

nest carefully, first from a window, and then from a doorway. Finally, I saw the female Grackle go to the nest and feed the young Chipping Sparrows; she fed them three or four times in my presence, not more than a few feet from me. That afternoon one of the young Chipping Sparrows flew from the nest to a tree near by, and was followed by the female Bronzed Grackle, which showed every sign of maternal anxiety.—WILSON BAILLAIRGE.

LESSER SCAUP BREEDING AT TORONTO.—It can easily be imagined that I was both surprised and delighted to see a duck of this species (*Marila affinis*) and her brood of seven young swimming about near the throngs of people at Toronto Island on July 27, 1929. At that time the young could not have been more than two or three days old. When I first saw them they emerged from under the willow bushes that grow along the edge of the lagoon on Toronto Island and I saw them every day from that date until September 12 when I left Toronto for some weeks.

The most amazing thing about the young scaups was the rapidity with which they grew. In five weeks (about September 1) they were nearly fully grown and were able to fly short distances. About this time the male made his appearance. For a few days he was not allowed to associate with his family but in the course of a week they were all united.

Wood Ducks, Black Ducks and Blue-winged Teal formerly bred in the marsh at Ashbridge's bay, at the east end of Toronto harbour, but this scaup is the first of the diving ducks to raise a family in the vicinity of Toronto in my recollection.—JOHN TOWNSON.

WHISTLING SWAN AT RIGAUD, QUEBEC.—A Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*) was shot at Rigaud, Quebec, during the first week of November, 1925. Identity was established by E. G. White who saw the bird which had been mounted by a taxidermist.—HOYES LLOYD.

BANDS OF BIOLOGICAL STATION, HELGOLAND, GERMANY, BEING USED IN CENTRAL AMERICA.—In "News from the Bird Banders", published by the Western Bird Banding Association for January, 1930, it is stated that Mr. Walter Wenzel is banding Vaux Swifts (*Chætura vauxi*) at El Zopte, Guatemala, with the bands of the Biological Station, Helgoland, Germany. Since this species occurs in British Columbia, it is possible that birds bearing these bands may be found there. Anyone finding a Swift bearing one of these bands should report the fact to the National Parks of Canada Branch, Department of the Interior, Ottawa,

Canada, for the Canadian banding records, and the Parks Branch will advise the bander.

A TARDY HORNED LARK.—Mr. Fred W. Osborne, Guardian of St. Mary Islands Bird Sanctuary, on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, has written to me in a letter, dated February 19, 1930, that at his winter home in the village of Harrington Harbour, Saguenay County, Quebec, which is also on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, "We also had a Horned Lark feeding around the place until January 28th. They may be common in Canada the year through, but to my knowledge I never saw any later than November of any year".—HARRISON F. LEWIS.

HAWK KILLED BY ELECTROCUTION.—The night of the 3rd-4th of May, 1930, a high tension wire carrying a heavy voltage broke near Montmagny, P.Q., a place about 40 miles below Quebec on the south shore of the St. Lawrence. The separate ends touched the ground not far from each other, and the current continued running.

In the morning when the men went to make repairs they found between the ends of the wire, where the current had been passing, a large hawk with his wings outstretched, sort of half sitting on his feet and his tail, and in his claws a field-mouse which he had just caught, and they had both been electrocuted. It is interesting to surmise whether the mouse crossed the danger zone alone, and was killed, and then acted as an electrified bait for the hawk, or whether the mouse was running away, and they were both killed at the same time.

The father of a young lady who works in our office is the Manager of the Power Company, and she saw the hawk and the mouse exactly as they were found, as the repair man came to get her father to show them to him before moving them. Unfortunately, I could not find out what kind of a hawk it was, or what had become of it.—R. MEREDITH.

OUTSIDE NESTS OF FLYING SQUIRRELS.—In the April, 1930, issue of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, Mr. Jas. L. Baillie, Jr., had a paper regarding "Outside Nests of the Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys v. volans*)" which interested me, inasmuch as I have only found one such nest in thirty-three years.

This nest was found on May 5, 1899, at Walnut Hill, Montgomery County, Pa., (twelve miles north of Philadelphia), in a hemlock wood on a rocky creek bluff, and contained two blind, naked young. The female was frightened from the nest and captured. The nest was 25 feet up in a small hemlock, placed in a cluster of shoots, against the thin trunk; it was oval shaped, composed of hemlock twigs, dead leaves, grasses and fine bark strips, built thickly with fine bark shreds, and had the entrance hole, 2 inches in diameter, in the side of the trunk; it was about 10 inches in diameter and compactly built.—RICHARD F. MILLER, Philadelphia.



Simpson, Herbert M. 1930. "Whistling Swan at Rigaud, Quebec." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 44(7), 167–167. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339179>.

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