

have referred to single birds or pairs. It is with much pleasure that I can now call attention to a flock of some fifty, observed in southern Missouri. I am not only greatly indebted to Mr. Chas. U. Holden, Jr., for this interesting information, but for the present of a beautiful pair which he sent me in the flesh, he having shot them as they flew rapidly overhead. Mr. Holden was, at the time, hunting Quail in Altie, Oregon Co., Missouri. The residents of this hamlet had not seen any Pigeons there before in some years.

Simon Pokagon, Chief of the remaining Pottawattamie tribe, and probably the best posted man on the Wild Pigeon in Michigan, writes me under date of Oct. 16, 1896: "I am creditably informed that there was a small nesting of Pigeons last spring not far from the headwaters of the Au Sable River in Michigan." Mr. Chase S. Osborn, State Game and Fish Warden of Michigan, under date, Sault Ste. Marie, March 2, 1897, writes: "Passenger Pigeons are now very rare indeed in Michigan, but some have been seen in the eastern parts of Chippewa County, in the Upper Peninsula, every year. As many as a dozen or more were seen in this section in one flock last year, and I have reason to believe that they breed here in a small way. One came into this city last summer and attracted a great deal of attention by flying and circling through the air with the tame Pigeons. I have a bill in the legislature of Michigan closing the season for killing Wild Pigeons for ten years."—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Aquila chrysaëtos in Central Minnesota.—It affords me great pleasure to record the capture of this noble bird in this State.

On March 19, 1897, a hunter brought me a beautiful perfectly adult female shot twelve miles east of here. It was quite fat, evidently getting enough to live on during the long winter and deep snow. The stomach contained several ounces of the remains of a common white rabbit. The following are the measurements. Length, 37.00; extent, 86.00; wing, 33.00; tail, 14.50; tarsus and middle toe, 9.00. Weight, 12 lbs. 9 oz.—ALBERT LANO, *Aitkin, Minn.*

Breeding of the Goshawk in Pennsylvania.—In Dr. Warren's Report of the Birds of Pennsylvania (1890) he records the Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*) as a breeder in the State, mainly on the authority of Mr. Otto Behr of Lopez, Sullivan County. Thanks to the same gentleman, I am able to place on record some additional facts relative to the breeding of the species in Pennsylvania.

On April 30, 1897, Mr. Behr and his brother secured a nest and two eggs of the Goshawk about five miles from Lopez, which they kindly presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Since that time they have discovered another nest with eggs near the same place.

Mr. Behr states in addition: "We have found eight nests of the Goshawk in the last ten years, and all but one of these were built in

beech trees; . . . most of the nests contained two young each. We found three nests in different years that contained only one bird each, but never found the eggs until this year."

During the past winter Goshawks have occurred in unusual numbers in southern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, where they are generally very rare. — WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Peculiar Nest of the Great Horned Owl.—While returning from a short walk in the woods during a recent afternoon (March 14), I found a nest of *Bubo virginianus* which was quite remarkable. I had left the woodland and was crossing a meadow; in this there stood perhaps a half dozen elms and maples, none of them over six or eight inches in diameter at the base, the nearest timberland being three hundred yards away, across a creek. In one of the largest maples there was an old nest of the Crow, only twenty-four feet from the ground; this was occupied by a pair of Owls and one of the parent birds was upon the nest. Repeated heavy blows upon the trunk did not effect her flight; she remained until I shook a sapling which brushed the nest with its tips. Ascending, I found three eggs; in and about the nest were sixteen field mice, a hind leg of a rabbit and a wing of a Downy Woodpecker. There was also in a tree at no great distance the half-eaten body of a Pinnated Grouse. Upon preparation of the eggs I found them addled; incubation, which was equal in all, had advanced for three or five days, when the process had stopped, probably through the eggs becoming chilled. Evidently the bird had continued to set upon the eggs for a week thereafter. — FRANK H. SHOEMAKER, *Hampton, Iowa.*

Disgorgement among Song birds.—Here in the cultivated parts of Southern California, there have been planted very extensively for shade and ornament, the beautiful ever-green pepper-trees. These trees bear a red berry in pendant clusters which mature on the trees throughout the whole year. Large flocks of western Robins and Cedar-birds are attracted into town during the winter months, and feed largely on these pepper-berries. The trees are constantly full of the birds, the habits of which I have had ample opportunity of observing.

The pepper-berries are somewhat smaller than sweet-pea seeds, and of a spherical shape. They are composed of three parts; a thin dry paper-like outer hull; a solid central part, and on the outside of the latter but not touching the external husk, a sticky viscid coating. The central kernel is very hard, and moreover when chewed has a most penetrating disagreeable taste which does not leave the mouth for a long time. When held in the mouth without being touched by the teeth, however, the viscid coat is dissolved in the saliva, and proves to be very sweet and agreeable to the taste. This sweet portion is the nutritive part of the fruit which is sought by the birds.

The birds rapidly swallow these berries in large numbers, including the hulls, which are easily crushed, until the stomach is crammed. They