

RUFFLE-HEAD, *Charitonetta albeola*.—Frequently associated with the preceding, and even bolder. Usually, as the last, in mixed flocks, the females outnumbering the males.

RUDDY DUCK, *Erismatura rubida*.—November 13, 1897, April 23, 1898. I found them much like the Grebes—diving when alarmed and loth to leave the water.

BLUE GOOSE, *Chen caerulescens*.—October 28th, 1896, two were captured. They were not at all timid, and permitted a near approach. A very rare occurrence for so large a bird and so small a body of water.

CANADA GOOSE, *Branta Canadensis*.—Single individuals soar about the reservoir nearly every spring. But one was ever known to light.

Thus 13 out of the 23 species which have been found in the county have visited this small and seemingly unfavorably situated body of water at one time or another.

To this list should be added the other "Water Birds," but they can perhaps better wait until another time.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

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## "SOME REMARKS ON THE BIRDS OF CHESTER COUNTY, PENN." \*

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Following the publication of the paper of which the above is the title, I received several communications calling my attention to facts of which I had previously been ignorant. In order that no one may be misled through my misunderstanding of the true state of affairs, I make the following statements:

1st. The responsibility of so many of the remarkable statements in the "list" referred to, should not rest wholly on the shoulders of the ostensible author, whose experience had been limited to two or three years of field work.

2nd. Our local ornithologists seem very loth to adopt the records given by my correspondent for the reason that memory is a very unsafe thing to depend upon especially when one has collected in many parts of the country. It is said that it is no uncommon thing for some men who have collected in various places and whose intentions may be perfectly honest, to get certain experiences mixed up in their memory and state with great certainty that a kind was killed at such a time and place, when the specimen they were thinking of was something quite different. Unfortunately my correspondent cannot refer to his cabinets of skins and

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\*BULLETIN No. 12, Wilson Ornithological Chapter.

eggs with accompanying data, as his collection was sold while he was absent on a collecting trip to the far South, and delivered to a person in the west, by a friend, Mr. Zahn, now deceased.

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Penn.*

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## GENERAL NOTES.

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CHIMNEY SWIFTS.—The Swifts came back to this locality about the 19th of April. They paired toward the middle of May, and two of them decided to use one of our chimneys for a home. The nest was begun on Sunday, May 29th, and was completed on the 3rd of June. The laying began on the next day, when the first egg was laid, and the birds seemed to lay every other day, as eggs were noted on the 6th, 8th and 10th of June. They did not waste any time but began to incubate on the day after the last egg was laid—the 11th. Between the times of laying the third and fourth eggs the female stayed more on the nest, but hardly enough to be starting to incubate. The morning seemed to be the favorite time for laying, as all four of the eggs were laid sometime during the morning. After the four were laid I tried to take a picture of the nest and eggs, but did not get a very good one for some reason. When I would put the camera in, the bird would crouch lower on the nest, and when I would wave my hand, it would fly off the nest and cling to the wall during the taking of the picture. The nest was about eleven feet below the hole in the chimney through which I was forced to operate. Usually they build above the hole, nearer the top of the chimney. On the 28th of June two of the young Swifts appeared, and on the 29th two more. They grew fairly well until the 16th of July, when the dampness in the air must have caused a tragedy, for on looking into it at the usual time on the 17th, I found that it had dropped to the bottom of the chimney. I noticed that the old birds were down there fussing around, but could not see whether the young were alive; but in a couple of days three of them appeared on the side of the chimney a foot or so above the bottom. The other must have been killed. These three stayed there for a couple of weeks when they began to slowly climb up the side of the chimney, reaching about the top of it on the 4th of August, and the next day took their first lesson in flying, or at least in the outside world, and surely it must have looked entrancing to them after the depths of the chimney.

SIDNEY S. WILSON, *St. Joseph, Mo.*

CHIMNEY SWIFT NESTING IN A BARN.—July 7, the boy where I was working in Albion, Dane Co., Wis., called my attention to the nest of a



Burns, Frank L. 1898. "Some Remarks on the Birds of Chester County, PENN." *The Wilson bulletin* 10(4), 68–69.

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