

A novel Idea of a Tufted Titmouse. — On April 10, 1897, while wandering leisurely along the border of a wood outside of Beverly, N. J., my eye caught sight of the peculiar actions of a small bird ahead of me. Walking cautiously to within a reasonable distance and using my field glasses, I observed a Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*), as I supposed trying to drive a red squirrel away. The squirrel was lying flat on the upper side of a large sloping limb, and the Titmouse would approach cautiously from behind and catch at its tail. It was not long before I noticed that the bird had collected quite a mouthful of the hairs, with which it flew off to a hole near by where it was deposited. This is certainly one of the most interesting novelties in relation to nest building that I ever met with. A friend who was with me also observed the occurrence. — J. HARRIS REED, *Beverly, N. J.*

Absence of *Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii* at Tadousac, Quebec, in 1896. — The almost complete absence of the Hermit Thrush from the vicinity of Tadousac during the summer of 1896 was very noticeable. During six weeks spent there in June and July, the only evidence I found of the presence of the birds was a single family seen one day late in July. In other years this species has been nearly as abundant as the Olive-backed Thrush (*T. u. swainsonii*), and many of each could be heard every day, but last summer the Olive-backs alone were heard, and I wondered where the Hermits had gone. The freeze of a couple of winters ago which was so destructive to the Bluebirds in the Southern States, doubtless is responsible, in part at least, for the sudden diminution in the number of Hermits, and I have already seen some allusion made to this species as one of the sufferers. — JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., M. D., *New York City.*

A Great Flight of Robins in Florida. — Mr. James K. Knowlton of Swampscott, Mass., informs me that he saw an enormous flight of Robins (*Merula migratoria*) on February 14, 15, 16, 1897, at Hawks's Park, situated on a branch of Indian River, about one hundred miles south of St. Augustine, Florida. They came from a southerly direction, and were continually passing, alighting and repassing, on the above dates, the general movement being in a northerly direction. The air was full of them, and their numbers beyond estimate, reminding him of bees. Mr. Knowlton heard that this movement of Robins had been noted for a distance of *ten* miles away, *across* the flight. Mr. K. shot about one hundred as they flew past the house where he was staying; he could have killed a thousand, he says (so there is *something* to be grateful for!) and reiterates that, "he saw more Robins than he had heretofore supposed existed in the world." Though a sportsman all his life, and frequenting localities where large numbers of birds congregate, like Currituck Sound, he states, without hesitation, that this was the largest flight of birds he had ever seen in his life. — GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*



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