

Ereunetes pusillus. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 records, 21 individuals, all apparently in winter plumage.

Ereunetes mauri. Western Sandpiper: 4 records, 24 individuals.

Crocethia alba. Sanderling: 5 records, 13 individuals, 2 in partial breeding plumage, others in winter dress.

Sterna hirundo. Common Tern: 1 individual.

Chlidonias nigra. Black Tern: 4 records, 20 individuals, all in first winter or adult winter plumage.

All of the 17 species listed above winter in greater or lesser numbers in the Rockport area, but none of them is known to breed there. Mr. Jack Hagar tells me that this summering of non-breeding species is a regular occurrence in the Rockport area; it presents an interesting problem in the study of the migration and breeding habits of birds.—R. A. O'REILLY, JR., *Detroit, Michigan*.

Crow killed by a Duck Hawk.—The observation by Philip Baumgras, "Crow killed by a Red-tailed Hawk" (1945, *Wils. Bull.*, 57:129), adds interest to a similar record of my own. On May 14, 1936, at North Cape, Erie Marsh, Monroe County, Michigan, my attention was attracted by the loud cawing of Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) in a near-by clump of cottonwoods; a moment later, however, an adult Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) came from the trees carrying a Crow in its talons, with another Crow in wild pursuit. I assumed that the Hawk had taken a young bird from a Crow's nest.—JOHN J. STOPHLET, 2612 Maplewood Avenue, Toledo 10, Ohio.

Snake depredations at bird nests.—During the past nine years I have recorded 12 instances of snakes discovered in the act of rifling bird nests or found coiled in the boxes after having presumably swallowed the broods. Most of the 12 instances occurred in Warner Parks, Nashville, Tennessee, a natural park situated among wooded hills, with thickets, open meadows, and tiny streams, where I have conducted a Bluebird (*Sialia sialis sialis*) nestbox project for the past decade.

In three instances, although moving too fast for capture, the predators were identified as black racers (*Coluber* sp.). On June 17, 1937, I approached a box as a racer clung there with a 10-day-old Bluebird in its mouth, which proved to be the last of the brood of five. The adults were flying excitedly from perch to perch near by. The snake made off with the screeching nestling and disappeared into a crevice before it could be overtaken. On July 26, 1940, a racer was seen inside a Bluebird box as it was swallowing the last of three large nestlings, and on June 8, 1943, a racer dropped out of a box when I arrived. The nest was found to be empty.

In nine instances, the predators were pilot snakes (*Elaphe* sp.), known locally as "chicken" snakes because they frequent chicken houses and eat chicks and eggs. Seven of these large, slow-moving reptiles were found coiled inside of Bluebird boxes which had contained nestlings—apparently remaining there to digest the meal. They measured from 48 to 60 inches in length, usually completely filling the large-size boxes. One was sent to Jesse M. Shaver, of Peabody College for Teachers, who identified it as the Southern Pilot Snake (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*). The first of these was taken in 1938. On July 6, 1940, in abnormally cool weather, three were caught during the morning, two in Warner Parks and one on private grounds where several boxes had been placed. The 60-inch individual had apparently eaten four Bluebirds, at least 16 days old, due to leave the box on that or the following day. One snake, measuring 52 inches, that was opened contained three 10-day-old Bluebirds and one egg. On May 10, 1943, a 53-inch pilot snake was found resting in a box that had contained a brood of five, also 10 days old.