

the city limits. About the same time, Mr. E. Brown informed the writers that several pairs were frequenting Cedarvale ravine, in the north-central part of the city. A large winter flock was also noted by Harrington³ (at Downsview, north-west of the city), on December 19, 1923. From this date on, Starlings have been noted by local observers over an increasing area and with greater frequency. The species doubtless invaded the Toronto district from the south and west and became established as a breeder in the rural districts in that direction. During the winter of 1923-24 members of the Brodie Club repeatedly reported the Starling from the adjacent country west of Toronto, large flocks estimated at one hundred individuals having been seen.

On April 26, 1924, Harrington found the Starling breeding at Cooksville, west of the city, and again on the annual field-day of the Brodie Club, May 18, 1924, Starlings were noted as nesting at the same place. An interesting note in this connection is that the birds have established themselves in the hollow, horizontal arms of the Hydro-Electric towers. Such a nesting sit is inaccessible and offers an almost unlimited advantage during the breeding season. On May 25, 1924, a single pair was noted by Snyder as nesting in an abandoned Flicker hole in a dead elm near Pottageville, north-west of Toronto. No other local breeding records have been reported, but the species has increased so that during the winter of 1924-25 it could be seen regularly at several places in and near the city. A flock of one hundred and fifty birds was noted as frequenting a garbage-dump in Cedarvale ravine during the past winter.

Stuart L. Thompson collected two specimens on February 9, 1925, near Leaside, in the Don Valley, which were the first specimens to be taken and also the first evidence that they had encircled the city and are now to be found in the more easterly sections of the district. One of the specimens is in Mr. Thompson's private collection and the other is in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology. A third specimen, in the collection of J. H. Fleming, was taken on March 3, 1925, by H. Haugh. These are the only specimens which have been taken in the district that are known to be in scientific collections.—L. L. SNYDER and JAS. L. BAILLIE JR.

THE FROG EATS THE BIRD.—The bird eats the frog and the frog eats the bird, and that is the way of the wild. In August, 1923, I captured a bullfrog in Grant Lake, near Burbidge, Quebec, which had shortly before swallowed an Olive-sided Flycatcher. Though this bird was fully grown, its beak showed slight indications of juvenility.

A few years ago I found a bullfrog in the Rideau River that had engulfed a young Baltimore Oriole. The bird had probably fallen from a nest overhanging the water, as it was not sufficiently well developed to attempt flight.

Several captive bullfrogs in the National Museum have swallowed young mice, young water snakes and young leopard frogs, all living, with great gusto, and have shown no signs of hiccoughs as did Kipling's whale that swallowed the Mariner.

I have found the stomachs of frogs to contain such inanimate and unnutritive articles as the cones of the alder, which would point to the conclusion that the bullfrog snaps up any moving object, even, to his sorrow, a bit of red yarn in which a fish-hook is concealed. The cray fish seems to be one of the most desirable of frog foods.

In the stomach of a Red-tailed Hawk taken on the Queen Charlotte Islands, I found the dismembered remains of two toads.

In May, 1923, Mr. R. O. Merriman, of Hamilton, Ontario, sent in two De Kay snakes labelled, "articles from the larder of a migrant shrike." These snakes, the larger of which measures thirteen inches, have been pierced by a thorn or a barb but are otherwise only slightly mutilated.—CLYDE L. PATCH.

A DUPLEX NEST OF THE PHOEBE.—On May 13, 1925, a lady brought in for my inspection a nest of the Phoebe which exhibited what was to me a novel method of circumventing the Cowbird. The nest was built on her verandah and apparently when just about completed, the Cowbird laid an egg in it. The Phoebe promptly proceeded to build a new nest, but instead of making an addition above the first nest, as is the well known habit of the Yellow Warbler, she built the second one alongside the first, and the wall between the two adjoining cavities is completely finished and woven together just as all the other sides of both nests.

The result is that each nest is a complete and finished unit although they are connected at the one side where they adjoin each other, and the outer walls of the whole are completely finished and continuous. Efforts of this character in the bird world are sufficiently rare to make this occurrence noteworthy.—W. E. SAUNDERS.

THE HOODED WARBLER (*Wilsonia citrina*) IN ONTARIO.—As this species is of rare occurrence in this province, it seems advisable to record here, four hitherto unpublished records which have come to my notice recently and also to bring together as many of the old records as possible with a view to establishing its present status as an Ontario bird.

³Harrington, Paul— Ibid. .



Patch, Clyde L. 1925. "The Frog Eats the Bird." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 39(6), 150–150. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338550>.

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