bent in the center. This piece of gas pipe was balanced over the lower board of a fence so that both ends of the pipe were lower than the center. The ends were about eighteen inches from the ground, and the wrens entered at either end as happened to suit their convenience.

The past season (1928) I discovered a House Wren's nest under a quart tin can that had been carelessly turned over the top of a post in the garden fence. The post had been chopped off slanting at the top, and enough had been split off on one side so that it left a space three-fourths of an inch between the post and the side of the can. Through this narrow opening the birds had carried up the nesting material and made the nest in the triangular space on top of the post. But unfortunately the can was lifted off and the nest and eggs were precipitated to the ground by some one who was not aware of the wrens'