

tance from the base of the culmen to the anterior point of the loreal feathers is less than from the latter point to the anterior extremity of the nostril. The culmen is slightly convex and definitely does not have the concave line at the nostril, as found in *G. stellata*. The length of the tarsus is less than the inner toe with claw.

R. M. Anderson (*Birds of Iowa*, pp. 151-152, 1907) includes the account of the capture of this bird published by Giddings in the *Iowa Ornithologist*, II, p. 73, 1896. Anderson stated that the bird was taken by Mr. W. Eldridge, while it was swimming in the Mississippi River a little way from the shore opposite Sabula, on November 15, 1895. The slightly different details of its capture as I have stated them above were contained in a letter received from Mr. Giddings on October 11, 1932, and recently verified at the time of examining the specimen.

F. Seymour Hersey has shown (*Auk*, pp. 283-290, 1917) that all records of *Gavia arctica* from the United States and Canada actually refer to *G. a. pacifica* or to some other species of loon, the range of the Siberian bird being restricted to the west coast of Alaska, with a straggling record at Victoria, British Columbia. Based upon Hersey's study, no doubt, the A. O. U. Check-List, 4th Edition, stated the wintering range of *G. a. pacifica* as, "mainly on the Pacific coast of North America from southeastern Alaska and British Columbia to southern Lower California. Accidental in Arizona, New Mexico, New Hampshire, and New York (Long Island)." It should now be amended to include this single Iowa occurrence.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa*.

Cardinals Re-claim a Deserted Nest.—On May 2, 1932, I found the nest of an Eastern Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis*) containing a single egg of the Eastern Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*). On May 6 the nest still contained the single egg, and I decided that the Cardinals had deserted the nest. I had observed on a number of occasions that if a Cowbird deposits an egg in the nest of another bird before it is finished, or before the owners of the nest have deposited an egg, the owners will, almost without exception, desert the nest. On the other hand, if the Cowbird is patient enough to wait until the owners of the nest have deposited even one egg, before depositing her own, she may rest content that her egg or eggs will almost always be accepted and cared for.

I do not know what I had in mind on May 6, 1932. I didn't expect the Cardinals to return. But the parasitic habits of the Cowbird exasperate me at times, and I tossed the egg out of the Cardinal's nest. And the Cardinals returned! On May 7, the nest contained one of their eggs; on May 8, another, and so on until four eggs were laid. In due time three young Cardinals clamored for food, one egg having failed of the proper issue. Again the parent birds deserted the nest, now sadly showing signs of abuse, but the three youngsters accompanied them.

I wondered why the Cardinals had returned to the deserted nest. Surely they had not been idle during those days when the nest housed a Cowbird's egg. I was inclined to believe that a second attempt at nest building elsewhere had met with failure and they, in passing, had discovered that the first built nest had in some inexplicable way again become fit for Cardinal habitation, and had hastened to benefit by the discovery.—GRANT HENDERSON, *Greensburg, Ind.*