

**Breeding of the Acadian Owl in Newton County, Indiana.**— Another actual breeding record of the Saw-whet Owl (*Nyctala acadica*) in Indiana will doubtless be of interest, at least to local ornithologists. In July, 1907, I saw at a farm between Kentland and Effner, not far from the Illinois line, a family of these birds, parents and several young. The people living on the farm had watched the development of the family throughout the summer, and the birds being very tame I was able to observe them, during the late afternoon hours, at close range. The nesting site was in a lawn shade tree close to the house.— N. HOLLISTER, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**Glaucidium vs. Noctua — A Correction.**— In 'The Auk,' Vol. XXIV, p. 192, I proposed to substitute *Noctua* S. G. Gmelin, 1771, for *Glaucidium* Boie, 1826, on the supposition that they were based upon the same species. Gmelin based his genus upon *Noctua minor* Brisson which is a "Glaucidium" and the case seemed clear enough. Unfortunately for my argument there is sometimes a difference between what an author has and what he thinks he has; and the plate which was lacking in the volume of the Nov. Com. Sci. Petr., XV, in the Academy library, but which I have since examined in Washington, shows Gmelin's bird to have been a Short-eared Owl, *Asio accipitrinus*, and not the "*Noctua minor* Briss" at all! A genus based upon a misidentified species is liable to cause a great deal of trouble, and our only safe course seems to be to let the case rest wholly upon the published evidence. Had there been no plate in this case my proposed change would have been inevitable, but the plate saves the day for *Glaucidium*.— WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.**— In July, 1904, through Prof. H. A. Surface, State Zoölogist of Pennsylvania, I was placed in correspondence with Dr. W. H. Ridge of Trerose, Bucks Co., Pa., relative to a pair of curious birds that had established themselves near his house. The birds, which proved to be Starlings, arrived in the spring of 1904 and raised a brood in a hole in the cornice of the house. The young left as soon as they were able to fly, while the old ones remained until the following February when they, too, left. Nothing has been seen of them since. In spite of Prof. Surface's adverse report on their desirability, Dr. Ridge declares that while he likes Martins he would prefer the Starlings if he could only get them back.

In March, 1905, Miss F. L. Twaddell wrote to me of some interesting birds that had occurred at intervals all winter on her grounds in West Philadelphia and about Woodland Cemetery. These also proved to be Starlings, and are still present. In March, 1907, they nested in a Flicker's hole, after driving the Flickers away, and raised a brood. Miss Twaddell has never seen more than four or five at one time, presumably the original pair and three young.

A letter from Miss Anna P. Hannum, dated February 3, 1908, reports the



Stone, Witmer. 1908. "Glaucidium vs. Noctua: A Correction." *The Auk* 25, 221–221. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070711>.

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