

flapped off the nest and uncovered a single fresh egg! It was the female, new to her duties, who clamored for food, and perhaps for sympathy, from her dallying lord.

Once discovered the method proved the touchstone of success. A stealthy approach was made later to another part of the colony and three females were heard uttering the hunger-cry, *An(h)*, *An(h)*, *An(h)*. A male Crow detected the ambush and shouted a warning, whereupon one of the brooders promptly subsided. Other birds, presumably males, came hurrying up and a general alarm was sounded, but one female, a spoiled darling, insisted upon having attention from her reluctant mate. He, poor fowl, stood the teasing as long as he could, then yielded at last in a moment of weakness and paid a surreptitious visit to a certain treetop, while the man took notes. When I found that the nest, perfectly concealed at a height of sixty feet, contained a single greenish blue egg, as immaculate as a Robin's, I pardoned the young husband's indulgence.

Never, ah, never, does a man need the prophetic gift as when he is gazing covetously, doubtfully, upon a "short" set. If he takes it he knows he will upbraid himself for his incontinence the rest of his days. If he leaves it he braves a thousand mischances, jays, squirrels, storms, worst of all the jealous owners themselves. Well, I took the latter alternative, and upon returning ten days later, gazed into the emptiest nest I ever saw.

It was notable also upon the later visit that there was no more shouting of "Here am I" on the part of the sitting birds. They had learned their lesson.

Blaine, Wash.

W. LEON DAWSON.

SOME ILLINOIS CARDINALS.—As far as I am able to gather, the Cardinal seems to be considered a rather rare bird about Chicago. The meager literature at my disposal classes it thus, and I have heard it referred to by collectors as a "Capture" well worth while. In his "Birds of the Chicago Area," Mr. F. M. Woodruff sums up the Cardinals' status thus:

"I have heard of the Cardinal being taken in our public parks, and have myself secured one specimen, which showed, however, unmistakable signs of having been an escaped cage bird. Mr. J. Grafton Parker, Jr., has a specimen of this species which was taken at Kouts, Indiana, on December 11, 1893. Some years ago I found a nest of the Cardinal at River Forest, Illinois. Mr. O. M. Schantz informs me that in the year 1904 there were two pairs nesting at Riverside, Illinois."

Mr. Woodruff wrote the above in the fall of 1906 and we see that at that time the Cardinal was looked upon as by no means a common species. Has it increased about here during the past four years? If not it seems remarkable that I should have waked into their hiding place the first thing. Their name appears upon the first list of Summer Birds that I made in Illinois! And I, a stranger in the Chicago Area, thought that I had seen a "Common" bird!

I was following the bank of the Desplaines River at River Forest, Illinois, when I heard a Cardinal whistle. I straightway entered his name upon my list and passed on: without so much as a look at him. Back in the Delaware Valley he had ever been a familiar feature in my landscape—winter and summer—and I failed to recognize in that old *familiar* chirp the chirp of a *rare* bird. Perhaps these are the same River Forest Cardinals that built the nest referred to by Mr. Woodruff, above?

However that may be I found the Cardinals there on June 19, 1910, and saw them again on June 24, and they were still about the same woodland on October 30, 1910. It was a novel experience to meet this old bird friend in a new field and discover that he had risen from the rank of commonplace to hold the exalted position of a rarity.

CHRISWELL J. HUNT.

MIGRATION NOTES FROM NORTHERN NEW JERSEY.—Last winter was notable for its great scarcity of bird-life. Many of our permanent residents were much scarcer than usual, or entirely missing and at the same time, northern birds were equally hard to find.

The only northern species that I saw more frequently than usual was the Northern Shrike. Perhaps that may, in a measure, account for the scarcity of some of the smaller birds.

The ferocity of the bird can be illustrated by an incident I witnessed on March 12 of this year. Some Robins were picking worms in a bush-grown field when I noticed that something was alarming them. They gave their alarm-call and flew up into the bushes. The cause of this disturbance was a Shrike that had taken his station in a tree and was evidently looking for a meal. I did not suppose that he would attack a bird of his own size, but the contrary was the case, for when a Robin flew out of a bush the Shrike was after him and actually struck at him, though the Robin escaped by flying into some thick bushes.

It was my pleasure, during the past winter, to record two very unusual occurrences—a Brown Thrasher seen on January 2, and again on February 4, and a Red-winged Blackbird on January 28.

The warm weather of early March brought Bluebirds, Robins, Grackles and Red-wings in unusual numbers. It also hastened the