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| 99. House Wren. C | 106. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. |
| 100. Winter Wren. | 107. Wood Thrush. C. |
| 101. Long-billed Marsh Wren. | 108. Wilson's Thrush. C. |
| 102. White-breasted Nuthatch. C. | 109. Gray-cheeked Thrush. |
| 103. Tufted Titmouse. C. | 110. Olive-backed Thrush. C. |
| 104. Black-capped Chickadee. | 111. American Robin. C. |
| 105. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. | 112. Bluebird. |

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

GENERAL NOTES.

On March 17, I saw, much to my surprise, three White-throated Sparrows scratching in the leaves near a clump of barberry bushes under my window. I have heard them nearly every day since, today (April 1st) included. Is this not an unusually early date, especially in so backward a season? Mr. H. C. Oberholser's "Birds of Wayne County" gives the date of their spring appearance from April 10 to May 17. I have never before observed them earlier than the middle of April.

ETHEL DANE ROBERTS, *Wooster, Ohio.*

(The Lorain County records for the years 1896 to 1899 inclusive are : April 12, April 15, April 16, April 1, respectively. My earliest record for central Iowa, during six years' study, was March 25, 1890. Has any reader an earlier record for central or northern Ohio?—Ed.)

For two years I have been carefully watching the Chimney Swifts during their season of nest building, with special reference to the question how they snip off the twigs for the nest. My back yard contains several apple trees whose tops have ceased to be of use to anything but the birds, and in these dead tops the swifts seem to find abundant nest material. They come sweeping thru them frequently, sometimes stopping to snip off a twig, but oftener evidently on a reconnoitering expedition. Today I spent some time carefully noting them as they circled round and round among the tree-tops. There were four of them. After a low, and often many times repeated flight thru one particular tree-top, during which the head was rapidly turned from side to side in a keen scrutiny, the bird returned and snipped off a twig with its feet, then flew directly to the chimney, returning after a little and repeating the performance. In every instance the twig was snipped off with the

feet, the head and fore part of the body being thrown up and back and the feet forward to meet the twig.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

EDITORIAL.

For the most of us the migration season has closed and the nesting season has well begun. This is the time when our study of bird movements stops because we take it for granted that there are no more movements to study until the southward migrations begin. But have you not noticed that already the grackles and blackbirds are gathering for their roosts, anticipating a change of habit if not a change of latitude? These roosts are worthy of study for their own sakes if not for the light they may throw upon the autumnal migration. But we shall never know just when the birds begin to move south unless the study of their movements is continued during the whole year. It is true that hot weather field work is a good deal like work, but the returns will amply repay any effort put forth. I wish we might have a large number of June horizons for the next BULLETIN with censuses of some of the common breeding birds in restricted areas. Such work carefully and systematically pursued would enable us to determine with some degree of accuracy the number of birds in any given area, and would furnish a basis for determining the decrease or increase of the species in that region. Investigations along this line are greatly needed in order to determine the effect of the changed condition and environment of the birds due to increasing population thruout the country. Even a little time each day given to this work will result in much valuable information.

The editor desires to issue the July BULLETIN before the close of the month, on account of absence from home during August, and requests that copy be sent in as early as possible. If each member will make it his duty and privilege to contribute something the editorial burden will be removed. The history of a bird's nest will be interesting and timely. Notes on the migration just closed, notes on roosts, notes on the plumage of young birds, as well as countless other subjects are always welcome.

The editor is comfortless because his boon companion and fellow enthusiast in the study of the birds, Mr. (Rev.) W. L. Dawson has gone to his work in Yakima County, Washington. But we have his promise



Roberts, Ethel Dane and Jones, Lynds. 1899. "General Notes." *The Wilson bulletin* 11(4), 45–46.

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