

**The Great Gray Owl in Lewis County, New York.** — I take pleasure in recording the capture of the Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex cinerea*) in this locality. It is, I believe, the first authentic instance of its capture in this County (Lewis). It was shot by a farmer in the town of Watson, Dec. 17, 1889, and is now in my collection. The farmer said that he was slaughtering swine, and the Owl flew from an adjoining piece of woods, alighting in a tree in the yard (doubtless attracted by the fresh meat). The bird, which was an adult female, was in very poor condition and the stomach was empty.—JAMES H. MILLER, *Lowville, N. Y.*

**Picoides arcticus in Central New York.**—The Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker is undoubtedly one of the rarest winter visitants in central New York, and its occurrence in Onondaga County in the vicinity of Syracuse has, I believe, never been made public. It is with pleasure therefore that I record two instances of its capture that have come under my notice.

On December 25, 1883, Mr. E. F. Northrup took a specimen in a swamp a few miles north of the city, but through ignorance of its value delayed skinning it until too late. I saw the bird on several occasions doing duty as copy for a water-color sketch, and tried to secure possession of it, but without success, and to my disgust it was finally thrown into an ash barrel as unfit to skin. A mention of this capture was made in Bulletin No. 1 of the Biological Laboratory of Syracuse University, published in February, 1886, by Morgan K. Barnum, entitled 'List of the birds of Onondaga County.' This Bulletin, however, was not a success, and beyond a few copies given to applicants and friends the entire issue was stored away in the College archives.

The second specimen, an immature female, was taken at Tully, New York, on February 22, 1889, by my friend Mr. J. A. Dakin who kindly consented that it should form a part of my own collection. He informs me that it was exceedingly shy and difficult of approach, and that it was only after a long pursuit and some sharp manœuvring that it was finally secured.—E. M. HASBROUCK, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Red-bellied Woodpecker in Northwestern New Jersey.** — I shot a female Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) at Newton, New Jersey, on the 16th of November, 1889. I have only found this species in northern New Jersey on one or two occasions, but it is of more frequent occurrence in the southern part of the State.—STEWART LEWIS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

**Food of Young Hummingbirds.**—July 2, 1887, Mr. E. S. Hoar of Concord, Mass, found a Ruby-throated Hummingbird's nest in his garden. It was saddled on the drooping branch of an apple tree about eight feet above the ground, and contained two eggs which were hatched July 4. On the 7th Mr. Hoar kindly allowed me to inspect the nest and its contents. The young were then nearly as large\* as their mother, and were

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\*It is remarkable that they should have attained so large a size in so short a time. They did not, however, leave the nest until July 18.



covered with pin-feathers of a dark brown color. Their bills were perhaps a quarter of an inch long, wide at the base, and in general shape not unlike the bill of a *Dendroica*, but more depressed.

Taking a station near the tree I watched the nest for two hours (from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.). During this period the female visited it three times. At her first coming she fed the young, and after brooding them for forty-five minutes, buzzed about in the tree (not once leaving it) for about a minute. She then returned to the nest and fed the young again, one of them twice in succession. Immediately afterward she flew off out of sight and was absent sixteen minutes. At the end of this time she came directly to the nest, fed each young bird once, brooded both for six minutes, and then again flew away not reappearing during the remaining twenty minutes of my stay.

Her manner of feeding her offspring was as follows: Alighting on the edge of the nest, her tail pressed firmly against its outer side in the manner of a Woodpecker, her body erect, she would first look nervously around, then thrust at least three quarters of the total length of her bill down between the upraised open mandibles of the young bird. Next she would shake her head violently as if disgorging something; then, with their bills glued tightly together, both birds would remain, for the space of several seconds, perfectly immovable save for a slight, rapid, pulsating or quivering motion of the mother's throat. The actual contact of the bills lasted once four seconds, once six seconds, and twice eleven seconds, the time being taken with a stop watch. The male did not appear at all. The young were perfectly silent. The mother in brooding them kept moving restlessly about as if she were trampling on them.

The close and prolonged contact of bills, the shaking of the mother's head, the subsequent quivering motion of her throat, and, above all, the fact that after sitting on the nest nearly an hour she fed the young a second time without once leaving the tree in the interim, convinced me that the method of feeding was by regurgitation.

The character of the food thus supplied I could not, of course, ascertain without killing and dissecting one of the young, a proceeding which my kind-hearted host would certainly not have sanctioned.

The observations above detailed were made at a distance of about ten yards from a point only a few feet below the level of the nest, and with the aid of a powerful field glass. As the day was clear and the light strong I could see the birds nearly as well as if I held the nest in my hand.—  
WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Remarks on certain species of *Dendroica*.**—Since my paper on *Dendroica* has been printed, the American Museum of Natural History has received from the Vienna Museum the three species mentioned in a footnote to page 163, viz.: *D. ocellata* Spix, *D. spixi* Less., and *D. elegans* Pelz., and I am therefore able to publish my conclusions in this number of 'The Auk.'



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