

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'

presence. Had this accident not occurred, it seems to me the birds must certainly have been fried under this tin can with the unbroken rays of the June sun beating down upon it.—E. D. NAUMAN, *Sigourney, Iowa*.

Some Bird Notes from Trumbull County, Ohio.—Notes on the following four species of Ohio birds are herewith presented:

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*).—This species was observed on December 30 and 31, 1925, at Norton's ravine, at the edge of the village. Following the first zero weather of the season, this snipe flew into the ravine from the north on a bright sunny afternoon. The ground was frozen hard, so that the bird was obliged to feed in the spring-fed brook, where it stood for about twenty hours, either probing diligently or resting quietly. Once when probing in the center of a quiet pool, the bird's head was partially submerged in the ice-cold water, the vigorous action of the head and bill causing ripples across the water.

The following March 4 to 9, inclusive, a Wilson's Snipe was again seen feeding in the same locality. Since this was early for a migrating bird of this species, it might have been the individual observed the preceding December, since springs abound in this region. A snipe was again seen on December 10 and 17, 1926, but there was no record during 1927. S. V. Wharram has found the Wilson's Snipe breeding sparingly in the next county north (Ashtabula), but he has no winter record. Mr. Kendeigh informs me that the latest Oberlin record is for the last of November.

Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).—This species first appeared at North Bristol in 1899, and has been a permanent resident and fairly common bird since then. It appears most commonly in the village during the winter, retiring in the spring to the adjacent Baughman Creek valley to nest. It has tried to nest near houses but has been discouraged by its enemy the Blue Jay.

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*).—A pair of this species spent four days at Norton's ravine May 12 to 16, 1925. (See WILSON BULLETIN, XXXVII, p. 225).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*).—Appeared here in April, 1924, and remained in the vicinity until February, 1926. No nest was discovered. Because of its arresting song the bird attracted almost immediate attention, even from people not particularly interested in birds. One bird located in the village in the fall of 1925 and traveled from one yard to another, hunting on window sills, in out buildings and brush piles. It sang regardless of weather conditions until it disappeared about the middle of the following February. The winter had proved unusually snowy.—MARCIA B. CLAY, *North Bristol, Ohio*.

A Nesting Census in Jackson County, Michigan.—The writers took a nesting census on July 6, 1929, in Jackson County, Michigan. Jackson County is located in the south-central part of the state. The method of taking the census was essentially that of the Biological Survey. Briefly, the census found 360 pairs of 66 native species nesting within the area. Due to judicious use of the shotgun, but one pair each of English Sparrows and Ring-necked Pheasants were found.

The Grand River rises in the hills of the southern part of the county and leisurely flows northward, forming the Grand River Valley. The Grand River Valley is a narrow, heavily timbered valley. Tributary to the Grand River, and flowing southwest from the northeast corner of the county, is the Portage River, about the same size as the Grand River. The Portage River, rising in Portage