

not more than fifteen feet above me. I had a splendid chance to identify the Ducks. I was amazed that there could still be in existence so many Spectacled Eiders.—JOSEPH F. BERNARD.

**SPARROWS CAUGHT BY RATS.**—At Hog's Back, Rideau River, Ontario, July, 1916, I observed a pair of Song Sparrows circling excitedly above a small hawthorn bush. On my approaching nearer, a house rat descended from the upper branches with a fledgling Song Sparrow. While I was searching hastily for a stick, the rat with its prey escaped in the surrounding grass. Another fledgling, not many hours from the nest, was perched on an upper branch of the same bush.

In April, 1919, while I was residing on Sunnyside Avenue, Ottawa South, a rat made its presence highly obnoxious by nightly revels between the partitions of the house. One evening the sounds of a scuffle, accompanied by an English Sparrow's

distress notes, were audible between the ceiling and the roof of the sun-room. The bird could be plainly heard as the rat crossed over the ceiling and half-way down the wall with it. Next morning evidences of the tragedy were visible from outside. Part of a Sparrow's nest was hanging from a hole beneath a joist at a point where the commotion started.—C. E. JOHNSON.

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH USING AN ELECTRIC-LIGHT POLE AS A FEEDING STATION.**—From May 26 to August 5, 1922, a White-breasted Nuthatch was observed on many occasions, in Ottawa South, searching an electric-light pole from top to bottom for insects, which were presumably lured by the illumination at night and hidden in crevices by day. No trees of large size were nearer than several hundred feet and most of its trips to the pole were made in the early morning hours, as noted from a bed-room window.—C. E. JOHNSON

### BOOK REVIEW

**THE INLAND LAKES OF WISCONSIN. THE PLANKTON. ITS QUANTITY AND CHEMICAL COMPOSITION.**—By E. A. Birge and Chancey Juday. *Bulletin No. 64, Wisc. Geol. and Nat. Hist. Survey, 1922, pp. 219.*

This is one of the most important works on the productivity of lakes which has yet appeared. The quantitative investigations of the net plankton and the nannoplankton (the minute organisms which escape through even the finest-meshed plankton net and which must be collected by centrifuging)

extended over a period of six years, and the work on the chemical composition of the various organisms involved the making of 2,500 separate determinations. The authors reach the interesting conclusion that the amount of dry organic matter produced by the plankton of Lake Mendota, the body of water upon which most of the work was done, is 10,700 pounds per acre of surface per year. The data presented in this bulletin are of great interest to students of fresh water life in Canada, as the biota of the Wisconsin lakes is similar to that of many of our lakes.—A. B. K.

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